

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**ITEM: 3.67
(ID # 28235)**

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, June 24, 2025

FROM : BOS DISTRICT 1

SUBJECT: BOS DISTRICT 1: First District use of Community Improvement Designation Funds (CID) to be allocated to the Victory Outreach Riverside, The Concerned Family Ministry, North County Health Project Inc, Gardens of Hope, Lamps of Light Project, Riverside Community Arts Association, The Fruit of our Hands Ministries, Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice, Cardelli's Italian Deli, La Gare Cafe LLC, and A&J Crepes LLC. [\$118,250 - General Fund 100%](4/5 vote required)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors approve the use of Community Improvement Designation funds for:

That the Board of Supervisors approve the use of Community Improvement Designation funds for:

- 1. Victory Outreach Riverside – \$1,000**
P.O. Box 4295, Riverside, CA 92514
- 2. The Concerned Family Ministry – \$3,000**
19450 Clark Street, Perris, CA 92570

Continued on page 2

ACTION:4/5 Vote Required


Supervisor Jose Medina

6/20/2025

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Medina, seconded by Supervisor Gutierrez and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as amended to allocate item 9, 10 and 11 funds to Office of Economic Development.

Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: June 24, 2025
xc: BOS-D1, OED, COB/CC

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board

By: 
Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors approve the use of Community Improvement Designation funds for:

- 3. North County Health Project Inc., dba TrueCare - \$2,500**
150 Valpreda Road, San Diego, CA 92069
- 4. Gardens of Hope – \$3,750**
26521 Hammack Avenue, Perris, CA 92570
- 5. Lamps of Light Project – \$2,000**
7028 Indiana Avenue, Suite 201, Riverside, CA 92506
- 6. Riverside Community Arts Association – \$2,500**
P.O. Box 1604, Riverside, CA 92502
- 7. The Fruit of our Hands Ministries – \$2,000**
7000 Indiana Avenue, Suite 114, Riverside, CA 92506
- 8. Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice - \$100,000**
2441 N. Sierra Way, San Bernardino, CA 92405
- 9. Cardelli’s Italian Deli - \$500**
7786 Limonite Avenue, Jurupa Valley, CA 92509
- 10. La Gare Café, LLC - \$500**
24 S. D Street, Suite 110, Perris, CA 92507
- 11. A&J Crepes, LLC - \$500**
6095 Magnolia Avenue, Perris, CA 92506

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$118,250	\$0	\$118,250	\$0
NET COUNTY COST	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: General Fund 100%			Budget Adjustment: NO	
			For Fiscal Year: 24/25	

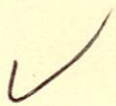
BACKGROUND: Community Improvement Designation funds will be given to the following organizations:

- 1. Victory Outreach Riverside** this organization helps make a difference in the lives of local students and their families through providing resources and support. The **\$1,000** be to sponsor their 2025 Backpack Giveaway, that event is scheduled for July 26, 2025, at Patterson Park in Riverside
- 2. The Concerned Family Ministry** is a community Outreach organization that feeds and clothes homeless and low-income families in the County of Riverside. The **\$3,000** funds will be used to sustain the daily feeding program for the homeless and low-income families in the Perris area of the First District.
- 3. North County Health Project Inc., dba TrueCare,** provides a full range of services,

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

including primary, dental, and pediatric care, along with other special services. The **\$2,500** is to support TrueCare's Perris Food Pantry pilot stage program, which will provide temporary food assistance at the time of a patient's primary care visit to support an immediate need for access to nutritious food in the Perris area of the First District.

4. **Gardens of Hope** is a botanical garden established in January 2023 in Perris, for the purpose of providing gardening programs and workshops for individuals with special needs. This **\$3,750** is to sponsorship Growing Hope: Microgreen Setup for a Veterans garden. The project uses an indoor microgreen production system to teach veterans how to cultivate microgreens and gives them access to incorporate them into their meals.
5. **Lamps of Light Project** empowers individuals, families, and communities in overcoming the complexities of chemical and behavioral addiction through culturally sensitive education, treatment, and other resources. This **\$2,000** grant will help support three key programs: Seeking Safety, Her Haven, and Outreach.
6. **Riverside Community Arts Association** promotes appreciation of the arts and cultural education through exhibits, workshops, and community partnership. This **\$2,500** grant is to sponsor the RCAA Student Membership/Scholarship Program that aims to attract and serve Riverside students of the arts. In addition to assist with awarding scholarships to students of Riverside Community College, California Baptist University, University of California Riverside, and La Sierra University.
7. **Fruit of our Hands Ministries** provide community support services such as Life Coaching, Anger Management, Counseling, and Financial Literacy, food and clothing insecurity, for adults and youth in underserved communities in Riverside. The demand for the organization's services has significantly increased since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent price hikes at grocery stores. The **\$2,000** grant will support this organization to provide these much-needed services in the community.
8. **Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice** focuses on advocacy, education, and capacity building to support and empower immigrant families. This **\$100,000** grant will expand access to legal services, rapid response efforts, and critical resources that help individuals in the First District understand and navigate their legal rights. The Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice works to promote family stability and ensure equitable access to justice and supportive services throughout the region.
9. **Cardelli's Italian Deli**, the **\$500** grant will be used to support community branding and outreach through signage and promotional materials.
10. **La Gare Café LLC**, the **\$500** will be used to enhance visibility and marketing efforts at community events across the First District.
11. **A&J Crepes, LLC., dba PS I Crepe You**, the **\$500** grant will be used to enhance visibility and marketing efforts at community events across the First District.



Riverside County Board of Supervisors
Request to Speak

Submit request to the Clerk of the Board (right of podium), Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject to Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board.

SPEAKER'S NAME: Eddie Torres

Address: _____

City: Moreno Valley Zip: 92557

Phone #: (951) 464-5308

Date: 6/24/25 Agenda # 3.67

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

X Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

Note: If you are here for an agenda item that is filed for "Appeal", please state separately your position on the appeal below:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

I give my 3 minutes to: _____

Parking validations available for speakers only – see Clerk of the Board.

BOARD RULES

Requests to Address Board on "Agenda" Items:

You may request to be heard on a published agenda item. Requests to be heard must be submitted to the Clerk of the Board before the scheduled meeting time.

Requests to Address Board on items that are "NOT" on the Agenda:

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these rules, member of the public shall have the right to address the Board during the mid-morning "Oral Communications" segment of the published agenda. Said purpose for address must pertain to issues which are under the direct jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. YOUR TIME WILL BE LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board.

Power Point Presentations/Printed Material:

Speakers who intend to conduct a formalized Power Point presentation or provide printed material must notify the Clerk of the Board's Office by 12 noon on the Monday preceding the Tuesday Board meeting, ensuring that the Clerk's Office has sufficient copies of all printed materials and at least one (1) copy of the Power Point CD. Copies of printed material given to the Clerk (by Monday noon deadline) will be provided to each Supervisor. If you have the need to use the overhead "Elmo" projector at the Board meeting, please ensure your material is clear and with proper contrast, notifying the Clerk well ahead of the meeting, of your intent to use the Elmo. **Speakers are prohibited from bringing signs, placards, or posters into the hearing room.**

Individual Speaker Limits:

Individual speakers are limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board. Please step up to the podium when the Chair calls your name and begin speaking immediately. Pull the microphone to your mouth so that the Board, audience, and audio recording system hear you clearly. Once you start speaking, the "green" podium light will light. The "yellow" light will come on when you have one (1) minute remaining. When you have 30 seconds remaining, the "yellow" light will begin flash, indicating you must quickly wrap up your comments. Your time is up when the "red" light flashes. The Chair adheres to a strict three (3) minutes per speaker. ***Note: If you intend to give your time to a "Group/Organized Presentation", please state so clearly at the very bottom of the reverse side of this form.***

Group/Organized Presentations:

Group/organized presentations with more than one (1) speaker will be limited to nine (9) minutes at the Chair's discretion. The organizer of the presentation will automatically receive the first three (3) minutes, with the remaining six (6) minutes relinquished by other speakers, as requested by them on a completed "Request to Speak" form, and clearly indicated at the front bottom of the form.

Addressing the Board & Acknowledgement by Chair:

The Chair will determine what order the speakers will address the Board and will call on all speakers in pairs. The first speaker should immediately step to the podium and begin addressing the Board. The second speaker should take up a position in one of the chamber aisles to quickly step up to the podium after the preceding speaker. This is to afford an efficient and timely Board meeting, giving all attendees the opportunity to make their case. Speakers are prohibited from making personal attacks, and/or using coarse, crude, profane or vulgar language while speaking to the Board members, staff, the public and/or meeting participants. Such behavior, at the discretion of the Board Chair may result in removal from the Board Chambers by Sheriff Deputies.



Latino Network

Mailing: PO Box 20615, Riverside, CA 92516
rivlatinonetwork@gmail.com
www.riversidelatinonetwork.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Alex Cortez
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Ida Sanchez
Cosme Cordova
Violeta Aguilar-Wyrick
Maryana Carreon
Paola Morris (Student)

STAFF:

Alexandra Leon
Consultant

MISSION:

The mission of Latino Network (LaNet) is to address community issues affecting and impacting the Latino community. We are a passionate, strong, viable, caring organization, concerned about the virtues of education and is committed to serving the youth of our community. Latino Network is a 501(c)3 organization (IRS tax exempt number is # 33-0901347).

June 20, 2025

Riverside County Administrative Center
4080 Lemon St. Riverside, CA 92501

Re: Letter of Support for a Legal Justice Fund for Immigrant Communities in the FY 2025 Riverside County Budget

Dear CEO Wagenen and Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of Latino Network, we write to express our strong support for the creation of a Legal Justice Fund in Riverside County's Fiscal Year 2025 budget to ensure equitable access to legal representation for our immigrant community.

As a nonprofit organization committed to address community issues affecting and impacting the Latino community, LaNet believes in the merits of creating such fund.

Establishing a \$3 million Legal Justice Fund would provide critical support for Riverside County residents facing immigration enforcement by ensuring access to due process and legal representation. Similar funds in other counties, such as Los Angeles, Orange County, Santa Clara, and San Francisco, have demonstrated how modest investments in legal defense can lead to more just outcomes, reduce detention times, and help families remain together.

Legal representation makes a critical difference. Studies show that immigrants with legal counsel are far more likely to pursue and win lawful relief, remain with their families, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. Yet the cost of a private attorney is out of reach for many low-income families, especially those facing removal proceedings.

We urge you to include a Legal Justice Fund in this year's budget and to collaborate with community-based partners to design a fund that is accessible, transparent, and responsive to the needs of those most impacted.

We thank you for your continued leadership and your commitment to protecting vulnerable members of our communities. We stand ready to support and partner with the County in this critical endeavor.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

5DE79EEF38A64D0...

Alex Cortez
President
Latino Network
rivlatinonetwork@gmail.com

Item 3.67
Eddie Torres



June 22, 2025

Riverside County Administrative Center
4080 Lemon St. Riverside, CA 92501

Re: Letter of Support for a Legal Justice Fund for Immigrant Communities in the FY 2025 Riverside County Budget

Dear CEO Wagenen and Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino (LASSB), we write to express our strong support for the creation of a Legal Justice Fund in Riverside County's Fiscal Year 2025 budget to ensure equitable access to legal representation for our immigrant community.


As a nonprofit organization committed to expanding access to justice, protecting the legal rights of low-income individuals, and promoting community stability, LASSB provides high-quality civil legal services to vulnerable populations across the Inland Empire. We believe that everyone—regardless of income—deserves a fair opportunity to assert their rights, obtain legal representation, and live with dignity and security.

Establishing a \$3 million Legal Justice Fund would provide critical support for Riverside County residents facing immigration enforcement by ensuring access to due process and legal representation. Similar funds in other counties, such as Los Angeles, Orange County, Santa Clara, and San Francisco, have demonstrated how modest investments in legal defense can lead to more just outcomes, reduce detention times, and help families remain together.

Legal representation makes a critical difference. Studies show that immigrants with legal counsel are far more likely to pursue and win lawful relief, remain with their families, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. Yet the cost of a private attorney is out of reach for many low-income families, especially those facing removal proceedings.

We urge you to include a Legal Justice Fund in this year's budget and to collaborate with community-based partners to design a fund that is accessible, transparent, and responsive to the needs of those most impacted.

We thank you for your continued leadership and your commitment to protecting vulnerable members of our communities. We stand ready to support and partner with the County in this critical endeavor.

Sincerely,

Pablo Ramirez, Executive Director
Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino



June 18, 2025

2025 Riverside County Administrative Center
4080 Lemon St. Riverside, CA 92501

Re: Letter of Support for a Legal Justice Fund for Immigrant Communities in the FY 2025 Riverside County Budget

Dear CEO Wagenen and Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective, we write to express our strong support for the creation of a Legal Justice Fund in Riverside County's Fiscal Year 2025 budget to ensure equitable access to legal representation for our immigrant community.

As a nonprofit organization committed to engage youth through grassroots organizing to gain equal access to higher education and professional development and to seek justice for the immigrant community by empowering those most impacted by unjust policies.

Establishing a \$3 million Legal Justice Fund would provide critical support for Riverside County residents facing immigration enforcement by ensuring access to due process and legal representation. Similar funds in other counties, such as Los Angeles, Orange County, Santa Clara, and San Francisco, have demonstrated how modest investments in legal defense can lead to more just outcomes, reduce detention times, and help families remain together.

Legal representation makes a critical difference. Studies show that immigrants with legal counsel are far more likely to pursue and win lawful relief, remain with their families, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. Yet the cost of a private attorney is out of reach for many low-income families, especially those facing removal proceedings.

We urge you to include a Legal Justice Fund in this year's budget and to collaborate with community-based partners to design a fund that is accessible, transparent, and responsive to the needs of those most impacted.

We thank you for your continued leadership and your commitment to protecting vulnerable members of our communities. We stand ready to support and partner with the County in this critical endeavor.

Sincerely,

Angel Fajardo

Executive Director

June 18, 2025

Riverside County Administrative Center
4080 Lemon St. Riverside, CA 92501

Re: Letter of Support for a Legal Justice Fund for Immigrant Communities in the FY 2025 Riverside County Budget

Dear CEO Wagenen and Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of Pomona Economic Opportunity Center (PEOC), we write to express our strong support for the creation of a Legal Justice Fund in Riverside County's Fiscal Year 2025 budget to ensure equitable access to legal representation for our immigrant community.

As a nonprofit organization committed to our mission to empower low-wage, immigrant workers in Pomona and across the Inland Empire.

Establishing a \$3 million Legal Justice Fund would provide critical support for Riverside County residents facing immigration enforcement by ensuring access to due process and legal representation. Similar funds in other counties, such as Los Angeles, Orange County, Santa Clara, and San Francisco, have demonstrated how modest investments in legal defense can lead to more just outcomes, reduce detention times, and help families remain together.

Legal representation makes a critical difference. Studies show that immigrants with legal counsel are far more likely to pursue and win lawful relief, remain with their families, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. Yet the cost of a private attorney is out of reach for many low-income families, especially those facing removal proceedings.

We urge you to include a Legal Justice Fund in this year's budget and to collaborate with community-based partners to design a fund that is accessible, transparent, and responsive to the needs of those most impacted.

We thank you for your continued leadership and your commitment to protecting vulnerable members of our communities. We stand ready to support and partner with the County in this critical endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Moreno". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative flourish at the end.

Laura Moreno
Immigrant Rights Director & Partially Accredited Representative
Pomona Economic Opportunity Center
Laura@pomoandaylabor.org



June 20, 2025

Riverside County Administrative Center
4080 Lemon St. Riverside, CA 92501

Re: Letter of Support for a Legal Justice Fund for Immigrant Communities in the FY 2025 Riverside County Budget

Dear CEO Van Wagenen and Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the **Inland Region Reentry Collaborative** — a network of over 200 organizational members across Riverside County — we write to express our strong support for the inclusion of a Legal Justice Fund in Riverside County’s Fiscal Year 2025 budget to ensure equitable access to legal representation for our immigrant communities.

As a collaborative who’s mission is to bring community organizations together to improve public safety outcomes, we are advocating today to establish a \$3 million Legal Justice Fund that would provide critical support for Riverside County residents facing immigration enforcement by ensuring access to due process and legal representation. Similar funds in other counties, such as Los Angeles, Orange County, Santa Clara, and San Francisco, have demonstrated how modest investments in legal defense can lead to more just outcomes, reduce detention times, and help families remain together.

Legal representation makes a critical difference. Studies show that immigrants with legal counsel are far more likely to pursue and win lawful relief, remain with their families, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. Yet the cost of a private attorney is out of reach for many low-income families, especially those facing removal proceedings.

We urge you to include a Legal Justice Fund in this year’s budget and to collaborate with community-based partners to design a fund that is accessible, transparent, and responsive to the needs of those most impacted.

We thank you for your continued leadership and your commitment to protecting vulnerable members of our communities. We stand ready to support and partner with the County in this critical endeavor.

Sincerely,

Inland Region Reentry Collaborative



Board of Directors

Executive Committee:
Ken Gutierrez, President
Launa Wilson, Vice President
Neil Okazaki, Secretary
Q'vinc Asberry, Treasurer
Jen Tilton, Exhibitions Chair

Surekha Acharya
Chani Beeman
Jane Carney
Darrell Frye
Luz Gallegos
Sharon Green
Ron Loveridge

Damien O'Farrell
Carol Park
Angel Rodriguez
Ariel Savage
Juanita Watkins
Founders and Visionaries:
Rose Mayes
Lalit Acharya (In memoriam)

6/20/2025

Riverside County Administrative Center
4080 Lemon St. Riverside, CA 92501

Re: Letter of Support for a Legal Justice Fund for Immigrant Communities in the FY 2025 Riverside County Budget

Dear CEO Wagenen and Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Civil Rights Institute of Inland Southern California, we write to express our strong support for the creation of a Legal Justice Fund in Riverside County's Fiscal Year 2025 budget to ensure equitable access to legal representation for our immigrant community.

As a nonprofit organization committed to inspire people of all ages, lifting up the ongoing and historic civil rights stories of the region, fostering community advocacy, and building champions of tomorrow. Our programming and exhibitions connect people from all walks of life through stories, exhibitions, sharing information, education, and personal relationships, to make Inland Southern California a center of social justice. Through our work and our mission we collaborate with many organizations across the region working together to uplift our communities as a whole.

Establishing a \$3 million Legal Justice Fund would provide critical support for Riverside County residents facing immigration enforcement by ensuring access to due process and legal representation. Similar funds in other counties, such as Los Angeles, Orange County, Santa Clara, and San Francisco, have demonstrated how modest investments in legal defense can lead to more just outcomes, reduce detention times, and help families remain together to strengthen our communities overall.

We urge you to include a Legal Justice Fund in this year's budget and to collaborate with community-based partners to design a fund that is accessible, transparent, and responsive to the needs of those most impacted.

We thank you for your continued leadership and your commitment to protecting vulnerable members of our communities. We stand ready to support and partner with the County in this critical endeavor.

Sincerely,

Sabrina Gonzalez
Executive Director
Civil Rights Institute of Inland Southern California
sabrina.gonzales@inlandcivilrights.org

06/18/25

Riverside County Administrative Center
4080 Lemon St. Riverside, CA 92501

Re: Letter of Support for a Legal Justice Fund for Immigrant Communities in the FY 2025 Riverside County Budget

Dear CEO Wagenen and Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of Alianza Coachella Valley, we write to express our strong support for the creation of a Legal Justice Fund in Riverside County's Fiscal Year 2025 budget to ensure equitable access to legal representation for our immigrant community.

As a nonprofit organization committed to work to expand economic, environmental, and education justice for the Coachella Valley and the Salton Sea region of Eastern Riverside County and Imperial County through policy and systems change campaigns.

Establishing a \$3 million Legal Justice Fund would provide critical support for Riverside County residents facing immigration enforcement by ensuring access to due process and legal representation. Similar funds in other counties, such as Los Angeles, Orange County, Santa Clara, and San Francisco, have demonstrated how modest investments in legal defense can lead to more just outcomes, reduce detention times, and help families remain together.

Legal representation makes a critical difference. Studies show that immigrants with legal counsel are far more likely to pursue and win lawful relief, remain with their families, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. Yet the cost of a private attorney is out of reach for many low-income families, especially those facing removal proceedings.

We urge you to include a Legal Justice Fund in this year's budget and to collaborate with community-based partners to design a fund that is accessible, transparent, and responsive to the needs of those most impacted.

We thank you for your continued leadership and your commitment to protecting vulnerable members of our communities. We stand ready to support and partner with the County in this critical endeavor.

Sincerely,

Joel Hernandez
Special Projects Manager
Alianza Coachella Valley
(760) 972-4628



Councilmember Clarissa Cervantes
City of Riverside – Ward 2

Riverside County Administrative Center
4080 Lemon St. Riverside, CA 92501

**Re: Letter of Support for a Legal Justice Fund for Immigrant Communities in the FY 2025
Riverside County Budget**

Dear CEO Wagenen and Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

As a Councilmember for the City of Riverside, proudly representing Ward 2, I write to express my strong support for the inclusion of a Legal Justice Fund for immigrant communities in the Fiscal Year 2025 Riverside County Budget.

Riverside County is home to a vibrant and diverse immigrant population that contributes to our economy, enriches our culture, and strengthens our communities. Yet, too many of our residents face immigration proceedings without access to legal representation, often resulting in devastating consequences such as detention, family separation, and deportation — even when individuals have viable legal avenues to remain in the country.

Establishing a \$3 million Legal Justice Fund would provide critical support for Riverside County residents facing immigration enforcement by ensuring access to due process and legal representation. Similar funds in other counties, such as Los Angeles, Orange County, Santa Clara, and San Francisco, have demonstrated how modest investments in legal defense can lead to more just outcomes, reduce detention times, and help families remain together.

We believe this is a moment for Riverside County to lead with justice and compassion. A Legal Justice Fund aligns with the county's values of equity, inclusion, and public safety. By incorporating this initiative into the FY 2025 budget, the County can take a meaningful step toward protecting the rights and dignity of all its residents, regardless of immigration status.

We urge you to prioritize funding for this critical program and work in partnership with trusted legal service providers and community-based organizations to ensure the fund is accessible, transparent, and effective. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to building a more inclusive Riverside County. We are ready to work alongside you to make this vision a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clarissa Cervantes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Clarissa Cervantes
City of Riverside
Councilmember, Ward 2



CITY OF PERRIS
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MICHAEL M. VARGAS

June 11, 2025

County Administrative Center
4080 Lemon Street - 5th Floor
Riverside, California 92501

Re: Support for a Legal Justice Fund in the FY 2025 Riverside County Budget

Dear Honorable Members of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors:

The City of Perris supports the inclusion of a Legal Justice Fund for immigrant communities in Riverside County's FY 2025 Budget. Riverside County is home to a vibrant and diverse immigrant population that plays a vital role in strengthening our economy, enriching our cultural fabric, and contributing to the well-being of our communities. Approximately 30% of Perris residents are foreign-born. Many of these individuals, our residents, are forced to navigate complex immigration proceedings without access to legal representation. This lack of counsel often results in severe and life-altering consequences such as detention, family separation, or deportation, even when legal pathways to remain in the country exist.

By establishing a Legal Justice Fund, Riverside County can ensure that Perris residents facing immigration enforcement have access to due process and qualified legal support. Similar efforts in counties like Los Angeles, Orange, Santa Clara, and San Francisco have proven that investing in legal defense leads to more just outcomes and helps families remain together.

This initiative presents an opportunity for Riverside County to lead with both justice and compassion. A Legal Justice Fund would demonstrate the County's deep commitment to equity, inclusion, and public safety. Including this program in the FY 2025 Budget would be a meaningful step toward safeguarding the rights and dignity of all residents.

We respectfully urge you to prioritize funding for this essential program and to partner with trusted legal service providers and community-based organizations to ensure the fund's accessibility and impact. Thank you for your leadership and your continued dedication to building a more inclusive Riverside County. The City of Perris stands ready to support and collaborate with you in making this vision a reality. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact the Office of the Mayor and City Council.

Sincerely,

Michael M. Vargas
Mayor

101 North "D" Street
Perris, California 92570
(951) 943-6100



NATIONAL ECUMENICAL FORUM for FILIPINO CONCERNS - Inland Empire
10950 Arrow Route #1182, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91729 • Tel. 840-245-7033

June 17, 2025

Riverside County Administrative Center
4080 Lemon St. Riverside, CA 92501

Re: Letter of Support for a Legal Justice Fund for Immigrant Communities in the FY 2025 Riverside County Budget

Dear CEO Wagenen and Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the National Ecumenical Forum for Filipino Concerns - Inland Empire (NEFFCON-IE), we write to express our strong support for the creation of a Legal Justice Fund in Riverside County's Fiscal Year 2025 budget to ensure equitable access to legal representation for our immigrant community.

As a nonprofit organization, NEFFCON-IE supports justice, peace, human rights, and integrity of creation and is committed to a deep and liberating solidarity relationship among Filipinos, Filipino Americans, all Filipinos overseas, and people of different cultures, and among progressive organizations and people in the Philippines—with a special focus on the poor, deprived, oppressed, and exploited.

Establishing a \$3 million Legal Justice Fund would provide critical support for Riverside County residents facing immigration enforcement by ensuring access to due process and legal representation. Similar funds in other counties, such as Los Angeles, Orange County, Santa Clara, and San Francisco, have demonstrated how modest investments in legal defense can lead to more just outcomes, reduce detention times, and help families remain together.

Legal representation makes a critical difference. Studies show that immigrants with legal counsel are far more likely to pursue and win lawful relief, remain with their families, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. Yet the cost of a private attorney is out of reach for many low-income families, especially those facing removal proceedings.

We urge you to include a Legal Justice Fund in this year's budget and to collaborate with community-based partners to design a fund that is accessible, transparent, and responsive to the needs of those most impacted.

We thank you for your continued leadership and your commitment to protecting vulnerable members of our communities. We stand ready to support and partner with the County in this critical endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Naida Castro".

Naida Castro
Executive Director
NEFFCON-IE
neffconie0601@gmail.com
(840) 245-7033



June 18, 2025

Riverside County Administrative Center
4080 Lemon St. Riverside, CA 92501

RE: Letter of Support for a Legal Justice Fund for Immigrant Communities in the FY 2025 Riverside County Budget

Dear CEO Wagenen and Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the ACLU Foundation of Southern California, we write to express our strong support for the creation of a Legal Justice Fund in Riverside County's Fiscal Year 2025 budget to ensure equitable access to legal representation for our immigrant community.

As a nonprofit organization committed to defend the fundamental rights outlined in the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights. These include the right to freedom of speech and assembly, the right to religious freedom, due process of law, equality before the law and the right to privacy. The ACLU also relies on state constitutional provisions and federal and state laws that further these and similar rights.

Establishing a \$3 million Legal Justice Fund would provide critical support for Riverside County residents facing immigration enforcement by ensuring access to due process and legal representation. Similar funds in other counties, such as Los Angeles, Orange County, Santa Clara, and San Francisco, have demonstrated how modest investments in legal defense can lead to more just outcomes, reduce detention times, and help families remain together.

Legal representation makes a critical difference. Studies show that immigrants with legal counsel are far more likely to pursue and win lawful relief, remain with their families, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. Yet the cost of a private attorney is out of reach for many low-income families, especially those facing removal proceedings. We urge you to include a Legal Justice Fund in this year's budget and to collaborate with community-based partners to design a fund that is accessible, transparent, and responsive to the needs of those most impacted.

We thank you for your continued leadership and your commitment to protecting vulnerable members of our communities. We stand ready to support and partner with the County in this critical endeavor.

Sincerely,

Luis Nolasco
Senior Policy Advocate and Organizer
ACLU of Southern California
909-380-7502
lnolasco@aclusocal.org

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Liz Cabrera Garcia

CHAIR Carlos Amador **VICE CHAIR** Connie Tchong

CHAIRS EMERITI Michele Goodwin Marla Stone Shari Leinwand Stephen Rohde Danny Goldberg Allan K. Jonas* Burt Lancaster* Irving Lichtenstein, MD* Jarl Mohn Laurie Ostrow* Stanley K. Sheinbaum*

*deceased



SAN BERNARDINO COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER, INC.

Organization Recognized by the US Department of Justice, Office of Legal Access Programs

June 18, 2025

Riverside County Administrative Center

4080 Lemon St. Riverside, CA 92501

**RE: Letter of Support for the Legal Justice Fund for Immigrant Communities in the FY 2025
Riverside County Budget**

Dear CEO Wagenen and Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of San Bernardino Community Service Center, we write to express our strong support for the creation of a Legal Justice Fund in Riverside County's Fiscal Year 2025 budget to ensure equitable access to legal representation for our immigrant community.

As a nonprofit organization rooted in the Inland Empire, we are committed to strengthening the lives of immigrant families through accessible, culturally responsive legal services. Since 2001, we have provided low-income immigrants with application assistance, legal representation, and critical education on immigration matters. In recent months, the heightened presence of ICE has deepened the urgency for consistent and trustworthy legal support within our communities. The need is clear—and growing. To respond to this moment and continue protecting and empowering immigrant families, we are calling for the establishment of a dedicated fund that will allow organizations like ours to expand services and ensure our community members have the resources they need to stay safe, informed, and resilient.

Establishing a \$3 million Legal Justice Fund would provide critical support for Riverside County residents facing immigration enforcement by ensuring access to due process and legal representation. Similar funds in other counties, such as Los Angeles, Orange County, Santa Clara, and San Francisco, have demonstrated how modest investments in legal defense can lead to more just outcomes, reduce detention times, and help families remain together.

Legal representation makes a critical difference. Studies show that immigrants with legal counsel are far more likely to pursue and win lawful relief, remain with their families, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. Yet the cost of a private attorney is out of reach for many low-income families, especially those facing removal proceedings.

We urge you to include a Legal Justice Fund in this year's budget and to collaborate with community-based partners to design a fund that is accessible, transparent, and responsive to the needs of those most impacted.

We thank you for your continued leadership and your commitment to protecting vulnerable members of our communities. We stand ready to support and partner with the County in this critical endeavor.

Sincerely,



Emilio Amaya

Executive Director

San Bernardino Community Service Center, Inc.

emilio.a@sbcscinc.org



June 18, 2025

Riverside County Administrative Center
4080 Lemon St.
Riverside, CA 92501

**Re: Letter of Support for a Legal Justice Fund for Immigrant
Communities in the FY 2025 Riverside County Budget**

Dear CEO Wagenen and Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of Beaman Jacinto Law PC and the thousands of Riverside County residents that we represent and support in Coalition with Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice, we write to express our strong support for the creation of a Legal Justice Fund in Riverside County's Fiscal Year 2025 budget to ensure equitable access to legal representation for our immigrant community.

We are a community-rooted social entrepreneurship law firm, committed to filling gaps in legal access for immigrants and workers. In our private law practice, we frequently partner with nonprofit organizations to provide services that they are unable to provide. Likewise, we refer many clients to the organization to access free legal services when they are available, rather than charging fees.

In many cases, clients in need still fall through the cracks, unable to afford legal representation, and unable to access free legal services. The proposed Legal Justice Fund of \$3 million would provide critical support for our most vulnerable Riverside County residents, who as you know are facing increased and aggressive immigration enforcement, and who are in need of legal representation to protect their due process rights. We know from success in neighboring regions that even modest investments in legal defense can lead to better outcomes, reducing expense of resources, reducing detention times, and – most importantly – keeping Riverside County families together.

We urge you to include a Legal Justice Fund in this year's budget and to collaborate with community-based partners to design a fund that is accessible, transparent, and responsive to the needs of those most impacted. The need has never been so urgent, as this very day, our Coachella Valley communities are experiencing a shocking and

terrifying siege of ICE and military presence intended to terrify, remove, and separate them from their families and our communities.

We thank you for your continued leadership and your commitment to protecting vulnerable members of our communities. We stand ready to support and partner with the County in this critical endeavor.

Sincerely,



Megan Beaman Jacinto
Owner and Attorney
Beaman Jacinto Law PC



June 20, 2025

Riverside County Administrative Center
4080 Lemon St.
Riverside, CA 92501

**RE: Letter of Support for a Legal Justice Fund for Immigrant Communities in the FY 2025
Riverside County Budget**

Dear CEO Wagenen and Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

Immigrant Defenders Law Center (ImmDef) operates under a model of universal representation because we believe that no immigrant should stand alone when facing our immigration system. With offices in Riverside, Los Angeles, Santa Ana, and San Diego, we provide full-scope deportation defense, legal representation, legal education, and connections to social services for approximately 3,000 detained or non-detained adults and children each year across Southern California. We write to express our strong support for the creation of a Legal Justice Fund in Riverside County's Fiscal Year 2025 budget to ensure equitable access to legal representation for our immigrant community.

Establishing a \$3 million Legal Justice Fund would provide critical support for Riverside County residents facing immigration enforcement by ensuring access to due process and legal representation. Similar funds in other counties, such as Los Angeles, Orange County, San Diego, Santa Clara, and San Francisco, have demonstrated how modest investments in legal defense can lead to more just outcomes, reduce detention times, and help families remain together for those who cannot afford a private attorney.

In 2017, ImmDef, with the support of the County and City of Los Angeles, the City of Santa Ana, and later the City of Long Beach, launched our Community Defense Project to support immigrant communities facing deportation. Through the Community Defense Project, we provide full-scale removal defense legal services to immigrant community members, including representation at immigration court hearings and bond hearings. Our San Diego office has panel attorneys on the Immigrant Removal Legal Defense Program, which is a county-run and funded program providing legal representation to detained immigrants facing removal proceedings.

Our work includes reuniting families by helping individuals secure release from detention and keeping families together in the United States. Funding through county legal justice programs allows us to assist asylum seekers in obtaining protection from persecution and obtaining other forms of immigration relief

for individuals who have resided in California, some for years and some for almost their entire lives, including United States veterans.

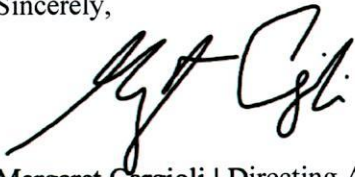
Legal representation makes a critical difference to immigrants and their families. Studies show that immigrants with legal counsel are far more likely to pursue and win relief from deportation, remain with their families, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. For instance, according to September 2020 [evaluation by the Vera Institute of Justice](#)¹, “62% of [Los Angeles Justice Fund (LJF)] clients with completed cases achieved outcomes that enabled them to remain in the United States—compared to fewer than five percent among unrepresented immigrants nationwide.” LJF attorneys have helped secure release from custody for 49% of initially detained clients, either on bond or following successful case outcomes.

We urge you to include a Legal Justice Fund in this year’s budget and to collaborate with community-based partners to design a fund that is accessible, transparent, and responsive to the needs of those most impacted by our complex immigration system.

We thank you for your continued leadership and your commitment to protecting vulnerable members of our communities. We are eager to support and partner with the County in this critical endeavor. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Margaret Cargioli | Directing Attorney, Policy and Advocacy
Immigrant Defenders Law Center
Pronouns: She/Ella/Elle
Tel: (213) 634-7607
Fax: (213) 282-3133
MCargioli@immdef.org
www.immdef.org

¹ **Vera Institute of Justice**, *Los Angeles Justice Fund: Year 2 Evaluation*, 4 (Sept. 2020), <https://www.vera.org/publications/los-angeles-justice-fund>.



Immigration Legal Educational & Advancement Program

* Immigration Legal, Educational & Advancement Program (ILEAP) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that provides the immigrant community in the Inland Empire the tools and resources to take the LEAP in its advancement through educational and legal services. *

June 18, 2025

Riverside County Administrative Center
4080 Lemon St.
Riverside, CA 92501

Re: Letter of Support for a Legal Justice Fund for Immigrant Communities in the FY 2025 Riverside County Budget

Dear CEO Wagenen and Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of Immigration Legal Educational & Advancement Program (ILEAP) we write to express our strong support for the creation of a Legal Justice Fund in Riverside County's Fiscal Year 2025 budget to ensure equitable access to legal representation for our immigrant community.

As a nonprofit organization committed to providing the immigrant community the tools and resources to take the leap in its personal and educational advancement through educational and legal resources, we see the extreme need for a legal justice fund to protect due process rights and protect against family destabilization. We are willing to help mentor attorneys and provide support to ensure successful implementation of the program.

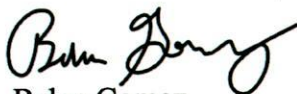
Establishing a \$3 million Legal Justice Fund would provide critical support for Riverside County residents facing immigration enforcement by ensuring access to due process and legal representation. Similar funds in other counties, such as Los Angeles (\$10 million with a similar population size), Orange County, Santa Clara, and San Francisco, have demonstrated how modest investments in legal defense can lead to more just outcomes, reduce detention times, and help families remain together.

Unrepresented detained immigrants succeed in immigration court only 6% of the time, BUT those who have lawyers succeed *more than five times as often*. Legal defense funding would provide legal representation to Riverside residents detained in immigration facilities. A recent study conducted in California revealed that 68% of detained immigrants are unrepresented. Detention isolates immigrants and makes it harder to fight their cases. In fact, many detained immigrants give up their cases even though they have viable claims to remain in the United States. No one should face imprisonment and exile without a lawyer.

The Riverside currently has available funds today to transfer into a legal defense fund. The Board of Supervisors can not fall behind on this opportunity to ensure due process for our most vulnerable Riverside County Residents.

We thank you for your continued leadership and your commitment to protecting vulnerable members of our communities. We stand ready to support and partner with the County in this critical endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Belen Gomez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Belen" and last name "Gomez" clearly distinguishable.

Belen Gomez
Founding Director
ILEAP
belen@weareileap.org



Starting Over, Inc.
Transitional Housing, Reentry Services,
Policy Advocacy & Civic Engagement

June 19, 2025

Riverside County Administrative Center
4080 Lemon St. Riverside, CA 92501

Re: Letter of Support for a Legal Justice Fund for Immigrant Communities in the FY 2025 Riverside County Budget

Dear CEO Wagenen and Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of Starting Over Inc, we write to express our strong support for the creation of a Legal Justice Fund in Riverside County's Fiscal Year 2025 budget to ensure equitable access to legal representation for our immigrant community.

As a nonprofit organization committed to dismantling the barriers that prevent individuals and families from living healthy, self-determined lives, Starting Over Inc, works to advance racial and economic justice, advocate for human rights, and support communities impacted by incarceration, poverty, and systemic inequality. Our work centers the experience of people directly affected by the criminal legal and immigration systems, and we believe that every person, regardless of their status deserves access to due process, legal representation, and the opportunity to thrive.

Establishing a \$3 million Legal Justice Fund would provide critical support for Riverside County residents facing immigration enforcement by ensuring access to due process and legal representation. Similar funds in other counties, such as Los Angeles, Orange County, Santa Clara, and San Francisco, have demonstrated how modest investments in legal defense can lead to more just outcomes, reduce detention times, and help families remain together.

Legal representation makes a critical difference. Studies show that immigrants with legal counsel are far more likely to pursue and win lawful relief, remain with their families, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. Yet the cost of a private attorney is out of reach for many low-income families, especially those facing removal proceedings.

6355 Riverside Ave, Suite 100
Riverside, CA 92506

(951) 898-0862

office@startingoverinc.org

www.startingoverinc.org

We urge you to include a Legal Justice Fund in this year's budget and to collaborate with community-based partners to design a fund that is accessible, transparent, and responsive to the needs of those most impacted.

We thank you for your continued leadership and your commitment to protecting vulnerable members of our communities. We stand ready to support and partner with the County in this critical endeavor.

Sincerely,



Tineace Ferguson
Policy Associate
Starting Over Inc,
(951) 898 - 0862

6355 Riverside Ave, Suite 100
Riverside, CA 92506

(951) 898-0862
office@startingoverinc.org

www.startingoverinc.org



HADLEY BAJRAMOVIC
IMMIGRATION LAW

06/18/2025

Riverside County Administrative Center
4080 Lemon St. Riverside, CA 92501

Re: Letter of Support for a Legal Justice Fund for Immigrant Communities in the FY 2025 Riverside County Budget

Dear CEO Wagenen and Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Immigration Law Offices of Hadley Bajramovic, we write to express our strong support for the creation of a Legal Justice Fund in Riverside County's Fiscal Year 2025 budget to ensure equitable access to legal representation for our immigrant community.

As an immigration law firm, we are committed to helping people in our community obtain adequate legal representation to guide them through the legal process. We have found great success in offering affordable options and even establishing the Green Bird Fund, where we contribute a portion of our earned income to help pay for legal services for those who would not be able to afford it, to increase the accessibility of legal services. By doing so, we have helped keep families intact and allow for immigrants to establish the ties that make our community strong and prosperous.

Establishing a \$3 million Legal Justice Fund would provide critical support for Riverside County residents facing immigration enforcement by ensuring access to due process and legal representation. Similar funds in other counties, such as Los Angeles, Orange County, Santa Clara, and San Francisco, have demonstrated how modest investments in legal defense can lead to more just outcomes, reduce detention times, and help families remain together.

Legal representation makes a critical difference. Studies show that immigrants with legal counsel are far more likely to pursue and win lawful relief, remain with their families, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. Yet the cost of a private attorney is out of reach for many low-income families, especially those facing removal proceedings.

We urge you to include a Legal Justice Fund in this year's budget and to collaborate with community-based partners to design a fund that is accessible, transparent, and responsive to the needs of those most impacted.

5225 Canyon Crest Drive Ste 450
Riverside, CA 92507
O: (951) 588 9838 | F: (888) 351 6233
Info@ilohb.com



HADLEY BAJRAMOVIC
IMMIGRATION LAW

We thank you for your continued leadership and your commitment to protecting vulnerable members of our communities. We stand ready to support and partner with the County in this critical endeavor.

Sincerely,

Guelda Hadley Bajramovic
CEO and Head Attorney
Immigration Law Offices of Hadley Bajramovic, PC.
hadley@immigrationhadley.com

5225 Canyon Crest Drive Ste 450
Riverside, CA 92507
O: (951) 588 9838 | F: (888) 351 6233
Info@ilohb.com



June 20, 2025

Riverside County Administrative Center
4080 Lemon St. Riverside, CA 92501

Re: Letter of Support for a Legal Justice Fund for Immigrant Communities in the FY 2025 Riverside County Budget

Dear CEO Wagenen and Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

Starting Over Strong (SOS), a justice-focused nonprofit advocating for systemically disadvantaged communities, strongly urges Riverside County to establish a Legal Justice Fund with a \$3 million commitment in the FY 2025–26 budget. This fund would provide critical legal support to immigrants facing detention and deportation: residents who call this county home.

On January 24, the Board voted unanimously to direct staff to explore policy and budget options for enhancing protections for immigrants. On February 6, the Board adopted Resolution 3.32, reaffirming Riverside County as a welcoming county and reinforcing compliance with SB 54. Establishing a Legal Justice Fund is the natural continuation of these commitments. It transforms statements of compassion into concrete action by ensuring access to due process for those most vulnerable to family separation, detention, and unlawful removal.

Establishing a \$3 million Legal Justice Fund would provide critical support for Riverside County residents facing immigration enforcement by ensuring access to due process and legal representation. Similar funds in other counties, such as Los Angeles, Orange County, Santa Clara, and San Francisco, have demonstrated how modest investments in legal defense can lead to more just outcomes, reduce detention times, and help families remain together.

Legal representation makes a critical difference. Studies show that immigrants with legal counsel are far more likely to pursue and win lawful relief, remain with their families, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. Yet the cost of a private attorney is out of reach for many low-income families, especially those facing removal proceedings.

This call for action is not ours alone. A growing coalition—including the Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice (ICIJ), LULAC, TODEC Legal Center, and others—has urged the County to act boldly in the face of escalating enforcement. As a county with one of the fastest-growing

immigrant populations, Riverside has an opportunity to lead the state in protecting its residents through a fund that reflects community values and legal integrity.

We urge you to include a Legal Justice Fund in this year's budget and to collaborate with community-based partners to design a fund that is accessible, transparent, and responsive to the needs of those most impacted.

We thank you for your continued leadership and your commitment to protecting vulnerable members of our communities. We stand ready to support and partner with the County in this critical endeavor.

We stand ready to support this initiative and work alongside county leaders and partners to bring it to life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan P. Kempe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and "K".

Nathan P. Kempe

Operations Director

Starting Over Strong (SOS)

nathan@startingoverstrong.org



1225 8th Street, Suite 590
Sacramento, CA 95814
Ph: 916.448.6762 Fax: 916.448.6774
www.caimmigrant.org

June 20, 2025

Riverside County Administrative Center
4080 Lemon St.
Riverside California 92501

Re: Letter of Support for a Legal Justice Fund for Immigrant Communities in the FY 2025 Riverside County Budget

Dear CEO Wagenen and Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC), we write to express our strong support for the creation of a Legal Justice Fund in Riverside County's Fiscal Year 2025 budget to ensure equitable access to legal representation for immigrants facing deportation and family separation.

CIPC was founded in response to the 1996 passage of federal immigration and welfare laws that profoundly affected immigrants. CIPC has led immigrant inclusion initiatives to establish the state-funded One California program, which provides funding for immigration legal service providers and community organizations, and has helped advance social and economic opportunity by ensuring equitable access to driver's licenses, Medi-Cal, and the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) for California's immigrant communities.

Riverside County is home to 2.5 million people, where 1 in 5 residents are immigrants. Immigrants contribute significantly to Riverside's economy, culture and workforce, and enrich every corner of the County – from schools and neighborhoods to small businesses and health care. Communities across Riverside County are deeply impacted by the large-scale immigration raids and arrests by federal agencies. Investments from the County are urgently needed to defend immigrant workers and families from the ongoing and indiscriminate arrests, raids, detentions and deportations across Riverside County.

Establishing a \$3 million Legal Justice Fund would provide critical support for Riverside County residents facing immigration enforcement by ensuring access to due process and legal representation. Legal Justice Funds are proven, cost-effective programs that upholds due process, keeps families together and protects the rights and safety of all residents. Similar funds in other counties, such as Los Angeles, Orange, Santa Clara, and San Francisco, have demonstrated how modest investments in legal defense can increase access to justice, reduce detention, and help keep families together. By supporting this investment, the Board of Supervisors would be demonstrating a commitment to justice, due process and fundamental principles that make Riverside County an inclusive and welcoming place for all.

Legal representation makes a critical difference in deportation proceedings. Parents can stay united with their children, students can stay in school, workers can remain in their workplaces, and local residents can continue contributing to their neighborhoods. Studies show that immigrants with legal counsel are far more likely to pursue and win relief they are entitled to under immigration law, remain with their families, and continue contributing to their communities. Yet the cost of a private attorney is out of reach for many low-income families, especially those facing removal proceedings. Publicly-funded legal services are a lifeline for people in immigration proceedings who are not guaranteed a lawyer if they cannot afford one. Legal services help people to understand their basic rights, navigate the immigration court process, and protect their families and livelihood.

We urge you to include \$3 million for the Legal Justice Fund in this year's budget and to collaborate with community-based partners to design a fund that is accessible, transparent, and responsive to the needs of the families, workers and communities most impacted. Our County is safer when all residents feel safe and supported and our economy is stronger when are families remain stable. Legal Justice Funds are not only a matter of fairness and due process—they are an investment in the safety and stability of Riverside County.

Thank you for your continued leadership and your commitment to a welcoming and inclusive County for all. We stand ready to support and partner with the County in this critical endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruno Huizar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bruno Huizar
Supervising Policy Manager
California Immigrant Policy Center
bhuizar@caimmigrant.org



Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)

330 N D Street Suite 424

San Bernardino, CA 92401

June 20, 2025

Riverside County Board of Supervisors

4080 Lemon Street, 5th Floor

Riverside, CA 92401

Dear Chair Perez and Members of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing on behalf of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) to share our strong support for the creation of a Riverside County Immigrant Legal Justice Fund.

Riverside County is home to more than 500,000 immigrants; many whom live, work, study, and raise families here. Many of them are long-standing community members who contribute in countless ways, but too often, they are forced to navigate complex immigration proceedings without legal aid. This can lead to devastating outcomes like family separation or detention, even when individuals may have a strong case to stay.

The Inland Empire faces a severe shortage of immigration legal services, making it a legal desert for many in need. We know that having an attorney can make all the difference in immigration court, yet local nonprofit legal providers are stretched to their limits. Without meaningful investment, many Riverside County residents will continue to navigate these life-altering proceedings alone.

That is why we strongly support the call to create a Legal Justice Fund, modeled after efforts in other parts of California. Based on similar investment levels, an initial fund of around \$2.5–\$3 million could help address the gap by funding legal services, infrastructure, and community outreach.

We respectfully ask the Board to:

1. Convene a working group with community-based organizations, legal experts, county staff, and city representatives to explore how a fund could be developed locally;
2. Identify funding sources, including potential city, state, federal, and philanthropic contributions; and
3. Report back within 90–120 days with recommendations to launch a pilot or full-scale program.

Riverside County has the need and the opportunity to lead by example in the Inland Empire. By investing in



legal representation, we can prevent unnecessary detentions and deportations, keep families together, and build trust in our public institutions. When we invest in immigrant communities, we invest in the future of our region.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to all who call Riverside County home. We look forward to being part of this important effort.

Sincerely,

Natalia Saca

Regional Policy Advocate

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)

330 N D Street Suite 424

San Bernardino, CA 92401