

FY 2023-2024 BUDGET QUESTION

Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT(S): Austin Public Health

CBQ NO.: 192

REQUESTED BY: Vela

DATE REQUESTED: 08/01/2023

DATE POSTED: 08/08/2023

REQUEST: How much funding does the proposed budget include for legal services for low-income immigrants? This funding has previously been located in Austin Public Health.

RESPONSE:

For FY24, Austin Public Health plans to invest \$629,858 in legal services for low-income immigrants. Below are the agencies funded to provide legal services for low-income immigrants:

Legal Services for Immigrants

Agency Name	Program Name	FY23 Funding	FY24 Proposed budget	Program Summary
American Gateways	Immigrant Legal Services	\$420,000	\$420,000	The goal of the program is to stabilize the immigration status of detained and non-detained immigrants residing in Austin/Travis County or in detention facilities, and to keep families together whenever possible, by providing universal representation to eligible Austin/Travis County residents with legal issues.
American Gateways	Legal Pro Se Assistance Program	\$70,000	\$0	The program provides assistance to low-income individuals who have either no immigration status or unstable immigration status with specific legal needs where there is an upcoming court appearance or deadline and that can be done with pro se legal assistance rather than full legal representation. (1-time funding from Budget Stabilization Reserve Fund)
Catholic Charities of Central Texas	Immigration Legal Services	\$209,858	\$209,858	Catholic Charities' Immigration Legal Services program (ILS) provides reduced-cost legal representation for immigrants seeking to stabilize their status

Catholic Charities of Central Texas	Filing Fee Assistance for Immigrants	\$110,000	\$0	This program covers application filing fees for immigrants unable to pay. About 20% of existing clients cannot pay the fees for their applications. (1-time funding from Budget Stabilization Reserve Fund)
Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services	ILS for Disenfranchised Populations	\$70,000	\$0	The program provides direct representation of individuals in immediate jeopardy of deportation in immigration court and before Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); direct representation of individuals and families without immigration status as well as those who may have lost or need to renew proof of immigration status before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS); and provision of case management services to legal services clients on an as needed basis. (1-time funding from Budget Stabilization Reserve Fund)