

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOBS COMMITTEE REPORT relative to a review of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, addressing federal assistance gaps and resources for undocumented people.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. INSTRUCT the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), with the assistance of the Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department, Economic and Workforce Development Department, and the Civil, Human Rights, and Equity Department to report with recommendations on methods to improve the City's outreach efforts for undocumented immigrants including strategies to:
 - a. Strengthen the City's outreach efforts that result in increased participation of undocumented immigrants in the City's programs and services.
 - b. Develop data and metrics that measure the efficacy of City safety net programs and services with respect to undocumented immigrants.
2. INSTRUCT the CLA to monitor the Biden Administration's proposed American Rescue Plan and any future coronavirus relief bills as they progress through the Federal legislative process, and report to Council with any changes in eligibility with respect to undocumented immigrants.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by the CLA. Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the CLA has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On February 9, 2021, your Committee considered a January 22, 2021 CLA report relative to a review of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, addressing federal assistance gaps and resources for undocumented people. According to the CLA, on March 22, 2020, Council adopted Motion (O'Farrell, Martinez-Rodriguez instructing the CLA, with the assistance of the City Attorney and the Housing and Community Investment Department (HCIDLA), to review the Families First Coronavirus Response (Families First) Act and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and report with recommendations on how the City can address any federal assistance gaps and resources for undocumented immigrants.

In response to the Council instruction, this report includes an overview of the following:

- Federal coronavirus legislation (the Families First Act and the CARES Act) and service gaps for undocumented immigrants.
- State Disaster Relief Assistance for Immigrants (DRAI) Project which provided unemployment benefits for undocumented immigrants.

- Existing City initiatives that fill some of the service gaps for undocumented immigrants.
- Outreach efforts.

Community-based organizations offering assistance to sidewalk vendors. Subsequent to Council adoption of the motion, on December 27, 2020, the Federal Government enacted the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (H.R. 133) which includes \$900B in coronavirus relief and is part of a larger \$2.3T spending bill. This legislation extends and modifies several provisions enacted in the CARES Act that now provide assistance to mixed-status families who were previously ineligible for assistance. A brief summary is provided in the report. On January 14, 2020, President-elect Joseph Biden proposed the American Rescue Plan which includes \$1.9 trillion in funding to continue to provide financial assistance to individuals, small businesses, and state governments impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time, the proposal is still in the early stages of the process and it is unclear what the eligibility requirements will be. This report includes a brief summary. Also, at the request of the author of the motion, this report includes information relative to immigrant rights commissions in other cities (Attachment 1). Lastly, we have also included a review of an article by the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) which provides an overview of the disparities and challenges faced by undocumented immigrants by the exclusion from federal assistance efforts intended to help those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic (Attachment 2). Despite the funding provided by the federal government to assist individuals, the one-time unemployment benefit provided by the State, and City efforts to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, funding gaps continue to exist for undocumented immigrants, who were excluded from nearly all forms of federal cash assistance. While the City's programs did not exclude undocumented immigrants from receiving assistance, there is no data at this time that shows the participation rate of undocumented immigrants. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval, as amended, of the recommendations contained in the CLA report. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOBS COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
PRICE:	YES
KREKORIAN:	YES
BLUMENFIELD:	YES
RAMAN:	YES
HARRIS-DAWSON:	YES

ARL

2/9/21

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-