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Increased Services Proposal for Unaccompanied Minors in Oakland/Alameda County

Summary of Request

A group of East Bay organizations have come together to form a collaborative to provide services to newly arrived unaccompanied children and families with young children seeking asylum. This group consists of long-time East Bay service providers and faith-based groups with numerous years of experience serving the community like Oakland Community Organizations, Centro Legal de la Raza, East Bay Sanctuary Covenant, Catholic Charities of the East Bay, La Clínica de la Raza, and the Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana. Together, this collaborative is requesting a total of \$1,000,000 to provide desperately needed, emergency services to accompanied children and families with young children seeking asylum and living in Oakland and Alameda County. These services include legal, mental health, and housing services. **We are specifically requesting that the City of Oakland provide \$577, 231 to cover the cost of legal and coordination services and that the County of Alameda provide \$422,769 to cover mental health and housing services.**

Overview of Need

**National Context:** As the scope and severity of the violence<sup>1</sup> and gang activity in Central America has dramatically increased over the past seven months, so too has the number of young children and families seeking refuge in the United States. Faced with severe violence and threats of death in their home countries, families are fleeing and desperate parents are sending children, as young as three years old, on the dangerous journey from Central America to the U.S. border alone. One child, Marta who is only 9 years old, traveled alone from Honduras to the U.S. after being gang raped by gang members. Although Marta was able to travel with other immigrants, she had never met any of them prior to the journey. Similarly, Jose and Eduardo, 12 and 13 years old, traveled from Guatemala to the U.S. alone without parents or guardians to be reunited with their mother. Both Jose and Eduardo endured years of physical abuse, once they started to receive death threats they knew they had no choice but to flee Guatemala.<sup>2</sup>

This ongoing humanitarian crisis requires an immediate, coordinated, and urgent response because most of those seeking protection are unaccompanied minors (UACs) and young families.<sup>3</sup> Nationally, the increase in the past year is staggering.

- *Unaccompanied Children:* From October 2012 to September 2013, ICE apprehended 38,759 UACs at the border. From October 2013 to July 2014, ICE has apprehended 62,998 children. They estimate that up to 90,000 children will arrive alone, seeking protection by the end of 2014.
- *Young Families:* The number of families with young children apprehended at the border increased from 11,001 during October 2012 to July 2013 to 62,856 during October 2013 to July 2014.

**Local Impact:** Locally, Alameda County has received the second highest number of unaccompanied children in California.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Violence in Central America, in particular El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala; and Mexico has increased dramatically over the last seven months due largely to escalating levels of domestic and familial violence, internal and regional gang conflicts, and animosity towards vulnerable societal groups.

<sup>2</sup> These are stories from clients who Centro Legal de la Raza is currently representing in removal proceedings. Names have been changed to protect the children's identities.

<sup>3</sup> Defined as at least one parent and one child under the age of 18.

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As of July 30, 2014 to September 4, 2014, the local immigration court in San Francisco estimates that it has filed about 965 cases involving UACs or families. The number of actual individuals in proceedings is much higher. A family counts as a single case, but can be anywhere from two to six people. The most common family case currently being heard is that of a young mother with one to four very young children.

Under current federal policy, UACs can be released from ICE custody through a process called *family reunification* to a family or community sponsor. Often, after a very cursory review process as to the connection between the child and sponsor, UACs are released into very tenuous situations with already distressed families. As of June 30, 2014, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) estimated that 242 unaccompanied children had been released to individuals living in Alameda County. Children have continued to arrive by the hundreds since that date. Other UACs, who have not been in contact with ICE, are simply piecing together housing in the community. DHHS does not provide statistics regarding cities, but Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) reports that 183 UACs have enrolled since June of 2013.

**A Vulnerable Population:** It is clear that the urgency of the situation is exacerbated by the vulnerability of the population being impacted by the violence in Central America.

- Many UACs and families have fled severe sexual and physical violence.
- A large portion of UACs have been traumatized and harmed by gangs or authority figures due to being left without parental protection.
- Many UACs have been targeted due to their refusal to support local gangs or militias.
- Many, including the youngest of the asylum seekers, have been raped and almost all of the children and families have lived with death threats for much of their lives.
- Most of these immigrants are very low-income and have little formal education. A large portion of these children only speak their native indigenous language.

**The vulnerability of UACs, the very young age of the majority of UACs and families, as well as the expedited deportation process detailed below have intensified this crisis so much so that immediate emergency services are required.**

For example, in the legal arena, due to this large influx of UACs and young families, the number of individuals in removal proceedings has greatly increased. A child released from immigration detention is not given any legal orientation and, unless we act quickly, will likely not have legal representation in their deportation proceedings. These children and families do not fully understand the legal processes they are facing. Immigration laws are exceedingly complicated even without the linguistic and cultural barriers. If the child does not attend his or her court hearing, a deportation order will be entered in his or her absence. The consequences of this deportation can be fatal.

**Proposed Immediate Services:** As a result of these conditions, these children require immediate services to help them heal from their trauma and move forward with their lives. These services are designed to meet short-term and immediate needs, while community-based organizations and local agencies can craft a longer-term response to the crisis. Each will be explained in greater detail below, but in brief:

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<sup>4</sup> Reports from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) show that Alameda County is second only to Los Angeles County in the number of recently arrived UACs in California.

- **Legal Representation:** We need to secure legal representation for UACs and families with young children seeking asylum. It is estimated that a UAC or family with young children only has a 1 in 10 chance of successfully winning a removal defense case. With an attorney, they have an 8 in 10 chance of being granted protection. Since almost all of these children and families could face potential death if deported, the stakes are very high for securing legal representation.
- **Mental Health Services:** In addition to the urgent need for legal services, these children and families also desperately need mental health services both to heal from the horrible trauma they have suffered and because children and young families seeking protection are required to repeatedly recount the trauma that they suffered to various authority figures.
- **Housing:** Another major need for newly arrived UACs and families with young children is securing safe and stable housing. Most UACs and families with young children end up living situations with distant family members who are often also deeply impacted by poverty.

Below you will find a description of the current status of the services currently being provided by local agencies; a funding proposal for increasing those services to respond to the crisis; a list of proposed deliverables; and the list of local agencies seeking to carry out the work along with a description of their qualifications to do so efficiently and effectively.

#### Urgent Need for Services

Below is a description of the current status of the each of the three major areas of services necessary to help support the current influx of Unaccompanied Children.

#### **Legal Representation:**

The high number of recently filed cases with the immigration court and the expedited nature of the proceedings make the need for urgent legal services critical. Reports have already surfaced of children being killed within 24 hours of being deported to their home country.

Further complicating matters, in response to the large influx of arriving UACs and families with young children, the Obama Administration has instructed immigration courts across the country to create special dockets ("rocket dockets") where the cases of UACs and families with young children are heard on an expedited basis. Since this order, children and families are given only 21 days from the time that they are released from ICE custody to appear before an immigration judge. In normal immigration proceedings, an individual has 4-6 months. Without counsel, the vast majority of these young children and families will be deported.

All Northern California immigration cases, including Oakland and Alameda County cases, are heard at the San Francisco Immigration Court. Between the dates of July 30th and September 4th, 2014, the Court initiated about 965 rocket docket cases. New cases continue to be filed each day so that the number is likely to be closer to 1,200 for current active cases. Fortunately, the court does allow for a volunteer attorney-of-the-day program where volunteer attorneys can act as attorney of the day and provide legal orientation and consultations for children and families set to appear before the immigration judge that day. Oakland based Centro Legal de la Raza (Centro Legal) is attorney of the day each Thursday and has been since the creation of the rocket dockets in July 2014. Because its role is limited

to providing services on that particular day, its attorneys can only provide consultations and attempt to secure continuances until the children find full legal representation. During Centro Legal's first appearance as attorney of the day, it provided initial intakes to 85 children and young families.

Despite United Nation reports finding that at least 2/3rds of these recently arrived immigrants have a viable asylum claim, due to the complexity of immigration law, they cannot succeed in presenting their claims without an attorney. Therefore, the consequences of not providing these children with counsel are dire. Centro Legal has assisted families with children as young as 4 months and assisted unaccompanied children as young as 18 months. The organization has also assisted sexual assault survivors as young as 10 years old. These are only a few of the more than 250 such stories that Centro Legal has heard in court and during office legal screenings.

Due to the sudden spike in individuals needing legal representation, the local East Bay immigration non-profits who work on such cases, Centro Legal, East Bay Sanctuary Covenant (EBSC), and Catholic Charities of the East Bay (CCEB) are being inundated with requests for free legal representation and are stretched beyond their current capacity.

At Centro Legal, the number of children and young families seeking services at its immigration clinics has tripled since January 2014. This is in addition to the high number of individuals being screened at immigration court. These UACs also need help applying for valid asylum claims or applying for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), a special status based on a child being abandoned and/or neglected by at least one parent.

Centro Legal has been attempting to represent as many of these children and families as possible either in house or through mentored pro bono representation. From June 2014 to early September 2014, Centro Legal has provided legal consultations to 277 children and families and agreed to provide free legal representation for nearly 100 UACs and/or young families. Unfortunately, Centro Legal does not have the staffing resources, unless it receives additional funding, to continue to prepare cases for filing or accept any of the hundreds of additional children and families in need of urgent legal representation.

Similarly, EBSC has averaged 1-2 UAC or family intakes per day since the last week of July 2014. They have already completed one UAC asylum case, and they currently have approximately 35 active cases of young clients applying for asylum and SIJS.

#### **Mental Health Services:**

In addition to the urgent need for legal services, these children and families also desperately need mental health services. First and foremost, they need a way to begin to heal from and process the horrible trauma they have suffered so they can move forward with their lives. Second, both the asylum and SIJS legal processes can be long and complicated. Children and young families seeking protection are required to repeatedly recount the trauma that they suffered to various authority figures. Because recent asylum seekers often had violent interactions with law enforcement in their home countries and at the U.S. border, many are further traumatized when dealing with law enforcement at court proceedings. In order to successfully participate in their asylum and SIJS cases, these children and families need access to a mental health services.

Much like legal services, finding a bilingual and culturally sensitive mental health worker is extremely difficult. Local service providers like La Clínica de la Raza (La Clínica) report that they are also overwhelmed by the demand for their services. La Clínica has seen a recent increase in the number of newly arrived immigrant youth from Central America in its pediatric patient population. Between June and August 2014, approximately one in five new pediatric patients at La Clínica's Fruitvale Village health center were newly arrived, undocumented youth from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. In addition, La Clínica's school-based health centers provide services to students at Fremont High School and Oakland International High School, where the highest concentrations of newly arrived and unaccompanied students are enrolled and enrolling.

Based on staff assessments, these youth arrived with significant trauma – from violence exposure in their home countries; from making treacherous journeys to the U.S.; from experience of detainment at the border; and from ongoing stress related to displacement, instability, fear of deportation, and dislocation from family and community. Many are living with distant family members or family friends whom they have just met, and who may be able to provide only limited support.

Therefore, the need for access to bilingual, culturally sensitive mental health services is just as important as access to legal services. Without assistance in learning how to heal from their previous trauma, these children and families may not be able to 1) successfully recount their ordeal during legal proceedings and 2) move forward in a way that allows them to lead a healthy and productive life.

Community members and organizations recognize that addressing the long-term impacts of trauma on children and young families will require a much more comprehensive trauma-informed approach. Therefore, the collaborative will meet regularly to devise longer-term strategies that promote healthy growth and development.

**Housing:** Another major need for newly arrived UACs and young families is securing safe and stable housing. While some UACs and young families are fortunate enough to secure housing with a relative or friend, there are many who are not able to secure housing. Also, most UACs and young families end up living with estranged family members or family friends they have never met before, which adds to the instability of their housing situation. Due to this uncertainty, many of these individuals are looking to local churches to help them find short and long-term housing. After receiving numerous requests for housing, the Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana (PIPH) church in Oakland has decided to set up a temporary housing facility that also includes meals to help deal with the numerous requests it has received for housing. They are currently hosting three families and 6 UACs, despite having no dedicated funding for the housing.

Because so many of the current housing arrangements for UACs and families with young children are not sustainable, the need for more stable housing arrangements will continue to be an issue unless there are coordinated efforts to help these individuals secure stable housing.

### **Request for Support to Respond to the Crisis**

The severity and urgency of this humanitarian crisis has brought many groups together committed to helping this very vulnerable population. For example, OUSD has dedicated \$100,000 in funding to hire an Unaccompanied Minor Support Services Consultant to help the district identify and provide support services to UACs enrolled in the district. Also, as mentioned above, many local groups have also starting serving UACs and families with young children despite having no dedicated funding. **Despite these amazing efforts, the vast scope and complexity of the crisis require targeted and coordinated funding if the East Bay is to successfully deal with this crisis.**

Therefore, a group of East Bay organizations have come together to form a collaborative to determine the best way to provide services to UACs and families with young children in Oakland and Alameda County. This group consists of long-time East Bay service providers and faith-based groups with numerous years of experience serving the community like Oakland Community Organizations, Centro Legal, EBSC, CCEB, La Clínica, and PIPH. **Together this group is requesting \$1,000,000 to provide desperately needed services to UACs and families with young children seeking asylum and living in Oakland and Alameda County. These services include legal, mental health, and housing services. We are specifically requesting that the City of Oakland provide \$577, 231 to cover the cost of legal and coordination services and that the County of Alameda provide \$422,769 to cover mental health and housing services. Please see the attached budget for a detailed breakdown of the cost of the proposed services.**

#### **Proposed Services and Staffing**

Due to Centro Legal's long history of providing legal services to low-income Latino communities in the East Bay, it is uniquely situated to response to the crisis by helping coordinate the response efforts through an increase in the amount of legal services provided to these children and their families and also in coordinating the provision of other desperately needed social services such as emergency housing, mental health services, and educational services. It will act as fiscal agent of any funds provided to the collaborative and will be responsible for working with collaborative partners to ensure that grant deliverables are met.

#### **Proposed Legal Staffing:**

With the requested funding, the three legal organizations propose to hire four full-time attorneys and a dedicated intake specialist. With this additional funding, Centro Legal, CCEB, and EBSC would collectively be responsible for the provision of 520 legal consultations a year, full legal representation of 350 UACs and/or family members with the assistance of pro bono attorneys for both asylum and SIJS cases. With this added capacity, Centro Legal, EBSC, and CCEB would expand their pro bono programs to include additional training for pro bono attorneys on representing children and young families before the federal immigration court, before the asylum office, and as needed before the state courts in seeking the state court order needed for SIJS. Staff at these organizations would provide technical and substantive support to pro bono attorneys who commit to taking on a certain number of cases per firm.

- Centro Legal will hire a full-time Senior Supervising Children's Project Attorney with a minimum of 3-5 years removal defense and asylum immigration experience to oversee the large increase in asylum and SIJS cases handled by the office. It will also hire a full-time immigration staff attorney with 1-2 years of immigration experience.

The Senior Attorney will be responsible for training and supervising the staff attorney and pro bono attorneys to increase the number of refugee children and families served. These attorneys will be responsible for staffing the "rocket docket" twice a week. The attorneys will provide four know-your-rights sessions per day at the docket, for a total of 8 per week. Due to the large volume of walk-ins, Centro Legal's current receptionist cannot handle the large volume of drop-ins and calls. Centro Legal will also hire a full-time intake specialist to ensure sufficient capacity to answer all calls and walk-ins to its office. This will ensure that UACs or families with young children are able to quickly and easily access Centro Legal's services.

- CCEB will use funds to pay for one immigration attorney who will focus on SIJS cases. CCEB has over 15 years handling SIJS cases and is best equipped to handle these cases.
- EBSC will use funds to pay for one immigration attorney who will focus on both asylum and SIJS cases. EBSC will also specialize in providing services to asylum seekers needing assistance in indigenous languages as they have a number of interpreters who speak indigenous languages, including Mam, Kanjobal, Poptí, Kakchiquel, and Quiché.

In addition, Centro Legal, EBSC, and CCEB will commit to providing know-your-rights presentations and legal intakes throughout Oakland and Alameda County, including having immigration clinics twice a month at rotating Alameda County schools, particularly schools such as Oakland International High School and Fremont High School that have a large concentration of newly arrived immigrant children. Staff would also make themselves available to host know-your-rights presentations at churches and community centers throughout Oakland and Alameda County to help educate the community about their rights as well as help non-legal service providers like teachers, clergy, and healthcare workers have a better understanding of how to provide the best possible services to refugee children and their families.

**Coordination Staffing:**

The collaborative also proposes to hire a Children's Services Coordinator to create an effective referral system that would allow UACs and families to receive needed services with minimal disruption.

For example, the Children's Services Coordinator will know all available emergency housing as well as free mental health services for children dealing with severe trauma. The Services Coordinator will work with other local nonprofits, churches, and schools to provide needed outreach on available services and the best way to access these services. The Coordinator will be responsible for holding regular meetings with community partners to coordinate the provision of legal services, case management, health care needs, and access to benefits. In order to ensure that individuals are receiving "warm" referrals to needed services, the Coordinator will design a central database keeping track of all available services. This position will also work closely with the OUSD Unaccompanied Minor Support Services Consultant to ensure that there is no duplication of efforts and that UACs are being routed to the best possible services.

**Proposed Mental Health Services:**

In order to better serve the mental health needs of UACs, La Clínica proposes to hire a Behavior Health Clinician and a Behavior Health Educator. Centro Legal proposes to hire two peer mentors.

La Clínica is well equipped to provide trauma-focused services and care coordination to newly arrived, unaccompanied youth in Alameda County, including Oakland. La Clínica provides a full range of medical, dental, and behavioral health services to residents of Alameda County and has experience providing direct medical care to unaccompanied minors.

To meet the need for intensive and comprehensive services for this emerging population, La Clínica will need to expand its capacity to serve these youth at its specialty mental health clinic, Casa del Sol, in collaboration with Cultura y Bienestar. If funded, La Clínica will hire a Master's Level Behavioral Health Clinician to provide intensive trauma focused behavioral health services and a Behavioral Health Educator to provide support and care coordination to youth.

The newly hired Behavioral Health Clinician will accept referrals mainly from the Children Services Coordinator as well as from other community partners to provide services to unaccompanied youth. The Clinician will complete initial assessments to determine needs and deliver ongoing trauma focused behavioral health services that are responsive to the unique experiences of newly arrived and unaccompanied children and youth. Services include treatment for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety and adjustment disorders.

The Behavioral Health Educator will provide additional support for youth and their families, and focus on care coordination, navigation, and case management through referral linkages and collaborations with school district staff, legal services staff, and other community based organizations identified.

These two positions will act as a team designated to serve newly arrived, unaccompanied youth. The Clinician will collaborate with the Health Educator to ensure that youth have access to comprehensive support that includes, but is not limited to: medical and dental services (including services provided by La Clínica), housing support, legal services, educational and academic support. They will also work closely with the Children Services Coordinator to coordinate these services.

Centro Legal also proposes to hire two peer mentors to assist UACs and families with emotional support during the asylum and SIJS processes. They will work with individuals who are too frightened to seek out traditional mental health services. These individuals will be able to assist children and families in navigating many of the logistical non-legal requirements of seeking SIJS and asylum as well as help with community education and outreach to ensure that UACs and families know of the services that exist to assist them and can access them. Ideally, they will be immigrants who have gone through the asylum or SIJS process themselves, so that they can draw upon personal experiences to better connect with the target population.

The collaborative will continue to meet on a regular basis to develop strategies for how to provide for the long-term mental health needs of these children. The group understands that



dealing with trauma is only the first step in a very long, multi-dimensional process of healing. This current proposal is designed to work with children to help them deal with the initial aftermaths of their trauma. The collaborative will develop a longer-term strategy for how to get additional, intensive comprehensive psychological supports, both through traditional clinic services and through the community.

#### **Proposed Housing Services:**

In order to meet the housing needs of UACs and families with young children turning to PIPH for help, the church proposes to establish a provisional shelter.

With the proposed funding, the shelter will provide two rooms on the second floor of the church. These rooms will have 8-10 small beds, a small kitchen equipped with eating and cooking supplies, a portable shower, and also a food pantry. Funding will also be used to pay a part-time housing coordinator to help ensure the smooth running of the shelter including responding to housing requests and responding to the needs of the shelter's occupants.

#### **Proposed Deliverables/Outcomes**

If funding is received, the collaborative proposes the following outcomes for one year:

- 520 UACs and/or families with young children will receive free legal consultation;
- 350 UACs and/or families with young children will receive free legal representation in their asylum or SIJS case;
- Attorneys from the collaborative will staff the San Francisco rocket docket twice a week during morning and afternoon dockets;
- the collaborative partners will meet on a monthly basis to review services provided and ensure coordination of services;
- 24 immigration legal clinics will be held at schools, churches, and community centers in Oakland and Alameda County;
- 24 workshops will be held for teachers, clergy, and other community members so that they receive training in how to respond/provide help to UACs and families with young children seeking asylum;
- 350 UACs and/or families will receive a referral to a mental health service clinician or peer mentor to help assist them with the asylum and SIJS application process;
- a short-term housing shelter will be created and maintained at the PIPH church; and
- a database of legal, mental health, housing, food, and other basic services will be created and maintained by the Children Services Coordinator to ensure that UACs and families with young children are accessing the services that they need.

#### **Summary of Qualifications**

The organizations included in this proposal all have a long history of providing high quality services to the East Bay's low-income, Latino immigrant community. Below is a brief summary of their qualifications.

**Centro Legal** – Founded in 1969, Centro Legal is a comprehensive legal service agency focused on strengthening low-income, immigrant, and Latino individuals and families by providing culturally competent legal representation, education, and advocacy. It provides direct legal services in the areas of immigration, housing, and employment. Centro Legal's immigration practice is focused on serving the needs of the most vulnerable community members, including families living in poverty, women, children, and victims of violent

crimes including domestic violence and detained individuals in removal proceedings. They offer comprehensive, full-service direct representation, legal rights education, and client intake through various immigration clinics. The organization specializes in detained and non-detained removal defense, affirmative asylum applications, family-based visa petitions, U visas for victims of violent crime, and naturalization.

**CCEB** - Founded in 1935, CCEB serves more than 10,000 individuals each year. The organization works with youth, children and families (including immigrants and refugees) to promote self-sufficiency, strengthen families and pursue safety and justice. CCEB's Legal Services program serves all of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, providing services to low-income refugees and asylees, legal permanent residents, and other non-citizens, including undocumented immigrants. The target population is predominately from Mexico and Central America. CCEB attorneys have provided representation to unaccompanied minors in immigration court cases for over 15 years in partnership with the East Bay Children's Law Office.

**EBSC** - For over 20 years, EBSC has been offering assistance to refugees and immigrants through its two components: the Refugee Rights Program and the Community Development and Education Program. The Refugee Rights Program represents clients from more than 60 countries in the world, though the majority comes from Mexico and Central America. To date, the organization has filed over 3,000 asylum applications and of those adjudicated by the Asylum Office or in Immigration Court, 2,338 have been granted (97% of adjudicated cases). Further, immigration judges and the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals have recognized EBSC's Director, Michael Smith as an expert in country conditions in Guatemala.

**La Clínica** - For more than 40 years, La Clínica has been on the forefront of developing and delivering linguistically and culturally responsive services to underserved communities in Alameda, Contra Costa and Solano Counties. In 2013, more than 90,000 patients received services at La Clínica's 31 service sites. La Clínica's full range of health services include medical care, dental care, optometry, pharmacy, specialty mental health, integrated behavioral health care, case management, health education, and support services. La Clínica has provided linguistically and culturally responsive mental and behavioral health services in Alameda County since 1971. La Clínica's specialty mental health clinic, Casa del Sol, provides bilingual individual, group and family counseling and psychiatric services for children, adolescents, transitional aged youth and adults. Cultura y Bienestar, La Clínica's MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention program serves Latinos throughout Alameda County through a four-agency collaboration and uses Mental Health Specialists, Promotores (Community Health Workers) and Traditional intervention services.

**PIPH** - PIPH is a Latino immigrant church that has been serving the East Bay community for more than 24 years. Its focus has been on supporting the Latino immigrant community by providing different kinds of programs such as: ESL, literacy, family domestic violence prevention, computer classes, leadership training, men's domestic violence prevention, youth programs, Christian education for all the ages and breakfast for day laborers.

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Budget for Proposed Services to Unaccompanied Minors in Oakland and Alameda County

1. Legal Services & Coordination Costs

Org.	Position	FTE	Total Salary	Benefits (26.5%)	Total Personnel	Program Costs	Indirect Costs	Total
Centro Legal	Senior Supervising Attorney	1	70,000.00	18,500.00	88,550.00	12,850.19	11,984.29 <sup>1</sup>	113,334.48
	Immigration Staff Attorney	1	60,000.00	15,900.00	75,900.00	12,850.19	11,984.29	100,734.48
	Intake Specialist	1	38,000.00	10,070.00	48,070.00	12,850.19	11,984.29	72,904.48
	Children Services Coordinator	1	60,000.00	15,900.00	75,900.00	12,850.19	11,984.29	100,734.48
Catholic Charities of the East Bay	Immigration Staff Attorney	1	60,000.00	15,900.00	75,900.00	4,000.00	14,861.40	94,761.40
East Bay Sanctuary Covenant	Immigration Staff Attorney	1	60,000.00	15,900.00	75,900.00	4,000.00	14,861.40	94,761.40
								\$577,231

2. Mental Health Service Costs

Org.	Position	FTE	Total Salary	Benefits (26.5%)	Total Personnel	Program Costs	Indirect Costs	Total
Centro Legal de la Raza	Peer Mentors	2	90,000.00	23,850.00	113,850.00	25,700.38	23,968.58	163,518.94
La Clinica de la Raza	Behavioral Health Supervisor	.05	3,875.00	1,026.87	4,901.88	4,675.00	9,564.30	19,141.18
La Clinica de la Raza	Behavioral Health Educator	1	42,199.00	5,317.07	53,381.73	4,675.00	9,564.30	67,621.03
La Clinica de la Raza	Behavioral Health Clinician	1	64,786.00	17,186.29	81,954.29	4,675.00	9,564.30	96,193.59
								\$346,475

<sup>1</sup> Indirect costs for Centro Legal include the cost of administering the grant, i.e. fiscal sponsor costs.

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**3. Housing Costs**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Benefits (26.5%)</b>	<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>Program Costs</b>	<b>Indirect Costs</b>	<b>Total</b>
Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana	Housing Coordinator	.5 FTE	27,500.00	7,287.50	34,787.50	41,506.10	N/A	\$76,294

**Total Cost for Proposed Services**

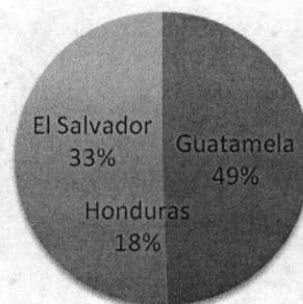
<b>1. Legal Services &amp; Coordination</b>	<b>\$577,231</b>
<b>2. Mental Health Service Costs</b>	<b>\$346,475</b>
<b>3. Housing Costs</b>	<b><u>\$76,294</u></b>
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>

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## Unaccompanied Children in the OUSD

Here at the OUSD, we have been serving unaccompanied minors for many years. But since 2012, the Oakland Unified School District—and the United States, as a whole—has seen a dramatic spike in unaccompanied minors, (Unaccompanied Alien Children, or UACs): undocumented minors who cross the border without parents or guardians, and are apprehended by immigration officials. As a result of the recent influx, **OUSD has enrolled over 200 unaccompanied minors since June of 2013—and this number is increasing every day.**

### Unaccompanied Minors in the OUSD



- Around 75% are in High School, 10% in Middle School, and 15% in Elementary.
- 49% are from Guatemala, 33% from El Salvador, 18% from Honduras
- 35% are Female and 65% male (the national average is about 75% male)

The majority of unaccompanied minors (about 70%) are at two high schools: Oakland International High School (OIHS) and Fremont High School, with increasing numbers at Oakland High School. The rest are scattered at middle and elementary schools across the district.

### How do Unaccompanied Minors get to the U.S.?

Unaccompanied minors are apprehended shortly after crossing the Southern border. According to Federal policy, UACs are housed in special detention centers/youth shelters run by nonprofit contractors throughout the country, and immediately placed into removal proceedings. They are reunified (normally within a few weeks/months) with a trusted adult—uncle, older brother, family friend, even a parent they haven't seen in many years—already living in the U.S. These adult "sponsors" are charged with enrolling them in school, providing for their health and well-being, and ensuring they show up to court. California is the most common state to which these children are reunified, and Alameda County is home to California's second-largest unaccompanied minor population (after Los Angeles).

#4

### Why are they coming to the United States?

In recent years, gang-related violence throughout Central America has skyrocketed, and young men and women are increasingly becoming the primary targets for both violence and gang recruitment. According to the United Nations and the Women's Refugee Commission, the vast majority of youth are leaving their home countries because of these violence-related "push factors" in their communities rather than "pull factors" (such as economic opportunity or the

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possibility of legal status in the U.S.) As gang activity increases its stranglehold on communities throughout Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala, many unaccompanied minors have seen their loved ones killed or threatened, have had their own lives threatened, were raped and/or stalked, have reported that their families were being extorted, and/or they were being forced into a gang. Some are also leaving due to domestic abuse in their families, and others still for economic opportunity or the chance to go to school. As a result of their past experiences, many of these youth are arriving with deep trauma.

## **What is their legal status?**

Once they join a "sponsor" in Oakland, unaccompanied minors' immigration cases are transferred to San Francisco immigration court, where they are given new notices to appear in removal (deportation) proceedings.

In many cases, youth are showing up in court by themselves and with no attorneys, and have no idea what potential relief may be available to them or how to apply for it. Without an attorney, it is tremendously difficult to apply for immigration status, though national agencies estimate that at least 70% of these youth might qualify for some kind of relief (like asylum or special immigrant juvenile status). If they miss their court date (which is common) youth are often "removed in absentia"—ordered deported back to their home countries, where it may or may not be safe for them to return.

## **What is the OUSD doing to support Unaccompanied Minors?**

The OUSD's Office of Community Schools & Student Services Department is partnering with impacted school sites and community agencies (in the fields of education, legal services, community advocacy and mental health) to ensure that students have a supportive educational environment, appropriate academic interventions, access to legal services, and, when necessary, access to mental health services/trauma interventions. The OUSD is in the process of hiring a Unaccompanied Minor Support Services consultant to provide service integration, school-community partnerships, and wraparound casemanagement to the OUSD's unaccompanied minors. This position will also serve as the key point person for schools, supporting school staff in student identification and support.

## **I have questions / need more information / want to support these newcomer students:**

For questions or more information contact: Lauren Markham, Community School Program Manager at Oakland International High School: [laurenmarkham@oaklandinternational.org](mailto:laurenmarkham@oaklandinternational.org) or Nate Dunstan, Refugee and Asylee Specialist: [nathaniel.dunstan@ousd.k12.ca.us](mailto:nathaniel.dunstan@ousd.k12.ca.us)

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND

14 OCT -3 AM 10:12

Approved as to Form and Legality

*[Signature]*  
City Attorney's Office

AUG 26 PM 2:28

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 85151 C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY MAYOR JEAN QUAN, VICE MAYOR LARRY REID, AND  
COUNCILMEMBER NOEL GALLO

**RESOLUTION URGING THE CITY OF OAKLAND TO COMMIT  
RESOURCES AND SUPPORT EFFORTS AT THE CONGRESSIONAL  
LEVEL TO ADDRESS THE GROWING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS OF  
UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN FLEEING VIOLENCE FROM CENTRAL  
AMERICA**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland has a strong tradition of embracing and valuing diversity and respecting the civil and human rights of all regardless of their immigration status; and

**WHEREAS**, an emergency humanitarian crisis is taking place at the United States-Mexican border where tens of thousands of unaccompanied children from Central America including countries, such as El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua are being apprehended and detained in crowded shelters, detention centers and facilities on military bases where they have been subjected to inhumane living conditions for indeterminate periods of time; and

**WHEREAS**, these are unacceptable conditions that the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Human Health Services (HHS) are forced to address as they await the passage of comprehensive immigration reform; and

**WHEREAS**, Data collected by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shows that since October 2013, approximately 57,000 Central American children have fled from their home countries into the United States, which represents a substantial increase from prior years; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that the number of children entering the United States in FY2014 will exceed 60,000, with an average of 120-400 children crossing the border each day; and

**WHEREAS**, more girls are migrating than in previous years because of regional increases in gender-based violence; and

**WHEREAS**, during their dangerous journey to the United States, many children become victims of trafficking, sexual abuse and violence; and

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ITEM #4  
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**WHEREAS**, many of these children are seeking to reunify with their parents, who themselves came to the United States in order to survive and help their families survive in the wake of war and failed economic and trade policies; and

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations High Commission on Refugees has concluded after close study that these children qualify as bona fide refugees fleeing for fear of their lives from narco-traffickers and/or gangs and has urged the United States to confer refugee status upon them; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Immigration and Nationality Act grants the President of the United States the authority to designate these children as "refugees" under Section 207(b) of the Immigration & Nationality Act, 8 US Code Section 1157; and

**WHEREAS**, In 2007, the Oakland City Council adopted a "Sanctuary City" Resolution No. 80584, calling for a moratorium on immigration raids and for the passage of fair and humane federal immigration laws; as well as declaring Oakland a refuge for immigrants from all countries; providing equal access to public services and civil protections without regard to an individual's immigration status, the City had earlier passed a resolution stating Oakland was a refuge for those from El Salvador, Guatemala Haiti and South Africa; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland wishes to affirm and declare that Oakland is a City of Refuge for immigrants from all countries, and recognizes the contributions of immigrant communities in the City and throughout California's economy and revitalization of the City's neighborhoods; and

**WHEREAS**, our communities, congregations, labor unions, schools and community-based organizations have a long history of welcoming children and families fleeing violence with compassion and support services and of advocating for refugee and immigrant rights; now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the City of Oakland assist in the humanitarian relief effort by collaborating with local, state and federal organizations to address the short and long term needs of unaccompanied immigrant children entering into Oakland and the East Bay region by:

1. Publicizing the need for host families and sponsors who can provide safe and stable housing opportunities for the unaccompanied children and work to move children from shelters into homes of relatives or host families as soon as possible; and
2. Identifying city resources to ensure that City Departments, in partnership with non-profit organizations, can offer a continuum of culturally competent relief services to meet the medical, mental health, educational and legal needs of these children and their families, and, be it



**FURTHER RESOLVED:** ~~That the City of Oakland~~ to call upon President Barack Obama and our federal, state and local officials to:

1. Stop the deportations of all children by granting them refugee status under domestic and international law, access to legal representation and due process;
2. Support congressional funding for humanitarian care and essential services for the children; reject further expenditures on border patrol and militarization of the border;
3. Support H.R. 4936, the Vulnerable Immigrant Voice Act of 2014, to provide legal representation to unaccompanied minors and mentally disabled individuals during immigration proceedings.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

JUL 29 2014

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

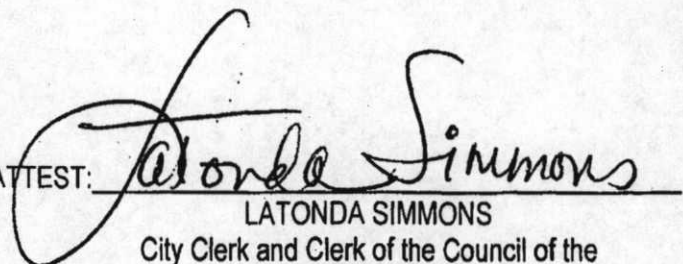
AYES - ~~BRUNO~~, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, KAPLAN, ~~REID~~, SCHAAF, AND  
PRESIDENT KERNIGHAN - 6

NOES - 0

ABSENT - Brooks, Reid - 2

ABSTENTION - 0

ATTEST:



LATONDA SIMMONS  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the  
City of Oakland, California

14 OCT -3 AM 10:12

Approved as to Form and Legality

  
Oakland City Attorney's Office

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBERS GALLO, REID AND MAYOR QUAN

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT IN AN AMOUNT UP TO \$577,231.00 TO CENTRO LEGAL DE LA RAZA TO BE USED TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES TO CENTRAL AMERICAN UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN (UAC) IN OAKLAND THAT HAVE FLED TO THE UNITED STATES TO ESCAPE VIOLENT AND OTHER OPPRESSIVE CONDITIONS IN THEIR COUNTRIES, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO APPROPRIATE AND/OR IDENTIFY FUNDS FOR THE GRANT**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland has a strong tradition of embracing and valuing diversity and respecting the civil and human rights of all regardless of their immigration status; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2007, the Oakland City Council adopted a "Sanctuary City" Resolution No. 80584, calling for a moratorium on immigration raids and for the passage of fair and humane federal immigration laws; as well as declaring Oakland a refuge for immigrants from all countries; providing equal access to public services and civil protections without regard to an individual's immigration status, the City had earlier passed a resolution stating Oakland was a refuge for those from El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti and South Africa; and

**WHEREAS**, an emergency humanitarian crisis is taking place at the United States-Mexican border where thousands of unaccompanied children (UAC) from Central America including countries, such as El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua are being apprehended and detained in crowded shelters, detention centers and facilities on military bases where they have been subjected to inhumane living conditions for indeterminate periods of time; and

**WHEREAS**, these are unacceptable conditions that the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Human Health Services (HHS) will not be equipped or funded to humanly address until Congress passes comprehensive immigration reform; and

**WHEREAS**, data collected by the Department of Homeland Security shows that from October 2013 to July 2014, more than 62,000 Central American children have fled from their home countries into the United States; and it is estimated that by the end of 2014, up to 90,000 children fleeing violence from Central America will

enter the United States alone, seeking protection, with an average of 120-400 children crossing the border each day; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 29, 2014, the Oakland City Council approved Resolution No. 85151 C.M.S., committing the City of Oakland to assist in the humanitarian relief efforts by collaborating with local, state and federal organizations to address the short and long term needs of unaccompanied immigrant children entering into Oakland and the East Bay region by:

1. Publicizing the need for host families and sponsors who can provide safe and stable housing opportunities for the unaccompanied children and work to move children from shelters into homes of relatives or host families as soon as possible; and
2. Identifying city resources to ensure that City Departments, in partnership with non-profit organizations, can offer a continuum of culturally competent relief services to meet the medical, mental health, educational and legal needs of these children and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, a group of long-time East Bay service providers and faith-based groups with numerous years of experience serving the community have formed a collaborative to provide services to newly arrived UACs and to families with young children seeking asylum; and

**WHEREAS**, members of the collaborative include the Oakland Community Organization (OCO), Centro Legal de la Raza (Centro Legal), East Bay Sanctuary Covenant (EBSC), Catholic Charities of the East Bay (CCEB), La Clínica de la Raza (La Clinica) and the Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana (PIPH) (collectively referred to hereafter as "Collaborative"); and

**WHEREAS**, Collaborative members are committed to helping and serving this vulnerable population despite having no dedicated funding due to the severity and urgency of this humanitarian crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, Centro Legal De La Raza is leading the Collaborative's efforts to seek emergency funding from the City of Oakland to secure legal representation for UACs and families with young children seeking asylum; and

**WHEREAS**, Centro Legal De La Raza has seen over 350 UAC cases from July 2014 to September 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that a UAC or family with young children only has a 1 in 10 chance of successfully winning a removal defense case, and with legal representation, they have an 8 in 10 chance of being granted protection; and

**WHEREAS**, the stakes are very high for securing legal representation for these children and families because they could face potential death if deported; and

**WHEREAS**, the Collaborative has requested funding in the amount of \$577,231 from the City of Oakland for Centro Legal De La Raza to secure and provide urgently needed legal and community coordination services to UACs living in Oakland; and

**WHEREAS**, to fund this grant it will be necessary to authorize the City Administrator to identify monies in, or appropriate monies from, the current Fiscal Year 2014-2015 adjusted budget, provided that such monies shall not be subject to any federal, state, Charter or Council grant request for proposal or qualification processes ; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the Oakland City Council authorizes a grant up to the amount of \$577,231.00 to Centro Legal De La Raza to be used to retain and provide legal immigration, child and family welfare and other services needed by Central American unaccompanied children (UAC), and their families, in Oakland that have fled to the United States to escape violent and other oppressive conditions in their countries; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the City Administrator is authorized to appropriate \$200,000 for said grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Fund, Municipal Lending Organization (89939), Rehabilitation Loan Program Costs Project (G08750), Home Ownership & Rehabilitation Program (NB32) into a project number to be established; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Council requests the City administrator to execute the grant agreement before the end of November, 2014 or return to Council with a report regarding legal or other impediments causing delay in execution; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Oakland City Council authorizes the City Administrator to identify funds in current Fiscal Year 2014-15 budgeted funds, or to appropriate funds if no budgeted funds are available, in an amount up to \$577,231.00 to cover said grant, provided that said funds shall not be subject to any federal, state, Charter or Council grant request for proposal or qualification processes; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the City Attorney shall review and approve the grant awarded hereunder for form and legality prior to its execution and a copy shall be placed on file in the office of the City Clerk.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, KAPLAN, SCHAAF, REID AND PRESIDENT KERNIGHAN

NOES –  
ABSENT –  
ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
LATONDA SIMMONS  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of  
the City of Oakland, California