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In accordance with its reporting requirement to gather data, provide analysis, and evaluate the Los Angeles Justice Fund (LAJF) Pilot Program, the California Community Foundation submitted the Los Angeles Justice Fund: Final Bridge Funding Report (Report) on September 15, 2021. The USC Dornsife Equity Research Institute prepared the report for the LAJF activities for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 (attached). A report back on the LAJF Pilot Program will be prepared upon the closeout of the program and its current extension period (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022).

This Office recommends that the City Council receive and file this report inasmuch as this report is informational and no action is required at this time.



Matthew W. Szabo
City Administrative Officer

Los Angeles Justice Fund: Final Bridge Funding Report

USC Dornsife Equity Research Institute¹

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USC Dornsife

Dana and David Dornsife
College of Letters, Arts and Sciences
Equity Research Institute

Data and Analysis to Power Social Change

¹ USC Dornsife Equity Research Institute (ERI): Data and Analysis to Power Social Change is a research unit housed within the Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences at the University of Southern California. ERI is the entity resulting from the combination of two institutes: the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE) and the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII), which were founded at USC in 2008. USC Dornsife ERI is separate from the Immigration Clinic incubated at the USC Gould School of Law.

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Executive Summary

An additional year of critical bridge funding (2020-2021) for the Los Angeles Justice Fund (LAJF) was approved by the City and County of Los Angeles. Rather than forcing lawyers to make a devastating choice to end representation, amidst an unprecedented global pandemic, this bridge funding ensured that Angeleno immigrants and their families continued to receive high-quality legal representation and due process. As the City, County, and philanthropy evaluate the bridge funding and transition into the new program, there are five key takeaways to consider.

- 1. While case progress slowed in recent quarters, this was due to a combination of factors, including the impact of the pandemic and uncertainty of future funding.** The complex nature of deportation cases and policies enacted under the Trump administration, coupled with the impact of COVID-19, have created a severe backlog in processing times across the whole country. **Due to this, LAJF grantees have active cases that will take years to resolve, some until 2024.** Nevertheless, the Fund strengthened L.A. City and County's safety net by **screening at minimum 2,208 individuals** for available legal remedies and **accepting an estimated total of 742 cases** for representation since the start of the fund.² Additionally, grantees **completed 90 clients' cases during the pilot phase**, as well as **4 cases during the mid-year bridge funding phase, all of which resulted in a positive outcome.**³ LAJF grantees also represented some of the most vulnerable immigrants who would not have otherwise had access to representation, including Black immigrants. Grantees estimate that **37 Black immigrants were represented through LAJF.**
- 2. Bridge funding allowed LAJF lawyers to be a source of support and a lifeline for clients during unprecedented times.** With all of the uncertainties with immigration court proceedings, changes in the law, misinformation, and fear, LAJF had its clear successes for people and families. Without the critical bridge funding, lawyers would have been forced to drop clients, further devastating immigrants in vulnerable situations who were often L.A. City and County's essential workers, helping us weather through the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3. For immigrants with active cases or unfavorable outcomes, having access to legal representation and remaining united with their family in the process, is a success in and of itself.** LAJF ensured that immigrant families who are deeply rooted in the social and economic fabric of L.A. City and County remained intact, as they navigated deportation proceedings. The impacts of deportation processes extend beyond the individual at direct risk of deportation: across L.A. County, **18 percent of Angelenos are undocumented or live with someone who is.** In addition to family separation, deportations have drastic economic impacts for immigrant families. **Among all households with an undocumented family member, 49 percent of the aggregate household income comes from those undocumented wage earners,** meaning families could have been plunged further into poverty during an already economically tumultuous time.

² Source: USC Equity Research Institute's analysis of case activity data submitted by LAJF grantees to CCF on August 2021.

³ Source: USC Equity Research Institute's analysis of mid-year bridge funding case activity data submitted by LAJF grantees to CCF on January 6, 2021 and Vera Institute of Justice's pilot phase case activity data presented in the Vera Institute of Justice's Quarter 10 report. Note: Due to limitations with the dataset, missing data, and differences in methodologies, data on positive outcomes for the pilot and mid-year bridge funding phases are reported separately.

4. **Grant extensions will allow LAJF grantees to spend down their funding and continue to represent their clients without disrupting ongoing cases. Moreover, funding for grantees who have already exhausted their funding but still have ongoing cases, should be considered.**

Although LAJF is set to transition into a new program, many LAJF cases remain active and many LAJF grantees are requesting grant extensions to continue to, at minimum, spend down their funding and sustain existing cases. Additionally, because there is some flexibility with the grant extensions, some grantees who have the capacity, anticipate an increase in cases.

5. **LAJF would benefit from uniform and centralized data collection that would improve the quality of the data and ensure a better understanding of the benefits and limitations of the fund.** Throughout the course of LAJF's pilot and bridge funding phases, data has been collected from grantees to track case activity. However, attorneys are often tasked with this additional responsibility that places yet another burden on attorneys that are at workload capacity. Additionally, the capacity of grantee's to collect data varies, given the difference in the resources each organization has, which impacts the quality of data that is collected. It is also important to consider that the rapid nature of the data requests also impacts the quality of the data. Investing in non-attorney staff to focus on data collection can help facilitate the data collection process and ensure accountability.

As outlined above, the bridge funding approval was critically important given the formidable obstacles facing legal service providers and immigrants throughout L.A. City and County, as well as across the nation, during such unprecedented times. As the LAJF program transitions, continuing to support the cases that remain active is critical in advancing immigrant rights and racial justice, for some of the most vulnerable immigrant groups that contribute so much, but are often given so little in return. Similarly, continuing to support the legal service providers and reducing the structural barriers that often make the process of providing critical services more challenging, is important. The disparate ravages of COVID-19 and the enforcement inequalities revealed by the racial justice uprisings of this past year have taught us the centrality of racial equity as a guiding principle for policy design.

Introduction

Launched in 2017, the Los Angeles Justice Fund (LAJF) was an innovative pilot that laid the groundwork for a county-wide safety net for immigrants facing removal proceedings; it ramped up capacity for the delivery of high-quality legal representation; and it strengthened the immigration legal services infrastructure for the region as a whole. All of this happened during one of the most difficult years in our lifetime for immigrants, as substantial changes were made to asylum and immigration law, and as fear swept across communities due to xenophobia and anti-immigrant policies that were implemented from the nation's capital. An additional year of critical bridge funding (2020-2021) was approved by the City and County of Los Angeles to ensure that Angeleno immigrants and their families continued to receive high-quality legal representation and due process, during a time when the country faced the formidable challenges of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The approval of the bridge funding was critically important given the formidable obstacles facing legal service providers in Los Angeles and across the country. Reaching and serving immigrants in the face of a global pandemic presented an unprecedented challenge—as did navigating the growing backlog of cases in the immigration courts. (More than 1.2 million cases were pending in immigration courts in 2020, with many remaining in limbo for years.)⁴ Providers were simultaneously grappling with the dismantling of the U.S. immigration system by the Trump Administration, which advanced more than 400 executive actions and other measures aimed at curbing fundamental rights and protections for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers (Pierce and Bolter 2020). And Angeleno immigrant community members joined in the collective racial justice reckoning ushered in by the national attention on the killing of George Floyd.

This final report provides context and case activity data for the bridge funding phase of LAJF that was specifically requested by the City and County of Los Angeles. Due to the rapid response nature of the data requested from grantees, the data presented below are estimates and may not represent the actual totals. In some cases, due to differences in data collection and methodology, the data provided cannot be aggregated. This underscores the need to invest in non-attorney staff to focus on data collection that can help facilitate this process, improve the quality of data, and ensure a better understanding of the benefits and limitations of the program.

Amid extreme uncertainty, bridge year funding allowed grantees to provide legal services that helped secure the safety-net of L.A. City and County. By not dropping cases due to grant timelines, grantees were able to maintain high quality legal representation for Angelenos – many of whom are essential workers.

Legal services providers in Los Angeles City and County played an ongoing critical role in the lives of their clients as we all faced the global pandemic. With all of the uncertainties with immigration court proceedings, changes in the law, misinformation, and fear, lawyers were a source of support and a lifeline for clients. While ensuring that clients were informed of their immigration proceedings, lawyers, when they were able to, screened clients and opened cases within ethical limits. Additionally, while maintaining caseloads, lawyers could ensure their clients were safe and informed during this past year. If lawyers had been forced to drop clients without the critical bridge funding, this would have been

⁴ TRAC, "Immigration Court Backlog Tool: Pending Cases and Length of Wait by Nationality, State, Court, and Hearing Location," April 2021, https://trac.syr.edu/phptools/immigration/court_backlog/.

devastating to already vulnerable immigrants who were often our city and county's essential workers, helping us weather through the pandemic. The Fund strengthened L.A. City and County's safety net by screening, at minimum, 2,208 individuals for available legal remedies, accepting an estimated total of 742 cases for representation (see Figure 1), and completing 90 clients' cases during the pilot phase that resulted in a positive outcome, as well as 4 cases during the mid-year bridge funding phase that resulted in a positive outcome.⁵ As shown in Figure 3, 37 new cases were acquired between June 30, 2020 and January 2021. Between January 2021 and August 2021, 48 new cases were acquired.

Figure 1. Cumulative Total Number of Legal intakes and Cases Represented by LAJF, as of August 2021

LAJF Case Activity	#
Total legal intakes conducted	2,208
Total cases represented by LAJF	742

Source: USC Equity Research Institute's analysis of bridge funding case activity data submitted by LAJF grantees to CCF on August 2021. The numbers of legal intakes were aggregated to the data in the mid-year bridge funding report, which included the Vera Institute of Justice's pilot phase case activity data presented in the Vera Institute of Justice's Quarter 10 report.

Figure 2. Total Number of Legal Intakes Conducted by Grantees, January 2021 - August 2021

Organization	Legal Intakes Conducted January 2021 - August 2021
AAAJ-LA	1
Bet Tzedek Legal Services	21
CARECEN	22
CHIRLA	30
Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project	0
Immigrant Defenders Law Center	30
KIND	0
LA LGBT Center	0
LAFLA	5
Public Counsel Law Center	2
USC Gould School of Law, and Immigration Clinic	50
Total	161

Source: USC Equity Research Institute's analysis of bridge funding case activity data submitted by LAJF grantees to CCF on August 2021.

⁵ Source: USC Equity Research Institute's analysis of mid-year bridge funding case activity data submitted by LAJF grantees to CCF on January 6, 2021 and Vera Institute of Justice's pilot phase case activity data presented in the Vera Institute of Justice's Quarter 10 report. Note: Due to limitations with the dataset, missing data, and differences in methodologies, data on positive outcomes for the pilot and mid-year bridge funding phases are reported separately.

Figure 3. Cumulative Total Number of Cases Represented Through LAJF by Time Period

Organization	# of Cases as of June 30, 2020	# of New Cases Acquired July 2020 - January 2021	# of New Cases Acquired January 2021 - August 2021	Total
AAAJ-LA	19	1	0	20
Bet Tzedek Legal Services	100	4	21	125
CARECEN	49	1	3	53
CHIRLA	98	0	14	112
Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project	63	0	0	63
Immigrant Defenders Law Center	75	0	3	78
KIND	41	13	0	54
LA LGBT Center	61	13	0	74
LAFLA	92	1	5	98
Public Counsel Law Center	35	1	1	37
USC Gould School of Law, and Immigration Clinic	24	3	1	28
Total	657	37	48	742

Source: USC Equity Research Institute's analysis of case activity data submitted by LAJF grantees to CCF on August 2021. Note: The total numbers represented above do not represent the number of active cases but rather the estimated total number of cases accepted for representation through LAJF to date. The total number of cases as of June 30, 2020 reported by LAFLA represents overall cases that were at one time LAJF cases. Some cases were transferred to other funding sources when LAJF funds ceased.

The complex nature of the cases, rapid changes in immigration policy, uncertainty of funding, and backlogs in processing times, associated in part with the COVID-19 pandemic, impacted not only the volume of new cases acquired, but also the status of these cases. Figure 4 reveals that as of August 2021, 229 cases have been closed and 513 cases remain active. Figure 5 and Figure 6 also show the number of closed and active cases by funding source.

Figure 4. Cumulative Totals on Closed and Active LAJF Cases by Grantees, as of August 2021

Organization	# of Closed Cases as of August 2021	# of Active Cases as of August 2021
AAAJ-LA	11	9
Bet Tzedek Legal Services	12	113
CARECEN	10	43
CHIRLA	36	76
Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project	14	49
Immigrant Defenders Law Center	48	30
KIND	6	48
LA LGBT Center	31	43
LAFLA	36	62
Public Counsel Law Center	22	15
USC Gould School of Law, and Immigration Clinic	3	25
Total	229	513

Source: USC Equity Research Institute's analysis of cumulative case activity data submitted by LAJF grantees to CCF on August 2021.

Figure 5. Cumulative Total Number of Active Cases by Grantee and Funding Source, as of August 2021

Organization	Active City Funded Cases	Active County Funded Cases	Active Philanthropy Funded Cases	Total
AAAJ-LA	3	6	0	9
Bet Tzedek Legal Services	93	20	0	113
CARECEN	27	16	0	43
CHIRLA	28	48	0	76
Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project	35	14	0	49
Immigrant Defenders Law Center	16	13	1	30
KIND	15	12	21	48
LA LGBT Center	17	18	8	43
LAFLA	0	18	44	62
Public Counsel Law Center	6	8	1	15
USC Gould School of Law, and Immigration Clinic	14	11	0	25
Total	254	184	75	513

Source: USC Equity Research Institute's analysis of cumulative case activity data submitted by LAJF grantees to CCF on August 2021.

Figure 6. Cumulative Total Number of Closed Cases by Grantee and Funding Source, as of August 2021

Organization	Closed City Funded Cases	Closed County Funded Cases	Closed Philanthropy Funded Cases	Total
AAAJ-LA	5	5	1	11
Bet Tzedek Legal Services	11	1	0	12
CARECEN	6	4	0	10
CHIRLA	17	19	0	36
Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project	4	10	0	14
Immigrant Defenders Law Center	5	39	4	48
KIND	2	3	1	6
LA LGBT Center	4	11	16	31
LAFLA	11	25	0	36
Public Counsel Law Center	10	10	2	22
USC Gould School of Law, and Immigration Clinic	2	1	0	3
Total	77	128	24	229

Source: USC Equity Research Institute's analysis of cumulative case activity data submitted by LAJF grantees to CCF on August 2021. Note: The number of closed cases includes cases that were closed, completed, and in some instances cases that were closed because they were withdrawn but where an outcome was not necessarily achieved.

Figure 7. Cumulative Total Number of Closed and Active LAJF Cases, as of August 2021

LAJF Case Status	#
# of Closed Cases as of August 2021	229
# of Active Cases as of August 2021	513
Total	742

Source: USC Equity Research Institute's analysis of cumulative case activity data submitted by LAJF grantees to CCF on August 2021.

Figure 8. Cumulative Total Number of Closed and Active LAJF Cases by Funding Source, as of August 2021

Funding Source	Active Cases	Closed Cases	Total
City	254	77	331
County	184	128	312
Philanthropy	75	24	99
Total	513	229	742

Source: USC Equity Research Institute's analysis of cumulative case activity data submitted by LAJF grantees to CCF on August 2021. Note: The number of closed cases includes cases that were closed, completed, and in some instances cases that were closed because they were withdrawn but where an outcome was not necessarily achieved.

As LAJF transitions into a new program, the purpose of the no-cost extensions is primarily meant to sustain the current infrastructure to support ongoing cases and spend down existing funds. As such, most grantees do not anticipate seeing an increase in the number of cases. Nevertheless, grantees have the flexibility to take on new cases, which is why some expressed they anticipate an increase. After August 2021, five grantees do not anticipate a change, four grantees will close out their grants, and two anticipate an increase (see Figure 9). Figure 10 provides this breakdown by grantee.

Figure 9. Anticipated Change in the Number of Cases after August 2021

Anticipated Change in # of Cases	# of Organizations
No	5
No, grant will be closed out	4
Yes, we anticipate an increase	2
Total	11

Source: Case activity data submitted by LAJF grantees to CCF on August 2021.

Figure 10. Anticipated Change in the Number of Cases after August 2021 by Grantee

Organization	Anticipated Change in the Number of Cases
AAAJ-LA	No
Bet Tzedek Legal Services	Yes, we anticipate an increase
CARECEN	No
CHIRLA	No, grant will be closed out
Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project	No, grant will be closed out
Immigrant Defenders Law Center	No, grant will be closed out
KIND	No
LA LGBT Center	No
LAFLA	Yes, we anticipate an increase
Public Counsel Law Center	No
USC Gould School of Law, and Immigration Clinic	No, grant will be closed out

Source: Case activity data submitted by LAJF grantees to CCF on August 2021.

Although most grantees are unable to acquire new cases due to their limited capacity and resources, grantees expressed that they nevertheless continue to receive requests for legal assistance that they are forced to turn down.

Because of their limited capacity, some grantees have expressed that they have received requests to provide legal assistance but are unable to do so because they are at capacity. Immigrant Defenders Law Center reported that this need for legal representation is partially attributed to referrals from immigrants who have been paroled into the U.S. after having been under the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP); some of these immigrants are eligible for LAJF because of their ties to L.A. City or County. Under the Trump administration, MPP was created, forcing certain asylum seekers to remain in Mexico as their asylum request was processed, and ultimately until their case was decided. (Martinez 2020). MPP creates additional barriers and dangers for immigrants seeking safety. Earlier this year under the Biden administration, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) started a phase to wind down the program, transferring the cases of certain immigrants who were forced to stay in Mexico, to U.S. immigration courts. At the end of January 2021, nearly 4,000 MPP cases were transferred out to immigration courts throughout the U.S. A majority of immigrants who were issued MPP's are coming from Cuba, Honduras, Guatemala, and Ecuador.⁶ Yet, in August of this year, a district judge in Texas ruled that MPP must be reinstated. A few days later, the Supreme Court denied an emergency appeal requiring that the Biden administration restore the policy while the court case continues. As a direct result, the U.S. has paused processing the cases of asylum seekers who had been previously sent to Mexico under MPP throughout the Trump administration (National Immigration Forum 2021). As the future of MPP is determined and as migration flows continue to change, legal representation for immigrants currently in the U.S. and incoming immigrants, will be crucial.

LAJF legal service providers are representing our families and our communities – 18 percent of Angelenos are undocumented or live with someone who is – meaning the economic impact of deportation and the ripple effects are felt throughout the entire City and County.

The clients that LAJF legal service providers are representing are our community members and extended families who are deeply rooted in the social and economic fabric of L.A. City and County. Across the county, 18 percent of Angelenos are undocumented or live with someone who is, meaning the impacts of deportation extend beyond the individual at direct risk.⁷ Additionally, across L.A. County there are 788,000 U.S. citizens and 256,000 legal permanent residents (LPRs) living with someone who is undocumented, meaning there are ripple effects beyond the individual at direct risk of deportation.⁸ When parents are detained and deported, children are at risk of being placed in foster care, resulting in family separation that can last for long periods of time. In 2011, about 6 percent of the children placed in foster care in L.A. County were there because a parent had been detained or deported (Wessler 2011). In addition, family separation has drastic economic impacts for immigrant families that can plunge families further into poverty. In L.A. County, among all the households with an undocumented

⁶ "Nearly 4,000 MPP Cases Transferred Out of MPP Courts Under Biden, But Most Cases Still Remain In Mexico," 2021, <https://trac.syr.edu/immigration/reports/643/>.

⁷ Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2018 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Data represent a 2014 through 2018 average.

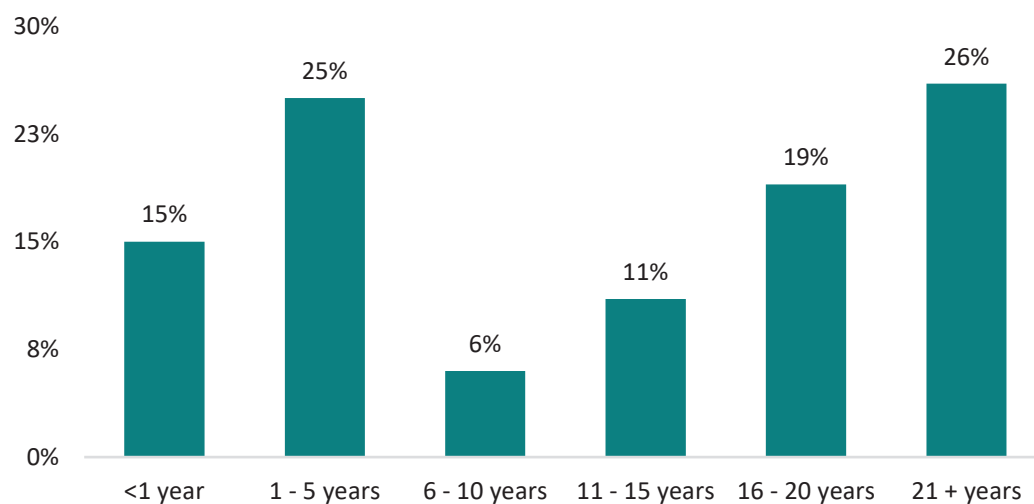
⁸ Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2018 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Data represent a 2014 through 2018 average.

family member, nearly half (49 percent) of the aggregate household income comes from those undocumented wage earners.⁹

LAJF grantees have also represented unaccompanied children who continue to face enormous obstacles in accessing adequate support and resources. LAJF grantees are filling this gap by providing legal services while also providing due process and wrap-around support for them.

Figure 11 below shows that clients have deep roots in Los Angeles – among clients represented from November 27, 2017 through June 30, 2020, **56%** of clients have lived in the U.S. for more than a decade and the average length of time in the U.S. was **14 years**. Among clients represented during the mid-year bridge funding phase, July 1, 2020 – January 6, 2021 the average length of time in the U.S. was **7 years** (see Figure 12).

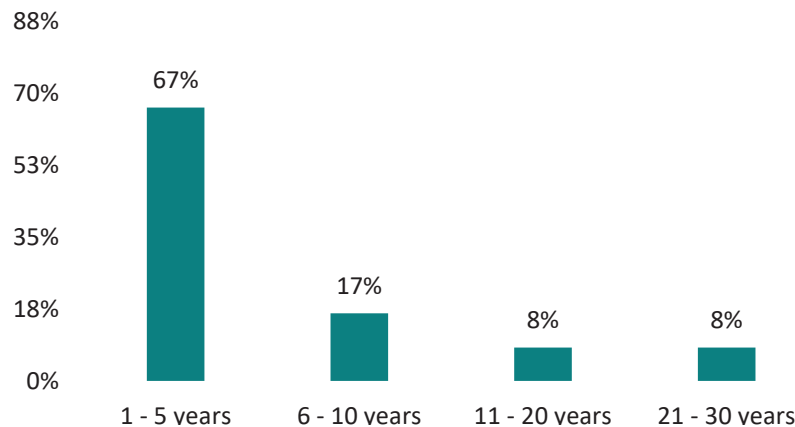
Figure 11. Share of Clients by Length of Time in the U.S., LAJF Cases, November 27, 2017 - June 30, 2020



Source: Data provided by the Vera Institute of Justice on case activity through the pilot phases of LAJF (June 30, 2020) in their Quarter 10 report.

⁹ USC ERI analysis of 2018 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Data represent a 2014 through 2018 average.

Figure 12. Share of Clients by Length of Time in the U.S., Mid-Year Bridge Funding Cases, July 1, 2020 – January 6, 2021



Source: Source: USC Equity Research Institute's analysis of mid-year bridge funding case activity data submitted by LAJF grantees to CCF on January 6, 2021. Note: Data on length of time in the U.S. reported above represents only 12 cases, there is missing data for the remaining 10 cases.

LAJF grantees provide representation for both children and adults. Estimates provided by LAJF grantees show that about 374 adults and 222 children have been represented to date (see Figure 13 below).

Figure 13. Estimated Number of Adult and Children Clients Represented by LAJF Grantees, as of August 2021

Organization	# of Clients who are Adults	# of Clients who are Children
AAAJ-LA	9	0
Bet Tzedek Legal Services	0	125
CARECEN	46	7
CHIRLA	89	23
Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project	27	22
Immigrant Defenders Law Center	27	3
KIND	31	17
LA LGBT Center	41	2
LAFLA	52	10
Public Counsel Law Center	34	3
USC Gould School of Law, and Immigration Clinic	18	10
Total	374	222

Source: Case activity data submitted by LAJF grantees to CCF on August 2021. Note: These numbers are only estimates and may not represent the total number of children and adults that were represented through LAJF, as some grantees reported these numbers only for cases that were active and others reported cumulative numbers. Additionally, all KIND clients are retained when they are children (under 18 years old). The above figure is the number of clients KIND currently has who have turned 18 during the course of representation.

LAJF grantees are advancing immigrant rights and racial justice, as clients are majority people of color – including Black and indigenous immigrants – and responding to the policing of immigrant communities that places immigrants directly into the criminal justice system.

A majority of L.A. City and County's immigrants are people of color. In 2018, in L.A. County, nearly 56 percent of immigrants identified as Latino, 28 percent as Asian American, 14 percent as white, and

nearly 2 percent as Black.¹⁰ However, within these groupings, Black and Indigenous immigrants are often undercounted and underrepresented, with the latter often incorrectly included in the Latino category. Additionally, mainstream service providers and some immigrant-serving organizations lack the necessary cultural and linguistic competency to address the needs of Black and Indigenous immigrants. In 2018, nearly 20 percent of Black Angelenos were either immigrants themselves or the U.S.-born children of immigrants.¹¹ While Black immigrants comprise a small share of the population, they comprise a disproportionate share of immigrants facing deportation: between 2003 and 2015, Black immigrants composed 5 percent of the unauthorized population in the U.S., yet they represented nearly 11 percent of all immigrants in removal proceedings (Morgan-Trostle, Zheng, and Lipscombe 2016). In a recent report, California’s Black immigrant population is described as diverse and growing, and yet Black immigrants—who live at the treacherous intersection of anti-Blackness and xenophobia—are often left out of critical community conversations about immigration (Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees 2020).

A recent data sample also reveals the diversity of Indigenous immigrants. Among Indigenous populations residing in the Los Angeles area, 54 percent identified as Zapoteco, 18 percent as Mixe, 16 percent as Quiche, five percent as Chinanteco, two percent as Mixteco, two percent as Triqui, one percent as Acateco, one percent as Mazateco, and one percent as Totonaco.¹² Highlighting data on Black and Indigenous immigrants is key in centering and uplifting their experiences, as well as advancing a racial justice lens in the fight for immigrant rights.

Language justice is another important factor that must be considered. Access to culturally and linguistically appropriate information can make the difference in the outcomes of cases. This is especially important for Black and Indigenous immigrants who often face additional barriers accessing adequate translation services. Across L.A. County, 33 percent of Asian American, 29 percent of Latino, 19 percent of mixed/other, and 7 percent of Black immigrant households were linguistically isolated.¹³

Another critical component to highlight are the racial justice implications of the entanglement of ICE and local law enforcement. The policing of immigrant communities places immigrants directly into the criminal justice system, oftentimes due to profiling on the basis of race, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation (Anon 2015). Further, despite countless evidence suggesting that immigration is not directly linked to increased crime rates and immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than their U.S.-born counterparts, U.S. policymakers continue to draft policies that broaden the population of immigrants that are criminalized (Walter Ewing, Daniel E. Martínez, and Rubén G. Rumbaut 2015). For example, the definition of a “criminal non-citizen” continues to be redefined with rigid definitions and standards that do not apply to U.S. citizens. The slightest brush with the criminal justice system, like committing a misdemeanor, can result in detention, expulsion from the U.S., or a permanent ban from the U.S.

¹⁰ USC ERI analysis of 2018 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Data represent a 2014 through 2018 average. Data can be accessed here, <https://immigrantdataca.org/indicators/immigration-status#/?geo=04000000000006037>.

¹¹ USC Equity Research Institute analysis of data from the 2014 through 2018 March Supplement of the Current Population Survey from IPUMS USA. Note: Data represent a 2014 through 2018 average. For this calculation, «Black» refers to all people identifying as Black alone or in combination with another race, including those who identify as Hispanic Black.

¹² CIELO, “Indigenous Grocery Fund,” April 28, 2020, <https://mycielo.org/2020/04/28/indigenous-grocery-fund/>.

¹³ USC ERI analysis of 2018 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Data represent a 2014 through 2018 average. A household is considered to be linguistically isolated when no member age 14 years or older speaks only English or speaks English at least “very well.” Data can be accessed here, <https://immigrantdataca.org/indicators/linguistic-isolation#/?breakdown=3>.

Additionally, one type of crime that can trigger deportation for immigrants is an “aggravated felony.” Currently, the definition of an “aggravated felony” encompasses over 30 types of offenses, counting simple battery, theft, filing a false tax return, and failing to appear in court. Immigrants convicted of an “aggravated felony” face some of the harshest outcomes in court, as quoted by the Supreme Court. The unjust way immigration laws have been set up can make immigrants with very minor convictions, subject to deportation (American Immigration Council 2021). Denying legal representation to immigrants who have come into contact with the criminal justice system is denying access to protections for immigrants with cases where government power is the greatest and penalties the most punitive (Lindsay Nash 2018). As reported by Black-led immigrant groups in the United States, these interconnected systems have led to a disproportionate impact on Black immigrant communities due to racial profiling and systemic racism.

LAJF grantees provided services to Black immigrants; however, more concerted efforts are necessary to reach this population of immigrants who tend to be one of the most marginalized groups. Figure 14 below presents an estimate on the number of Black immigrants currently represented by LAJF grantees. Some LAJF grantees expressed that they represented Black immigrants but through other funding sources. For example, USC Gould School of Law indicated that they are representing 20 Black immigrants with non-LAJF funding. CARECEN is also representing Black immigrants through non-LAJF funding, noting that the residency requirements also pose a challenge in representing Black immigrants, as many are seeking asylum and have no ties to L.A. City or County. Additionally, the criminal background requirement also poses a barrier in representing immigrants, given the intersection of the criminal justice and immigration systems.

Figure 14. Estimated Cumulative Number of Black Immigrants Represented by LAJF Grantees, as of August 2021

Organization	# of Black Immigrants Represented
AAAJ-LA	0
Bet Tzedek Legal Services	0
CARECEN	0
CHIRLA	1
Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project	16
Immigrant Defenders Law Center	8
KIND	0
LA LGBT Center	6
LAFLA	2
Public Counsel Law Center	2
USC Gould School of Law, and Immigration Clinic	2
Total	37

Source: Case activity data submitted by LAJF grantees to CCF on August 2021. Note: Data by race/ethnicity was not collected by grantees. The numbers presented above are estimates and therefore, do not reflect the total number of Black immigrants represented by LAJF grantees.

In addition to representing Black immigrants, LAJF grantees are representing clients from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nigeria, and Cambodia. Figure 15 and Figure 16 show the countries of origin for LAJF cases represented during the mid-year bridge funding phase and pilot phase.

Figure 15. Number and Share of Clients by Country of Origin, Mid-Year Bridge Funding (22 cases), July 1, 2020 - January 6, 2021

Country	# of Clients	% of Clients
Guatemala	7	32%
El Salvador	7	32%
Honduras	5	23%
Mexico	2	9%
Nigeria	1	5%

Source: Source: USC Equity Research Institute's analysis of mid-year bridge funding case activity data submitted by LAJF grantees to CCF on January 6, 2021.

Figure 16. Share of Clients by Country of Origin, LAJF Cases, November 27, 2017 - June 30, 2020

Top 5 Countries of Origin	% of Clients
Guatemala	26%
El Salvador	25%
Mexico	23%
Honduras	16%
Cambodia	1%

Source: Data provided by the Vera Institute of Justice on case activity through the pilot phases of LAJF (June 30, 2020) in their Quarter 10 report. Note: Numbers were not reported for the country of origin indicator. A heat map showing clients' country of origin can be found in the Vera Quarter 10 report.

Given the intersectionality of these issues, immigrant rights efforts should be approached with a racial justice lens. Addressing racism within the context of immigrant rights is critical because anti-immigrant sentiment can be driven by racial anxiety, as hate crimes often target people of color and structures, like detention centers, dehumanize all marginalized groups. It is also important to understand that advancing immigrant rights does not necessarily mean hopscotching other marginalized groups, but rather changing the structures and systems to promote justice and opportunity for all. In the context of LAJF, removing requirements based on residency and criminal backgrounds will ensure representation and support for the most marginalized groups of immigrants.

LAJF legal service providers' financial outlook reveals that grant extensions are critical to sustaining ongoing cases.

As the design of the new program continues, many LAJF cases remain active and many LAJF grantees will receive grant extensions to continue to, at minimum, spend down their funding and meet the needs of existing clients. Yet, it is important to consider funding for grantees who will not be receiving grant extensions but who have already exhausted their funding and have ongoing cases, as is the case with four grantees. As of August 2021, the status of LAJF grantee expenditures and grant extension requests is detailed in Figure 17 - Figure 20 below.

Figure 17. LAJF Grant Totals by Funding Source and Grant, as of August 2021

Funding Source	Grant 1 October 2017	Grant 2 2019-2020	Grant 3 December 2020	Total
City	\$1,905,000	\$95,000	\$1,000,000	\$3,000,000
County	\$2,685,000	\$315,000	\$1,000,000	\$4,000,000
Philanthropy	\$2,510,000	\$1,715,000	\$441,875.50	\$4,666,875.50
Total	\$7,100,000	\$2,125,000	\$2,441,875.50	\$11,666,875.50

Source: Grant balances provided by CCF as of August 2021.

Figure 18. LAJF Grant Balances by Funding Source and Grantee, as of August 2021

Organization	City Fund Balance (as of August 2021)	County Fund Balance (as of August 2021)	Philanthropy Fund Balance (as of August 2021)	Total Fund Balance (as of August 2021)
AAAJ-LA	\$10,000	\$34,000	\$0	\$44,000
Bet Tzedek Legal Services	\$82,032	\$18,657	\$0	\$100,689
CARECEN	\$10,405	\$64,700	\$15,485	\$90,590
CHIRLA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Immigrant Defenders Law Center	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
KIND	\$100,623	\$105,172	\$0	\$205,795
LA LGBT Center	\$61,930	\$80,867	\$11,497	\$154,295
LAFLA (Bridge & Extension Funding)	\$0	\$19,342	\$62,674	\$82,016
Public Counsel Law Center	\$0	\$0	\$89,333	\$89,333
USC Gould School of Law and Immigration Clinic	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$264,990	\$322,738	\$178,989	\$766,718

Source: Grant balances submitted by LAJF grantees to CCF on August 2021.

Figure 19. Length and Expiration Date of Grant Extension (GE) Requests by Grantee, as of August 2021

Organization	Length of time for GE	GE Date
AAAJ-LA	18 Months	11/30/2021
Bet Tzedek Legal Services	6 Months	12/31/2021
CARECEN	6 Months	12/31/2021
CHIRLA	None	None
Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project	None	None
Immigrant Defenders Law Center	None	None
KIND	12 Months	6/30/2022
LA LGBT Center	12 Months	6/30/2022
LAFLA (Bridge & Extension Funding)	6 Months	12/31/2021
Public Counsel Law Center	12 Months	6/30/2022
USC Gould School of Law and Immigration Clinic	None	None

Source: Grant balance reports submitted by LAJF grantees to CCF on August 2021. Note: AAAJ-LA is currently on an 18 Month no-cost extension set to expire 11/30/2021.

Figure 20. Grant Extension Request Totals, as of August 2021

Organization	# of Organizations
6-month extension	3
12-month extension	3
18-month extension	1
None	4
Total	11

Source: Grant balance reports submitted by LAJF grantees to CCF on August 2021. Note: AAAJ-LA is currently on an 18 Month no-cost extension set to expire 11/30/2021.

Conclusion

To date, LAJF grantees have represented some of the most vulnerable immigrants throughout L.A. City and County. Additional bridge funding was key in allowing grantees to continue to sustain their ongoing cases during a challenging and unprecedented time. As the City, County, and philanthropy evaluate the bridge funding and transition into the new program, continuing to recognize the scale of the ongoing need for legal representation and taking into account these five learnings from LAJF will be key.

1. **While case progress slowed in recent quarters, this was due to a combination of factors, including the impact of the pandemic and uncertainty of future funding.** The complex nature of deportation cases and policies enacted under the Trump administration, coupled with the impact of COVID-19, have created a severe backlog in processing times across the whole country. **Due to this, LAJF grantees have active cases that will take years to resolve, some until 2024.** Nevertheless, the Fund strengthened L.A. City and County's safety net by **screening at minimum 2,208 individuals** for available legal remedies and **accepting an estimated total of 742 cases** for representation since the start of the fund.¹⁴ Additionally, grantees **completed 90 clients' cases during the pilot phase**, as well as **4 cases during the mid-year bridge funding phase, all of which resulted in a positive outcome.**¹⁵ LAJF grantees also represented some of the most vulnerable immigrants who would not have otherwise had access to representation, including Black immigrants. Grantees estimate that **37 Black immigrants were represented through LAJF.**
2. **Bridge funding allowed LAJF lawyers to be a source of support and a lifeline for clients during unprecedented times.** With all of the uncertainties with immigration court proceedings, changes in the law, misinformation, and fear, LAJF had its clear successes for people and families. Without the critical bridge funding, lawyers would have been forced to drop clients, further devastating immigrants in vulnerable situations who were often L.A. City and County's essential workers, helping us weather through the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹⁴ Source: USC Equity Research Institute's analysis of case activity data submitted by LAJF grantees to CCF on August 2021.

¹⁵ Source: USC Equity Research Institute's analysis of mid-year bridge funding case activity data submitted by LAJF grantees to CCF on January 6, 2021 and Vera Institute of Justice's pilot phase case activity data presented in the Vera Institute of Justice's Quarter 10 report. Note: Due to limitations with the dataset, missing data, and differences in methodologies, data on positive outcomes for the pilot and mid-year bridge funding phases are reported separately.

3. **For immigrants with active cases or unfavorable outcomes, having access to legal representation and remaining united with their family in the process, is a success in and of itself.** LAJF ensured that immigrant families who are deeply rooted in the social and economic fabric of L.A. City and County remained intact, as they navigated deportation proceedings. The impacts of deportation processes extend beyond the individual at direct risk of deportation: across L.A. County, **18 percent of Angelenos are undocumented or live with someone who is.** In addition to family separation, deportations have drastic economic impacts for immigrant families. **Among all households with an undocumented family member, 49 percent of the aggregate household income comes from those undocumented wage earners,** meaning families could have been plunged further into poverty during an already economically tumultuous time.
4. **Grant extensions will allow LAJF grantees to spend down their funding and continue to represent their clients without disrupting ongoing cases. Moreover, funding for grantees who have already exhausted their funding but still have ongoing cases, should be considered.** Although LAJF is set to transition into a new program, many LAJF cases remain active and many LAJF grantees are requesting grant extensions to continue to, at minimum, spend down their funding and sustain existing cases. Additionally, because there is some flexibility with the grant extensions, some grantees who have the capacity, anticipate an increase in cases.
5. **LAJF would benefit from uniform and centralized data collection that would improve the quality of the data and ensure a better understanding of the benefits and limitations of the fund.** Throughout the course of LAJF's pilot and bridge funding phases, data has been collected from grantees to track case activity. However, attorneys are often tasked with this additional responsibility that places yet another burden on attorneys that are at workload capacity. Additionally, the capacity of grantee's to collect data varies, given the difference in the resources each organization has, which impacts the quality of data that is collected. It is also important to consider that the rapid nature of the data requests also impacts the quality of the data. Investing in non-attorney staff to focus on data collection can help facilitate the data collection process and ensure accountability.

As the LAJF program transitions, continuing to support the ongoing cases is critical in advancing immigrant rights and racial justice, for some of the most vulnerable immigrant groups that contribute so much to the region, but are often given so little in return. Similarly, continuing to support the legal service providers and reducing the structural barriers that often make the process of providing critical services more challenging, is important. As the City and County of L.A. continue to advance immigrant rights, ensuring racial justice is a guiding principle will be key in positioning the City and County to continue to lead California and the rest of the nation on immigrant integration.

Methodological Appendix

Case activity data and grant balances presented in this report were collected by CCF on August 2021. The number of legal intakes conducted, total number of cases represented by LAJF grantees, status of cases, anticipated change in the number of cases, the number of adult and children served, and the number of Black immigrants served should be taken as estimates as of August 2021. These numbers may not represent the totality of cases and clients that were served through LAJF. This is especially important for data on race/ethnicity, as the first time this data was collected was in June 2021. The numbers of legal intakes provided as of August 2021 were aggregated to the data in the mid-year bridge funding report, which included the Vera Institute of Justice's pilot phase case activity data presented in the Vera Institute of Justice's Quarter 10 report. The number of closed cases includes cases that were closed, completed, and in some instances cases that were closed because they were withdrawn but where an outcome was not necessarily achieved. The number of children served includes clients who are under the age of 18. In the case of KIND, all their clients are retained when they are children (under 18 years old), so the numbers reported for adults includes the number of clients KIND currently has who have turned 18 during the course of representation. It should also be noted that some grantees retroactively updated their case activity numbers, so the case activity data presented in this report may differ from the case activity data presented in the mid-year bridge funding report (February 2021) and previous reports by the Vera Institute of Justice. Additionally, data on the length of residency in the U.S. and country of origin are reported separately for the pilot phase (November 27, 2017 - June 30, 2020) and the mid-year bridge funding phase (July 1, 2020 - January 6, 2021) due to differences in data collection and methodology. As a result of the rapid response nature of the data requests, data on length of residency and country of origin between January 2021 and August 2021 were not collected. Factors like the rapid nature of data requests, lack of uniform and centralized data collection, and differences in organizational capacity all impact the quality of the data presented.

Attachment A: Status of Cases by Grantee and Funding Source, as of August 2021

AAAJ-LA Case Status	City Funded Cases	County Funded Cases	Philanthropy Funded Cases	Total
# of open cases	3	6	0	9
# of closed and completed cases	5	5	1	11
Total	8	11	1	20

Note: AAAJ-LA reported 242 as the total number of cases, intakes, as well as intakes conducted at the LOP they established at the Theo Lacy Detention Center prior to its closure in August 2019.

Bet Tzedek Legal Services Case Status	City Funded Cases	County Funded Cases	Philanthropy Funded Cases	Total
# of open cases	93	20	0	113
# of closed and completed cases	11	1	0	12
Total	104	21	0	125

CARECEN Case Status	City Funded Cases	County Funded Cases	Philanthropy Funded Cases	Total
# of open cases	27	16	0	43
# of closed and completed cases	6	4	0	10
Total	33	20	0	53

CHIRLA Case Status	City Funded Cases	County Funded Cases	Philanthropy Funded Cases	Total
# of open cases	28	48	0	76
# of closed and completed cases	17	19	0	36
Total	45	67	0	112

Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project Case Status	City Funded Cases	County Funded Cases	Philanthropy Funded Cases	Total
# of open cases	35	14	0	49
# of closed and completed cases	4	10	0	14
Total	39	24	0	63

Immigrant Defenders Law Center Case Status	City Funded Cases	County Funded Cases	Philanthropy Funded Cases	Total
# of open cases	16	13	1	30
# of closed and completed cases	5	39	4	48
Total	21	52	5	78

KIND Case Status	City Funded Cases	County Funded Cases	Philanthropy Funded Cases	Total
# of open cases	15	12	21	48
# of closed and completed cases	2	3	1	6
Total	17	15	22	54

LA LGBT Center Case Status	City Funded Cases	County Funded Cases	Philanthropy Funded Cases	Total
# of open cases	17	18	8	43
# of closed and completed cases	4	11	16	31
Total	21	29	24	74

LAFLA Case Status	City Funded Cases	County Funded Cases	Philanthropy Funded Cases	Total
# of open cases	0	18	44	62
# of closed and completed cases	11	25	0	36
Total	11	43	44	98

Note: The number reported by LAFLA on the total number of cases as of June 30, 2020 represents overall cases that were at one time LAJF cases. Once adjusted for cases that necessitated transfer to other funding sources when initial LAJF monies ceased and there was a lull in funding, the case count was 64.

Public Counsel Law Center Case Status	City Funded Cases	County Funded Cases	Philanthropy Funded Cases	Total
# of open cases	6	8	1	15
# of closed and completed cases	10	10	2	22
Total	16	18	3	37

USC Gould School of Law and Immigration Clinic Case Status	City Funded Cases	County Funded Cases	Philanthropy Funded Cases	Total
# of open cases	14	11	0	25
# of closed and completed cases	2	1	0	3
Total	16	12	0	28

Note: USC Gould School of Law and Immigration Clinic reported that one previously closed County case (granted asylum) has been reopened to apply for Adjustment of Status which is now active and pending.

Attachment B: All LAJF Grantees and Grant Totals

Organization	Grant 1 Oct. 2017	Grant 2 2019/20	Grant 3 Dec. 2020	Total Amount Awarded
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - LA (AAAJ-LA)	\$575,000	\$0	\$0	\$575,000
Grant Agreement #	#140245	N/A	N/A	
City	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
County	\$280,000	\$0	\$0	\$280,000
Philanthropy	\$95,000	\$0	\$0	\$95,000
Bet Tzedek Legal Services	\$325,000	\$125,000	\$200,000	\$650,000
Grant Agreement #	#140239	#140239	#169953	
City	\$138,000	\$47,500	\$166,000	\$351,500
County	\$145,000	\$0	\$34,000	\$179,000
Philanthropy	\$42,000	\$77,500	\$0	\$119,500
Central American Resource Center (CARECEN)	\$575,000	\$250,000	\$229,000	\$1,054,000
Grant Agreement #	#140246	#140246	# 169955	
City	\$100,000	\$0	\$95,000	\$195,000
County	\$275,000	\$0	\$134,000	\$409,000
Philanthropy	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$0	\$450,000
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)	\$575,000	\$200,000	\$354,000	\$1,129,000
Grant Agreement #	#140252	#140252	#169956	
City	\$165,000	\$0	\$75,000	\$240,000
County	\$260,000	\$65,000	\$259,000	\$584,000
Philanthropy	\$150,000	\$135,000	\$20,000	\$305,000
Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project (Catholic Charities of Los Angeles)	\$575,000	\$250,000	\$214,200	\$1,039,200
Grant Agreement #	#140255	#140255	# 169954	
City	\$200,000	\$0	\$115,000	\$315,000
County	\$250,000	\$70,000	\$79,200	\$399,200
Philanthropy	\$125,000	\$180,000	\$20,000	\$325,000
Immigrant Defenders Law Center	\$775,000	\$350,000	\$354,000	\$1,479,000
Grant Agreement #	#140241	#140241	# 169957	
City	\$150,000	\$0	\$189,000	\$339,000
County	\$350,000	\$70,000	\$150,000	\$570,000
Philanthropy	\$275,000	\$280,000	\$15,000	\$570,000
Kids in Need of Defense, Inc. (KIND)	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$175,800	\$475,800
Grant Agreement #	#140244	# 140244	#169958	
City	\$75,000	\$47,500	\$85,000	\$207,500
County	\$75,000	\$0	\$90,800	\$165,800
Philanthropy	\$50,000	\$52,500	\$0	\$102,500
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA)	\$575,000	\$130,000	\$33,000	\$738,000

Organization	Grant 1 Oct. 2017	Grant 2 2019/20	Grant 3 Dec. 2020	Total Amount Awarded
Los Angeles LGBT Center	\$325,000	\$225,000	\$200,000	\$750,000
Grant Agreement #	#140250	#140250	#169959	
City	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
County	\$250,000	\$0	\$33,000	\$283,000
Philanthropy	\$125,000	\$130,000	\$0	\$255,000
Public Counsel Law Center	\$700,000	\$250,000	\$200,000	\$1,150,000
Grant Agreement #	#140253	# 140253	#169960	
City	\$130,000	\$0	\$80,000	\$210,000
County	\$130,000	\$65,000	\$100,000	\$295,000
Philanthropy	\$65,000	\$160,000	\$20,000	\$245,000
USC Gould School of Law Immigration Clinic	\$180,000	\$45,000	\$90,000	\$315,000
Grant Agreement #	#140242	#140242	#169961	
City	\$145,400	\$0	\$80,000	\$225,400
County	\$300,000	\$0	\$120,000	\$420,000
Philanthropy	\$254,600	\$250,000	\$0	\$504,600
Program for Torture Victims	\$125,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$225,000
Grant Agreement #	#140247	# 140247	#169962	
City	\$90,000	\$0	\$90,000	\$180,000
County	\$90,000	\$45,000	\$0	\$135,000
Philanthropy	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Catholic Legal Immigration Newtork, Inc.	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
Grant Agreement #	#140248	#140248	N/A	
City	\$125,000	\$0	\$0	\$125,000
County	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Philanthropy	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
Loyola Immigrant Justice Clinic (LIJC)	\$260,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$310,000
Grant Agreement #	#144777	N/A	N/A	
City	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
County	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Philanthropy	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
OneJustice	\$225,000	\$0	\$0	\$225,000
Grant Agreement #	#140251	#140251	N/A	
City	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
County	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Philanthropy	\$260,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$310,000
OneJustice	\$225,000	\$0	\$0	\$225,000
Grant Agreement #	#140243	N/A	N/A	
City	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
County	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Organization	Grant 1 Oct. 2017	Grant 2 2019/20	Grant 3 Dec. 2020	Total Amount Awarded
Philanthropy	\$225,000	\$0	\$0	\$225,000
Southwestern Law School Immigration Clinic	\$260,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$310,000
Grant Agreement #	#140249	#140249	N/A	
City	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
County	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Philanthropy	\$260,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$310,000
Vera Institute of Justice, Center on Immigration and Justice	\$600,000	\$0	\$0	\$600,000
Grant Agreement #	#140256	N/A	N/A	
City	\$166,600	\$0	\$0	\$166,600
County	\$250,000	\$0	\$0	\$250,000
Philanthropy	\$183,400	\$0	\$0	\$183,400
California Community Foundation	\$ 50,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,000
Grant Agreement #	N/A	N/A	N/A	
City	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
County	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
Philanthropy	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
USC Equity Research Institute	\$0	\$0	\$75,000	\$75,000
Grant Agreement #	N/A	N/A	#169963	
City	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
County	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Philanthropy	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
NonProfit Finance Fund	\$0	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000
Grant Agreement #	N/A	N/A	#147470	
City	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
County	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Philanthropy	\$0	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000
Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR)	\$0	\$0	\$97,888	\$97,888
Non Grant #	N/A	N/A	NG-21-171994	
City	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
County	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Philanthropy	\$0	\$0	\$97,888	\$97,888
Bitstein LLC	\$0	\$0	\$18,988	\$18,987.50
Non Grant #	N/A	N/A	NG-21-171953	
City	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
County	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Philanthropy	\$0	\$0	\$18,987.50	\$18,987.50
	Grant 1 Oct. 2017	Grant 2 2019/20	Grant 3 Dec. 2020	Grand Total
Total City Funds	\$1,905,000	\$95,000	\$1,000,000	\$3,000,000
Total County Funds	\$2,685,000	\$315,000	\$1,000,000	\$4,000,000
Total Philanthropy Funds	\$2,510,000	\$1,715,000	\$441,875.50	\$4,666,875.50
				\$11,666,875.50

Note: The December 2020 date reflects when CCF's board approved the bridge funding that includes both City and County; however, most organizations did not receive funding until after May 2021 due to delays with City and County fund transfers.

Attachment C: Client Stories Highlighting the Experiences of Immigrants who Have Come Into Contact with the Criminal Justice System

Asian Americans Advancing Justice – LA Helps Joe Obtain a Governor’s Pardon and Re-gain Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) Status

Asian Americans Advancing Justice – LA was able to assist Joe in submitting a pardon application with the State of California. He was awarded a governor's pardon, and is currently moving to reopen his case to regain his LPR status and hopefully progress to naturalization. A criminal conviction as a juvenile led to incarceration and eventually the loss of his LPR status. 25 years later, he now has a second chance.

Source: Story collected through a mid-year report submitted to CCF by Asian Americans Advancing Justice – LA on January 2021.

CHIRLA Secures Bond for Mr. R, Allowing him to Return to his Children

“Mr. R” is a widower who raised his children alone after his wife passed away in a tragic train accident. He was convicted of a crime following unfortunate circumstances where he too was assaulted. By the time CHIRLA got to his Rodriguez Bond hearing, Mr. R was ready to give up. After working with the family for almost 6 months to prepare for his hearing, the Immigration Judge granted a bond. Even though there were concerns about his release, Mr. R is now at home with his family where he has lived for nearly 30 years.

Source: Story collected through a mid-year report submitted to CCF by CHIRLA on January 2021.

Immigrant Defenders Law Center Secures Release for Long-time Angeleno Resident Detained by ICE Officers with Unfounded Evidence for Arrest

“Mr. J” has resided in L.A. County since 1988, has been an employee at the San Fernando Swap Meet for the last 20 years, and an active member of his community, donating supplies to public schools in his community as well as preparing food and supplies for individuals experiencing homelessness. He has three U.S.-citizen children and two U.S.-citizen grandchildren who are also living in L.A. County. One morning, as Juan was preparing to leave for work, he was unexpectedly arrested by ICE and falsely accused of stealing vehicles without evidence or a warrant for his arrest. Mr. J’s detention was perplexing and challenging for his family members, as they were unsure of when, or if, he would return home. At his initial Immigration Court hearing, Juan and Immigrant Defenders Law Center staff were prepared to make the case to the court as to why he merited release from detention. DHS counsel submitted a document prepared by the ICE officers who came to his house and accused Juan of stealing cars without evidence. The ICE officers who arrested him were not present in court. Because Mr. J had access to representation, he was able to demonstrate the unreliability of the document and object to its admission as evidence in court; something that would have been impossible without a lawyer. The Immigration Judge agreed with this argument and Juan was released on bond at his first hearing. Mr. J was reunited with his family, and is very grateful to have the support of Los Angeles, the place that has been his home for the last thirty years, as he continues to fight his case.

Source: Story collected by CCF from Immigrant Defenders Law Center. Note: Real name was replaced with pseudonym.

LAJF Team Wins Release on Bond for “Joaquin,” a Young Angeleno who Arrived as an Unaccompanied Minor

“Joaquin” is a 19-year old orphan who arrived in Los Angeles as an unaccompanied minor at the age of 16. In 2016, Joaquin was approved for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS); however, due to backlogs in the system, he is still waiting to receive his visa. Although his SIJS petition was approved, Joaquin was detained by ICE and issued removal proceedings after he completed a six-month criminal sentence. Struggling on a daily basis inside the detention center, Joaquin was on the brink of returning to Honduras. However, with access to legal representation and significant support from community groups like the San Fernando Valley Immigrant Youth Coalition (IYC), he was able to secure a \$5,000 bond. IYC conducted a campaign to fundraise the bond funds, and in September 2018, Joaquin was released from custody. Public Counsel, with the support of LAJF, will continue to represent him through his removal proceedings on the non-detained docket of the L.A. Immigration Court.

Source: Story collected by CCF from Public Counsel.

Navigating the Complex Intersections of the Criminal and Immigration Systems

The Public Defender’s office referred LAJF client “Miguel” to Public Counsel. ICE had arrested Miguel, who suffers from a serious mental illness, at his apartment and sent him to the Adelanto Detention Facility. ICE quickly attempted to deport Miguel without the opportunity to see a judge due to a former assault conviction with a 365-day sentence. To prevent this from taking place, LAJF grantees worked with Miguel’s public defender, who filed a petition to reduce Miguel’s official sentence to 364 days. With that order, grantees were able to circumvent Miguel’s removal order and secure a full hearing before the immigration court. Miguel has been released on bond and is receiving the mental health treatment he needs, with the support of his mother and the community.

Source: Story collected from the California Community’s Foundation, Los Angeles Justice Fund Fourth Quarterly Report.

Attachment D: Grantee Quotes Highlighting the Need to Expand Access to Resources for all Immigrants Regardless of their Criminal Background

Voices on the Ground: Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project

“We did not carry out intakes for the purpose of LAJF under the LAJF bridge funding phase, because we were already at capacity for the number of cases we could take on. During the first phase we found that we needed to conduct a lot of intakes to identify suitable cases since many of those we screened were not eligible under the grant because of their criminal background or the limitations and complexities of documenting or attesting their connection to LA City or LA County proper.”

Source: Information collected through mid-year bridge funding reports submitted to CCF by Public Counsel in January 2021.

Voices on the Ground: Central American Resource Center (CARECEN)

“The criminal bar with the LAJF has negatively affected our ability to protect the due process of the immigrant community. After the Hernandez Roman litigation, those who remained detained are mostly immigrants who would be subject to the criminal bar. However, these detainees are often individuals who completed their sentence and yet criminalized again for being out of legal status. Further, these individuals often present medical vulnerabilities that make them vulnerable for lethal consequences if infected with COVID-19. We would be able to serve LA residents better if we were able represent all detained Los Angeles residents at Adelanto.”

Source: Information collected through mid-year bridge funding reports submitted to CCF by CARECEN in January 2021.

Voices on the Ground: Kids in Need of Defense

“As we enter a new year and with a new administration taking charge, KIND anticipates many changes rolling out. KIND foresees executive actions such as the Migrant Protection Protocols being overturned, resulting in the number of immigrants entering into the United States to rise again, including the number of unaccompanied children. Throughout the years, Los Angeles County is one of the top two counties in the nation to receive UCs, receiving thousands of children each year. Due to COVID-19 and the steps taken to curb migration into the United States, these numbers were low for 2019. However, KIND anticipates the number of UCs to rise significantly in 2021.”

Source: Information collected through mid-year bridge funding reports submitted to CCF by KIND in January 2021.

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