

REGULAR AGENDA

Scheduled and Regular Departmental items – 9:00 AM or thereafter

10. Consider report on efforts to protect and support immigrant and LGBTQ+ communities, direct the County Administrative Office to work with the Health Services Agency and Human Services Department to allocate \$100,000 for undocumented immigrant legal services and \$100,000 for LGBTQ+ community support services, and take related actions

Name: Cheryl Fraenzl

Comment - 02/21/2025 12:36 PM: (For)

I would like to encourage the BoS to allocate this funding to support LGBTQ+ people in Santa Cruz. The Diversity Center could not be more prepared for this moment with a powerful staff that have a tremendous impact. TDC has developed solid evidence based interventions and have data practices that show impact. They are offering solid programming, training, and mental health services through out the county and it would be incredible to have a show of support from the county to enable them to continue their work during these really difficult times.

Name: Philip McManus

Comment - 02/24/2025 09:08 PM: (For)

Legal representation is one of the biggest challenges immigrants in our community face. Without it , political asylum seekers have greatly diminished chances of a successful outcome in their court cases. Yet the cost of legal representation is prohibitive for many. In Santa Cruz we have capable agencies who can represent immigrants in court proceedings or assist them in securing and paying for an attorney in private practice. But they need more funding. This proposal to provide \$100,000 for this purpose is greatly appreciated.

At the same time, this amount pales in the face of the scope o the need. So I urge you to establish a process that includes needs assessment and that promotes collaborative services and collaborative fundraising among agencies with the capacity to provide expanded immigration legal services.

Sincerely

Philip McManus

Name: Ellen Fitzgerald Murtha

Comment - 02/24/2025 09:32 PM: (For)

I appreciate the Board of Supervisors consideration of allocating funds to protect and support Santa Cruz County immigrants. A decision to allocate significant funding proves the Board's commitment as a sanctuary county.

I request the Board direct the County Administrative Office to actively seek State funds as soon as specific criteria for grants is released, as \$100,000 will not be sufficient for Santa Cruz Couty undocumented immigrant legal services.

The Santa Cruz County Immigration Coalition (SCCIC), has already been working on undocumented immigrant legal services. SCCIC can assist the Health Services Agency and Human Services Department in planning and implementing protection and support for our undocumented immigrant residents. Specifically, the funds should be allocated through a process that includes needs assessment and that promotes collaborative services and collaborative fundraising among agencies with the capacity to provide expanded immigration legal services. SCCIC, informed by input from direct and indirect service providers, has identified the following urgent priorities:

- **Deportation Defense Fund (\$25K)** – Legal support for families facing deportation is essential to keeping our communities intact.
- **Bail Bond Fund (\$20K)** – Ensuring access to bail prevents unnecessary detention and family separation.
- **Household Support Fund (\$10K)** – Deportation disrupts entire households, leaving families struggling to meet basic needs.
- **Legal and Educational Services (\$55K)** – Families need access to immigration pathways education, personalized case assessments, and legal document preparation.

- **Family & Child Safety (\$25K)** – Childcare and asset planning help families prepare for the unthinkable, ensuring children’s well-being and financial security.
- **Mental Health & Community Support (\$15K)** – The fear and trauma of deportation impact mental health, and community-based infrastructure, such as rapid response networks, help keep families informed and safe.

As a volunteer with the Santa Cruz Welcoming Network, I request the Board of Supervisors consider a larger allocation of \$150,000 now. While greater than the CAO’s report of \$100,000 allocation, even this amount will not have a significant impact unless it is part of a meaningful planning effort. The Board of Supervisors can become the public leadership to build local capacity in this field.

Thank you.

Name: Suzanne Kent, MPH, PA

Comment - 02/25/2025 08:51 PM: (For)

As a health professional working in Watsonville and concerned community member, I greatly appreciate both of the proposals in Item 10, for undocumented immigrant legal services and for LGBTQ+ community support services. Additionally, upon considering the analysis and descriptions of urgent priority needs for our County’s large undocumented immigrant population, as formulated by the Santa Cruz County Immigration Coalition (SCCIC), I support their request for an increase in funding to at least \$150,000 with a plan for establishing several Funds to target specific areas of planning and active support, such as Deportation Legal Defense, Household Support, Family and Child Safety, and Mental Health & Community Support.

Thank you for considering my comment.