

ONE CALIFORNIA: IMMIGRATION SERVICES FUNDING

The “One California” Immigration Services Funding program was established in 2015-16 budget and is administered by the California Department of Social Services. Starting in 2016, the program has funded free immigration services, through qualified nonprofits, for low-income Californians eligible for citizenship or some affirmative immigration remedies including the DACA program. The 2017-18 budget increases the program’s baseline funding and expands the state funded free services to include removal defense services, to broaden affirmative relief, and to expands legal training and technical assistance. The program will have a yearly \$45 million investment¹ through the 2019-2020 fiscal year to support the following funded services and representation:

COMMUNITY EDUCATION & OUTREACH SERVICES

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

NATURALIZATION & AFFIRMATIVE LEGAL SERVICES*

- ❖ **Naturalization services** to protect green card holders from deportation by applying for citizenship.
- ❖ **Legal services to support application for affirmative relief from deportation.** Affirmative immigration relief from deportation may be either temporary or permanent immigration relief, 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)).

***Note:** Funded naturalization and affirmative legal services include explicit exclusions for clients with serious or violent felony convictions. This does not include intake services.

DEFENSIVE LEGAL REPRESENTATION & SERVICES*

- ❖ **Legal counsel in deportation proceedings** through qualified nonprofit organizations with exceptions for clients with serious or violent felony convictions.
- ❖ **Immigrant post-conviction relief services** to support the rights of immigrants who have come into contact with the criminal justice system and their access to relief from deportation.
- ❖ **Legal services for deported veterans**

***Note:** Funded legal representation and services include explicit exclusions for clients with serious or violent felony convictions. This does not include intake services.

LEGAL TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- ❖ **Legal training and technical assistance** services to support educational and capacity building activities to increase the availability of qualified immigration legal services, including for organizations located in and serving underserved communities. This includes resources to public defenders and counsel representing immigrants to support their capacity to provide qualified and competent representation.

Please see the reverse for grantee eligibility for this state funding.

For more information, please contact Gina Da Silva, Senior Policy Advocate, at 916.448.6762 or gdasilva@caimmigrant.org.

GRANTEE REQUIREMENTS

The grants are awarded through a competitive bidding process. Nonprofit organizations who meet the minimum requirements may apply by completing a Request for Applications (RFA). The below are criteria to apply for state grants under this program, in accordance with [SB 89 \(statutes of 2017, chapter 5.6\)](#). Grant awards do require reporting, monitoring, or audits of services provided, as determined by the department.

Community Education & Outreach

- ❖ Meets the requirements set forth in Section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- ❖ Has at least three (3) years of experience conducting education and outreach with immigrant populations.
- ❖ Has at least three (3) years of experience conducting outreach for government benefits and programs.

Citizenship, Affirmative & Defensive Legal Services

- ❖ Meets the requirements set forth in Section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- ❖ Has at least three years of experience handling lawfully the type of immigration issues for which the organization is requesting a grant.
- ❖ Is recognized and accredited by the Office of Legal Access Programs (OLAP) under the U.S. Department of Justice's Executive Office for Immigration Review *or* meets the requirements to receive funding from the Trust Fund Program administered by the State Bar of California.

Legal Training & Technical Assistance

- ❖ Meets the requirements set forth in Section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- ❖ Has at least 10 years of experience conducting immigration legal services and technical assistance.
- ❖ Meets the requirements to receive funding from the Trust Fund Program administered by the State Bar of California.

My organization does qualify, how can we apply?

The RFA for 2017-18 funding has not yet been released and may take several months before it is made public. CIPC expects the release of the RFA(s) in the early fall of 2017. We will provide more details in the coming weeks. If you are interested in applying for the funding please email the CA Department of Social Services at ImmigrationServices@dss.ca.gov.

¹ This would raise the base to \$45 million General Fund through 2019-20, allowing for the needs in the community to be revisited in the intervening years and in the construction of the 2020-21 budget. Of this appropriation, \$545,000 is a one-time set aside in the 2017-18 overall appropriation for legal resources and training to nonprofit legal services projects to ensure non-citizen clients are provided competent and effective defense counsel.