



County of San Mateo

Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Department: COUNTY MANAGER

File #: 18-570

Board Meeting Date: 7/10/2018

Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: John L. Maltbie, County Manager
Michael Callagy, Assistant County Manager

Subject: Continued Funding for Legal Services Agencies Supporting Immigrants Residing in San Mateo County

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution waiving the request for proposal process and authorizing an agreement with Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County to provide continued legal services supporting immigrant residents of San Mateo County for the term of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 in an amount not to exceed \$276,000.

BACKGROUND:

According to the American Community Survey, a third of San Mateo County residents are foreign-born and many of these residents have children who are United States citizens. These immigrants are important to the vitality of our community and to the San Mateo County economy. Given current conditions, the County has identified a continuing need for legal services to support our immigrant populations.

These needed services include legal workshops providing immigrants with information on topics such as their rights, the path to citizenship, and immigration benefits (e.g., relief for crime victims, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA), Special Immigrant Juveniles, Asylum, removal defense).

In addition, the needed services involve brief individual consultations and assistance to screen immigrants for potential benefits and to make appropriate legal referrals.

Finally, such needed services include assisting immigrants in applying for certain forms of immigration relief, such as special immigrant juvenile status (for abused and abandoned youth), U visas (for crime victims), and DACA benefits, and with responding to immediate and initial needs of immigrants and families affected by enforcement operations (e.g., assisting in locating detained family members, negotiations relating to bond and assistance with bond hearings and legal referrals).

The County of San Mateo contracted with the Legal Aid Society and certain of its partner agencies to provide the services described above for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018, owing to their familiarity with the legal needs of San Mateo County residents, their long experience working with these populations, and their ability to begin immediately providing these services.

Given the current climate, there is a continuing need for the services described above and the Legal Aid Society and its partner agencies remain uniquely suited to provide these services to County residents. The Staff therefore recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve a contract whereunder the Legal Aid Society and its partner agencies will provide these immigration-related services for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 that the Board find that is in the best interest of the County to waive the request for proposal process for this contract.

DISCUSSION:

Rhetoric and actions out of Washington D.C. and throughout the United States continues to cause fear and uncertainty among the County’s immigrant population. The County has received reports of undocumented parents who, out of fear, have retreated into and remained in the shadows and of Dreamers who have stopped attending school out of the fear of being deported. Moreover, County staff is informed that there continue to be undocumented immigrants who are not well informed of their rights and who may not be aware of immigration-related benefits to which they may be entitled.

Under these circumstances, staff recommends that the County continue to contract with the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County to provide the range of services described above. (The Legal Aid Society would contract with the County and would, in turn, as under the contract for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, subcontract with partner agencies for some of the services set forth in the agreement.) Based on staff’s analysis and consultation with the Legal Aid Society and its partner agencies, we recommend that \$276,000 in funds should be made available to fund such services supporting San Mateo County immigrants for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

An item will be agendaized for the Board’s July 24th meeting with recommendations for the administration of these funds.

The agreement and resolution have been reviewed and approved by County Counsel as to form.

The agreement contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Prosperous Community by providing legal support to immigrants, thereby facilitating their engagement in the community and ability to remain self-sufficient.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):

Measure	FY 2017-18 Actual	FY 2017-18 Projected
Percent of attendees who are eligible to receive a referral to a free or low cost legal service for further assistance that receive a referral	100%	90%
Percent of attendees who are surveyed and who had next steps indicated are aware of their next steps after attending the legal workshop	98%	90%

FISCAL IMPACT:

The term of this agreement is July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. The maximum amount payable under the agreement is \$276,000. The fiscal obligation incurred under this agreement will be funded with Measure-K Sales and Use tax revenues. Budgetary appropriation for this agreement is included in the FY 2018-19 Tentatively Adopted Budget. There are no County General Funds associated with this agreement.