

Form Name:	Commission Budget Recommendation Form
Submission Time:	April 22, 2020 8:47 pm
Browser:	Chrome 81.0.4044.113 / Windows
IP Address:	70.112.162.249
Unique ID:	603454496
Location:	30.384000778198, -97.707298278809

Your Information

Your Name	Karen Crawford
Your Commission	Commission on Immigrant Affairs
Email	bc-karen.crawford@austintexas.gov

After question three, which questions from the flowchart are you prepared to answer?	Is there funding? Which department holds the funding? How much funding is there? Which orgs receive it? How is success measured? What are the impacts, and gaps?
---	---

Root Cause Analysis

Story: What did you hear from the community?	We heard that legal services funding is crucial, and that there is still unmet need
---	---

Problem: What is the problem you identify?	Helping immigrants who need access to counsel, and cannot afford attorneys. This is especially so for immigrants facing removal proceedings
---	---

How does the problem show up in your community? Who is most impacted by the problem?	In a time of increased enforcement, more people are at risk of being placed in removal proceedings. In a time of increasingly restrictive immigration policy, people have more need of legal representation, as it's become very complicated, and the risks of completing applications incorrectly are extremely high. Those most impacted are low income immigrants.
---	---

Is there funding to address the problem?	Yes
---	-----

Do multiple departments administer these funds?	No
--	----

Which department holds the funding?	Austin Public Health
--	----------------------

How much funding is identified to address this problem?	\$280,000
--	-----------

Which organization(s) or program receives the funding?	American Gateways, Catholic Charities
---	---------------------------------------

How is success measured in the contract/department? How does this align with SD2023?

Number of people served
Strategic Outcome 1:
Government that Works for All
Satisfaction with City Services
Public Engagement and Participation
Equity of City Programs and Resource Allocation

Strategic Outcome 2:
Safety
Fair Administration of Justice
Public compliance with laws and regulations

What are the impacts of the funding?

There is a need for increased funding. Immigrants often work in the service industry and are being hard hit by the COVID-19 situation. To compound that, if they do not have work authorization, they are not eligible for unemployment, and if at least one person in the family does not have a social security number, the family is not eligible for the stimulus payment. This leaves immigrant families in a significantly worse situation than other Austin families at this time. Meanwhile, immigration rules continue to get more restrictive, so the need for legal representation increases. In fact, the President just tweeted that he would suspend all immigration, which puts immigrant families in Austin in dire need of representation

Considering all of the information you have or have not collected above, how do we solve for this problem?

We should add funding. With an additional \$130,000, Catholic Charities can hire an attorney to represent people in removal proceedings pro bono. With an additional \$100,000, American Gateways can continue to represent families already benefiting from city funds, and also double the number of new case they can take.
