

36. Defer to June 24, 2025, update on protecting and supporting immigrant and LGBTQ + communities residing in Santa Cruz County ()



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: County Executive Office

Subject: Defer Update on Protecting and Supporting Immigrant and LGBTQ+ Communities Residing in Santa Cruz County

Meeting Date: June 10, 2025

Formal Title: Defer to June 24, 2025, update on protecting and supporting immigrant and LGBTQ+ communities residing in Santa Cruz County

Recommended Actions

Defer to June 24, 2025, an update on protecting and supporting immigrant and LGBTQ+ communities residing in Santa Cruz County.

Executive Summary

On February 25, 2025, the Board directed the County Executive Office (CEO) to return on or before June 10, 2025, with an update on protecting and supporting immigrant and LGBTQ+ communities residing in Santa Cruz County. Additional time is needed to prepare the update. CEO staff recommends deferring the report to the June 24, 2025, Board meeting.

Discussion

On February 25, 2025, the Board took action to protect and support immigrant and LGBTQ+ communities by directing the CEO to work with the Health Services Agency (HSA) and Human Services Department (HSD) to allocate \$100,000 for undocumented immigrant legal services and \$100,000 for LGBTQ+ community support services, using appropriations from General Fund Contingency, with services to be delivered by community-based organizations. Additionally, the Board directed the CEO to return on or before June 10, 2025, with an update on protecting and supporting immigrant and LGBTQ+ communities residing in Santa Cruz County. Additional time is needed to prepare the update; and CEO staff recommends deferring the report to the June 24, 2025, Board meeting.

Although additional time is needed to develop a more comprehensive update, staff is able to report that since the Board's February direction to allocate \$200,000 from General Fund Contingency, HSD and HSA have executed agreements with several community-based organizations to provide services to immigrant and LGBTQ+ communities. The agreements are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Agreements with Community-Based Organizations

| Organization | Service | Amount |
|---|---|----------|
| Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County | Legal defense services and community support to undocumented immigrants in North and South County | \$25,000 |
| Watsonville Law Center | Legal defense services and community support to undocumented immigrants in North and South County | \$50,000 |
| Catholic Charities | Legal defense services and community support to undocumented immigrants in | \$25,000 |

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|--|---|------------------|
| | North and South County | |
| Diversity Center | LGBTQ+ civil rights support services and Queer Youth Leadership Awards | \$85,000 |
| Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County – Gay Straight Alliances | Administration and support for gay straight, queer straight, and gender and sexuality alliances in Santa Cruz County schools | \$10,000 |
| The Children Are Our Future – TransFamilies of Santa Cruz County | Support for families of gender diverse children of all ages and community outreach, education, and training events to improve knowledge of gender diversity | \$5,000 |
| Total | | \$200,000 |

Staff recommends returning on June 24, 2025, with a more detailed update on efforts to protect and support immigrant and LGBTQ+ communities residing in Santa Cruz County.

Financial Impact

The Board direction on February 25, 2025 resulted in a \$200,000 transfer of appropriations from General Fund Contingency to support undocumented immigrant legal services (\$100,000) and LGBTQ+ community support services (\$100,000). Deferral of this update will not result in new financial actions or impacts.

Strategic Initiatives

Equity Framework - Plans, Policies & Budgets, Community Voices & Partnership
Operational Plan - Comprehensive Health & Safety

Submitted By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.