

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

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AND LINDSEY P. HORVATH

Supporting Immigrants in Los Angeles County (County)

Immigrant Angelenos make up 35 percent of the County’s total population of over 10 million individuals. The immigrant community in the Los Angeles metro area contributes significantly to nearly all aspects of County life, including spending over \$108.6 billion per year and contributing over \$38 billion in state, local, and federal taxes. They are long-term residents with deep roots in the region whose labor force is an integral part of the County of Los Angeles’ economy.

The COVID-19 pandemic illuminated the heroic work of immigrants and their families, who helped our region make it through one of the toughest times in our collective history. Immigrant Angelenos worked to maintain food supplies, provide care, and kept the economy afloat even as they and their families suffered the most. All this happened against a backdrop of anti-immigrant rhetoric and federal policies that sought to strip them of their fundamental rights and humanity.

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The Board of Supervisors has recognized the immense contributions of immigrant communities and is proactively working to increase resources to support their economic well-being. In partnership with the City of Los Angeles, the Weingart Foundation, and the California Community Foundation, the Board launched the RepresentLA program to provide immigration legal representation and due process for immigrant communities. The County has also provided grants to immigrant-serving community-based organizations to strengthen their capacity to serve Los Angeles's immigrant communities. Recently, the Board approved a Countywide language access policy to ensure that immigrants can access County services no matter what language they speak.

Despite this Board's work to support immigrants, there are still gaps in serving this important community. In fact, every year the Immigrants Are LA (IRLA) coalition advocates for a budget that is inclusive and centered around the needs of immigrants. Their requests for the FY 2024-25 budget highlight continued need for resources to immigrant Angelenos. Given the Board's commitment to ensuring equity across its diverse community, it is important that the County continue working to ensure that immigrants have the resources to thrive in the County.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) through its Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA), in partnership with relevant Departments to review IRLA's budget requests and report back in writing in 90 days including:

1. In collaboration with the County Homeless Initiative (HI), conduct an analysis of the Los Angeles County Homeless Services Authority's (LAHSA) eligible programs

for immigrants, including undocumented immigrants, and any existing gaps to receiving those services. This should include recommendations for training and/or guidance for homeless services providers to eliminate existing exclusions that prevent, intentionally or inadvertently, immigrants from accessing County housing programs.

2. Assessment of the feasibility of, and plan for, implementing IRLA's five recommendations to increase language access in the County.
3. Through DCBA's Office of Labor Equity, explore the viability of a Worker's Justice Fund for all workers in the unincorporated areas of the County experiencing wage theft and retaliation, which includes recommendations and strategies on the implementation of such fund.
4. Through DCBA's Center for Financial Empowerment, evaluation of opportunities that could support the economic wellbeing of immigrants, such as tailored financial education, access to safe affordable financial products, and promoting wealth building opportunities to improve their financial stability.

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