



Memorandum

TO: MAYOR LICCARDO
SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT

FROM: Councilmember Raul Peralez
DATE: May 20, 2015

Approved

Date

5/20/15

RECOMMENDATION

That the following recommendation be enacted.

Proposal

Program/Project Title: Office of Immigrant Affairs

Amount of City Funding Required: \$500,000

Fund Type (i.e. General Fund, C&C funds, etc.): General Fund

This change is:

One-time Ongoing

Proposal Description, including anticipated outcomes (describe how change would affect services for San José residents, businesses, community groups, etc.):

On November 20, 2014, President Barack Obama announced that the Department of Homeland Security would not deport certain undocumented parents of US citizens and parents of lawful permanent residents, intending to implement the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) program. He also announced an expansion of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA+) program for youth who came to the US as children.

In January 2015, Mayor Liccardo and San José City Council decided to move forward with the creation of an Office of Immigrant Affairs to serve the city's estimated 40% immigrant population. The Office will help people navigate the City's programs and services, while linking them to existing local services in collaboration with the County and Silicon Valley Community Foundation. Both Council and the Mayor agree that supporting immigrants in their application process for DACA+ and DAPA will bring long-term benefits to San José. Doing so will enhance our workforce and provide a potential pathway out of poverty for thousands of families in San José, resulting in the City's ability to gain millions of dollars in both income and sales taxes. Thus, allocating funding for application assistance is a great economic investment.

Although the Mayor has allocated one-time funding of \$200,000 for the program, I do not believe this is sufficient to meet our community's need. The County of Santa Clara has already committed to allocating \$1.8M to this effort. Additionally, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation has committed to contribute as well as administering the grant allocation process on behalf of both the City and the County in effort to avoid duplication of service. I recommend allocating a one-time grant of \$500,000 for this project, to be given in a period of two years for the following reasons:

a. Helps Broaden Our Reach

An estimated 40% of Santa Clara County's undocumented population meet the requirements for DACA and DAPA. Community based organizations (CBOs) have a goal of reaching more than 67,000 individuals through their outreach and education efforts. While outreach can be done in a large group setting, the application process itself will need individual evaluation and support from a vast network of service providers and their trained volunteers. Providing an outreach, education, and resource sharing plan of this magnitude requires more than one year of secured funding.

b. It Takes Time

Drawing from lessons learned through the implementation of DACA in 2012, we must remember that there was a significant portion of the eligible population that **did not apply within the first year**. There exists a subset of the eligible population that can be harder to reach, and efforts to engage, inform, and support these residents in applying for the program need to be focused and driven by their specific needs. Allowing CBOs to receive sufficient funding will help them build the capacity and the reach necessary to be as inclusive as possible.

c. Hard to Reach Populations

A significant number of DAPA-eligible community members are stay-at-home mothers and low-income residents who may have a harder time collecting necessary documents to prove their identity and residence. Sufficient funding is required to ensure that community organizations are able to develop a strategic, integrated outreach plan to reach and support this population. If we do not increase our current allocated funding, we are running the risk of leaving a significant portion of eligible San José community members behind.

d. Preparing for Reapplication

Administrative Relief is expected to be granted every three years. CBOs are faced with the task of not only preparing our community for the initial application, but also for renewal applications every three years. Again, pulling from recent lessons learned, the applications for renewal for the 2012 DACA program have been almost identical to the initial application. Unlike common conceptions, renewal applications are not shorter or easier than initial applications. The community will need as much assistance with renewing the applications as with applying for the first time. Continued funding will allow CBOs to provide the support that the community needs.

e. Fraud Prevention

Unfortunately, there are many fraudulent agencies and persons who seek to take advantage of vulnerable populations by spreading false information or charging for false applications. More proactive community outreach will be needed to prevent the immigrant community from becoming victims of fraud and/or subject to rights violations.

In summary, the City of San José stands to gain tremendously from President Obama's recent Administrative Relief actions. Close to 40% of our residents are immigrants, and approximately 51% of our business support services are given to immigrant-owned businesses. With a potential for entrepreneurial pursuits by immigrants and increased wages, the City can gain millions of dollars in increased tax revenues.

To take full advantage of this opportunity, we must provide the economic investment that is needed to ensure our residents take full advantage of DACA+ and DAPA programs.

Funding Source

Essential Services Reserve (\$2 million)

Other (Program/Project/Fund):

Department or Organization: County of Santa Clara, Office of Human Relations

Department or Organization Contact (list contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation):

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