



**BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

Commission on Immigrant Affairs

Recommendation Number: 20180611-006A6

Regarding: FY 2019 Commission on Immigrant Affairs Budget Recommendations for the City Manager

#	Recommendation	Departments	Budget Impact	Strategic Alignment
1	The Commission on Immigrant Affairs recommends the City provide a personnel resource for a Welcoming Cities Officer. .	Equity Office	Add 1 Full-time Employee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Economic Opportunity and Affordability</li><li>• Safety</li><li>• Government That Works for All</li></ul>
2	<p>WHEREAS, the City of Austin and Travis County are home to diverse immigrant populations and we welcome them in our city and county; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the City of Austin is the largest refugee resettlement site in Central Texas; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the Commission on Immigrant Affairs passed recommendation number 20160121-004Ba to participate in the White House's Building Welcoming Communities Campaign and welcome refugees on January 21, 2015; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the refugee community in the City of Austin is in dire need of affordable housing in the form of rental assistance.</p>	Neighborhood Housing and Community Development	\$75,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Economic Opportunity and Affordability</li><li>• Safety</li><li>• Health and Environment</li></ul>



**BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

**Commission on Immigrant Affairs**

**Recommendation Number: 20180611-006A6**

**Regarding: FY 2019 Commission on Immigrant Affairs Budget Recommendations for the City Manager**

<p>The average rent of a 2-bedroom apartment for a refugee family of 5 to 6 people is \$1,400 per month, plus \$150 for utilities. For a refugee family with one working member, making \$8 - \$10 an hour, a \$1,550 monthly rental cost is out of reach; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, living within the City of Austin limits is necessary for refugees due to the availability of public transportation, refugee services, specialized school programs, community support, volunteers with language skills, medical facilities and jobs, which are not available in less expensive housing outside the City of Austin; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, members from the City of Austin Commission on Immigrant affairs met with various City of Austin department officials to identify rental assistance resources for refugees living within the City of Austin. The departments included: HACA (Housing Authority City of Austin), CARITAS, ECHO (Ending Community Homelessness Coalition), Austin Public Health, and the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department</p>			
--	--	--	--



**BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

**Commission on Immigrant Affairs**

**Recommendation Number: 20180611-006A6**

**Regarding: FY 2019 Commission on Immigrant Affairs Budget Recommendations for the City Manager**

	<p>(NHCD). Given their budgets are already channeled to help already identified needy families within the City, these departments were not able to identify additional resources to help refugees.</p> <p>THEREFORE, be it:</p> <p>RECOMMENDED, the City of Austin create a rental assistance grant of at least \$75,000 to help at minimum 16 refugee families. The grant provides \$300 in rental assistance per refugee family per month for 12 months. For the 16 families, the amount will add up to \$57,600. The remainder, \$17,400, is allocated for administering the fund.</p> <p>(Please refer to City of Austin Commission on Immigrant Affairs, Recommendation Number: 20180212-004B)</p>			
3	Provide funding for immigration legal services to low-income to address the rising number of individuals seeking services for deportation defense and consultations.	Austin Public Health	\$200,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Economic Opportunity and Affordability</li><li>• Safety</li></ul>



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Commission on Immigrant Affairs

Recommendation Number: 20180611-006A6

Regarding: FY 2019 Commission on Immigrant Affairs Budget Recommendations for the City Manager

<p>We adopt the Recommendation passed in part by the Asian Quality of Life Commission (see below) and request an additional \$100,000 (for a total of \$260,000 including current funding) for all other immigrant communities in the City of Austin.</p> <p><b>Immigrant Legal Services for Asians – \$160,000 total (including current funding)</b> Funding is requested to provide dedicated immigrant legal services to low-income Asian immigrants and others in Austin to address the rising number of individuals seeking services for deportation defense and consultations.</p> <p>Evidence: With the current climate on immigration at the state and federal levels, the need for immigrant legal services is more important than ever. The immigrant Asian population in Austin is diverse and has specific language access needs, and, without additional funding, low-income individuals will not be able to access the protection and services they need. Additional ongoing funding in the amount of \$100,000 would provide 25 one-on-one consultations a month to Asian immigrants as well as take on full representation of four to six new immigrant cases per month. Council Strategic Outcome Area: Safety</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Health and Environment</li><li>• Government That Works for All</li></ul>
---	--	--	--



**BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

**Commission on Immigrant Affairs**

**Recommendation Number: 20180611-006A6**

**Regarding: FY 2019 Commission on Immigrant Affairs Budget Recommendations for the City Manager**

	Commission priority: Civic Engagement Pillar: Require that any contract awarded for outreach includes a meaningful plan to engage with the diverse Asian American community in Austin.)			
4	The Commission on Immigrant Affairs adopts the proposal of the LGBTQ Quality of Life Commission regarding their recommendation that the City provide a personnel resource to serve as a liaison for the Quality of Life Commissions to be housed in the Equity Office.	Austin Public Health (Health Equity Unit)	Add 1 FTE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government That Works for All</li> </ul>
5	Request to fund monthly Citizenship Clinics for qualified residences of the City of Austin to apply for US Citizenship. We are seeking \$6,000 per monthly clinic serving 100 people per clinic. There are currently 57,000 Austin residents eligible for citizenship.	Equity Office or Austin Public Libraries or Austin Public Health or Economic Development	\$72,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic Opportunity and Affordability</li> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• Health and Environment</li> <li>• Government That Works for All</li> </ul>
6	Request to fund Immigrant Heritage Festival, a free, family-fun cultural event to celebrate Austin's diverse immigrant community and celebrate Austin's fifth year as a Welcoming City. We are seeking \$10,000 to pay for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food</li> <li>• Space</li> <li>• Awards</li> <li>• Marketing and outreach</li> <li>• Event production</li> </ul>	Austin Public Health	\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural and Lifelong Learning</li> <li>• Government That Works for All</li> </ul>



**BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

**Commission on Immigrant Affairs**

**Recommendation Number: 20180611-006A6**

**Regarding: FY 2019 Commission on Immigrant Affairs Budget Recommendations for the City Manager**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Performers and entertainment</li><li>● Informational literature</li><li>● Fees</li></ul>			
--	--	--	--	--

**PASSED** by the Commission on Immigrant Affairs on June 11, 2018.

Unanimously approved by the Commission on Immigrant Affairs on an 8-0 vote with Aditya, Adrian, Krystal, Nasario, and Walid absent.

Attest:

*Connie H. Gonzales*

Staff Liaison