INVESTING IN IMMIGRANT FAMILIES PACKAGE
2017 – 2018 STATE BUDGET

As harsh federal immigration policies test the well-being of immigrant communities and our state, California must defend due process and bolster immigration services that provide relief from deportations. Our state can show leadership through investments to services provided through the Immigration Branch of the CA Department of Social Services. Through the following budget package, California can protect immigrant communities from deportations, as well as reducing the costly economic impact that results from mass detention and deportation.

“ONE CALIFORNIA” CDSS IMMIGRATION SERVICES FUNDING Established in 2015-16 budget, and administered by Department of Social Services, this program funds nonprofit services for low-income Californians eligible for citizenship or affirmative immigration remedies including the DACA program.

→ Education & Outreach to ensure non-citizen Californians understand their rights and immigration remedies.

→ Naturalization Services to protect green card holders from deportation by applying for citizenship

→ Affirmative Legal Services to support DACA recipients and undocumented Californians apply for affirmative immigration remedies.' This includes efforts to build capacity in rural communities and support the API Capacity Project.

Budget Proposal: Maintain last year’s $30 million investment to the existing program. The Governor’s updated budget proposal falls short by $15 million.

DUE PROCESS: REMOVAL DEFENSE SERVICES Invest in legal services to ensure due process for Californians who are detained or facing deportation proceedings in immigration court.

→ Legal counsel in deportation proceedings through qualified nonprofit organizations.

→ Prioritizes funding services for detained individuals who have a US citizen or legal permanent resident child, spouse or parent or have longstanding ties to the US; asylum seekers; and US military veterans.

Budget Proposal: Support budget allocation of $30 million investment. The Governor’s updated budget proposal falls short by $15 million.

ASSISTANCE TO IMMIGRANT COUNSEL PROJECT Invest in legal training and resources to provide public defenders representing non-citizen clients with access to immigration law experts.

→ Mentoring, training and resources for public defenders to counsel clients of potentially harsh immigration consequences of a plea, as required by the federal constitution and California law. This proposal equips public defenders with tools to help them meet existing legal obligations and provide appropriate counsel that reduces deportation consequences and fiscal costs to the courts.

Budget Proposal: Support budget allocation of $14 million for this initiative to build access to justice for low-income non-citizen Californians represented by public defenders.

For more information, please contact gdasilva@caimmigrant.org
IMMIGRATION SERVICES PACKAGE: REDUCE DEPORTATIONS & KEEP COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

Non-citizen Californians are susceptible to immigration enforcement and deportations until they become US citizens. There are a variety of ways that immigrants can be detained and put into deportation proceedings. This budget package supports a comprehensive and fiscally responsible approach to maintaining state funded services and bolstering legal defense. This package helps ensure due process for Californians facing criminal or immigration court proceedings, which reduces deportations and keeps communities together.

Education, Outreach & Affirmative Legal Services to Californians At Schools, Community Spaces, Churches, Worksites, Etc.

“One California” Preventative Relief – Grantees have partnered with school districts, CA legislators, and local institutions to ensure CA residents are proactively connected to qualified information and legal resources through town halls, community workshops, or one-on-one services. These services help Californians protect themselves from deportation by applying for an affirmative immigration remedy or if they are a green card holder they can apply for US Citizenship. The program has also served as a resource for state departments and agencies seeking to collaborate with trusted immigrant serving providers.

Access to Justice in Criminal Court Proceedings

Competent & Effective Public Defenders – This initiative partners the expertise of qualified nonprofit legal services organizations with public defenders to provide competent and effective legal counsel for non-citizen clients. This program will help ease burdens on the court system, as many non-citizen immigrants are urgently seeking remedies through the courts to ensure a prior conviction will not lead to separation from their loved ones and deportation.

Legal Counsel for Californians in Deportation Proceedings

Due Process Services – Immigration removal defense services for individuals who are held in detention under custody of Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE). These services help immigrants, including immigrants with lawful status in the United States who have been placed in detention and are facing deportation proceedings. These services help immigrants navigate the complex immigration court system and determine whether they are eligible to adjust their legal status and remain in the US.

Affirmative immigration remedies are either temporary or permanent immigration remedies, including but not limited to DACA, U-Visas, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), asylum, family based petitions, adjustment of status and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)).

If the federal government terminates the DACA program, this priority would include people who were formerly eligible for DACA as having longstanding ties to the US.

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