Recommendations for Responding to the needs of TGI and LGBTQ+ Immigrant & Refugees in LA County

Goal: To address the intersecting legal and resource needs of Transgender, Gender-Expansive, Intersex *(TGI)* and LGBTQ+ Immigrants by providing the Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA), under the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs with expanded capacity and infrastructure.

Background: The Los Angeles County LGBTQ+ Commission is tasked with providing advice and recommendations on topics related to the health, wellbeing and safety of the entire LGBTQ+ community. TGI & LGBTQ+ Immigrants are at the intersecting center of attacks against TGI, LGBTQ+ and immigrant communities. They share the experience of being socially stigmatized, political targets and have a growing necessity for resources, protections and County investment.

The Immigration Ad Hoc Committee convened TGI and LGBTQ+ organizations and leaders across LA County to discuss the immediate needs of the immigrants and refugees they serve, and ongoing and emerging concerns. Based on direct discussions with TGI & LGBTQ+ immigrant serving organizations, and in partnership with the Office of Immigration Affairs, the LGBTQ+ Commission recommends the following:

Resource Connection Development

We recommend the Office of Immigration Affairs be provided with two additional staff members to address the unique needs of TGI & LGBTQ+ Immigrants, in partnership with the LA County LGBTQ+ Commission. We recommend the two dedicated staff members to

- continue to convene and work in partnership with the network of organizations that directly serve and respond to TGI and LGBTQ+ Immigrant needs,
- tailor and disseminate outwardly facing materials on rights & resources for TGI & LGBTQ+ Immigrants, such as flyers, pamphlets, zines and website information,
- advance a TGI & LGBTQ+ Immigrants and Refugees educational campaign and projects,
- and coordinate a TGI & LGBTQ+ Rights & Resources Tour across LA County, in partnership with TGI & LGBTQ+ serving organizations.

Legal Team Coordination

We recommend the establishment of a legal team that specializes in serving and working directly with TGI & LGBTQ+ Immigrants and Refugees through

- recruitment of three attorneys, within OIA's existing bar panel, that specialize in TGI and LGBTQ+ Immigrant representation and consultations
- training of existing and future attorneys to serve TGI and LGBTQ+ immigrants, including County-supported RepresentLA legal panel and the referral dashboard, and
- coordination of specialized TGI & LGBTQ+ Immigrant attorneys to work directly with TGI & LGBTQ+ serving organizations for consultations, safety planning and representation.

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TGI & LGBTQ+ Immigrant Resource Hubs

We recommend two TGI & LGBTQ+ organizations be formally included in RepresentLA's network through one additional attorney to dedicate their time between two TGI & LGBTQ+ Immigration Hub host sites.

The two TGI & LGBTQ+ Immigrant Resource Hubs are to work in partnership with dedicated TGI & LGBTQ+ Immigrant Network staff and OIA legal teams to host legal rights & resources events, educational workshops, provide consultations, safety planning and legal representation.

Budget Recommendation

The LGBTQ+ Commission recommends the following budget to carry-out 1) Resource Connection Development, 2) Legal Team Coordination and 3) two TGI & LGBTQ+ Immigrant Resource Hubs:

Position(s)	Amount	Total
2 Staff Members	$165,000	$330,000
1 Specialized Attorney	$275,000	$275,000
		$605,000

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