



CITY HALL
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

May 3, 2019

Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chair
Budget & Finance Committee
City of Los Angeles
200 N Spring St Room 435
LA CA 90012

Re: LA Justice Fund

Dear Chairman Krekorian and Committee Members:

In response to increased DHS enforcement and the growing demand for legal services on behalf of immigrant residents facing deportation proceedings, Los Angeles leaders have established the Los Angeles Justice Fund (LAJF) in 2017. LAJF is an innovative multi-sector and cross-governmental approach to address the pressing demands for legal representation services for immigrants. It is a partnership between Los Angeles County, the City of Los Angeles, the Weingart Foundation and the California Community Foundation (CCF).

Despite legal and community pushbacks, the Trump Administration, along with DHS and DOJ, have continued to defy international law and expedite removal proceedings for detained immigrants, unaccompanied children and asylum seekers. It is even more heartbreaking that this widespread disruption and family separation waged against our communities are carried out by our federal government.

Representation makes a tremendous difference. Studies show that immigrants with legal counsel are five times more likely to be released from detention than those without. Since its launching in 2017, LAJF has provided representation to many Angelenos who have since been released and rejoined their families. Unfortunately, funding runs out June 30th of this fiscal year.

It is for this very reason that we write to renew the City's commitment to LAJF. It is a commitment to those who represent 53% of the population and 43% of the workforce in LA County.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Gilbert A. Cedillo
Councilmember, First District