

LOS ANGELES JUSTICE FUND: SAFEGUARDING THE SAFETY NET FOR L.A. CITY AND COUNTY'S IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

USC Dornsife Equity Research Institute

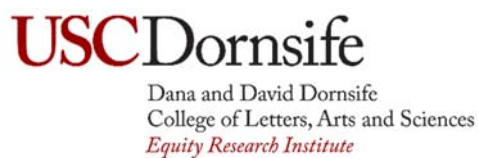
**Dalia Gonzalez
Carolina Otero
Manuel Pastor**

**Los Angeles Justice Fund: Safeguarding the Safety Net for L.A. City and County's
Immigrant Communities**

By Dalia Gonzalez, Carolina Otero, and Manuel Pastor

USC Dornsife Equity Research Institute¹

February 2021



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.

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements.....	4
Executive Summary.....	5
Introduction	11
The Los Angeles Justice Fund.....	12
LAJF Builds and Strengthens a Critical Ecosystem	14
LAJF Serves the Immigrant Community	18
Patterns Over Time	28
Immigrant Los Angeles.....	31
Mixed Status Families	34
Economic Contributions and Impacts	36
Los Angeles Leadership Has and Will Continue to be Critical.....	38
Expansion of Enforcement Targeting Immigrant Communities	40
Legal Representation is Key to Navigating the System.....	41
New Obstacles for Access to Due Process	42
What This Means for Los Angeles.....	43
Looking Ahead after the Bridge Funding	46
Attachment A: Grantee Mid-Year Bridge Funding Client Stories.....	53
Attachment B: Grantee Mid-Year Bridge Funding Grantee Remarks.....	56
Methodological Appendix.....	57
References	61

Table of Figures

Figure 1. Case Activity for Existing and Mid-Year Bridge Funding Cases as of January 6, 2021	20
Figure 2. Case Activity for Mid-Year Bridge Funding Cases, as of January 6, 2021	21
Figure 3. Case Activity for Pilot Phase Cases through June 30, 2020	22
Figure 4. Map of the Share of Immigrants by Supervisorial District, Los Angeles County, 2018.....	33
Figure 5. Total and Immigrant Population by County Supervisorial District, L.A. County, 2018	33
Figure 6. Immigration Status and Family Ripple Effects, Los Angeles County, 2018	35
Figure 7. Individual, Household, and Family Statistics for California, Los Angeles County, & Los Angeles City, 2018	37

Acknowledgements

The USC Dornsife Equity Research Institute would like to thank everyone involved in producing this report. We would like to thank Rosie Arroyo from the California Community Foundation (CCF), Aryah Somers, Felecia Bartow, and Ignatius Bau for the direction, feedback, and support they provided to shape this report. Additionally, we would also like to thank the Vera Institute of Justice for their insight and input on the data and methodology presented in their reports. We would also like to thank Rhonda Ortiz at USC ERI for her feedback and edits on the framing and writing, as well as her management on the project. Graduate research assistants Jesi Harris and Dawy Rkasnuam contributed to reviewing and writing. Sincere appreciations to Eunice Velarde Flores (USC ERI) and Jamie Flores (USC ERI), for their help with administration and finances. Finally, thank you to all the organizations doing the important and hard work providing resources and representation to immigrant Angelenos through the L.A. Justice Fund.

Executive Summary

The Los Angeles Justice Fund (LAJF) was created in 2017 in partnership with the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, the Weingart Foundation, and the California Community Foundation (CCF), with the goal of protecting Angelenos and their families from the impacts of deportation due to a broken immigration system (California Community Foundation 2019a). **To date, LAJF has accomplished its objectives** of: ensuring access to due process for the most vulnerable community members; building and strengthening the removal defense capacity of the legal services infrastructure in the City and County of Los Angeles; providing legal representation to a minimum of 500 vulnerable residents; assessing the ability of public-private partnership to maximize support for immigrants; and learning best practices for sustainable investments in deportation defense and enhancing the impact of initial investments. This report provides data and narrative from LAJF's pilot and mid-year bridge funding phases, broader context for understanding why legal representation is important, and ten key considerations for the Fund's continuation.

LAJF was initiated to build up and strengthen an entire ecosystem of immigrant legal defense in Los Angeles. L.A.'s role as a leader in promoting immigrant integration is due to the courage of our community, civic, and business leaders – but it is also born out of necessity. After all, **more than a third of L.A. County's 10 million residents are foreign-born, nearly half of our workforce is immigrant, and roughly 60 percent of our children have at least one immigrant parent.**² We also have one of the largest and most settled concentrations of undocumented immigrants: around seventy percent of Angelenos lacking legal status have built their lives in the United States for longer than a decade. Whether immigrants continue to benefit from quality legal representation, and whether the fortified infrastructure to defend them will continue in L.A. City and County, will depend on decisions made by the City, County, and philanthropic partners. This is because LAJF, so key to protecting and safeguarding families facing deportation and removal proceedings, is set to expire in June 2021.

As of January 2021, throughout the pilot and mid-year bridge funding phases, the LAJF has conducted a minimum of 2,047 legal screenings and provided representation to 568 cases throughout L.A. City and County.³ Because immigration cases have a long trajectory, during the LAJF pilot phase, approximately 90 clients' cases have been completed as of June 30, 2020 – and of these, nearly 60 percent of clients' cases resulted in a positive outcome, meaning clients were able to remain in the United States.⁴ These

² Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2018 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Data represent a 2014 through 2018 average.

³ Note: The total number of legal intakes and cases were calculated by aggregating data reported by grantees in their mid-year bridge funding reports received in January 2021, to the number of legal intakes reported in CCF's Los Angeles Justice Fund Extension Year, Quarter 2 Quarterly Report. Due to differences in reporting intakes during the mid-year bridge funding, we want to highlight that these numbers are likely underreported. Organizations have expressed that given the uncertainty of ongoing funding and their existing cases, they focused their efforts on maintaining their existing caseloads. Refer to the methodological appendix for specific details on methodology and limitations.

⁴ Note: Due to limitations with the dataset, missing data, and differences in methodologies, data for the pilot and mid-year bridge funding phases are reported separately for the following variables (as shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3): case, status, positive outcome allowing individuals to remain in the U.S., total clients initially detained, total clients initially detained but later released, total affirmative cases, total children represented, total cases with appeals, average time in the U.S., share of clients living in the U.S. for more than a decade, total number of

percentages are above the national figures: 23 percent of unrepresented detained immigrants and 13 percent of unrepresented immigrants who were never detained, obtained the relief they sought (Eagly and Shafer 2016). Additionally, nearly 80 percent of LAJF pilot phase clients have cases that remain open. During the mid-year bridge funding reporting period, as of this writing, 5 cases have been completed – and of these, 80 percent (or 4 cases) have resulted in a positive outcome. However, nearly 80 percent (or 17) of these cases remain open, meaning their outcome is yet to be determined. But it also means that these **hundreds of individuals now have legal representation to defend themselves against deportation**, and to be able to stay united with their families and communities; a success in and of itself, given how challenging it is to obtain representation. Without the bridge funding, organizations would have struggled to keep the cases open and the results could have been catastrophic for immigrant families already facing the dire consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a new administration takes over in Washington – there is hope that a new day dawns for immigrant integration in the United States – Los Angeles City and County will play an important role at making real the possibilities of a more humane and sustainable approach to our families and our people. We have a strong infrastructure to meet this moment: Both the City and County boast of Offices of Immigrant Affairs, our business community has been a stalwart in the fight for immigration reform, and we are home to some of the most powerful and effective immigrant rights organizations in the country.

That deeply rooted nature of undocumented Angelenos means that they have had more time to form families, contribute to communities, and form and work in businesses – and, as a result, deportation can have large ripple effects beyond those who are at the direct risk of removal. Indeed, **nearly 18 percent of the County is either undocumented themselves or living with a family member that is.**⁵ Of all households with an undocumented member, nearly half of the aggregate household income comes from those undocumented wage earners, with their forced departure likely to push a family to the edges of poverty.

The precarious nature of immigrant communities in Los Angeles City and County is not new or confined to a single past presidential administration. Structurally, immigrants must navigate the immigration court system without legal representation, as there is no guaranteed right to counsel. When President Obama stepped into office in 2009, he inherited a robust immigration enforcement infrastructure and then ramped up immigrant removals, partly in the vain hope that stiffer enforcement would shift the political winds to support comprehensive reform. That did not occur and toward the end of his administration, interior enforcement prioritized those convicted of a serious crime.

The arrival of the Trump administration heralded a major shift to an even harsher regime. Long before headlines decried children being separated from their parents at the border, they were being separated from their parents in local communities through local enforcement operations. And knowing that a reign of terror was likely to come as the new administration found its xenophobic bearings, in 2017, public and philanthropic partners came together to create the LAJF that would **provide representation to the most vulnerable Angelenos put at risk by a broken immigration system** that has not only lacked fairness and compassion, but is also dramatically backlogged.

countries that clients originated from, top five countries of origin, and share of clients with an identified vulnerability. Refer to the methodological appendix for specific details on methodology and limitations.

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

As the City, County, and philanthropy evaluate past performance, the most recent bridge funding, and consider next steps, there are ten key lessons to keep in mind (based on a review of the LAJF yearly and quarterly reports, bridge-funding reports from grantees, and the Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR) proposal for the next phase of LAJF):

- 1. LAJF responded to a clear and urgent need.** Across the County, 60 percent of children have at least one immigrant parent and 18 percent of Angelenos are either undocumented or living with someone who is. Moreover, among all households with an undocumented member, 49 percent of the aggregate household income comes from those undocumented wage earners. Because such a large share of L.A. County is undocumented or living with someone who is, deportations tend to harm not just immigrants but families, friends, neighbors, employers, and employees, and overall, disrupt the social and economic safety net of L.A. City and County. A robust defense of immigrant rights is necessary for the overall well-being of the region.
- 2. LAJF had its clear successes for people and families.** The Fund strengthened L.A. City and County's safety net by screening a minimum of 2,047 individuals for available legal remedies, accepting 568 cases for representation, and completing 90 clients' cases during the pilot phase, as well as 4 cases during the mid-year bridge funding phase, that resulted in a positive outcome. These numbers translate to more immigrants being able to remain in the U.S., contributing to their communities, and for more families to stay intact. For immigrants whose cases remain unresolved or whose outcome was unfavorable, the fact that these individuals were legally represented, and were able to remain united with their families and communities in the process, is a success in and of itself. 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.
- 3. LAJF has and can continue to support some of the most vulnerable immigrants who may not have otherwise been represented.** While there were some limitations to the design of the Fund, LAJF grantees were nevertheless able to assist some of the most marginalized immigrants facing deportation proceedings—such as unaccompanied minors, victims of domestic violence, immigrants seeking asylum, immigrants in detention, and LGBTQ+ immigrants—with adequate representation and support to ensure that they have access to due process.
- 4. LAJF significantly bolstered the County's deportation defense infrastructure.** As important and inspirational as individual case histories and family survival stories may be, it is also clear that the broader deportation defense ecosystem was strengthened and became more integrated as a result of public and private investment. For example, LAJF grantees played an important role in coordinating and creating resources for attorneys navigating tumultuous policy changes and expanding the capacity of legal service provision in the City and County. This part of the equation was largely funded by philanthropic partners, making the actual service delivery less expensive in terms of public spending – and this infrastructure is an investment worth preserving.
- 5. LAJF is still needed despite the shift in presidential administration.** It is tempting to think that a new administration will bring rapid and welcome change. But the lack of representation in immigration courts has been a decades-long challenge. There will also be significant hangovers – for example, the Trump administration nearly doubled the number of immigration judges, including many former government prosecutors. Due to the concerted efforts to fill immigration courts with judges likely to deny asylum relief, these dynamics will continue to play a role in the

daily practices of courts and agencies for years to come. And given the razor thin majorities in the House and Senate, it will still be difficult to pass more permanent and comprehensive solutions in the short term.

- 6. LAJF is a program that benefits all Angelenos and as such, should provide representation to all immigrant Angelenos.** As noted in an accompanying analysis by Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR), similar to publicly-funded housing, not every City and County resident will need or use public defenders, but these are commitments that local governments make to maintain a safety net for low-income and other vulnerable residents. LAJF should be seen and explained to the public in this light. Because LAJF should be seen as a program that benefits all, it should also be inclusive of all immigrant Angelenos, in particular, some of the most vulnerable undocumented Angelenos: those with former criminal convictions. Given what we know of overcriminalization – and particularly in light of the racial reckoning of the past year – this constraint on program performance contributed to a low volume of new cases acquired over time. For example, it takes substantial time and resources to even determine a client’s eligibility before taking their case, and in the process, many immigrants are filtered out. While many legal intakes were conducted, (a minimum of 2,047 as of January 2021), only 568 cases were ultimately represented.
- 7. LAJF grantees have open cases that will take years to resolve, some until 2024.** The complex nature of deportation cases, as well as the Trump administration’s policies, coupled with the impact of COVID-19, have created a severe backlog in processing times. City and County funding are allocated primarily to direct representation; eliminating future funding has the potential to disrupt these ongoing cases, by straining the capacity of non-LAJF attorneys who have to take on additional cases or by closing open cases, ultimately negatively impacting the outcomes for the immigrants represented. The potential possibility of closing all open cases would result in catastrophic public policy failure. A realistic approach to the issue starts with an understanding of the lengthy nature of these cases and the structural barriers that immigrants face in navigating immigration court, as well as a commitment to multi-year funding.
- 8. LAJF would benefit greatly from public institutionalization but funders need to stay involved.** Funders often support pilot projects with the hope that they will ultimately be supported and institutionalized by the public sector. While such evolution is important, funders are civic leaders and community conveners who can help to provide coordination and conversation in ways often more nimble than public sector actors. As such, they need to stay involved.
- 9. LAJF would benefit from uniform and centralized data collection.** 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. Investing in non-attorney staff to focus on data collection can help facilitate the data collection process and improve the quality of data and ensure a better understanding of the benefits and limitations of the program.
- 10. LAJF, while a crucial investment, is just one part of the broader commitment to immigrant integration that should be expanded to respond to changes that emerge at the federal level, including affirmative immigration relief.** As a new administration transitions in, Los Angeles City and County, containing a large share of undocumented immigrants, must be ready to respond to

any federal changes. In addition, the issues facing L.A.'s immigrant communities are myriad, meaning there is a need to pursue other complementary efforts, like promoting naturalization, supporting small business, protecting worker rights, providing culturally appropriate access to healthcare, and so much more. A multi-million dollar investment from the City and County for broader, flexible funding for the region, across a range of issues impacting immigrant communities like that promoted by One California,⁶ is needed to exemplify the City and County's commitment to supporting its immigrant community in policy and budget allocations, with deportation defense being the bedrock.

LAJF's 2-year pilot phase and bridge funding phase, provided a total investment of \$9.8 million that, in the span of only three years, strengthened L.A. County's safety net and shaped a robust deportation defense infrastructure. Efficiencies and improvements are possible and also likely to occur as a result of the learning from the pilot and bridge phases of investment from challenges like complex residency requirements, exclusions based on former criminal convictions, and the short-term nature of funding. **These efficiencies and improvements should lean on the program redesign proposed by GCIR, as well as dialogue with immigrants, in particular those in most dire need, and immigrant-serving organizations.**

Expanding on LAJF's success – rather than abandoning the program – must be the strategy for the future, particularly, as we step into a new administration. While the new administration pledges to prioritize humanity in the immigration system, and has already demonstrated proactivity in doing so, by introducing the U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021, a comprehensive immigration package, the reality is that these policy changes will take time and the potential for misguided immigration enforcement will still exist. So while we continue investing in the work of promoting policy and immigrant integration, we must also continue to invest in stabilizing initiatives, with removal defense remaining a bedrock.

GCIR has proposed a framework for investment in a robust immigrant legal defense program that accounts for the actual costs of representation, highlights the need to fund staff capacity, and recognizes the multiple supports required to not only represent clients but to also sustain organizational infrastructure. It sets the program budget at \$39.7 million for 4 years, with the promise of continuing funding, which would likely eliminate some of the uncertainty that led organizations to be reluctant to expand their client rosters.

We should maintain the necessary resources for a vulnerable community that contributes so much but is often given so little in return. **To abandon this pilot would be devastating** and send a message to immigrant communities that they are not valued. 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. In this moment of pain and possibility, it is important to have a clear-eyed view of how to improve effectiveness *and* to insist on shielding

⁶ One California, established in the 2015-2016 budget, is a state funded program that supports free immigration services for naturalization, affirmative immigration relief, legal representation for immigrants in deportation proceedings, legal services for veterans who have been deported, and capacity-building for immigrant-serving organizations located in underserved regions. See, <https://caimmigrant.org/what-we-do/one-california-immigrant-services-funding/>.

families from hurt. **The L.A. Justice Fund is a key part of achieving a more impactful and equitable future, and one that protects and maintains the wellbeing of all of Los Angeles.**

Introduction

From the onset, the Los Angeles Justice Fund (LAJF) created in 2017 in partnership with the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, the Weingart Foundation, and the California Community Foundation (CCF), has sought to provide representation to Angelenos put at risk by a broken immigration system (California Community Foundation 2019a). A broken immigration system that has often lacked both fairness and compassion. Los Angeles County will play an important role at making real the new possibilities of a more humane and sustainable approach to our families and our people. After all, more than a third of L.A. County's 10 million residents are foreign-born, nearly half of our workforce is immigrant, and roughly sixty percent of our children have at least one immigrant parent.⁷ Often out of necessity, we have led on issues of immigrant justice and immigrant integration, with Offices of Immigrant Affairs established at both the City and County level, and unique partnerships like LAJF that operated proactively during one of the worst chapters of immigration policy.

During the pilot phase, LAJF grantees have screened a minimum of about 2,047 cases and during the pilot and mid-year bridge funding phases, provided access to representation for 568 cases throughout L.A. City and County. Because immigration cases often have a long and protracted trajectory 90 clients' cases have been completed during LAJF's pilot phase – and of these, nearly 60 percent have resulted in a positive outcome where immigrants were able to remain in the United States. These percentages are above the national figures: 23 percent of unrepresented detained immigrants and 13 percent of unrepresented immigrants who were never detained, obtained the relief they sought (Eagly and Shafer 2016). In addition, during the mid-year bridge funding phase, 5 cases have been completed, with 4 cases resulting in a positive outcome. As of June 30, 2020, 421 (or 77 percent) of LAJF pilot phase clients had open cases, and as of January 2021, 17 (or 77 percent) mid-year bridge funding cases remain open, meaning that the outcome of these cases is yet to be determined and could be impacted by any decision to continue or discontinue support for the program. LAJF has provided high quality legal representation and strengthened an entire ecosystem of immigrant legal defense during a period of drastic change in immigration policy and a global pandemic. Whether this survives will depend on what decisions are made by the City, County, and philanthropic partners in the near future.

Simultaneously, while those decisions are being made, the United States and Los Angeles are experiencing a time of danger and grief. The global COVID-19 pandemic has ripped its way through our communities, disproportionately bringing disease and death to communities of color, low-income residents, and immigrant Angelenos. Our national political scene remains unsettled, with politicization, polarization, and dysfunction having become the new national norm. The last four years of the Trump administration have been devastating for immigrants, regardless of status, as the administration has restricted inflows, delayed naturalization of legal residents, and aggressively pursued both interior and exterior immigration enforcement (Pierce and Bolter 2020). And, underlying all this, has been an increased visibility of white supremacy movements across the nation. More recently, we witnessed devastating scenes of white supremacist groups storming the U.S. Capitol building (Diaz and Treisman 2021).

Yet we are also experiencing a profound moment of change and hope. New vaccines promise a potential end to this season of illness and isolation, particularly if we can bridge our way there with appropriate public health measures and acts of individual and community responsibility. In the wake of the murders

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.

of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Dijon Kizzee and so many others, we are witnessing a national reckoning with racism, particularly the anti-Black systems and structures like mass incarceration that have constrained African Americans *and* poisoned our attitudes toward anyone who might be “the other,” including all immigrants of color. Finally, the recent shift in the presidential administration promises to reverse the worst of the recent changes to immigration policy (although, as we note below, the over-zealous enforcement of immigration law is a long-time feature at the federal level that needs to be monitored and resisted). While these changes appear to be on the horizon, the reality is that their implementation will likely be a process that takes time.

In this moment, the LAJF, so key in protecting families facing deportation proceedings and building a deportation defense infrastructure, is set to expire in June 2021. This report aims to provide data and narrative from LAJF’s pilot and mid-year bridge funding phases, broader context for understanding why legal representation is important, and ten key considerations for the Fund’s continuation, including investment in a phase two (based on a review of the LAJF yearly and quarterly reports, bridge-funding reports from grantees, and the Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR) proposal for the next phase of LAJF). As the City and County evaluate their priorities, in this moment of pain and possibility, it is important to build on ways in which we have shielded families from hurt *and* have a clear-eyed view of how to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the future.

The purpose of this report is to present case activity from LAJF’s mid-year bridge funding phase, broader context for understanding the importance of legal representation, and ten key lessons to consider as the continuation of the Fund is assessed. To achieve this, we first present an overview of the Fund and its objectives; provide a snapshot of the immigrants LAJF served through data and narrative; and present some patterns over the course of the pilot and mid-year bridge funding phases of LAJF. To understand the implications of a resource like LAJF for Los Angeles, we then present a snapshot of immigrant L.A. by discussing mixed-status families, the economic contributions of immigrants, and the leadership of Los Angeles on immigrant integration. To contextualize the impact of deportation for immigrants in Los Angeles we then expand on immigration enforcement policies by discussing the importance of legal representation, the structural obstacles for due process, and the implications of these obstacles for Los Angeles. With that, we conclude with ten key lessons to keep in mind as the future of the program is assessed.

The Los Angeles Justice Fund

It was in the context of both long simmering problems and the immediate awareness prompted by the Trump administration’s commitment to increased enforcement that the LAJF was born. On the long-simmering side, a study examining outcomes of cases from the Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR) between 2012 and 2015 revealed that in the Los Angeles area, 68 percent of detained individuals (about 9,000 individuals) and 26 percent of non-detained individuals (above 12,000 individuals) did not have legal representation (The California Coalition for Universal Representation 2016). Moreover, detained and released immigrants throughout the Los Angeles area who had access to legal representation succeeded more than five times as often than their counterparts that were unrepresented. By comparison, individuals that were not detained and represented, succeeded more than four times as often than those that were not represented (The California Coalition for Universal Representation 2016).

It is important to note that the legal services infrastructure of Los Angeles has built on the existing work of organizations like the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County, and Public Counsel, who have provided free and low-cost legal services to immigrants for decades. In addition, other organizations like Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project, the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN), and the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) set the foundation for the legal services infrastructure as early as the 1980's, representing thousands of Central Americans seeking protection in the U.S. and helping many immigrants adjust their status with the passage of the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) (Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees 2020).

More recently, some of the legal services infrastructure consists of the Vera Institute for Justice-funded Legal Orientation Program (LOP) that works with 18 non-profit organizations, educating immigrants about their rights, as they navigate immigration court processes (Vera Institute of Justice n.d.). Although they do not provide legal representation, they do provide referrals to pro bono attorneys. The LOP operates in 43 different detention facilities, including the Adelanto Detention Center. Another existing program advising noncitizens and supporting nonprofits offering immigration services has been the Immigration Unit of the Los Angeles County Public Defenders (LACPD) (Keun Kwon 2018). However, it is important to note that while LACPD offers immigration services, they do not provide direct legal representation. In addition, for some time, the Immigration Unit had only two full-time immigration experts that advised 700 public defenders who supported over 50,000 cases per year (Keun Kwon 2018). More recently, in 2018, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors expanded LACPD's Immigration Unit from only two immigration experts, to ten (Mendoza 2018).

The examples listed above only represent a fraction of the totality of L.A. City and County's immigration legal services infrastructure. And while this infrastructure has its strengths, an assessment of the legal services infrastructure throughout the state shed light on some of the challenges that Los Angeles faces. Of the regions that were analyzed in the report, the ratio of service providers to undocumented immigrants was lower in Los Angeles than others throughout California. Moreover, while service providers in the LA region served about 600 more clients annually, as compared to the Bay Area, service providers in LA still turned away about 100 clients each month due to limited capacity (Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrant and Refugee Rights 2020). The dire need for defenders with experience and knowledge of immigration law remains. This need is especially true for some of the most marginalized immigrants facing deportation proceedings, like those with criminal convictions. Because criminal justice and immigration enforcement are deeply entangled in a system of "cimmigration," noncitizens with a criminal conviction can face drastic immigration consequences such as detention and deportation (Misra 2016).

Indeed, as the pilot phase (discussed in further detail below) of LAJF was evaluated, the Nonprofit Finance Fund elevated the challenges that service providers expressed in raising funds for immigrant removal defense (Nonprofit Finance Fund 2019). More recently, in bridge funding reports submitted by LAJF grantees, some organizations expressed the lack of a dedicated funding stream to represent

individuals in immigration court prior to LAJF, further revealing the dire need for defenders with experience and knowledge of immigration law.

The arrival of the Trump administration only prompted new worries and a new response, coming in the form of the LAJF, a unique public-private partnership. Established in 2017, the LAJF, developed as an infrastructure building model, has accomplished the following objectives:

- Ensuring access to due process for the most vulnerable immigrants, understanding that it is nearly impossible to prevail in immigration proceedings—even with a strong claim—without legal representation;
- Building and strengthening the removal defense capacity of legal services infrastructure in the City and County of Los Angeles, by expanding the capacity of core immigrant-serving organizations and creating a safety net that expands and protects the rights, as well as due process for immigrants, their families, and communities;
- Providing legal representation to a minimum of 500 vulnerable immigrants;
- Assessing the ability of public-private partnership to maximize support for immigrants;
- Adopting best practices for both sustainable investments in deportation defense, and impactful initial investments.

To date, with both the pilot phase and mid-year bridge funding, LAJF has represented 568 cases. During the pilot phase of LAJF, 90 clients have a completed case, 57 percent that resulted in a positive outcome, meaning immigrants were able to remain in the U.S. Throughout the mid-year bridge funding phase, 5 cases were completed, 80 percent (or 4) of which resulted in a positive outcome. Still, as the program approaches its expiration date, 421 (or 77 percent) of LAJF pilot phase clients have open cases, and 17 (or 77 percent) of mid-year bridge funding cases remain open, meaning that the outcome for these clients and their cases, is yet to be determined.

LAJF Builds and Strengthens a Critical Ecosystem

LAJF was launched as a two-year pilot program in November 2017. As the pilot phase was set to expire in December 2019, it was extended through June 2020 to allow grantees enough time to utilize grant resources. With ongoing advocacy to maintain the program past the pilot phase, the County Office of Immigrant Affairs began to work alongside grantees to develop recommendations for an LAJF phase two. Bridge funding was then allocated, to extend the Fund for an additional year (until June 2021) (California Community Foundation 2020a).

A total investment of over \$9.8 million (coming from the City, County, and philanthropy) went towards the LAJF, covering the costs of the two year pilot phase, six month pilot phase extension, and the one year bridge funding, as well as covering expenses beyond direct representation (California Community

Voices on the Ground: Public Counsel

“Prior to LAJF, there was no dedicated funding stream to represent people in immigration custody. LAJF allowed us to build a safety net across Los Angeles dedicated to providing legal services to those with the least access to counsel in the immigration system: people in detention. Ongoing funding is critical to ensuring that this hard-built safety net does not vanish. Without LAJF funding, Public Counsel will not be able to sustain its team of detained removal defense attorneys to ensure that we can continue to meet our commitments to existing clients and open up the program to the many others in need of legal services to keep themselves safe and their families together.”

Source: Information collected from bridge funding reports submitted to CCF by Public Counsel in January 2021.

Foundation 2020b). The initial investment of about \$7.5 million for the pilot phase of the program, funneled about \$5.7 million to direct representation, with the remainder of the funds funneled to capacity building, data collection, program evaluation, and program administration. Later, the City, County, and philanthropy allocated another \$2.3 million for bridge funding, with \$2.2 million funding direct representation and the remainder funding the other components. While the City of L.A., L.A. County, and philanthropy contributed to the total funding for the LAJF (including the pilot and bridge funding phases), the distribution of contributions shows that philanthropy contributed over \$4.8 million, the County contributed \$3 million, and the City contributed \$2 million. Moreover, the City and County funds mostly funded direct representation, while philanthropic funds also funded a share of direct representation costs and all capacity building costs.

LAJF grantees include 11 organizations that provide direct legal services for adults and children and six additional organizations that provide technical support, mentorship and training, and other assistance that helped LAJF construct and strengthen a removal defense pipeline in L.A. County (California Community Foundation 2020d). The organizations providing legal representation include:

- Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles (AAAJ-LA),
- Bet Tzedek Legal Services,
- Central American Resource Center (CARECEN),
- Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA),
- Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project, Catholic Charities of Los Angeles (Esperanza),
- Immigrant Defenders Law Center (ImmDef),
- Kids in Need of Defense (KIND),
- Los Angeles LGBT Center,
- Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA),
- Public Counsel Law Center, and
- USC Gould School of Law, and Immigration Clinic.

The organizations that provided capacity building and technical assistance include:

- Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC),
- Loyola Immigrant Justice Clinic (LIJC), Loyola Law School,
- Nonprofit Finance Fund,
- Program for Torture Victims (PTV),
- One Justice, and
- Southwestern Law School, Immigration Clinic (SWLC).

In addition, CCF administered the program along with the grants and the Vera Institute of Justice, Center on Immigration and Justice (Vera) collected data and conducted a program evaluation.

As of June 2020, the deportation defense infrastructure of L.A. City and County consisted of 114 attorney and non-attorney staff working on LAJF cases, including 41 LAJF funded staff, 48 staff not funded by LAJF, and 25 pro bono attorneys not funded by LAJF, who have collectively represented immigrants and their families (California Community Foundation 2020d). LAJF has not only resulted in

the expansion of access to representation for immigrants navigating a complex court system, but it has also been impactful in creating resources for attorneys navigating rapidly changing court procedures. Indeed, LAJF grantees have played an important role in coordinating and creating resources, and expanding the capacity of legal services in the City and County.

One notable partnership that emerged through LAJF is the collaboration between the L.A. County’s Public Defender (PD), Alternate Public Defender Offices (APD), and LAJF’s Detained Collaborative. In December of 2018 and February of 2019, in an effort to serve immigrants who have come into contact with both the criminal and immigration systems, these entities met to identify and develop ways in which they could collaborate (California Community Foundation 2019b). As the story of Miguel illustrates in the callout box, the intersection of the criminal and immigration system is complex, and some immigrants are forced to navigate these systems without access to representation (see full story on the right). As of April 2019, the ADP had referred 15 clients to LAJF grantees through the referral systems they had established (California Community Foundation 2019b). In addition to referrals, the entities are in constant communication, sharing information, expertise, and training opportunities. This partnership demonstrates the impact of LAJF in coordinating resources to expand the program’s reach.

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.

Another critical collaboration is the partnership with the Program for Torture Victims (PTV) that provides medical and psychological forensic reports along with expert witness in L.A. Immigration Court or the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) (California Community Foundation 2020c). Through this partnership, LAJF attorneys have also received trainings on the “Effects of Trauma on Immigrants” and “Vicarious Trauma Workshops.” LAJF grantees have expressed that technical assistance and access to resources have been important for their organization particularly with the rapid policy changes having such a devastating impact on their daily work. The Removal Defense Corps (RDC), a collaborative between the Southwestern Immigration Law Clinic (SWLC) and Loyola Immigrant Justice Clinic (LIJC), have created new courses that focus on defense lawyering that bring awareness to a range of topics and trainings on relevant skills such as trauma-lawyering (California Community Foundation 2020c). This collaborative also created the RDC Resource Bank, an online platform where trainings and materials are available for LAJF partner organizations, volunteers, and pro bono attorneys, which has been useful resourced to the 259 registered users (California Community Foundation 2020d:2; Loyola Law School n.d.).

Further, an Immigration Judge Spreadsheet was created in an effort to provide a judicial database that is a venue for attorneys to input information on their experiences in court with judges and trial attorneys to assist attorneys as they prepare for hearings. These and other online mediums through social media,

websites, and newsletters have been created by LAJF grantees to connect attorneys with pro bono opportunities and share available court cases in Los Angeles, provide policy updates, and cultural competency training (California Community Foundation 2020c:1).

In addition to partnerships, LAJF has allowed grantees to obtain necessary resources and supports, as they work on cases and navigate the complexities of immigration courts. For example, Immigrant Defenders Law Center has provided shared work space and resources for LAJF attorneys to use in between meetings and hearings near the Adelanto Detention Facility. The Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) has also assembled a 'Removal Defense Toolkit' to assist new and experienced LAJF lawyers with resources at whichever stage they may be at to gain familiarity with removal cases (California Community Foundation 2020d). As noted by LAJF grantees, these resources and technical assistance have been instrumental.

Beyond access to resources and technical assistance, another notable impact of LAJF has been its contribution to changing the culture within immigration courts. Typically in immigration court, it was often the case that only the immigration judge, pro se litigants, and the private bar were present. As noted by LAJF grantees, this has begun to change with courts allowing the presence of LAJF attorneys; attorneys that are also holding the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) accountable to their obligations.

Lastly, LAJF has also contributed to expanding the capacity of the organizations. While some organizations already had the necessary infrastructure for deportation defense, others did not, and LAJF was key in expanding and sustaining the teams working on these cases. Some of these capacity-building needs included hiring and training new staff; managing and maintaining new data systems; onboarding staff to new systems; creating and adapting administrative capacity; and developing funding opportunities to ensure the organization's sustainability after the two-year contract (Nonprofit Finance Fund and California Community Foundation 2019).

Voices on the Ground: Public Counsel

“The LAJF program has significantly changed the due process landscape in Los Angeles – creating a core of legal service providers that have represented hundreds of detained individuals, joined together to drive impact litigation around access to counsel and unlawful arrests, as well as exposed abuses taking place inside the Adelanto Detention Facility through information-sharing with government and non-government agencies. The fruits of these efforts have never been more needed, or more evident, as during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the groundwork laid by the LAJF program these past years, when the pandemic hit, we were able to mobilize swiftly to begin securing releases through all means possible – bond, parole, and ultimately federal litigation – to free hundreds and hundreds of people from Adelanto and to prevent further transfers into the facility. This would not have been possible without the partnership of LAJF’s on-the-ground legal service providers at Adelanto. Public Counsel is proud to have been part of these efforts. Ongoing funding from the county, city, and philanthropy is critical to ensuring we can continue to serve some of our most vulnerable community members through legal advocacy and collaboration.”

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)

“Before the first LAJF contract, CARECEN’s removal defense program was limited to large scale unaccompanied minor representation. Since then, LAJF funding has been used to expand our program significantly. We have increased the total number of attorneys working on removal defense cases and detained removal defense cases. Over the past couple of years, we have continuously improved our case processing model and developed attorneys with expertise in detained removal defense topics. When we first began the program, we started with attorneys that had little to no detention experience. Since then, we have trained 3 staff attorneys who have now developed detention expertise, so much so that we are able to promote one staff attorney to Supervising Attorney to continue building leadership and expertise in detained representation matters.”

Source: Information collected from bridge funding proposals submitted by CARECEN to the California Community Foundation in November 2020.

LAJF Serves the Immigrant Community

LAJF was initially designed to serve residents of the City and County of L.A., but was later expanded to also include immigrants affected by family separation with ties to L.A. In addition, the other eligibility requirements included immigrants who are at risk of removal and immigrants with an income less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Once these eligibility requirements were met, services were prioritized for immigrants in vulnerable situations with ties to the City or County of L.A., heads of households with dependents, unaccompanied children, veterans, individuals with protection-based claims, or victims of crime (California Community Foundation 2017).

While the program was designed to assist some of the most vulnerable immigrant populations, a limitation of the program design was that the requirements to access the Fund excluded certain immigrants with criminal convictions and certain residency requirements (California Community Foundation 2017; Vera Institute of Justice 2020:2). At the time of LAJF’s implementation, there was concern over whether the Fund would be inclusive of all immigrants, including those with prior criminal convictions. Underlying this concern has been a binary view in politics of distinguishing between “good” and “bad” immigrants that immigrant rights advocates have long challenged, noting the complexities of criminal charges and the importance of universal due process (Akio-Woodhouse 2017).

Simultaneously, California was also finalizing the language on the Due Process for All Act (SB 6) that would allocate state funds for legal representation for immigrants facing deportation (Hanson 2016). While the original language of the bill would allow all immigrants to access the Fund regardless of criminal convictions, that language was later reversed, ultimately excluding this population of immigrants (Akio-Woodhouse 2017). In alignment with the state bill, L.A. County approved funding for LAJF with similar language (California Community Foundation 2017). While this synopsis does not tell the complete story of this issue, it nevertheless sheds lights on the challenges with this exclusion, that has since been questioned, and runs counter to GCIR’s proposal for a phase two of the Fund.

Yet because LAJF is partially funded by the City, the City funds included a waiver for certain immigrants with criminal convictions facing extenuating circumstances (California Community Foundation 2017). While there was some flexibility with the waiver, allowing some immigrants with criminal convictions to be served, LAJF grantees nevertheless expressed difficulty in finding clients to serve due to this limitation. For example, in CARECEN’s experience (as noted in their mid-year bridge funding report), due to a reduction in population size at the Adelanto Detention Center in light of COVID-19, they expressed the difficulty in finding eligible clients due to the criminal carve outs. In addition, this requirement placed a burden on service providers who had to allocate substantial time and resources to determine eligibility (Nonprofit Finance Fund and California Community Foundation 2019).

While there were some limitations to the LAJF pilot phase, this Fund was nevertheless instrumental in not only expanding the County’s deportation defense, but also protecting Angeleno families from the irreparable impacts caused by deportation. Figure 1 below provides a snapshot of the clients LAJF has served through the mid-year of the bridge funding phase (as of January, 2021). For clarity, there are two LAJF main data sources that underlie this report. One we refer to as the pilot phase data and the other as the mid-year bridge funding data. The LAJF pilot phase case activity data encompasses data from November 2017 through June 2020 for a total number of 546 cases. The mid-year bridge funding data only includes new cases accepted for representation from July 2020 to early January 2021— 22 new cases. Data for some indicators are aggregated (as shown in Figure 1 below), while data for other indicators are reported separately (as shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3).⁸

⁸ Note: The data provided in Figure 1 below includes case activity for the pilot and mid-year bridge funding phases of LAJF. Our estimates of new cases acquired during the mid-year bridge funding phase were aggregated to the Vera Institute of Justice’s case activity data presented in their Quarter 10 report for the following variables: cases represented by LAJF and funding source. Our estimates of legal intakes acquired during the mid-year bridge funding phase were aggregated to the number of legal intakes reported in CCF’s Los Angeles Justice Fund Extension Year, Quarter 2 Quarterly Report. The number of legal service providers has remained the same throughout the pilot and bridge funding phases. Due to differences in reporting intakes during the mid-year bridge funding, we want to highlight that these numbers are likely underreported. Organizations have expressed that given the uncertainty of ongoing funding and their existing cases, they focused their efforts on maintaining their existing caseloads. Refer to the full methodological appendix for details.

Figure 1. Case Activity for Existing and Mid-Year Bridge Funding Cases as of January 6, 2021

Case Activity: LAJF Pilot Phase and Mid-Year Bridge Funding Phase, as of January 2021		
	Total	%
A. Legal intakes:	2,047	
B. Cases represented by LAJF:	568	
C. Funding Source:		
Cases Funded by City	269	48%
Cases funded by County	269	48%
Cases funded by Philanthropy	24	4%
D. Legal Service Providers:	11	

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.

LAJF grantees have represented individuals who are both detained and non-detained. As of January 2021, LAJF had completed a minimum of 2,047 legal screenings. To date, the 11 LAJF grantees have represented 568 cases, 22 of which were acquired during the mid-year bridge funding phase. During the mid-year bridge funding period, 5 of the cases represented by LAJF involved individuals who were detained (see Figure 2). During the pilot phase of LAJF 151 clients were initially detained, with 71 being initially detained but later released (see Figure 3).⁹ Legal representation has been critical in ensuring that immigrants, who are often the breadwinners of their households, are able to remain with their families. In March of 2020, Public Counsel, an LAJF grantee was able to secure the release of two individuals that were detained by ICE, amidst the COVID-19 but later released due to serious health concerns in detention centers that were further exacerbated by the pandemic (see full story below: *Angelenos Represented by Public Counsel Released from Detention Centers in the Midst of COVID-19*).

⁹ Note: Due to limitations with the dataset, missing data, and differences in methodologies, data for the pilot and mid-year bridge funding phases are reported separately for the following variables (as show in Figure 2 and Figure 3): case, status, positive outcome allowing individuals to remain in the U.S., total clients initially detained, total clients initially detained but later released, total affirmative cases, total children represented, total cases with appeals, average time in the U.S., share of clients living in the U.S. for more than a decade, total number of countries that clients originated from, top five countries of origin, and share of clients with an identified vulnerability. Due to differences in reporting intakes during the mid-year bridge funding, we want to highlight that these numbers are likely underreported. Organizations have expressed that given the uncertainty of ongoing funding and their existing cases, they focused their efforts on maintaining their existing caseloads. Refer to the methodological appendix for specific details on methodology and limitations.

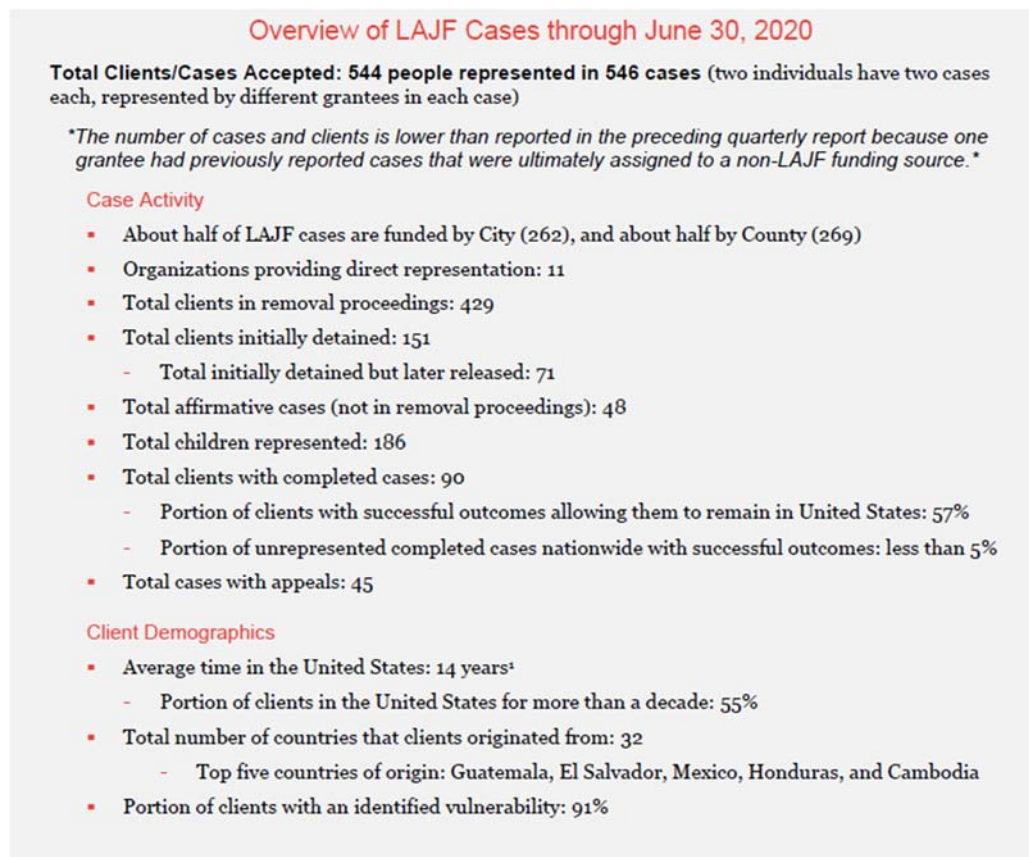
Figure 2. Case Activity for Mid-Year Bridge Funding Cases, as of January 6, 2021

Case Activity & Client Demographics: Mid-Year Bridge Funding, as of January 2021		
	Total	%
A. Total Mid-Year Bridge Funding Cases:	22	
B. Funding Source:		
Cases Funded by City	7	44%
Cases funded by County	0	
Cases funded by Philanthropy	9	56%
C. Legal Service Providers:	11	
D. Total clients in removal proceedings:	-	
E. Total clients initially detained:	5	
i. Total initially detained but later released:	-	
F. Total affirmative cases (not in removal proceedings):	-	
G. Total children represented:	14	64%
H. Total clients with completed cases:	5	
i. Total clients with positive outcomes allowing them to remain in the U.S.:	4	
I. Cases that remain open:	17	77%
J. Total cases with appeals:	2	
K. Average time in the U.S. (years):	7	
L. Total number of countries that clients originated from:	5	
M. Countries of origin:	El Salvador	
	Guatemala	
	Honduras	
	Mexico	
	Nigeria	
N. Share of clients with an identified vulnerability:	91%	

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 not reported across all indicators due to missing data. See methodological appendix below for further detail.

Figure 3. Case Activity for Pilot Phase Cases through 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.

Angelenos Represented by Public Counsel Released from Detention Centers in the Midst of COVID-19

Due to the significant health risks that detention centers pose during the pandemic, Public Counsel has represented numerous LAJF-eligible clients. Two of the individuals represented by Public Counsel were arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and later released and reunited with their families.

In March of 2020, the day after the California governor and Mayor of Los Angeles ordered efforts to practice social distancing amidst a public health crisis, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents gathered to make arrests. Over 45 organizations had signed a letter urging the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to halt enforcement operations amidst public health concerns, but they nevertheless continued with a shift to focus on public safety. That morning ICE was out to arrest “Mr. A,” who as head of the household, worried about rent, the lack of food at home, and empty stores.

A week after the arrest, a federal judge signed an order for the immediate release of two individuals held in the Adelanto detention center, citing their heightened risk of contracting the virus. One of those individuals was Mr. A, along with “Mr. S.” Mark Rosenbaum, an attorney with Public Counsel (an LAJF grantee), who along with Kaplan Hecker & Fink LLP, represented Mr. A and Mr. S. In his order, the Judge noted that San Bernardino County, the detention center’s location had, at the time, seen a spike in confirmed COVID-19 cases. In addition, the judge cited a report with evidence of health and safety risks at Adelanto.

Sources: Mejia, Brittny, “Citing virus, judge orders release of two men from California immigrant detention center,” March 27, 2020, <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-03-27/citing-virus-judge-orders-release-of-two-men-from-california-immigrant-detention-center>.

Mejia, Brittny, “With masks at the ready, ICE agents make arrests on first day of California coronavirus lockdown,” March 17, 2020, <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-03-17/for-ice-agents-its-business-as-unusual-day-after-sweeping-coronavirus-order>.

Information collected from bridge funding proposals submitted by Public Counsel to the California Community Foundation

Of the clients that LAJF accepted for representation, during the mid-year bridge funding reporting period, 14 are children. During the pilot phase of LAJF, a total of 186 children were represented. Of the children represented by LAJF some are unaccompanied minors, meaning that as children, they are forced to navigate the complexities of a complicated immigration system. The story of “Joaquin” below sheds light not only on the complexities of navigating the immigration system as a child, but also the additional layer of barriers posed by criminal convictions. As exemplified in the full story below, community-based organizations not funded through LAJF, like the Youth Justice Coalition (YJC), working at the intersection of criminal and immigration issues, were key to the removal defense ecosystem in supporting vulnerable immigrants like Joaquin (see full story below: *LAJF Team Wins Release on Bond for “Joaquin,” a Young Angeleno who Arrived as an Unaccompanied Minor*).

**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.

In addition, the demographics of the adult clients served through LAJF are reflective of L.A. County’s long-settled immigrant population. Of the clients for whom information was provided, the average time these clients have been living in the U.S. is 7 years. During the pilot phase of the Fund, the average time clients had been living in the U.S. was 14 years, with 55 percent of clients living in the U.S. for more than a decade. Due to their long-settled nature, these individuals are likely to have established families and networks. Mr. J, one client serviced through LAJF, has been a resident of L.A. County since 1988 and is a father to three U.S.-born children and grandfather to two U.S.-citizen grandchildren. While he has been released from detention, he continues to fight his case with the help of LAJF (see full story below: *Immigrant Defenders Law Center Secures Release for Long-time Angeleno Resident Detained by ICE Officers with Unfounded Evidence for Arrest*).

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.

When looking at the distribution of the individuals LAJF served during the mid-year bridge funding reporting period, a majority of the clients represented were children (64 percent). During the pilot phase of LAJF, however, a significant share of clients were children (33 percent) and the majority of clients were adults (66 percent), meaning these clients are part of the City and County’s workforce and some may be the primary breadwinners within their households. Access to representation for individuals can make a difference in the outcomes of their cases and ensure that immigrant families maintain their primary sources of income, employers retain all their workers, and employees continue to have a job. The story of a small business owner represented by Public Counsel, who was the primary breadwinner in his household, details the disruption that deportations provoke for immigrant families (see full story below: *Public Counsel Represents Small Business Owner and Primary Breadwinner of Household*).

Public Counsel Represents Small Business Owner and Primary Breadwinner of Household

During the most recent LAJF funding period (July 2020 - present), Public Counsel prepared to go to trial on behalf of an LAJF client for whom they had previously won release from custody. This client, has a wife and children, all who are U.S. citizens. As the primary breadwinner of his household, he supports his family through the small business he owns. His wife has limited capacity to work due to a jaw deformity that impedes communication. His 18-year-old daughter, a student at Santa Monica College, is struggling with PTSD and depression that worsened during her father's detention and removal proceedings. His 15-year-old son also has a heart condition that requires medication and constant monitoring to prevent a heart attack. The client's merits hearing was set for December 2020, and hundreds of pages -- including four expert evaluations -- were submitted in support of his claim. However, weeks before the case was set to go to trial, it was postponed due to COVID-19. As the client awaits his rescheduled hearing, he has authorization to work in the U.S. and Public Counsel was able to connect his family with mental health services.

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

In addition, the clients served through LAJF come from diverse backgrounds. During the mid-year bridge funding reporting period, the five countries of origin for clients included El Salvador, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Similarly, during the pilot phase of LAJF, the clients represented were from a total of 32 different countries, with the top five being Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico, Honduras, and Cambodia. The story of Ms. N, who is from El Salvador, highlights her journey in reuniting with her mother in the U.S. (see full story below: *LAFLA Continues to Represent Ms. N, Whose First Court Appearance has been Postponed to August 2021*).

LAFLA Continues to Represent Ms. N, Whose First Court Appearance has been Postponed to August 2021

As a teenager living in El Salvador, Ms. N's mother filed an I-360, listing her as a derivative beneficiary. After the petition was approved, Ms. N traveled alone to the U.S. to reunite with her mother; eventually securing a work permit and renewing it for several years based on the I-360 approved form. In 2018, she applied for lawful permanent residency but was denied due to an error in the calculation of her legal age, under the Child Status Protection Act. Ms. N has yet to renew her application for VAWA Adjustment of Status before the immigration judge and simultaneously apply for Cancellation of Removal for Non-Lawful Permanent Residents. She is the mother of two U.S.-citizen children. Initially, her first court appearance was scheduled for October, but later postponed by the Court to January, and now to August 2021.

Source: Story collected through a mid-year report submitted to CCF by the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) on January 2021.

Moreover, in addition to coming from diverse backgrounds, the immigrants LAJF serves are also in different vulnerable situations, often the targets of immigration enforcement policies, and often face more barriers in accessing resources. Throughout the mid-year bridge funding report period, 91 percent of LAJF cases indicated that clients had experienced at least one vulnerability, including asylum seekers seeking fear-based protections, unaccompanied children, individuals experiencing victimization, individuals experiencing homelessness, and individuals identifying as LGBTQ+. Similarly, during the pilot phase of LAJF, 91 percent of clients also indicated at least one vulnerability. The Los Angeles LGBT Center has been able to provide representation to an immigrant identifying as LGBTQ+ who was fleeing her home in Guatemala (see full story below: *Los Angeles LGBT Center Client Fleeing Home in Guatemala, Named Plaintiff in Lawsuit Protecting the Rights of Immigrants Facing Delays in their Employment*). Maintaining such a Fund can make a difference in the outcomes for these immigrants who may not otherwise have access to representation.

Los Angeles LGBT Center Client Fleeing Home in Guatemala, Named Plaintiff in Lawsuit Protecting the Rights of Immigrants Facing Delays in their Employment Authorization

A resident of the Angeles LGBT Center for Youth and Family Services Transitional Living Program has been an LAJF client since the LGBT Center first met them in Tijuana, Mexico at the beginning of LAJF funding. While representing them during their release from ICE custody and preparing for their final hearing on the merits of their asylum case, currently set for August 6, 2021, they have developed a close relationship with the Los client. Their client was a member of the military in Guatemala and was persecuted and tortured based on their LGBTQ+ identity. This summer, the client was in urgent need of their employment authorization document to enroll in the Culinary Arts training curriculum at the Los Angeles LGBT Center, but delays persisted. Their client stepped forward as a named plaintiff in *Subramanya v. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services*, a lawsuit challenging the illegal delays in work permit processing. They were the second named plaintiff in the case and testified on screen from the Los Angeles Center for Youth and Family Services before the U.S. District Court Southern District of Ohio Eastern Division. Our client was the only non-binary LGBTQ+ party named in the suit. Based on their testimony and supporting documents, along with the work of Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP, the Court issued a Consent Order and Final Decree protecting the rights of an estimated 80,000 immigrants who were facing extreme delays in obtaining their work authorization documents.

Source: Story collected through a mid-year report submitted to CCF by the Los Angeles LGBT Center on January 2021. For more information on the lawsuit see, <https://www.aila.org/infonet/district-court-issues-tro-in-class-action>.

As of June 30, 2020, during the pilot phase of LAJF, 90 LAJF clients had completed cases, 57 percent that resulted in a positive outcome, meaning individuals were able to remain in the U.S. Still, 421 (or 77 percent) of these LAJF clients, have open cases, meaning the outcome of a majority of the cases, is yet to be determined. Similarly, as of January 2021, during the mid-year bridge funding period, 5 cases were completed, 4 (or 80 percent) of which resulted in a positive outcome, and 17 cases (77 percent) remain open. In proposals for bridge funding submitted to CCF, grantees expressed that the complex nature of immigration courts coupled with the impacts of court closures due to COVID-19, have pushed back case

timelines to 2021, 2022, 2023, and even 2024. LAJF grantees have been able to reach clients like Ms. M who were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and whose case remains open (see full story below).

Amidst COVID-19, Los Angeles LGBT Center Connects Ms. M with Housing Resources and Continues to Represent her Asylum Case

As clients continue to experience reoccurring homelessness due to the COVID-19 pandemic, regular notifications have been filed with the Los Angeles Immigration Court to notify the court of changing addresses. The Court relies on U.S. Postal Service mail to inform clients of all the changes in their cases. For clients without safe mailing addresses or whose legal name can jeopardize their safety, using the Los Angeles LGBT Center's mailing address has been critical.

"Ms. M" is a Transgender woman and a senior citizen who lost her housing the summer of 2020. The Los Angeles LGBT Center was able to find support for her in a homeless shelter, but when her time there ended, she began sleeping in a park. Ms. M struggles with PTSD from the trauma she endured, which is the basis of her asylum case. The Immigration Law Project immediately connected Ms. M with a warm referral to the Senior Services Housing Navigator. Together, Ms. M's immigration attorney and the Housing Navigator have worked closely to develop a plan for safe housing for Ms. M. Her attorney has been able to keep the Immigration Court informed of her mailing address and residence in accordance with required Court procedures. Ms. M will now not fail to appear in court because of a paperwork error due to her housing instability.

Source: Story collected through a mid-year report submitted to CCF by Los Angeles LGBT Center, Immigration Law Project on January 2021.

Patterns Over Time

The data presented in this section reveal the funding source for cases and the number of cases that grantees have acquired over time. While the data presented here can tell one side of the story, the narrative provided by LAJF grantees in their mid-year bridge funding reports throughout this section sheds more light on some of the existing challenges service providers face that impact case intake.

The City and County fund a majority of cases, with each respectively funding 48 percent, and philanthropy funding 4 percent of both pilot and mid-year bridge funding cases. While some cases have been completed, a majority of cases remain pending due to the length of court processes and backlogs in immigration cases. The pattern suggests that the City and County have been able to maximize the direct impacts of their spending, benefiting from the general infrastructure developed by philanthropic

Voices on the Ground: Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)

"At the time of this writing, all of KIND's cases under the LAJF program are open and active. Many of the cases have pending applications or petitions before USCIS and are awaiting a decision. The delay case resolution is primarily due to changes in immigration policies enacted by the Trump Administration, resulting in cases remaining open for longer periods than anticipated in our initial grant proposal. LAJF funding is essential to keeping over 40 cases open in KIND's Los Angeles office; no alternative funding currently exists."

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

partners. LAJF grantees expressed that a majority of their cases remain open and losing funding would strain the organizations who would have to distribute case load among existing staff.

When analyzing new case activity throughout the pilot and mid-year bridge funding phases, it is clear that the number of cases acquired at the beginning of the Fund were higher. Starting in Quarter 1 (the beginning of 2018), LAJF grantees acquired 102 cases. In Quarter 2 grantees had acquired 79 new cases and by Quarter three the number of new cases rose to 132. However, starting in Quarter 4, the volume of new cases had begun to decrease. In Quarter 10, spring of 2020, grantees only took on a total of two cases. However, by January 2021 (the mid-year bridge reporting period), grantees had taken 22 new cases. While the numbers show lower volumes of new cases, particularly after the third quarter of 2019, a series of factors impacted these numbers. The most important is that cases take time – and uncertainty about funding impacts uptake. For example, in the mid-year bridge funding reports, some LAJF grantees shared that additional funding was allocated to sustain their current caseload but not for new cases – and given that, we would not have expected caseloads to rise in this period.

The uncertainty around the program’s future also deters grantees from taking on new cases. Grantees have stated that LAJF’s short-term funding and uncertainty leading up to the funding extension, created more stress for staff and led some recently hired lawyers to depart for more stable job opportunities (Nonprofit Finance Fund and California Community Foundation 2019). This reduces the role of experienced personnel in management of individual immigrant cases and weakens the infrastructure needed to efficiently onboard new lawyers and legal staff to the complex arena of immigration law.

Another factor impacting case intake was COVID-19. The pandemic has delayed processing times and many of these cases already in the queue will take years to complete; with some delayed into 2024. In their request for bridge funding, grantees like the Los Angeles LGBT Center shared this concern, expressing that some cases have been rescheduled into 2021 and 2022, 2023, and 2024. In addition, other challenges that immigration attorneys are facing include increased wait times at detention centers to see clients; programs like the Legal Orientation Program (LOP) that have made it

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: Los Angeles LGBT Center

“We are concerned about our LAJF clients who have many years ahead of them to complete their cases. Many of our homeless youth clients have their final hearings in 2023 and 2024. We hope to maintain staffing that will allow us to maintain the same number of registered attorneys on these cases many years into the future. In addition, we have a growing waitlist of Transgender women, Black and Latinx immigrants, and homeless youth who await word from us about taking their cases if we are able to increase capacity. Knowing that they will be safe if represented by our office, many of these potential clients prefer to wait on our waitlist to learn if we have additional funding and increased capacity to take their cases in the future.”

Source: Information collected through mid-year bridge funding reports submitted to CCF by the Los Angeles LGBT Center in January 2021.

more difficult to see clients and require greater financial investment; limited financial resources; and a limited pool of qualified attorneys to take on cases, among other issues (California Community Foundation 2020c). These challenges impact a large number of clients as was mentioned in the previous section, the outcome of 421 (or 77 percent) of LAJF clients with open cases and the outcome of 17 (or 77 percent) of LAJF mid-year bridge funding cases, is yet to be determined.

Additionally, another challenge contributing to the low volume of case intake is the criminal conviction carve out. For example, in the mid-year bridge funding reports, LAJF grantees expressed the challenges in finding LAJF-eligible clients. Grantees conduct intakes at the Adelanto Detention Center, and in light of COVID-19, the population at this facility has been reduced significantly. With a reduction in population, grantees have found it challenging to find eligible clients because of the population that remains detained, some have a former criminal conviction and in some cases are ineligible for representation.

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.

One development over time which deserves mention is the spill-over effect of LAJF, as it has influenced other cities to implement their own version of the Fund. For example, in 2019, the City of Long Beach began its own investments in immigration legal services, focusing on removal defense. The Vera Institute of Justice provided the City of Long Beach with a one-time Safety and Fairness for Everyone (SAFE) grant of \$100,000 for two years. The SAFE grant, coupled with \$250,000 from the Long Beach City council, initiated the Long Beach Justice Fund (LBJF) (City of Long Beach 2019). As part of LBJF, Immigrant Defenders was contracted to provide the legal services. More recently, the City allocated \$300,000 for the LBJF in its Fiscal Year 2021 budget, as a yearly structural budget line item (City of Long Beach 2020). The city manager is developing an RFP to allocate this renewed funding, with feedback and guidance from a Long Beach Justice Fund Committee comprised of city officials, advocates, and impacted community members (Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees 2020).

Yet, it is not just Southern California – the spill-over effects of LAJF have reached Harris County, Texas. In November 2020, the Harris County (TX) Commissioners Court approved \$2.5 million in funding to support low-income immigrants facing deportation, including immigrant victims of crime (Trovall 2020). In advocating for this plan, County Judge Lina Hidalgo who initiated the proposal in February 2020,

referenced Los Angeles as an example of a large city that has advanced a similar initiative (Despart and Kriel 2020).

While the program has had demonstrated success, shoring up the immigrant-serving infrastructure of Los Angeles City and County, representing the most vulnerable immigrants in need of defense, and influencing other cities to follow suit, the future of the program past 2021 still remains uncertain. The next section and subsequent sections provide critical demographic and political context that emphasize the importance of the continuation and expansion of LAJF for a place like Los Angeles.

Immigrant Los Angeles

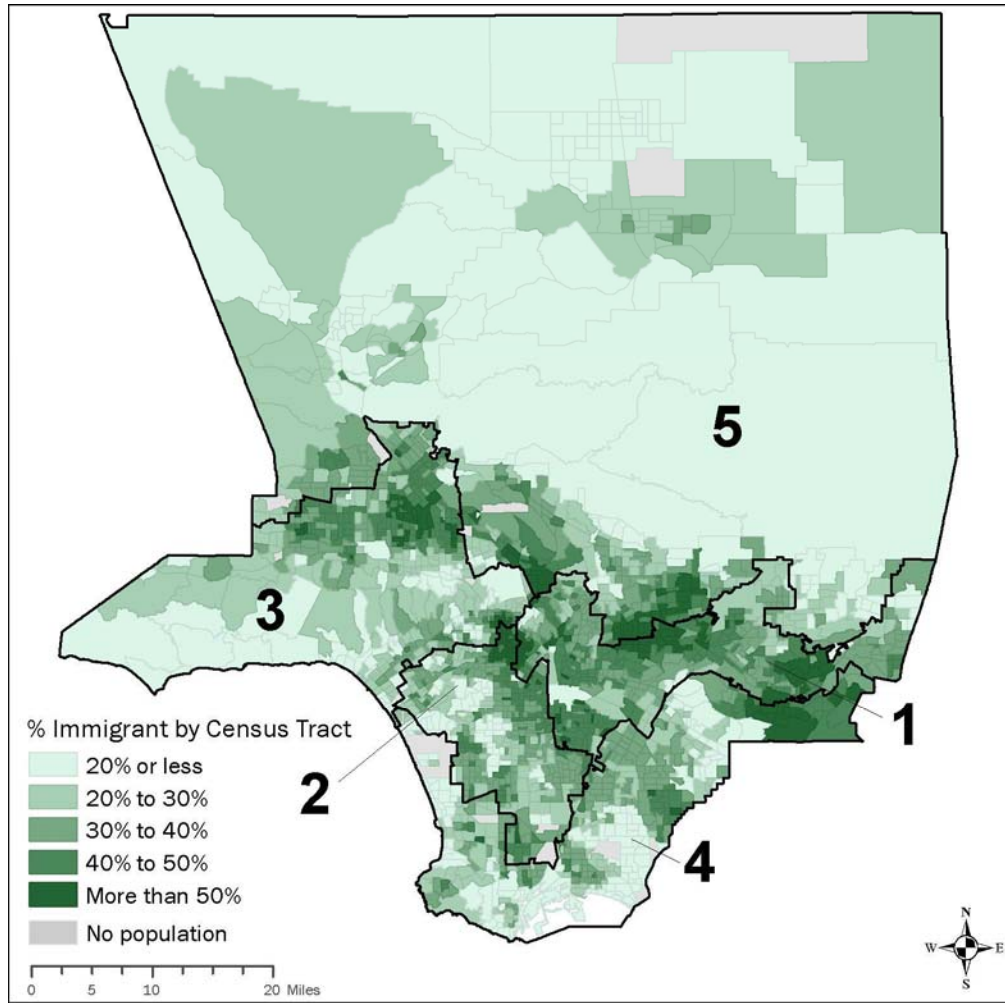
Immigrants are an essential – and long-term – part of Los Angeles City and County. Because Los Angeles County received nearly a quarter of all the nation’s new immigrants in the 1970s and 1980s, it is easy to think of immigrants as recently arrived and lightly settled. In fact, because we experienced such an early surge of immigrants, we now have one of the most established immigrant populations in the country, with roughly 81 percent having been in the U.S. for more than a decade, well above the 72 percent figure for the country as a whole; indeed, even for undocumented Angelenos, nearly 70 percent have been in the U.S. longer than a decade.¹⁰

Immigrants are geographically disbursed throughout the city and county and are no longer confined to traditional central city entry points. L.A. County’s suburbs are home to diverse immigrant communities and immigrants are well-represented in every one of the County’s Supervisorial Districts; see

¹⁰ Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2018 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Data represent a 2014 through 2018 average.

Figure 4 below. As detailed in Figure 5 below, immigrants comprise 41 percent of the population in Supervisorial District One, 36 percent of the population in District Two, 35 percent of the population in District Three, 29 percent of the population in District Four, and 31 percent of the population in District Five.

Figure 4. Map of the Share of Immigrants by Supervisorial District, Los Angeles County, 2018



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2018 5-year American Community Survey summary file data and Supervisor District boundaries from geohub.lacity.org.

Figure 5. Total and Immigrant Population by County Supervisorial District, L.A. County, 2018

Total and Immigrant Population by County Supervisorial District, L.A. County, 2018				
District	Total population	Total immigrants	Percent immigrant	
1	2,018,428	829,846	41%	
2	2,034,402	725,608	36%	
3	2,031,500	711,994	35%	
4	2,000,672	573,213	29%	
5	2,013,050	616,295	31%	
L.A. County	10,098,052	3,456,956	34%	

Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of the 2018 American Community Survey 5-year summary file. Note: Data reflect a 2014-2018 average.

In addition, immigrant Angelenos are racially diverse, with 55 percent of immigrants identifying as Latino, followed by 28 percent who identify as AAPI, and 14 percent who identify as white.¹¹ It is important to highlight that certain communities of immigrants such as Black and indigenous migrants, tend to be underrepresented in data, which can further contribute to their invisibilization. While Black immigrants do not comprise a large share of the County's immigrant population, they do comprise a sizable share of Black residents. About one in five Black Angelenos are either immigrants themselves or the U.S.-born children of immigrants.¹²

Indigenous migrants are another undercounted population that are underrepresented, as they tend to be lumped into the Latino racial group. Efforts by Comunidades Indígenas en Liderazgo (CIELO), an indigenous-led organization, have recently collected a data sample of indigenous populations impacted by COVID-19 that were served through their Undocu-Indigenous Fund in Los Angeles. Of the indigenous households that were served, 79 percent identified as Zapoteco, 11 percent identified as Quiche, 5 percent identified as Mixe, 3 percent identified as Mixteco, and 3 percent identified as Triqui (Martinez 2020). Moreover, across the U.S., there are an estimated 904,000 immigrant adults, who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT), of which 267,000 are undocumented (Gates 2013). Understanding the interrelated identities of the County's immigrants is critical in understanding how to best cater to their needs.

While this report is concerned with the ways in which the City and County has sought to protect its undocumented immigrant residents, most immigrants in L.A. County are either naturalized or lawful permanent residents (LPRs). When disaggregating by immigration status, we see that in 2018, just under half of immigrant Angelenos were naturalized citizens, while 28 percent were LPRs, and 22 percent were undocumented.¹³ But what this sort of simple breakdown fails to make clear is the pervasive presence of “mixed-status” families – households in which one family member may have legal status while others do not.

Mixed Status Families

Our 2018 estimates suggest that across L.A. County, there are nearly 800,000 undocumented Angelenos – but there are also 788,000 U.S. citizens and 256,000 LPRs who are their family members and live with them (see Figure 6). This does not account for other non-family household members, such as roommates, boarders, or others, whose sudden absence and inability to contribute to rent could exacerbate housing insecurity. It also does not include family members who may not be living under the

¹¹ Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2018 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA.

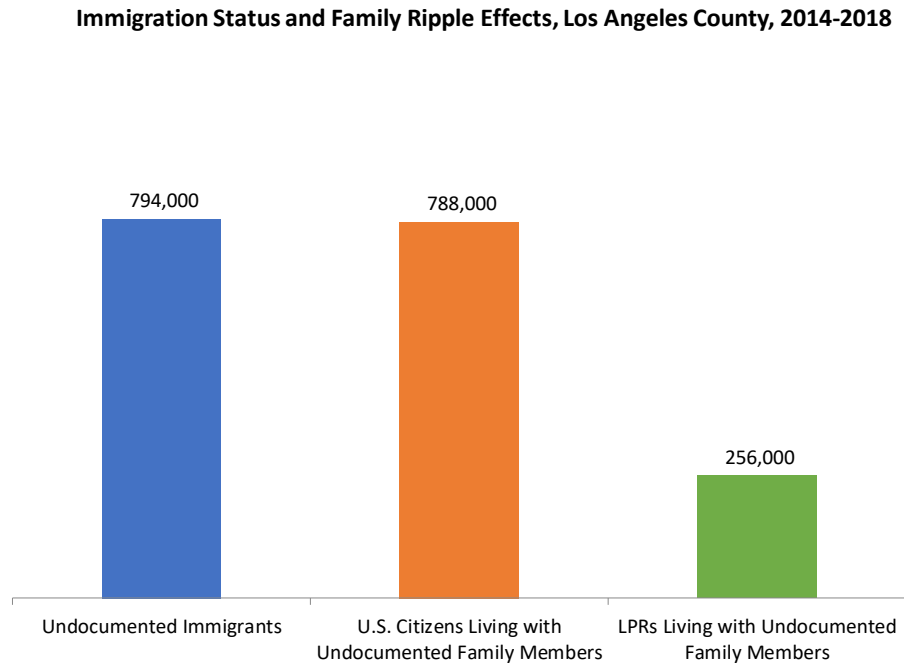
¹² Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of data from the 2014 through 2018 March Supplement of the Current Population Survey from IPUMS USA. Note: Data represent a 2014 through 2018 average. For this calculation, «Black» refers to all people identifying as Black alone or in combination with another race, including those who identify as Hispanic Black.

¹³ Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2018 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation. Data represent a 2014 through 2018 average. These estimates use a special weight to account for the relative undercount of non-citizen immigrants.

same roof but whose lives would be disrupted and impoverished by the removal of a nearby brother, aunt, or parent (who may even provide child or other relative care).

Indeed, even by our first most conservative metric, around 18 percent of Angelenos – nearly one in five of our County’s residents – are either undocumented themselves or living with a family member who is (Figure 6). As a result, the outcome of court deportation cases can easily cause family separation, creating irreparable damage for far more Angelenos than we might presume. While the economic consequences might seem the most obvious (see the discussion below), research shows that family separation creates long-term developmental impacts for children and families, including psychological, social, and health problems that extend beyond reunification (Bouza et al. 2018). Indeed, a 2011 report estimating the number and share of children in foster care with detained or deported parents revealed that 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). And the disruption and separation that can be caused by the outcome of court deportation proceedings will not only impact these individuals and their immediate family members, but also cousins, aunts, uncles, other extended family members, and neighbors, as well as employers and employees.

Figure 6. Immigration Status and Family Ripple Effects, Los Angeles County, 2018



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

Economic Contributions and Impacts

The economic stress that deportation can introduce to a family who loses a breadwinner can be severe. Research shows that removing undocumented individuals from mixed-status households can reduce the median household income from \$41,300 to \$22,000, pushing families into poverty (Warren and Kerwin 2017). Other research has shown that a deportation of a sole wage earner can cut household income in half; a report out of Harris County, Texas, put the loss at 90 percent (Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative 2020; The California Coalition for Universal Representation 2016).

Our calculations suggest that in L.A. County, among all the households with an undocumented member, nearly half (49 percent) of the aggregate household income comes from those undocumented wage earners.¹⁴ In the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, removing breadwinners from families would further create financial hardship in family units where many have lost their employment. Research has revealed that undocumented workers have experienced the highest rates of unemployment across California and L.A. County. By April of 2020, over 25 percent of undocumented workers in L.A. County were unemployed (Hinojosa Ojeda et al. 2020:19). As the County started to re-open in May and June, there was a slight recovery as some workers returned to work; however, as businesses closed again due to the rise in cases, it is projected that unemployment for undocumented workers will increase again (Hinojosa Ojeda et al. 2020:19).

Despite this – and despite the fact immigrant workers are over-indexed or over-represented in essential work – undocumented immigrants and the mixed-status households in which they live in were excluded from the federal stimulus bill included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (National Immigration Law Center 2020). The Social Security Number (SSN) requirement of the CARES Act disqualified the majority of undocumented immigrants and mixed-status couples along with their households—those that filed their 2018 or 2019 taxes jointly, where even if only one individual filed using an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), were excluded. This exclusion impacted an estimated total of 14.4 million individuals in these families, from accessing economic support; something their tax dollars contribute to (Migration Policy Institute 2020; National Immigration Law Center 2020). Although a new coronavirus relief package, including a retroactive adjustment allowing mixed-status households to obtain the aid previously allocated by the CARES Act has since been signed, it still fell short of including all undocumented immigrants (Lahoud 2021).

Across the County, as shown in, Figure 7 about 135,000 married adult couples that are mixed-status (meaning one spouse is undocumented and the other spouse is an LPR or U.S. citizen) and nearly 200,000 children living in a mixed-status family (meaning one parent is undocumented and the other is not) were potentially negatively impacted by the exclusion from the CARES Act. Although separate state and philanthropic funds were allocated to support immigrant communities, like the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Disaster Relief Assistance for Immigrants, the organizations working to distribute the funds noted that the overwhelming demand for this relief shed light on the dire need for more resources for immigrant communities (Westervelt and Penalosa 2020). Similarly, L.A. City rolled out the Angeleno Card to fill this gap, providing cash assistance in the form of a prepaid debit card to low-income individuals, regardless of immigration status. Even though thousands of families received this assistance, the demand for this program revealed the need that was far higher than the supply (Abramsky 2020).

¹⁴ Source: USC ERI analysis of 2018 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Data represent a 2014 through 2018 average.

Figure 7. Individual, Household, and Family Statistics for California, Los Angeles County, & Los Angeles City, 2018

Individual, Household, and Family Statistics for California, Los Angeles County, & Los Angeles City, 2018	Numbers by Geography			Share in Geography	
	California	LA County	LA City	LA County	LA City
Number of Residents	39,521,000	10,221,000	4,019,000	26%	10%
Number of Undocumented Californians	2,381,000	794,000	407,000	33%	17%
Of which, Number of DACA Recipients	185,000	59,000	27,000	32%	15%
Number of Households	12,936,000	3,299,000	1,364,000	26%	11%
Households with at least one undocumented adult	1,201,000	399,000	200,000	33%	17%
Number of Families	14,857,000	3,803,000	1,621,000	26%	11%
Families with at least one undocumented adult	1,441,000	480,000	246,000	33%	17%
How many minor children by geography?	9,096,000	2,252,000	838,000	25%	9%
How many minor children with at least one parent who is undocumented?	1,592,000	489,000	238,000	31%	15%
How many married adult couples?	7,007,000	1,656,000	590,000	24%	8%
How many married adult couples are mixed status, where one spouse is undocumented and the other spouse is a LPR or US citizen?	470,000	135,000	59,000	29%	13%
How many children in mixed status families (one parent undocumented, the other not)?	707,000	199,000	87,000	28%	12%

Source: USC CSII analysis of 2018 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Data represent a 2014 through 2018 average. Overall population numbers may be slightly higher than in usually reported statistics because of adjusted weights used to account for undercount of undocumented Californians.

What Figure 7 also makes clear is why the fair treatment of immigrants is so important to the health and vitality of the region. L.A. County has about a quarter of the state’s residents but a third of its undocumented population, just under a third of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, and nearly a third of the children with at least one undocumented parent. What is important to consider is that these individuals – along with extended family members, neighbors, employers, and employees—are directly impacted by the imminent threat of deportation as well as actual deportations. Another important consideration is that DACA recipients are only temporarily shielded from deportation, and with ongoing litigation in the courts, the future of the program remains uncertain. More recently, in December of 2020, a U.S. District Court issued an order that restored the DACA program, meaning USCIS would once again accept first-time DACA applications, once again accept applications for advanced parole, and restore renewals from one-year grants to two years (U.S. Department of Homeland Security 2020). Still, Texas and eight other states are seeking to end DACA and a ruling on the case from a federal judge in Texas remains pending (Lozano 2020).

In addition, there is a population of individuals with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) who are also deeply rooted to the region, as some of the requirements for these statuses necessitate individuals to have been present in the U.S. as early as the 1990s. As of 2017, California was home to over 50,000 TPS recipients from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti (Svajlenka 2019). These statuses, while temporary in nature, have shielded immigrants from deportation but impending litigation over the termination of these programs can change that (Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. 2020). More importantly, DACA and TPS recipients are often times members of mixed-status families and in some cases, these temporary statuses can be a form of protection for family units.

Although we now have a new administration whose immigration policies so far appear to prioritize protecting families, the decisions of these pending lawsuits can nevertheless impact these forthcoming

policies. We have long suggested that immigrant integration is everyone's business – partly because everyone benefits from immigrant labor, entrepreneurship, and cultural contribution – but it is also clear that it is of special concern to Los Angeles City and County.

Los Angeles Leadership Has and Will Continue to be Critical

Because of the important role of immigrants in Los Angeles, it is no surprise that the region was an early mover in protecting immigrant rights. As early as 2013, the city re-established its Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA) after Mayor Eric Garcetti (then councilmember), proposed the introduction of the City OIA in 2004 while serving in City Council (City of Los Angeles 2002; Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees 2020). The region's immigrant-serving organizations are also among the most powerful and effective in the country and its business community, particularly through the influential Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, has often pushed for both national reform and local support of immigrant businesses and communities. The local labor movement has also been supportive, having led the way on a national shift by unions to be more pro-immigrant (Milkman 2006; Pastor 2018). This sort of public-private partnership on immigrant issues has set a template of cooperation for Los Angeles.

Given the importance of immigrants and the role of the region in immigration dynamics, it was no surprise that Los Angeles considered the administration of President Donald Trump, particularly its embrace of an anti-immigrant tone and even harsher immigration enforcement, as a threat to the County's collective well-being. The region is already known as one of the nation's busiest locales for ICE arrests; the election and coming to power of President Trump threatened to make that an even more onerous burden on local families.

In 2017, the first year of the Trump administration, ICE arrests in Los Angeles increased from the previous year by 10 percent; L.A. County ranked first in the total number of removal cases that were initially filed by DHS; and compared to other jail systems across the U.S., L.A. County's jail system ranked second highest in the number of ICE detainer requests (or requests to hold an individual so that ICE can make an arrest) (Keun Kwon 2018; Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) Immigration 2017). The administration also broke with relatively accepted norms in their tactics and strategies, such as arresting parents when they dropped their children off at school or when immigrants went to court. In some cases, they also targeted DACA recipients, by attempting to revoke their status even in cases where individuals had done nothing to disqualify them from the program (Keun Kwon 2018).

Recently, with COVID-19 posing a public health threat, ICE announced a shift in its operations, announcing it would delay regular enforcement operations, but still detain immigrants with former criminal convictions (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement 2020:19). COVID-19 is a threat to all, regardless of immigration status and background. However, even with this announcement the agency continued arrests through March of 2020 (Mejia 2020a). While arrests decreased by April 2020, ICE continued its enforcement operations during the months of July and August 2020, ultimately arresting over 300 individuals in the Los Angeles area (Mejia 2020b).

In response to these continuing threats, Los Angeles has taken a series of proactive steps to protect immigrant Angelenos. In early 2017, the Los Angeles City Council decriminalized street vending which was previously unlawful under the city's municipal code. After years of organizing, this change partially grew out of concern that the Trump administration would expand their reach and this would put

undocumented street vendors at greater risk of removal as they could be charged with a misdemeanor (non-violent) for illegal street vending (Chiland 2016). Later in 2019, California's Senate Bill SB 946, decriminalizing street vending, also took effect (Kostin 2020). In 2017, L.A. County also established its own Office of Immigrant Affairs, in part encouraged by the Council on Immigrant Integration, a group established and funded by the California Community Foundation (USC Dornsife: Equity Research Institute n.d.).

Another notable response, was the inception of the LAJF, itself a significant and unique public-private partnership to provide resources to expand access to representation to immigrant families facing the threat of deportation, as is explained in detail in a previous section. While Los Angeles has championed protections for its immigrant community, it has not always had a stellar record with regard to immigrant rights. At the very same time the County was creating and implementing LAJF, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department was still working closely with ICE, undermining the purpose of and investment in the Fund (Lau 2019). Nevertheless, Los Angeles continues to be proactive and responsive in protecting immigrant communities.

As early as 1979, the Los Angeles Police Department "ended direct collaboration with federal immigration authorities" (Macias Jr. 2019). Fast-forward to 2019, the City of Los Angeles also became a sanctuary city, essentially limiting law enforcement's involvement with ICE. Although the designation did not include any new immigration policies, it did align the city with the state's sanctuary law—The California Values Act of 2017 (Macias Jr 2019). Later in 2019, Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva issued a directive prohibiting ICE officials from entering county jails, courts, and police stations on immigration issues that are considered civil, non-criminal violations (Macias Jr. 2019). Recently, in September 2020, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors also banned the practice of transferring detained immigrants to federal authorities without a warrant, and in October 2020, the Board authorized a \$14 million settlement to immigrants wrongfully detained by the Sheriff's Department (County of Los Angeles 2020; Solis and Kuehl 2020). Additionally, Los Angeles has joined litigation in protection of undocumented immigrants – most recently for DACA recipients in August 2020 (County of Los Angeles Mark Ridley-Thomas Supervisor, Second District n.d.).

Some of the results from the November 2020 election cycle have also elevated the County's commitment to racial justice. On November 3, 2020, L.A. County voters passed Measure J or the "Alternatives to Incarceration Initiative," allocating at least 10 percent of the County's unrestricted funding to community investments, such as youth development and alternatives to incarceration, among other services, in an effort to address the disparate impacts of racial injustice (Chief Executive Office, County of Los Angeles 2020). The measure was then approved by the L.A. County Board of Supervisors. In addition, Angelenos elected George Gascon as L.A. County's District Attorney, who vowed to focus on criminal justice reform by reconfiguring the office and holding officers accountable for unjustified murders (Melley 2020). Gascon's platform—which breaks with a traditional focus on public safety—gained momentum with Angelenos following the wave of national protests incited by the murder of George Floyd.

The history of the City and County's proactivity in protecting immigrant families, coupled with investments and changes that address the impacts of racial injustice, have demonstrated their leadership and commitment in supporting its communities of color. Continuity and momentum in L.A. City and County's leadership will be of significant importance in the wake of a new administration. The

next section provides critical policy context that sheds light on the complexities of the immigration system that immigrants are forced to navigate, in many cases, without access to legal representation.

Expansion of Enforcement Targeting Immigrant Communities

An innovative program like LAJF may lead us to think that LA is responding to new immigration enforcement tactics. However, it is important to remember that harsh enforcement policies have been a feature of the U.S. immigration system for decades. As President Obama stepped into office in 2009, he inherited an already robust immigration enforcement infrastructure, legally and materially, built up by previous administrations and Congress authorized an increase in funding for immigration enforcement. As a result, there was an unprecedented increase in the number of undocumented individuals that were removed from the U.S. during Obama's presidency. Throughout the Obama administration, there was a significant shift to focus on removing individuals who had recently crossed the border and individuals that had been previously convicted of crimes (Chishti, Pierce, and Bolter 2017).

Under the Obama administration, over 3 million immigrants were removed, compared to over 2 million under the Bush administration and nearly 900,000 under the Clinton administration (Chishti et al. 2017). During fiscal year (FY) 2016, eighty-five percent of all removals and returns were of noncitizens who had recently entered the U.S. at the border; over ninety percent of the remaining individuals--those removed from the interior--had been convicted of a serious crime, according to the DHS's classification (Chishti et al. 2017).

In 2011, a practice known as the Consequence Delivery System (CDS) became more widely implemented by the Border Patrol along the entire U.S.-Mexico border. Introduced in 2005, CDS was meant to deter individuals from crossing the border by levying legal consequences, such as criminal charges, for unlawful entry (Chishti et al. 2017). Secure Communities, a Bush-era program that was enacted in his final days, which connected local fingerprint records of those arrested to federal databases accessed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and DHS, was functioning in all jails and prisons by 2013 (Chishti et al. 2017). In addition, in 2014, the Department of Justice (DOJ) under the Obama administration was criticized as it began using rocket docket, in response to the increase in recent arrivals (families with a child) and unaccompanied minors entering the U.S. on their own, to 'fast-track' immigration court cases (Srikantiah 2014).

The Trump administration brought about a series of policy shifts that significantly altered the U.S. immigration system. These included expanding the pool of immigrants who were subject to removal, altering immigration detention programs and practices, overstepping "sanctuary" policies, and encouraging local cooperation with ICE (Pierce and Bolter 2020). The Trump administration also built on the 'fast-track' approach by expanding the use of so-called rocket docket, implementing them in 10 cities across the nation in September of 2018. Moreover, they enacted stricter measures, such as requiring these cases to be completed in a year or less, and removed tools to assist immigrants in making their cases to remain in the U.S. (Pierce 2019).

In addition, the Trump administration has also passed a series of policies aimed at significantly reducing access to asylum for immigrants seeking protection from violence and persecution. Some of these policies included outright bans disqualifying individuals from eligibility for asylum if they have traveled through other countries; cooperative agreements that send individuals seeking asylum along the U.S.-

Mexico border to other countries; and pilot programs designed to speed the asylum process by keeping individuals seeking protection in holding cells to receive a decision within ten days instead of going through formal asylum procedures (American Immigration Lawyers Association 2020a). COVID-19 only empowered the implementation of more restrictive policies. For example, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention allowed the DHS to enact policies that would expel immigrants seeking asylum from entering the U.S. if there was a threat of exposure to the disease, ultimately halting asylum processes at the southern border (American Immigration Lawyers Association 2020a). These changes to immigration policy, coupled with systemic changes to immigration courts and appointments of immigration judges (discussed in the next few sections), will have long-lasting impacts for the immigrants navigating them.

Legal Representation is Key to Navigating the System

The immigration court system is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) EOIR and the DOJ is under the responsibility of the U.S. Attorney General (National Immigration Forum 2018). The EOIR consists of 69 administrative Immigration Courts and adjudication centers across the U.S. (Executive Office for Immigration Review 2020b). It also consists of the BIA, which reviews immigration cases that are appealed from the Immigration Courts. While the Attorney General has the power to overturn BIA rulings, for the most part it is not common (National Immigration Forum 2018). Immigration courts are civil administrative courts and therefore separate from the state and federal systems that prosecute criminal charges (National Immigration Forum 2018). Unlike individuals in the criminal court system, the federal government is not obliged to provide representation to immigrants in immigration court. As a result, those that are unable to afford it may not secure representation and face the risk of navigating court proceedings alone (Berberich and Siulc 2018).

At the national level, 23 percent of unrepresented detained immigrants and 13 percent of unrepresented immigrants who were never detained, obtained the relief they sought (Eagly and Shafer 2016). While access to counsel is critical, representation rates among immigrants vary, and many are unable to obtain representation. Research shows that representation rates can vary by court jurisdictions as immigrants with court hearings located in smaller cities are often less likely than immigrants with hearings located in larger cities, to obtain counsel (Eagly and Shafer 2016). In addition, disparities in representation rates are present for immigrants depending on their nationality. For example, an analysis of EOIR data from 2007 – 2012 showed that Mexican immigrants followed by Central American immigrants were among the largest groups to be in detention but also the least likely to access counsel (Eagly and Shafer 2016). The disparities in access to representation can also be attributed to other factors such as economic status and strength of social networks, which can support immigrants in finding counsel (Eagly and Shafer 2016)

Research shows that immigrants with legal representation fare better at every stage of the court process compared to those without it; they are more likely to be released from custody; and among those released, they are more likely to show up to their court hearings (Eagly and Shafer 2015). Still, free legal resources (including services from non-profit organizations, law school clinics, and law firms providing pro bono representation) for low-income immigrants are few and make up about 7 percent of representation in immigration court (Eagly and Shafer 2015). Overall, of all immigrants facing removal, only 2 percent of immigrants obtained legal representation from pro bono nonprofit organizations, law school clinics, and other volunteer programs. Drawing on national data of over 1.2 million immigration cases from 2007 to 2012, only 37 percent of all immigrants were represented (Eagly and Shafer 2015).

Among the detained cases, this number was only 14 percent. Moreover, among detained immigrants with representation, those with pro bono representation were even more likely to obtain relief, as compared to those with representation, in general.

New Obstacles for Access to Due Process

For some time, migrant advocates have championed for EOIR to become independent from the DOJ. Although, ideally, EOIR's aim is to be a neutral and fair arbiter of the law, it is difficult for the court system to fulfill that role as the DOJ is a prosecutorial agency and there is a lack of oversight generally and on the appointment of immigration judges (Chen 2020). Unlike federal judges that have lifetime tenure, immigration judges can be fired, making it easier for the courts to be susceptible to political influence. Over the course of the Trump administration, it has become increasingly clear that the immigration court system became a tool for the president and his administration to solidify his political agenda with both former Attorney Generals, Jeff Sessions and William Barr, who made controversial changes in the EOIR (American Immigration Lawyers Association 2020b; Chen 2020).

At the end of 2016 and the start of the Trump administration, there were 289 immigration judges, by October 2020, the number of immigration judges had ballooned to 520. In 2018 alone, the Trump administration hired 81 judges (Executive Office for Immigration Review 2020a). Human Rights First also released an analysis of immigration judges that were hired, revealing that 40 out of 78 immigration judges (at the time their analysis was released, in October 2018) were previously employed by DHS or were government attorneys in a different agency. In all, 88 percent of these hires had either worked for DHS or previously represented the government, as attorneys, at some level, and over one-third had no listed immigration law experience per their published biographies. An internal review conducted by the DOJ also published similar findings in that it was reported that 41 percent of current immigration judges were former DHS employees and 20 percent were former DOJ employees – and the Trump administration hiring practices were driving that number up (Human Rights First 2018).

The BIA is a significant body within the immigration system because it sets court precedents in its published decisions that immigration courts use in their rulings. In 2018, the Trump administration increased the number of BIA board members from 17 to 23 (Felipe de la Hoz 2020). In 2019, Attorney General Barr appointed the six new judges—many ultraconservative immigration hardliners. He also changed hiring practices such as foregoing the 2-year probation time and instead made appointees' status permanent (Misra 2019). For Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, the average asylum approval rate for these six new judges was less than 2.4 percent while the average asylum approval across non-BIA judges was 29 percent (Washington 2020). In 2018, only one of these judges had double digit asylum rate approvals (14.7 percent, with the second closest at 9.85 percent). In 2019, the highest grant approval was 5 percent among these judges. Judge Keith Hunsucker had 0 percent approval in both years (54 denials) while Judge William Cassidy had 0 percent approval in 2019 (and 40 denials) (Johnson 2019).

While these asylum approval rates reflect the decisions of these six judges, they are also a reflection of the approval rates for asylum cases across all judges. In recent years, asylum decisions have become an increasing share of cases heard in immigration court. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, immigration judges decided a record 67,406 asylum cases, nearly 2.5 times the number of cases from five years ago (Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) Immigration 2020c). While the number of immigrants who were granted asylum increased between FY 2014 and 2019, the number of immigrants who were denied asylum also increased from nearly 10,000 in FY 2014 to nearly 47,000 in FY 2019. By FY 2019, nearly 70 percent of asylum seekers were denied asylum or other forms of relief (Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) Immigration 2020c).

In July 2020, Attorney General Barr appointed a controversial pick as the Chief Immigration Judge, Tracy Short (Aleaziz 2020; Simpson 2020).¹⁵ Further, in 2020, the administration attempted to “buyout” or have nine former Democratic and Republican BIA appointees retire early, under the guise of a restructuring to make room on the BIA for differing skills (Misra 2020). None of these experienced appointees decided to opt out and retire or resign. Meanwhile, attacks to the immigration system continued, with the EOIR looking to make it more difficult to reopen court cases after an order of removal has been set in motion and severely restricting what counts for a valid delay or “continuance” in immigration court (Murdza 2020).

These changes within the upper ranks of the immigration system make it more difficult for immigrants to have a fair trial. On top of these changes, in August 2019, the DOJ began to attempt to strip immigration judges of the ability to unionize under the National Association of Immigration Judges (NAIJ), a federal union representing more than 400 employees at EOIR (Ogrysko 2020).¹⁶

What This Means for Los Angeles

Given the discussion above, it is certainly a comfort to immigrant rights activists and immigrant communities that the Trump administration has exited. Yet, as we step into a new administration, and one that pledges to prioritize humanity in the immigration system, it is important to understand the long-lasting impacts of changes to the courts and to patterns of ICE enforcement.

The prospect of dramatically reshaping the immigration under a new administration is hampered by the fact that there is a significant backlog of cases. In late 2016, pending decisions on immigration court cases numbered around 500,000 nationally (Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) Immigration 2018). By 2019, the estimate surpassed 1 million cases and it currently stands at over 1.2 million (Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) Immigration 2020a). Going into 2021, California has the second highest number of cases awaiting a decision, right behind Texas (Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) Immigration 2020a).

As of December 2020, there were 70,118 pending cases in the Los Angeles Immigration Court, 10,921 in the North Los Angeles Immigration Court, 23,414 in the Van Nuys Immigration Court, and 102 in Adelanto (Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) Immigration 2020a). To understand these numbers in relation to other counties, currently, San Francisco has 73,618 pending cases—the highest number of pending cases in the state followed by Los Angeles. The timelines described above are just for a court case to make it in front of the judge and therefore does not consider how much longer it takes for a final decision to be made from there.

Generally speaking, non-detained cases take longer than those for the detained population. In Fiscal Year 2019, the average number of days for cases to be completed for immigrants that were detained

¹⁵ Most recently, from January 2017 to June 2020, Short served first as the ICE Principal Lead Advisor and then Senior Advisor to the ICE acting director, where he led ICE prosecutors, and in August 2017 had sent a memo to ICE attorneys to not bypass anyone from immigration enforcement, among other controversial statements that signal partiality. See, <https://www.law360.com/articles/1289166/ex-ice-atty-tapped-as-chief-doj-immigration-judge>.

¹⁶ Despite arguing that immigration judges had managerial duties not had at the time of the 2000 ruling, the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) initially stood by its former decision again in July 2020. However, in November 2020, the FLRA, a board of three, two Republicans and one Democrat, in a 2-1 decision, reversed its early opinion and sided with the DOJ. See, <https://federalnewsnetwork.com/unions/2020/11/flra-to-decertify-union-representing-doj-immigration-judges/>.

was 46 days for non-review cases and 6 days for review¹⁷ cases (Executive Office for Immigration Review 2019). On the other hand, in Los Angeles, as of early 2021, it takes 1,025 days (nearly 3 years) on average for non-detained cases (all cases) to be completed or decided (Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) Immigration 2020b).

Throughout California, there are ten separate immigration courts. Yet, the San Francisco and Los Angeles courts have the largest pending caseloads. In Los Angeles County, there are three immigration courts and in neighboring San Bernardino, there is one, the Adelanto Immigration Court which opened in late 2012.¹⁸ In general, legal services are difficult to obtain in rural areas. The GEO Group, the owners and operators of Adelanto, with approval from DHS, have made it more difficult for detainees to seek legal representation and communicate with their lawyers. They have implemented new tactics and strategies such as setting high bonds, limiting privacy to make phone calls, making calls expensive, and denying parole, even if immigrants are eligible for bonds or parole (Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees 2020). Not to mention, it has long been known that the conditions in detention centers pose a threat to the health and wellbeing of those that are detained, and the COVID-19 pandemic only further confirmed that.

Fears of contracting the virus are present for those in detention centers, and although ICE has claimed to have begun testing as early as February 2020, the percentage of immigrants that had been tested was very low by the beginning of June 2020 (Center for Migration Studies 2020:19). The Vera Institute conducted a simulation estimating the prevalence of COVID-19 in detention centers, revealing that the data ICE has reported to the public may not be representative of the entirety of the spread of COVID-19 (Kuo et al. 2020). By Vera's estimates, 19 percent of all immigrants in detention centers between mid-March and mid-May 2020 would have contracted COVID-19, a figure 15 times higher than the number reported by ICE (Kuo et al. 2020)

Adelanto has been at the center of numerous lawsuits for failing to meet detention standards and in 2018, even the DHS' own inspector general found serious violations (U.S. Department of Homeland Security 2018). Between 2012 and 2016, the Adelanto detention center was among the top five immigration detention facilities with the highest number of recorded physical and sexual abuse cases in the U.S. (Freedom for Immigrants n.d.). Due to an outbreak of COVID-19 in Adelanto, in September of 2020, a judge ordered an immediate reduction in the number of individuals at the facility (City News Service 2020).

Immigration advocates have also reported that during the LAJF pilot, the DHS moved cases from the Bay Area to the Los Angeles region for several reasons – mostly surrounding limited attorney resources and strain on comprehensive legal services (Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees 2020). One example is early 2020, cases from the Mesa Verde Detention Center located in Bakersfield and assigned to the San Francisco courts were rerouted to Van Nuys (American Immigration Lawyers Association 2019). This placed many challenges on the ability of assisting attorneys to make court hearings 400 miles away to represent immigrant detainees.

Further, with more than 100,000 asylum cases pending in L.A. County, immigrants face a lower likelihood of receiving asylum in Los Angeles compared to the Bay Area. Asylum denial and approval

¹⁷ Non-review cases include removal, deportation, exclusion, asylum-only, and withholding-only cases. Review cases are credible fear reviews, reasonable fear reviews, and claimed status reviews. See, <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/page/file/1163621/download>.

¹⁸ The Adelanto Detention Center (opened in 2011), a privately operated ICE center, is also located there.

rates provided by Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) from EOIR reveal that in FY 2015-2020, among the 40 judges in the San Francisco/Sacramento courts, the average asylum approval rate was 61.7 percent.¹⁹ When considering only the two Los Angeles courts (those in the city), the average approval rate is 24.3 percent among 50 judges. In Van Nuys, there is one judge with an approval rate of 22.3 percent. Among the 11 Adelanto judges, the average approval rate is 22.7 percent.

Here in L.A. County, as of 2020, TRAC data shows that among court deportation cases initiated between 2001 and 2019, 77 percent of cases that were issued a removal order, were not represented.²⁰ By comparison, among cases that were initiated during that same time period and had legal representation, 18 percent were issued a removal order as of 2020.²¹ The outcomes of these court cases have a lasting impact for individuals, their families, friends, neighbors, employers, and employees; an outcome in which representation plays a critical role in.

In addition to this, an increase in asylum seekers at the southern border will likely impact L.A. County, as it is home to immigration courts and houses detained immigrants. A report by the Office of Immigration Statistics containing the outcomes of apprehensions at the border between 2014 and 2019, revealed a shift in demographics of immigrants arriving at the border, as of March 31, 2020, from a large number of individuals coming from Mexico, to larger numbers coming from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. In addition, the number of encounters at the border increased from a low of 417,000, to a high of 571,000 encounters between 2014 and 2018 (Rosenblum and Zhang 2020). By 2019, that number rose to 980,000 encounters. Moreover, in recent years, more immigrants arriving at the border are seeking asylum due to fears of returning to their home countries. In addition, there was a shift from adults traveling alone to parents and children traveling in family units as well as unaccompanied minors (Rosenblum and Zhang 2020).

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.

Initially LAJF, had a strict residency requirement; however, a County Board motion has since expanded the Fund to include separated families with ties to L.A. (California Community Foundation 2018). However, even with this expansion, many asylum seekers were excluded and funds from the California

¹⁹ Source: USC ERI calculations of average asylum approval rates in the San Francisco/Sacramento, Los Angeles, and Adelanto courts using EOIR data provided by Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC). Data can be accessed here, <https://trac.syr.edu/immigration/reports/judge2020/denialrates.html>.

²⁰ Source: Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, Syracuse University, trac.syr.edu, State and County Details on Deportation Proceedings in Immigration Court, <https://trac.syr.edu/phptools/immigration/nta/>. Data can also be accessed on the California Immigrant Data Portal, <https://immigrantdata.org/indicators/court-deportation-proceedings#/>.

²¹ Source: Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse.

Department of Social Services (CDSS) along with other organizations, were critical in supporting new arrivals. Moving forward, in mid-year bridge funding proposals, some LAJF grantees expressed that they are already anticipating an increased need for representation for immigrants seeking asylum who have been forced to wait at the border due to different immigration policies. Moreover, in the wake of a new administration, it has been reported that many immigrants are headed to the border in anticipation of a legalization program (Seung Min Kim 2021).

Lastly, it is also imperative to understand the policies under the Biden administration that will impact Los Angeles. Already this new administration has issued a 100-day deportation moratorium for immigrants in removal proceedings (U.S. Department of Homeland Security 2021). While we still have yet to observe how these changes will impact cases, and whether immigrants might have alternative options, the City and County have a chance to seize these opportunities. But in order to do so, continuous investment in the infrastructure of legal services is critical.

Looking Ahead after the Bridge Funding

So what is the future for the L.A. Justice Fund? This will depend on context, cost, and commitment. On the context, it is important to realize that yes, the Biden administration has already demonstrated proactivity on prioritizing immigrant rights by issuing a 100 day deportation moratorium and introducing the U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021, providing pathways to citizenship and protecting immigrant families (Pekoske 2021; U.S. Department of Homeland Security 2021). However, this new administration will still inherit the plethora of structural changes that Trump created to an already broken immigration system and challenges lie ahead, including the time it takes to implement legislative changes. Moreover, immigration enforcement still exists and will continue. While, the City and County have an opportunity to begin to invest in offensive work under a new administration, they must also continue their investment on defensive work, as it was under the Trump administration. This will be especially important since there will be hangovers of personnel and practices from the previous administration and a reality of fear in the community as the federal government will likely continue to use status as a qualifier to access aid, relief, education, and healthcare. Creative solutions at the local level, while temporary – such as the Angeleno Card launched out of the Mayor’s Fund or the Governor’s

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

“Losing funding for LAJF would be devastating to the Los Angeles immigrant community. The loss of this funding would impact existing and potential clients, both detained and non-detained. The immigrant community in Los Angeles would lose a lifeline that they have available if they ever find themselves in removal proceedings and unable to afford an attorney. Los Angeles city and county residents who find themselves detained at Adelanto will likely go unrepresented without the LAJF funding. It is no secret that individuals who are represented are more likely to succeed in their removal cases. Additionally, through this funding we are able to fight for our clients' releases and ensure that families are not torn apart for extended periods of time. The continued representation of our current clients whose cases are funded by LAJF would also be in jeopardy. Our organization will be left scrambling to find funding in order to maintain our current staffing and be able to continue representing these clients or be forced to continue working on the cases without compensation.”

Source: Information collected from bridge funding proposals submitted by CARECEN to the California Community Foundation in November 2020.

\$125 million relief fund – can help. But we will need to scale up from boutique interventions to the sort of massive and sustainable aid that is truly needed. In this sense, the Justice Fund not only needs to survive, it needs to expand to meet the current moment.

On the cost side of the equation, sustaining and expanding the Fund will depend on whether City, County, and philanthropic sponsors commit sufficient resources at scale. Measure J has opened up the possibility of exploring how resources can be allocated and utilized. In making the argument that this would be necessary, it will be important to understand the economic case for deportation defense by pointing to the economic contributions of immigrants that have sustained the City and County during a global pandemic, and the economic hardships that family separation creates. Hardships that can harm existing LAJF clients and many more immigrants awaiting representation, as emphasized by LAJF grantees. One thing that would be helpful is persuading business leaders to join the chorus of supporters.

It would be helpful for a more nuanced and realistic assessment of the current costs incurred. Even though it was initially proposed that LAJF grantees would receive \$10 million for the two-year pilot program with a benchmark of taking on 500 cases, as of January 2021, they had represented a total of 568 cases (including both pilot and mid-year bridge funding cases). In some cases, grantees have mentioned they have had to resort to supplemental money to continue working on their cases and meeting the day-to-day demands of cases (Nonprofit Finance Fund and California Community Foundation 2019). But still the relatively small number of cases can make the program seem like it was and will be expensive.

Yet, as noted in a superb review of the program by Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrant and Refugees (GCIR), dividing the total investment by the number of cases that funded attorneys took on for representation would be misleading, setting a per case cost of \$14,468 (\$7.9 million/546) (Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees 2020).²² A more accurate calculation would consider: First, only \$5 million of the \$7.9 million was allocated to direct legal services; the rest was allocated for administration and capacity building for the organizations providing the services. Second, legal screenings (at the time, 1,730 in total), which involve a substantial amount of work, can be a better indicator of the number of people served in totality, rather than cases taken up. If the number of legal screenings is used, the per person cost then stands at \$2,890 (\$5 million/1,730) (Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees 2020). In addition to this, in bridge funding proposals and while advocating for renewal of funding, many grantees estimated the actual costs per case. Their estimates accounted for numerous factors, including

Calculating Per Case Cost: A More Accurate Approach

A more accurate per case cost would factor in the legal screenings that were conducted. As of June 30, 2020, during the pilot phase of the program, a minimum of 1,730 legal intakes were conducted. **A more accurate calculation of the per person cost of the program is \$2,890, if the entirety of the time and work that goes into these cases is considered.** This number is calculated by dividing the \$5 million that were allocated to direct representation by the total number of legal intakes conducted at the time (1,730).

Source: *Proposal for the Los Angeles Immigrant Community Legal Defense Program, 2020*, Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees.

²² The case specific numbers used to calculate the per case cost in GCIR's report reflect the most recent numbers at the time. Since then, these case specific numbers have changed.

the costs to provide quality representation, the total amount of renewed funding provided, and the need for funding for existing cases. Additionally, it is imperative to understand that the sole act of providing representation, regardless of the outcome, is a success in and of itself, as immigrants are able to navigate challenging processes with their family and community.

And while one might look at the operation during the mid-year bridge funding and point to the low number of new cases and case outcomes, it must be reviewed in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, the uncertainty of funding which led agencies to be cautious about taking on new cases, and the desire of agencies to ensure full representation of the cases that remain to be fully adjudicated. LAJF grantees expressed numerous concerns regarding the impact of removing the Fund, including the challenges in maintaining LAJF-funded staff and in maintaining the organizational infrastructure that has been built to support immigrants in removal defense. An additional cost consideration: how much more costly would it be to discontinue the Fund, only to have to re-instate the Fund in the future, especially as immigration policy is ever-changing?

And this gets us to the need for commitment. The per-case exercise above is useful but incomplete as it sets aside one of the important impacts of the Fund: the commitment made to build up an entire ecosystem of legal defense that will be sustainable into the future. The maturation and integration of the immigrant-serving infrastructure, much of which was funded by philanthropy, remains an important achievement.

Realizing the full benefits of the upfront investments from LAJF's pilot phase will require continuing forward with both expansion and reform. A long term, coordinated approach to support immigrants who are at risk of deportation is necessary. Ultimately, a stronger, better coordinated, comprehensive, and well-resourced immigration legal service ecosystem will allow Los Angeles to navigate the forthcoming changes in law, policy, procedures, and courts.

In our view, as the City, County, and philanthropy evaluate the Fund's pilot phase as well as bridge funding performance, and consider next steps moving forward, there are ten key lessons to take into account:

Voices on the Ground: Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)

“If LAJF support ends, our Removal Defense program would be greatly impacted. Since the program is still relatively new, its main sources of funding have only been from the California Department of Social Services and the Los Angeles Justice Fund. The past year, the bridge funding has been instrumental in allowing us to continue working on cases started and retained under the Los Angeles Fund. CHIRLA continues to build its capacity to diversify funding and seek sustainability of programs like these impacting our immigrant community. Aside from core support grants and individual giving, our development team continues to maintain and strengthen our legal department through new sources of funding. However, grants like the LAJF, specifically created and aligned with specialized legal services like what our Removal Defense Unit provides, are not traditionally funded by philanthropy. The local foundation partnership funds received under this grant helped bridge the gap not covered by City and County funding. Having support that allowed us more flexibility made it possible for our attorneys and advocates to continue the work which is often long term and requires greater attention and follow-up.

Information collected from bridge funding proposals submitted by CHIRLA to the California Community Foundation in November 2020.

- 1. LAJF responded to a clear and urgent need.** Across the County, 60 percent of children have at least one immigrant parent and 18 percent of Angelenos are either undocumented or living with someone who is. Moreover, among all households with an undocumented member, 49 percent of the aggregate household income comes from those undocumented wage earners. Because such a large share of L.A. County is undocumented or living with someone who is, deportations tend to harm not just immigrants but families, friends, neighbors, employers, and employees, and overall, disrupt the social and economic safety net of L.A. City and County. A robust defense of immigrant rights is necessary for the overall well-being of the region.
- 2. LAJF had its clear successes for people and families.** The Fund strengthened L.A. City and County's safety net by screening a minimum of 2,047 individuals for available legal remedies, accepting 568 cases for representation, and completing 90 clients' cases during the pilot phase, as well as 4 cases during the mid-year bridge funding phase that resulted in a positive outcome. These numbers translate to more immigrants being able to remain in the U.S., contributing to their communities, and for more families to stay intact. For immigrants whose cases remain unresolved or whose outcome was unfavorable, the fact that these individuals were legally represented, and were able to remain united with their families and communities in the process, is a success in and of itself. 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.
- 3. LAJF has and can continue to support some of the most vulnerable immigrants who may not have otherwise been represented.** While there were some limitations to the design of the Fund, LAJF grantees were nevertheless able to assist some of the most marginalized immigrants facing deportation proceedings—such as unaccompanied minors, victims of domestic violence, immigrants seeking asylum, immigrants in detention, and LGBTQ+ immigrants—with adequate representation and support to ensure that they have access to due process.
- 4. LAJF significantly bolstered the County's deportation defense infrastructure.** As important and inspirational as individual case histories and family survival stories may be, it is also clear that the broader deportation defense ecosystem was strengthened and became more integrated as a result of public and private investment. For example, LAJF grantees played an important role in coordinating and creating resources for attorneys navigating tumultuous policy changes and expanding the capacity of legal service provision in the City and County. This part of the equation was largely funded by philanthropic partners, making the actual service delivery less expensive in terms of public spending – and this infrastructure is an investment worth preserving.
- 5. LAJF is still needed despite the shift in presidential administration.** It is tempting to think that a new administration will bring rapid and welcome change. But the lack of representation in immigration courts has been a decades-long challenge. There will also be significant hangovers – for example, the Trump administration nearly doubled the number of immigration judges, including many former government prosecutors. Due to the concerted efforts to fill immigration courts with judges likely to deny asylum relief, these dynamics will continue to play a role in the daily practices of courts and agencies for years to come. And given the razor thin majorities in the House and Senate, it will still be difficult to pass more permanent and comprehensive solutions in the short term.

- 6. LAJF is a program that benefits all Angelenos and as such, should provide representation to all immigrant Angelenos.** As noted in an accompanying analysis by Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR), similar to publicly-funded housing, not every City and County resident will need or use public defenders, but these are commitments that local governments make to maintain a safety net for low-income and other vulnerable residents. LAJF should be seen and explained to the public in this light. Because LAJF should be seen as a program that benefits all, it should also be inclusive of all immigrant Angelenos, in particular, some of the most vulnerable undocumented Angelenos: those with former criminal convictions. Given what we know of overcriminalization – and particularly in light of the racial reckoning of the past year – this constraint on program performance contributed to a low volume of new cases acquired over time. For example, it takes substantial time and resources to even determine a client’s eligibility before taking their case, and in the process, many immigrants are filtered out. While many legal intakes were conducted, (a minimum of 2,047 as of January 2021), only 568 cases were ultimately represented.
- 7. LAJF grantees have open cases that will take years to resolve, some until 2024.** The complex nature of deportation cases, as well as the Trump administration’s policies, coupled with the impact of COVID-19, have created a severe backlog in processing times. City and County funding are allocated primarily to direct representation; eliminating future funding has the potential to disrupt these ongoing cases, by straining the capacity of non-LAJF attorneys who have to take on additional cases or by closing open cases, ultimately negatively impacting the outcomes for the immigrants represented. The potential possibility of closing all open cases would result in catastrophic public policy failure. A realistic approach to the issue starts with an understanding of the lengthy nature of these cases and the structural barriers that immigrants face in navigating immigration court, as well as a commitment to multi-year funding.
- 8. LAJF would benefit greatly from public institutionalization but funders need to stay involved.** Funders often support pilot projects with the hope that they will ultimately be supported and institutionalized by the public sector. While such evolution is important, funders are civic leaders and community conveners who can help to provide coordination and conversation in ways often more nimble than public sector actors. As such, they need to stay involved.
- 9. LAJF would benefit from uniform and centralized data collection.** 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. Investing in non-attorney staff to focus on data collection can help facilitate the data collection process and improve the quality of data and ensure a better understanding of the benefits and limitations of the program.
- 10. LAJF, while a crucial investment, is just one part of the broader commitment to immigrant integration that should be expanded to respond to changes that emerge at the federal level, including affirmative immigration relief.** As a new administration transitions in, Los Angeles City and County, containing a large share of undocumented immigrants, must be ready to respond to any federal changes. In addition, the issues facing L.A.’s immigrant communities are myriad, meaning there is a need to pursue other complementary efforts, like promoting naturalization, supporting small business, protecting worker rights, providing culturally appropriate access to

healthcare, and so much more. A multi-million dollar investment from the City and County for broader, flexible funding for the region, across a range of issues impacting immigrant communities like that promoted by One California,²³ is needed to exemplify the City and County's commitment to supporting its immigrant community in policy and budget allocations, with deportation defense being the bedrock.

As we have stressed in this report, representation plays a critical role in shaping the outcomes of Angelenos facing deportation proceedings, making the difference between family separation, a phenomenon known to create irreparable ripple effects, or family unity. Due to barriers associated with immigration status, language access, and socioeconomic status, undocumented immigrants and in particular, those that face multiple barriers, have access to very few, if any, resources. The COVID-19 pandemic has shed light on these inequities that were already present and further exacerbated.

LAJF's 2-year pilot phase and bridge funding phase, provided an investment of \$9.8 million that strengthened the safety net of L.A. County and shaped a robust deportation defense infrastructure. While improvements to LAJF are possible and likely to occur as a result of the learnings from the pilot and bridge phases of the Fund: learnings from challenges like complex residency requirements, exclusions based on former criminal convictions, and the short-term nature of funding. Expanding on the success – rather than stepping away from the program – seems like an appropriate strategy for the future. A strategy that should lean on the program redesign proposed by GCIR, as well as dialogue with immigrants, in particular those in most dire need, and immigrant-serving organizations. GCIR's proposal for a legal defense program that accounts for the actual costs of representation, highlights the need to fund staff capacity, and recognizes the multiple supports required to not only represent clients but to also sustain organizational infrastructure, set the program budget at nearly \$40 million (Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees 2020). \$40 million allocated over 4 years, with the promise of continuing funding will likely eliminate some of the uncertainty that led organizations to be reluctant to expand their client rosters.

As the City and County assess their next steps, it should recognize the scale of the continuing need, as well as the opportunity to continue to lead California and the rest of the nation on immigrant integration, including efforts to promote naturalization, small business development, language access, and defense against deportation. While continuing to invest in defensive work, in particular deportation defense, the City and County have an opportunity to also begin investing in offensive work, in light of some of the pledges of the new administration. Additionally, L.A. City and County are positioned to lead in beginning a collective process of healing and trust for undocumented immigrants who call Los Angeles home. The ability to help immigrants remain in the U.S., and in some cases, adjust status, should be deemed an essential service facilitated by the City and County. Maintaining and expanding the resources that have already been created for such a vulnerable community that contributes so much but is given so little in return, is critical for the collective wellbeing of Los Angeles at a time when our recovery from

²³ One California, established in the 2015-2016 budget, is a state funded program that supports free immigration services for naturalization, affirmative immigration relief, legal representation for immigrants in deportation proceedings, legal services for veterans who have been deported, and capacity-building for immigrant-serving organizations located in underserved regions. See, <https://caimmigrant.org/what-we-do/one-california-immigrant-services-funding/>.

a global pandemic has taught us not to look back but rather look forward with racial equity as a guiding principle

Attachment A: Grantee Mid-Year Bridge Funding Client Stories

This attachment includes additional stories, not included in the report, provided by LAJF grantees to the California Community Foundation in their extension period reports submitted on January 2021, highlighting the complexities and challenges that immigrants face as they navigate immigration courts.

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.

Bet Tzedek Legal Services Halts the Deportation of “David,” an Unaccompanied Minor

“David” has never met his father, and as a gravely sick four-month-old infant, his mother left him in his grandmother’s care. In 2017, at the age of 18, David was designated as an unaccompanied minor by Customs and Border Protection (CBP), prompting his release into his aunt and uncle’s care. In August 2018, after having lived in the U.S. for only a year and speaking very little English, David received two notices, which were not directed to his sponsors directly, as is required by law. After seeking guidance from numerous nonprofits, he was unable to secure representation or afford a private attorney. During this time, David’s notices had not been interpreted into Spanish, and without proper legal guidance, he understood that without an attorney, he risked deportation straight from court. In October of 2018, David and his family reached out to Bet Tzedek for help. While Bet Tzedek’s advocates appealed to the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), he still received a final removal order. The team, however, submitted an appeal and were successful in halting the deportation pending appeal, protecting David, as they await the decision on the motion to reopen his case.

Source: Story collected through a mid-year report submitted to CCF by Bet Tzedek Legal Services on January 2021.
Note: Clients named was changed for confidentiality purposes.

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.

Class Action Litigation and Attorney Advocacy Result in a Client’s Release from Adelanto

Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project represented an undocumented client who has been living in the U.S. since he was a child. He was the victim of domestic violence committed by his U.S. citizen spouse with whom he has a daughter. He was recently released from detention in Adelanto due to COVID-19. At the point of his release, the client had been detained for approximately 15-16 months. Despite his strong ties to the community and not presenting a danger, the immigration judge denied bond completely. While in detention, his application for cancellation of removal, on the basis of being a battered spouse, was repeatedly delayed by the immigration court. His detention was prolonged for approximately 4 additional months until his case was reassigned to another immigration judge who unjustly denied his application. An additional 3 months passed while on appeal before class action litigation and individual attorney advocacy resulted in his release from Adelanto for reasons related to COVID-19. He is now reunited with his daughter and the rest of his family while his appeal remains pending with the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Source: Story collected through a mid-year report submitted to CCF by Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project on January 2021.

Public Counsel Secures Law Permanent Residency for Client, Under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

Through the most recent LAJF funding period (July 2020 – Present), Public Counsel won relief under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) for an LAJF client for whom they had previously won release from immigration custody. The client survived extreme cruelty in her marriage to a U.S. citizen, and Public Counsel filed a VAWA self-petition on her behalf. That petition was approved in July 2020. From there, Public Counsel proceeded to file for the client's adjustment of status application with immigration court, and negotiate with the government attorney to a stipulation of relief. In October 2020, the immigration judge granted their client's adjustment of status application and the client is now a lawful permanent resident of the U.S.

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

USC Gould School of Law Immigration Prepares a Motion to Re-Open the Case of a Family with Final Removal Orders

Using pilot bridge funding, USC Gould School of Law Immigration Clinic represented a family with a final removal order who were unrepresented when they were issued a removal order by an immigration judge. They were ordered removed in absentia because the mother took her son to a dialysis appointment instead of attending the court hearing. Her son suffers from complete kidney failure - a condition that likely could have been avoided had the family sought medical care at an earlier date. The mother was fearful of doing so due to lack of resources and lack of legal immigration status. USC Gould School of Law Immigration Clinic is preparing a motion to reopen removal proceedings that would allow the family to pursue asylum claims. They are also working with a physician, social worker, and therapist at the Children's Hospital Los Angeles to provide comprehensive services to the family but to also provide documentation for the motion to reopen.

Source: Story collected through a mid-year report submitted to CCF by USC Gould School of Law Immigration Clinic on January 2021.

Voices on the Ground: COVID-19 Delays Case Processing

“The COVID-19 pandemic has personally affected some of our clients. One client lost a family member to COVID-19, severely impacting their ability to collect important documents for their trial. Our attorneys had to file a motion to continue, asking immigration court to extend the timeline on the case, and it was granted. Other clients have been infected with the disease, delaying document and signature gathering which in turn delays their case.” - CHIRLA

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

Voices on the Ground: USC Gould School of Law Immigration Clinic

Pilot bridge funding was used to support the ongoing representation of the clients we took on during the pilot phase of funding. We were not obligated to take on new cases during the bridge funding period and were hesitant to do so because of funding uncertainties and the long-term nature of most removal cases and Ninth Circuit appeals.

Source: Information collected through a mid-year report submitted to CCF by USC Gould School of Law Immigration Clinic on January 2021.

Voices on the Ground: Public Counsel’s Clients Experience Hardship During COVID-19

“Our L.A.J.F. clients have experienced extreme instability due to the pandemic. This reporting period, we provided extensive support to an L.A.J.F. family of 4, to keep them housed, help them access emergency public funds, and advocate for their work permits (despite the impossibility of securing photo identifications for the children due to school closures) to help keep them stable and safe, as they await proceedings before the immigration court.”

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

Voices on the Ground: CHIRLA Rushes to file Employment Authorization Applications to Comply with DHS Changes

On August 25th, the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) regulatory provision stated that USCIS has 30 days from the date an asylum applicant files an initial Application for Employment Authorization (EAD) to grant or deny that initial EAD. This further increases the already long wait for an EAD. A 365-day waiting period will apply to individuals who mail their initial EAD applications on or after August 25, 2020, even if they already filed their asylum application and the 150-day waiting period under the prior regulations lapsed before that date. On September 11, 2020, a district court judge issued a preliminary injunction in *CASA v. Wolf*, preventing the government from enforcing certain parts of the August 21, 2020 and August 25, 2020 EAD regulations on members of two organizational plaintiffs, the Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP) and Casa de Maryland. As a result, CHIRLA had to rush to file 92 employment authorization applications before the change on August 25th, 2020.

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

Attachment B: Grantee Mid-Year Bridge Funding Grantee Remarks

This attachment includes additional remarks, not included in the report, provided by LAJF grantees to the California Community Foundation in their extension period reports submitted on January 2021 that shed light on the impact of removing the Fund.

Voices on the Ground: Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project

“If funding for LAJF was no longer available to Esperanza our organization would struggle financially to pay the salaries of employees who work on these cases. We would still have a legal obligation to the clients, but we would have no funds to support this. Other funding for representation work is limited and would not cover the cost of the LAJF cases. Funding that our organization receives for community education programs could not support staffing for the LAJF cases. LAJF enabled Esperanza to expand its representation capacity - specifically to those in detention and to families. If LAJF funding was no longer available the infrastructure built to support the most vulnerable immigrants would be threatened.”

Voices on the Ground: Immigrant Defenders Law Center

“Without the LAJF funding, we would not be able to sustain our current staffing infrastructure to serve the most vulnerable and ignored in our community. LAJF has also created a crucial network of legal service providers that are dedicated in serving those who are detained and otherwise has no access to attorneys to represent them in their removal proceedings. It is crucial that both the City and County of Los Angeles continue to stand along our immigrant community as they will continue to be detained and deported even during the new administration. Eliminating the fund would be the wrong stance for our local government to make, when so much of the County and City rely on our immigrant communities.”

Voices on the Ground: Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA)

“It would place a tremendous strain on services because all existing cases would need to be absorbed by staff attorneys working under other grants. It would also decrease the number of individuals that would receive desperately needed representation for their immigration cases.”

Voices on the Ground: USC Gould School of Law, Immigration Clinic

“We created a staff attorney position based on the original LAJF pilot funding and have maintained the staff attorney position with LAJF pilot bridge funding. If LAJF funding is no longer available, we can maintain current positions through June 30, 2020. We are always exploring other funding sources. We may be able to maintain the staff attorney position with new funding sources, but will likely shift the focus of the legal representation away from removal defense and appeals.”

Voices on the Ground: Asian American Advancing Justice – LA (AAAJ)

“Most, if not all, of our LAJF cases are now legacy cases which were retained 2+ years ago. If they began as detained cases, they are now all in non-detained proceedings and all of their hearings have been administratively reset / continued by EOIR in the last year as a result of COVID-19 impact.”

Methodological Appendix

This brief reports case activity data based on the USC Equity Research Institute's analysis of mid-year bridge funding case activity data submitted by the 11 LAJF grantees to CCF on January 2021. This brief also reports case activity data through Quarter 10 of the pilot phase of LAJF (through June 30, 2020), from an analysis by the Vera Institute of Justice submitted to CCF. The numbers we present for the mid-year bridge funding reporting period (22 cases) are based on a sub-sample, but we expect they are as accurate as the overall sample. Our subsample comes from a total sample of 755 cases that included new and existing cases and eligible and ineligible clients. We must acknowledge that because of missing case data due to incomplete documentation, our findings on the aggregate numbers screened, for example, may be downward biased meaning that they are lower than they really are. There is another missing data issue: not all variables were collected for all cases. However, this should not bias our results as long as the gaps in for which, for example, data on the length of time in the U.S. are random. There is no reason to assume that they are not random and we are confident in the descriptive statistics with regard to case composition (for both the pilot and bridge period) that we offer in this report.

In cases where enough data was reported, we aggregated mid-year bridge funding data to existing pilot phase data provided by Vera. This was the case for the following variables: legal intakes, new or existing cases, and funding source. Below we provide additional details on how the data for these variables was calculated. Additionally, we provide details on the data provided by Vera for these variables, during the pilot phase of the Fund.

Legal Intakes

The total number of cases and number of legal intakes were calculated by aggregating data reported by grantees in the qualitative mid-year bridge funding reports received on January 2021, to the data reported by CCF in their Los Angeles Justice Fund, Extension Year, Quarter 2 Quarterly Report. During the pilot phase of LAJF (as of June 30, 2020), a total of 1,859 individuals had been screened, including legal consultations and referrals. Through the mid-year bridge funding reporting period, LAJF grantees conducted an additional 188 legal intakes for a cumulative total of 2,047. Due to differences in reporting intakes during the mid-year bridge funding, we want to highlight that these numbers are likely underreported. Organizations have expressed that given the uncertainty of ongoing funding and their existing cases, they focused their efforts on maintaining their existing caseloads.

New or Existing Case

To determine whether a case was existing, meaning the case was acquired during the pilot phase of LAJF, or new, meaning the case was acquired during the mid-year bridge funding period, we looked at the files that LAJF grantees submitted. Existing and new case information was submitted separately, and were easily distinguished. During the mid-year bridge funding reporting period, we estimated a total of 22 new cases. This number was added to the total number of cases (546) Vera reported for the pilot phase of LAJF. In total, for the pilot and mid-year bridge funding phases, 568 cases were represented by LAJF grantees.

Funding Source

To determine the funding source, we looked at the "Funding Source" variable. For the 22 cases acquired during mid-year bridge funding phase, only 16 cases had indicated a funding source (7 were funded by the City and 9 were funded by philanthropy), no data was reported for this variable for 6 cases. The numbers we estimated were added to the numbers Vera had presented in their Quarter 10 report. Vera reported 262 cases funded by the City, 269 cases funded by the County, and 15 cases funded by

philanthropy. In total, for the pilot and mid-year bridge funding phase, 269 cases were funded by the City (48 percent), 269 cases were funded by the County (48 percent), and 15 cases were funded by philanthropy (4 percent).

Eligibility

To determine eligibility, we looked at “Case Closeout Reason” and by looking at the “Accepted for Direct Representation” variable to determine whether an individual was accepted for LAJF representation. During the mid-year bridge funding reporting period, a total of 26 cases were reported; however, 4 were ineligible for representation and were not counted in the total number of cases that were acquired during this period.

Due to limitations with the dataset, missing data, and differences in methodologies, data for the pilot and mid-year bridge funding phases are reported separately for the following variables: case status, initially detained and later released from detention, adult and child representation, removal/affirmative cases, cases with appeals, positive outcome allowing immigrants to remain in the U.S., average time in the U.S., share of clients living in the U.S. for more than a decade, total number of countries that clients originated from, the top five countries of origin, and share of clients with an identified vulnerability. Below we provide additional details on how the data for these variables was calculated. Additionally, we provide details on the data provided by Vera for these variables during the pilot phase of the Fund.

Case Status

Due to inconsistencies in the way in which data was reported, we utilized multiple variables in the dataset to ultimately determine case status. For some entries, the “Current Case Status” variable was enough to determine the case status. For other entries, we utilized “Case Close Out Date,” “Close out reason,” “Date of Disposition Application,” or “Date of Release from Detention,” to determine case status. Some cases indicated they were in the final process of closing; hence, they were listed as closed in our dataset. Other cases had no indication of status and were listed as “open.” In some instances, some cases were transferred to a different organizational grant and were listed as “closed” in our dataset. For the 22 cases acquired during the mid-year bridge funding phase, 17 of the cases remain open and 5 of the cases were closed. The numbers we estimated were reported separately from the numbers Vera reported during the pilot phase of LAJF due to possible differences in methodology. For example, Vera reported case status by client and not by case. In their reporting, 544 people were represented in 546 cases (two individuals have two cases that were represented by different grantees in each case). Per Vera’s estimates, 421 clients have open cases and 90 clients’ cases were completed.

Initially Detained and Later Released from Detention

To determine whether a client had initially been detained and later released from detention, we looked at the “Initial Case Custody” variable to determine whether they were detained or not detained. From there, we looked at “Parole Granted,” “Released due to COVID,” “Date of Release from Detention” variables to determine whether clients were granted parole, were released due to COVID-19 or had indicated a release date. During the mid-year bridge funding reporting period, 5 cases involved individuals who had been initially detained, with the remaining 17 being non-detained. Due to missing data, we were unable to determine whether these 5 cases were detained and later released. The numbers we estimated were reported separately from the numbers Vera reported during the pilot phase of LAJF due to possible differences in methodology. Vera reported 151 clients being initially detained and 71 clients being initially detained and later released.

Adult and Child Representation

Due to the amount of missing data and differing reporting, with some organizations reporting adult/child case and removal/other as the “Initial Case Type,” our estimates utilized the “birth date” variable to determine each client’s age, and in turn classify them as “adult” or “children.” If the individual was 18 or younger, the case was designated as “child representation.” If the individual was 19 or older, their case was designated as “adult representation.” During the mid-year bridge funding reporting period, 14 (64 percent) of the cases were listed as “child representation,” with the remaining 8 listed as “adult representation.” The numbers we estimated were reported separately from the numbers Vera reported during the pilot phase of LAJF due to possible differences in methodology. Vera reported a total of 186 (34 percent) children that were represented and 358 (66 percent) adults that were represented.

Removal/Affirmative Cases

Data for this variable was missing for all 22 cases acquired during the mid-year bridge funding reporting period. No data was reported for this variable. During the LAJF pilot phase, Vera reported a total of 48 affirmative cases.

Cases with Appeals

For this measure we utilized the “Appeal Forum” variable. No data was reported for this variable due to missing data for all 22 cases acquired during the mid-year bridge funding reporting period. During the LAJF pilot phase, Vera reported a total of 45 cases with appeals.

Positive Outcome Allowing Individuals to Remain in the U.S. and Successful Outcomes

To determine whether clients were issued an outcome allowing them to remain in the U.S., we looked at the “Case Closeout Reason,” “Outcome of Final IJ Disposition,” and “Current Case Status.” If the case indicated “LPR cancellation,”²⁴ “Relief Granted,” or “Granted” we classified it as a positive outcome, meaning individuals were able to remain in the U.S. If the case indicated “Removed” or “Voluntary Departure” it was classified otherwise and cases with a pending outcome were excluded. During the mid-year bridge funding reporting period, 4 cases were classified with an outcome allowing individuals to remain in the U.S. and 1 case was classified with an outcome that did not allow an individual to remain in the U.S. During the LAJF pilot phase, Vera reported a total of 51 clients (57 percent of completed cases) with a successful outcome. Per Vera’s definition, a successful outcome was one which immigrants were able to remain in the U.S.

Average Time in the U.S.

When time in the U.S. was not provided, this information was coded as missing. During the mid-year bridge funding reporting period, only 12 cases indicated the time spent in the U.S. 10 individuals had been living in the U.S. for less than 10 years, one individual had been living in the U.S. for 11-20 years, and one individual had been living in the U.S. for 21-30 years. Due to the amount of missing data, we reported an average of time spent in the U.S. For this sample, the average time spent in the U.S. was 7 years. During the LAJF pilot phase, Vera reported the number of years clients had been living in the U.S.; however, this measure reported only those for adult clients in the sample. Of the 358 adults

²⁴ Note: LPR cancellation was listed as a positive outcome. LPR cancellation means that LPR’s removal order due to a former criminal conviction was withdrawn. See, <https://www.ilrc.org/eligibility-relief-cancellation-removal-permanent-residents-ina-%C2%A7-240aa>

represented by LAJF during the pilot phase, data on the number of years clients had been living in the U.S. was only available for 228 clients. Based on this sample, the average time spent in the U.S. was 14 years, with 55 percent of clients having lived in the U.S. for more than a decade.

Country of Origin

The country of origin was reported for all 22 cases acquired during the mid-year bridge funding reporting period. The 5 countries that clients originated from (listed in order of frequency): El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nigeria. During the LAJF pilot phase, Vera reported 32, as the total number of countries that clients originated from, with the top five countries being: Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico, Honduras, and Cambodia.

Vulnerabilities

During the mid-year bridge funding reporting period, 20 cases (or 91 percent) identified at least one vulnerability, but typically more than one vulnerability was indicated. 13 cases indicated seeking asylum and others (e.g., victimization, disabilities, has dependent with disability/significant medical needs). 7 cases indicated others (as those listed prior) but did not include asylum seeker as a leading vulnerability or at all. During the LAJF pilot phase, Vera also reported that 91 percent of clients indicated a vulnerability, including seeking asylum or fear-based protections, victimization, disability, unaccompanied child, homelessness, and having dependents with disabilities or medical needs.

References

- Abramsky, Sasha. 2020. "Angeleno Card Helps to Fill in Aid Gap for L.A.'s Neediest." Retrieved August 3, 2020 (<https://capitalandmain.com/angeleno-card-aid-gaps-los-angeles-poorest-0514>).
- Akio-Woodhouse, Leighton. 2017. "Deportation Legal Defense Funds Move to Distinguish Between 'Good' and 'Bad' Immigrants." *The Intercept*, April 5.
- Aleaziz, Hamed. 2020. "A Top Immigration Court Official Called for Impartiality In A Memo He Sent as He Resigned." *BuzzFeed News*, July 3.
- American Immigration Lawyers Association. 2019. "Featured Issue: EOIR's Decision to Transfer Mesa Verde Detention Facility Cases to Van Nuys Immigration Court." Retrieved December 18, 2020 (<https://www.aila.org/advo-media/issues/all/eoir-mesa-verde-van-nuys>).
- American Immigration Lawyers Association. 2020a. "Featured Issue: Border Processing and Asylum." Retrieved January 8, 2021 (<https://www.aila.org/advo-media/issues/all/featured-issue-border-processing-and-asylum>).
- American Immigration Lawyers Association. 2020b. "Trump Administration Makes Immigration Courts an Enforcement Tool by Appointing Prosecutors to Lead." Retrieved December 18, 2020 (<https://www.aila.org/advo-media/press-releases/2020/trump-administration-makes-immigration-courts-an-e>).
- Berberich, Karen, and Nina Siulc. 2018. "Why Does Representation Matter? The Impact of Legal Representation in Immigration Court."
- Bouza, Johayra, Daisy E. Camacho-Thompson, Gustavo Carlo, Ximena Franco, Cynthia Garcia Coll, Linda C. Halgunseth, Amy Marks, Gabriela Livas Stein, Carola Suarez-Orozco, and Rebecca M. B. White. 2018. "The Science Is Clear: Separating Families Has Long-Term Damaging Psychological and Health Consequences for Children, Families, and Communities."
- California Community Foundation. 2017. "LAJF Reporting Guidelines."
- California Community Foundation. 2018. "L.A. Justice Fund Grantee Convening."
- California Community Foundation. 2019a. "L.A. Justice Fund." Retrieved October 3, 2019 (<https://www.calfund.org/lajusticefund/>).
- California Community Foundation. 2019b. "Los Angeles Justice Fund Fourth Quarterly Report."
- California Community Foundation. 2020a. "GCIR LAJF Question & Answer."
- California Community Foundation. 2020b. "L.A. Justice Fund Grants Allocations."
- California Community Foundation. 2020c. "Los Angeles Justice Fund Extension Year, Quarter 1 Quarterly Report."

- California Community Foundation. 2020d. "Los Angeles Justice Fund Extension Year, Quarter 2 Quarterly Report."
- Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. 2020. "TPS Terminations: Understanding the 9th Circuit's Ramos Decision and How It Affects TPS Clients."
- Center for Migration Studies. 2020. *Immigrant Detention and COVID-19: How a Pandemic Exploited and Spread Through the U.S. Immigrant Detention System.*
- Chen, Gregory. 2020. "The Urgent Need to Restore Independence to America's Politicized Immigration Courts." *Just Security*. Retrieved December 18, 2020 (<https://www.justsecurity.org/73337/the-urgent-need-to-restore-independence-to-americas-politicized-immigration-courts/>).
- Chief Executive Office, County of Los Angeles. 2020. "Alternatives to Incarceration Initiative." Retrieved January 12, 2020 (<https://ceo.lacounty.gov/measurej/#:~:text=On%20November%203%2C%202020%2C%20the,dvelopment%2C%20job%20training%2C%20small%20business>).
- Chiland, Elijah. 2016. "LA Moves Closer to Legalizing Street Vending." *Curbed Los Angeles*. Retrieved January 8, 2021 (<https://la.curbed.com/2016/12/13/13930850/street-vending-los-angeles-carts-stands-sidewalk-trump>).
- Chishti, Muzaffar, Sarah Pierce, and Jessica Bolter. 2017. "The Obama Record on Deportations: Deporter in Chief or Not?" *The Online Journal of the Migration Policy Institute: Migration Information Source*.
- City News Service. 2020. "ICE Ordered to Reduce Population at Adelanto Immigrant Detention Center Hit by COVID-19." *The Los Angeles Times*, September 30.
- City of Long Beach. 2019. "City Announces SAFE Cities Grant from the Vera Institute of Justice and Selection of a Legal Services Provider to Initiate the Long Beach Justice Fund." Retrieved February 1, 2021 (<http://longbeach.gov/press-releases/city-announces-safe-cities-grant-from-the-vera-institute-of-justice-and-selection-of-a-legal-services-provider-to-initiate-the-long-beach-justice-fund/>).
- City of Long Beach. 2020. "Long Beach City Council Adopts Fiscal Year 2021 Budget." Retrieved January 12, 2021 (<http://www.longbeach.gov/press-releases/long-beach-city-council-adopts-fiscal-year-2021-budget/>).
- City of Los Angeles. 2002. "Office of Immigrant Affairs." Retrieved February 2, 2021 (<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=02-2360>).
- County of Los Angeles. 2020. "Statement of Proceedings for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors."
- County of Los Angeles Mark Ridley-Thomas Supervisor, Second District. n.d. "LA County to Support Litigation Efforts to Protect DACA Dreamers." Retrieved January 8, 2021 (<https://ridley->

thomas.lacounty.gov/index.php/la-county-to-support-litigation-efforts-to-protect-daca-dreamers/).

- Despart, Zach, and Lomi Kriel. 2020. "Harris County Creates Immigrant Defense Fund Proposed by Lina Hidalgo." *Houston Chronicle*, February 26.
- Diaz, Jaclyn, and Rachel Treisman. 2021. "Members of Right-Wing Militias, Extremist Groups Are Latest Charged in Capitol Siege." *National Public Radio*. Retrieved January 22, 2021.
- Eagly, Ingrid, and Steven Shafer. 2016. *Access to Counsel in Immigration Court*. American Immigration Council.
- Eagly, Ingrid V., and Steven Shafer. 2015. "A National Study of Access to Counsel in Immigration Court." *University of Pennsylvania Law Review* 164(1).
- Executive Office for Immigration Review. 2019. "Executive Office for Immigration Review Adjudication Statistics: Median Completion Times for Detained Cases."
- Executive Office for Immigration Review. 2020a. "Executive Office for Immigration Review Adjudication Statistics."
- Executive Office for Immigration Review. 2020b. "Office of the Chief Immigration Judge." Retrieved January 21, 2020 (<https://www.justice.gov/eoir/office-of-the-chief-immigration-judge-bios>).
- Felipe de la Hoz. 2020. "The Shadow Court Cementing Trump's Immigration Policy." *The Nation*, June 30.
- Freedom for Immigrants. n.d. "Widespread Sexual Assault." Retrieved January 12, 2021 (<https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/sexual-assault>).
- Gates, Gary J. 2013. "LGBT Adult Immigrants in the United States."
- Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrant and Refugee Rights. 2020. "Immigration Legal Services in California: A Time for Bold Action."
- Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees. 2020. *Proposal for the Los Angeles Immigrant Community Legal Defense Program*.
- Hanson, Jessica. 2016. "California Steps Forward to Protect Immigrant Rights From Anticipated Trump Administration Policies." *National Immigration Law Center*. Retrieved January 9, 2021 (<https://www.nilc.org/news/the-torch/12-15-16/>).
- Hinojosa Ojeda, Raúl, Sherman Robinson, Rodrigo Domínguez-Villegas, Edward Telles, Abel Valenzuela, and Julie Aguilar. 2020. *Undocumented During COVID-19: Essential for the Economy but Excluded from Relief*. Los Angeles, CA: UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Initiative, UCLA North American Integration & Development Center, and UCLA Institute for Research on Labor & Employment.
- Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative. 2020. *Communities Torn Apart: The Impact of Detention and Deportation in Houston*.

- Human Rights First. 2018. "Immigration Court Hiring Politicization." *Human Rights First*. Retrieved February 1, 2021 (<https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/immigration-court-hiring-politicization>).
- Johnson, Bryan. 2019. "Immigration Judges Asylum Grants & Denials in FY 2018-2019." *Amoachi & Johnson, PLLC Attorneys at Law*. Retrieved December 18, 2020 (<https://amjlaw.com/2019/12/24/immigration-judges-asylum-grants-denials-in-fy-2018-2019/>).
- Keun Kwon, Andrés Dae. 2018. *Defend L.A.: Transforming Public Defense in the Era of Mass Deportation*. American Civil Liberties Union Foundation Southern California.
- Kostin, Anastassia. 2020. "Costs Remain for Street Vendors Despite Signing of Safe Sidewalk Vending Act." *Pepperdine University Graphic*, February 26.
- Kuo, Dennis, Noelle Smart, Zachary Lawrence, and Adam Garcia. 2020. "The Hidden Curve: Estimating the Spread of COVID-19 Among People in ICE Detention." *Vera: The Hidden Curve*. Retrieved August 14, 2020 (<https://www.vera.org/the-hidden-curve-covid-19-in-ice-detention>).
- Lahoud, Raymond G. 2021. "Mixed-Status Families to Finally Receive Stimulus Checks." *The National Law Review*.
- Lau, Maya. 2019. "ICE Still Playing Role in L.A. Jails despite Sheriff Villanueva Kicking Agents Out." *Los Angeles Times*, June 25.
- Loyola Law School. n.d. "Removal Defense Corps." Retrieved January 20, 2021 (<https://rdc.lls.edu/>).
- Lozano, Juan A. 2020. "Court Case in Texas Shows DACA Program Remains Under Peril." *Houston Public Media*, December 22.
- Macias Jr., Martin. 2019. "LA Sheriff Tosses ICE Out of County Jails." *Courthouse News Service*, January 30.
- Macias Jr, Martin. 2019. "Los Angeles City Council Declares LA a Sanctuary City." *Courthouse News Service*, February 8.
- Martinez, Janet. 2020. "Undocu-Indigenous Fund Update." *Comunidades Indigenas En Liderazgo*. Retrieved August 14, 2020 (<https://mycielo.org/2020/04/19/undocu-indigenous-fund-update/>).
- Mejia, Brittny. 2020a. "Amid Pandemic, ICE Arrests in Los Angeles Drop by about 65%." *The Los Angeles Times*, May 1.
- Mejia, Brittny. 2020b. "ICE Arrests over 300 in L.A. Area during Month-Long Operation." *The Los Angeles Times*, September 4.
- Melley, Brian. 2020. "Criminal Justice Reformer George Gascon Wins LA District Attorney Race; Jackey Lacey Concedes." *Desert Sun*, November 6.

- Mendoza, Kent. 2018. "In Defense of Childhood: A Call to Action to Defend Immigrants Who Aren't Citizens Yet, Especially Children." *Campaign for Youth Justice*. Retrieved January 12, 2021 (<http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/2018/item/in-defense-of-childhood-a-call-to-action-to-defend-immigrants-who-aren-t-citizens-yet-especially-children>).
- Migration Policy Institute. 2020. "Mixed-Status Families Ineligible for CARES Act Federal Pandemic Stimulus Checks." Retrieved December 7, 2020 (<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/content/mixed-status-families-ineligible-pandemic-stimulus-checks>).
- Milkman, Ruth. 2006. *L.A. Story: Immigrant Workers and the Future of the U.S. Labor Movement*. New York, NY: Russell Sage Foundation.
- Misra, Tanvi. 2016. "The Rise of 'Crimmigration.'" *Bloomberg*. Retrieved January 22, 2021 (<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-09-16/c-sar-garc-a-hern-ndez-on-the-rise-of-crimmigration>).
- Misra, Tanvi. 2019. "DOJ Changed Hiring to Promote Restrictive Immigration Judges." *Roll Call*, October 29.
- Misra, Tanvi. 2020. "DOJ Memo Offered to Buy Out Immigration Board Members." *Roll Call*, May 27.
- Murdza, Katy. 2020. "How Two Proposed Rules Make It Harder for Immigration Judges to Manage Their Docket." *Immigration Impact*. Retrieved December 18, 2020 (<https://immigrationimpact.com/2020/12/03/eoir-rules-immigration-judges/#.X90uxtZFzRO>).
- National Immigration Forum. 2018. "Fact Sheet: Immigration Courts." Retrieved December 18, 2020 (<https://immigrationforum.org/article/fact-sheet-immigration-courts/>).
- National Immigration Law Center. 2020. "Understanding the Impact of Key Provisions of COVID-19 Relief Bills on Immigrant Communities."
- Nonprofit Finance Fund. 2019. "Los Angeles Justice Fund Report Memo."
- Nonprofit Finance Fund, and California Community Foundation. 2019. "Los Angeles Justice Fund: Lessons and Recommendations from the Pilot Program."
- Ogrysko, Nicole. 2020. "FLRA to Decertify Union Representing DOJ Immigration Judges." *Federal News Network*, November 6.
- Pastor, Manuel. 2018. *State of Resistance: What California's Dizzying Descent and Remarkable Resurgence Mean for America's Future*. New York, NY: New Press.
- Pekoske, David. 2021. "Fact Sheet: President Biden Sends Immigration Bill to Congress as Part of His Commitment to Modernize Our Immigration System."
- Pierce, Sarah. 2019. "As the Trump Administration Seeks to Remove Families, Due-Process Questions over Rocket Dockets Abound." *Migrationpolicy.Org*. Retrieved February 1, 2021

(<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/news/due-process-questions-rocket-dockets-family-migrants>).

Pierce, Sarah, and Jessica Bolter. 2020. *Dismantling and Reconstructing the U.S. Immigration System: A Catalog of Changes Under the Trump Presidency*. Migration Policy Institute.

Rosenblum, Marc R., and Hongwei Zhang. 2020. *Fiscal Year 2020 Enforcement Lifecycle Report*. Office of Immigration Statistics, Department of Homeland Security.

Seung Min Kim. 2021. "Biden to Propose Overhaul of Immigration Laws on His First Day in Office." *The Washington Post*, January 18.

Simpson, Dave. 2020. "Ex-ICE Atty Tapped As Chief DOJ Immigration Judge." *Law 360*, July 2.

Solis, Hilda L., and Sheila Kuehl. 2020. "Ending Ice Transfers Without a Judicial Warrant in LA County."

Srikantiah, Jayashri. 2014. "The Immigration 'Rocket Docket': Understanding the Due Process Implications." *Stanford Law School Blogs: Legal Aggregate*. Retrieved December 3, 2020 (<https://law.stanford.edu/2014/08/15/the-immigration-rocket-docket-understanding-the-due-process-implications/>).

Svajlenka, Nicole Prchal. 2019. "What Do We Know About Immigrants with Temporary Protected Status?" *Center for American Progress*. Retrieved January 5, 2021 (<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2019/02/11/466081/know-immigrants-temporary-protected-status/>).

The California Coalition for Universal Representation. 2016. *California's Due Process Crisis: Access to Legal Counsel for Detained Immigrants*.

Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) Immigration. 2017. *Use of ICE Detainers: Obama vs. Trump*.

Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) Immigration. 2018. *Immigration Court Backlog Jumps While Case Processing Slows*.

Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) Immigration. 2020a. "Immigration Court Backlog Tool: Pending Cases and Length of Wait by Nationality, State, Court, and Hearing Location." Retrieved December 18, 2020 (https://trac.syr.edu/phptools/immigration/court_backlog/).

Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) Immigration. 2020b. "Immigration Court Processing Time by Outcome by Removals, Voluntary Departures, Terminations, Relief, Administrative Closures." Retrieved (https://trac.syr.edu/phptools/immigration/court_backlog/court_proctime_outcome.php).

Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) Immigration. 2020c. *Record Number of Asylum Cases in FY 2019*.

Trovall, Elizabeth. 2020. "Harris County Commissioners Approve \$2 Million Deportation Defense Fund." *Houston Public Media*, November 10.

- U.S. Department of Homeland Security. 2018. *Management Alert - Issues Requiring Action at the Adelanto ICE Processing Center in Adelanto, California.*
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security. 2020. "Update: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals." Retrieved January 8, 2021 (<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2020/12/07/update-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals>).
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security. 2021. "Review of Interim Revision to Civil Immigration Enforcement and Removal Policies and Priorities."
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. 2020. "Updated ICE Statement on COVID-19." Retrieved January 9, 2021 (<https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/updated-ice-statement-covid-19>).
- USC Dornsife: Equity Research Institute. n.d. "CCF Council on Immigrant Integration." Retrieved (<https://dornsife.usc.edu/csii/council-on-ii/#:~:text=The%20Council%20on%20Immigrant%20Integration,integration%20across%20Los%20Angeles%20County.&text=Immigrant%20Integration%20is%20the%20improved,receiving%20society%20openness%20to%20immigrants.>).
- Vera Institute of Justice. 2020. *Los Angeles Justice Fund: Year 2 Evaluation.* Los Angeles County.
- Vera Institute of Justice. n.d. "Legal Orientation Program." Retrieved January 22, 2021 (<https://www.vera.org/projects/legal-orientation-program/overview>).
- Warren, Robert, and Donald Kerwin. 2017. "Mass Deportations Would Impoverish U.S. Families and Create Immense Social Costs." *Journal on Migration and Human Security* 5(1):1–8.
- Washington, John. 2020. "Trump-Appointed Immigration Judges Have Become His Robed Enforcers." *GEN*. Retrieved December 18, 2020 (<https://gen.medium.com/trump-appointed-immigration-judges-have-become-his-robed-enforcers-670759dd633>).
- Wessler, Seth Freed. 2011. *Shattered Families: The Perilous Intersection of Immigration Enforcement and the Child Welfare System.* Applied Research Center: Racial Justice Through Media, Research and Activism.
- Westervelt, Eric, and Marisa Penalosa. 2020. "New California Relief Program for Undocumented Overwhelmed By Demand." *National Public Radio*, May 26.