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UNFUNDED LIST

HONOREE:

El Centro De La Raza

Honoree Proposal Description:

El Centro De La Raza is a Seattle based community center seeking funds to provide one-on-one emergency planning assistance for people at risk of detention or deportation due to their immigration status, with a specific focus on families with children (with or without status).

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Organization Website:

<http://www.elcentrodelaraza.org/>

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The Center for People of All Races

A voice and a hub for the Latino community
as we advocate on behalf of our people
and work to achieve social justice.

March 14, 2017

El Centro de la Raza submits this request for a grant of \$46,000 to support emergency safety planning assistance for immigrant families.

Programs & Services

*With over 18,473 volunteer hours,
El Centro de la Raza serves 16,452
individuals and 10,128 families
annually through the following
programs and services:*

Affordable Health Coverage
Enrollment
Bebes! Infant Mortality Prevention
Business Opportunity Center
Café con El Centro de la Raza
César Chávez Demonstration Garden
College Readiness
Comadres Women's Support Group
Community Building and Advocacy
Community Meeting Space
Community Service /
Volunteer Opportunities
Cultural Arts / Social Events
DSHS People Point Washington
Connections
Economic Development
ECR Transitional Housing
El Patio Apartments
ESL Classes
Families & Education Levy
Case Management
Financial Counseling / Education
Food Bank
Foreclosure Counseling
Growing & Learning Together /
Parent Involvement, 0-6yrs
Historical & Educational Presentations
Homeless Assistance
Hope for Youth Poetry & Civil Rights
History Classes
Homebuyer Counseling / Education
José Martí Child Development Center
Latino Hot Meal Program
Legal Clinic Site
Lending Circles
Luis Alfonso Velásquez Flores
After School Program
ORCA Low-Income Transit Fare
Enrollment
Parent-Child Home Program
Plaza Roberto Maestas,
Beloved Community
Roberto Maestas Leadership Institute
Santos Rodriguez Memorial Park
Seattle Youth Violence Prevention &
Case Management
Senior Nutrition & Wellness
Smoking Cessation
Academic & Cultural Enrichment
Summer Learning
Tax Prep Site
Veteran's Services
Volunteer Opportunities
Youth Employment / Internships
Youth Technology Training

Organizational Overview

As an organization grounded in the Latino community of Washington State, it is the mission of El Centro de la Raza to build the Beloved Community through unifying all racial and economic sectors; to organize, empower, and defend the basic human rights of our most vulnerable and marginalized populations; and to bring critical consciousness, justice, dignity, and equity to all the peoples of the world.

El Centro de la Raza was founded in 1972 after a peaceful and multiracial three-month occupation of the abandoned Beacon Hill School building. Over 44 years later, we are an indispensable community organization that responds to a broad range of community needs with culturally and linguistically competent programs in the areas of emergency and human services, children and youth, education and asset-building, housing and economic development, and advocacy.

Of the 16,452 individuals and 10,128 households served in 2016, 57% of participants were Latino, 90% were people of color, and 91% were low-income. An estimated 1 in 3 participants is an immigrant or refugee and 1 in 3 participants speaks limited English. El Centro de la Raza is a key resource for many Latino immigrant families, particularly those with limited English skills.

Request Summary

El Centro de la Raza will provide one-on-one assistance for people at risk of detention or deportation due to their immigration status, with a specific focus on families with children (with or without status).

In response to the federal Executive Orders in late January and early February threatening the safety and civil rights of immigrants, El Centro de la Raza suspended normal operations from 2/22 through 3/4 to provide individualized Know Your Rights training and assistance for families to prepare emergency plans for themselves and their children in case of arrest and/or detention. A total of 276 families came for assistance over nine days. We are seeking \$46,000 in grant funding to continue this work throughout the year.

Community Need

The current political climate under the new federal administration has caused widespread fear among the community we serve. Now more than ever, our participant base is looking to El Centro de la Raza for leadership, organizing, and advocacy as the new federal administration continues to target undocumented immigrants, perpetuate harmful stereotypes about Latinos, devalue human services, and threaten to destabilize grassroots community work. It is El Centro de la Raza's responsibility to the community we serve to defend the rights of low-income communities and communities of color, to educate people about the new administration's plans, and to prepare families at risk of detention and/or deportation with a plan of action.

Our top priority right now is ensuring our participants know their rights and have a safety plan in the case of an arrest or raid, particularly with regard to the care of their children. If parents are detained or deported and there is no guardian identified, children (even those who are citizens) can end up in the foster care system. We had over 120 people attend our Know Your Rights training on 1/11/17 and after the presentation, people were lined up across the room with individual questions that required one-on-one attention from the lawyer that was here. We suspended normal organizational operations for nine days to provide individualized Know Your Rights training and emergency planning assistance for a total of 276 families. Staff spent an average of 2 hours with each family, assessing their needs, explaining their rights, translating official documents from Spanish to English, getting documents notarized, and creating plans for the care of children in case parents are detained or deported.

El Centro de la Raza is in urgent need of funding to sustain these activities. Families from across the region including many residents of our housing developments continue to seek guidance from us on what to do in the event of an arrest or raid, what do the new executive orders mean, and how to protect their families. As a voice and a hub of the Latino community, El Centro de la Raza is committed to doing everything we can to protect all immigrants in King County.

Program Details

A half-time case manager with a legal background and a team of volunteers will work directly with families to ensure they know their rights and have a safety plan in place that is tailored to their specific situation. We train staff and volunteers with a training package used by the Latino/a Bar Association of Washington. All participants receive a Know Your Rights card, to be carried at all times. We also provide a comprehensive Know Your Rights information packet that explains the arrest, detention, and deportation process and identifies a person's rights at any given step in the process. Staff show participants examples of valid and invalid search warrants and explain the circumstances in which law enforcement can or cannot legally enter their home. We also provide guidance on talking to their banks about accessing funds from another country, and if they own a home, advise meeting with a lawyer to create a power of attorney to facilitate the home sale process if they are out of the country.

For families with children, staff assist in preparing a safety plan by gathering and safeguarding the following information:

- The child's school emergency contact information
- The child's immunization records
- "Intention of Parents for Care of Minor Child" and/or "Temporary Parental Consent Agreement" forms to formally identify a caregiver if parents are detained. This does NOT grant legal custody of the child, but grants permission for someone to care for and/or make decisions on behalf of the child in the absence of the parents.
- The child's birth certificate (if issued by a foreign country, translated to English and notarized)
- The child's social security card
- The child's passport

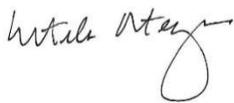
Staff assist families to request copies of birth certificates, apply for Social Security cards, and apply for passports if children do not have them yet. These documents are very important to keep on hand. If parents are detained or deported, it can be very difficult for minors to get passports later. El Centro de la Raza has two notaries on staff who are available to legally notarize documents.

We advertise this service through all channels of communication including press releases, flyers, eNewsletter, word of mouth, at our monthly legal clinics, at our free on-site Tax Prep (3x per week), and at other legal clinics and Know Your Rights events. We will also leverage our partnerships with NW Immigrant Rights Project, the Consul of Mexico, radio 1360 El Rey, and other outlets to get the word out.

A grant of \$46,000 will ensure that El Centro de la Raza has sufficient resources to continue to provide this service to immigrant families throughout the year. If you have any questions, please feel free to call (206) 957-4613 or email me at eortega@elcentrodelaraza.org.

Gracias for your time and consideration.

Respetuosamente,



Estela Ortega
Executive Director