



Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) Appropriations Priorities FY 2022

May 2021

The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) a statewide membership organization in California with national impact urges members of Congress to view the budget as a moral document that reflects our priorities and values as a nation. Congress must invest in people, and promote dignity, justice and integration of immigrants. Moreover, it must divest from programs and agencies that run counter to those values.

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Investing in Access to Justice & Citizenship

Department of Homeland Security

Strengthening the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Citizenship and Integration Grant Program to meet current needs

- \$100 million for the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program to support citizenship preparation programs that foster innovation, evaluate and identify best practices, support direct assistance to eligible Legal Permanent Residents; and support the integration of immigrants, in partnership with community-based organizations.

Recapture unused green cards lost to bureaucratic delay and the Trump administration's discriminatory executive orders on immigration

- Recapture unused green cards lost to bureaucratic delay and 100,000 family-based green cards lost due to the Trump administration's COVID immigration ban; require the government to end the practice of counting derivative visas towards the Immigration and Nationality Act's numerical limits; and issue immigrant visas for all eligible individuals who were not issued diversity visas from Fiscal Year 2017 through 2022 due to the former administration's executive actions on immigration.

Department of Justice

Pilot Project for Paid Legal Counsel

- \$75 million to improve the availability and quality of existing legal representation programs and enable expansion of pilots to serve other highly vulnerable populations beyond those currently served. To include but not limited to people who are detained, children ages 21 and younger, asylum seekers, people who speak rare languages, and individuals with mental disabilities.



Increase Legal Orientation Program (LOP) Including for Families Released by Customs and Border Patrol (CBP)

- Not less than \$28,500,000 for services and activities provided by the Legal Orientation Program, which includes as its component parts the Legal Orientation Program (LOP) for detained adults, the Legal Orientation for Custodians of Unaccompanied Children (LOPC) program, a pilot non-detained Legal Orientation Program for family units and individuals released from CBP custody, and the Immigration Court Helpdesk Program, of which \$3.5 million shall be available for the Immigration Court Helpdesk Program (ICH). EOIR shall continue all LOP services and activities without interruption, including during any review of the program.
- All LOP programming, shall be staffed and primarily operated by non-governmental organizations operating not-for-profit, with demonstrated expertise in immigration law.
- Funds shall be distributed to organizations providing LOP, LOPC and ICH services in a manner that allows for continuity of staffing and service regardless of fluctuations in the immigration court docket or the population in the detention centers served.

Compensation fund of \$15 million for victims of MPP and for additional accounting of victims to be conducted.

- For monetary compensation to noncitizens or the families of noncitizens who applied for asylum, withholding of removal, or protection under the Convention Against Torture who, as a result of programs or policies that created additional requirements or procedures to apply for such protections ("anti-asylum policies"), experienced harm that cannot be adequately redressed by procedural mechanisms, \$15,440,000, to remain available until expended; Provided, that the money is used for medical expenses attributable to a physical injury resulting from anti-asylum policies, including expenses for mental health counseling and care; loss of wages resulting from anti-asylum policies; or funeral expenses attributable to a death or disappearance resulting from anti-asylum policies.

Department of Health and Human Services

Funding for 100% immediate vaccine availability in immigrant detention facilities

- Provide funding for 100% immediate vaccine availability in immigrant detention facilities across the nation while providing detainees with the educational resources to help them make an informed choice with respect to any decisions related to vaccination.

Department of State

Root Causes of Migration from Central America and elsewhere

- Increase capacity for the Central American Minors (CAM) program, allowing Central American youth to apply for asylum from outside the United States and join their parents if they are lawfully present in the U.S.



Divesting from Arcade & Inefficient Programs

Reduce funding for Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs Border Patrol (CBP)

- Cut funding for ICE and CBP's overall budgets by at least 50%, including specifically 50% cuts in funding for ICE officers and Border Patrol agents.
- Reduce the ICE Custody Operations account by at least 75%, including through prohibition of the use of funds for the detention of families, and ensuring that ICE cannot use funds to detain people without access to an individualized consideration of release. Instead, invest funding in programs that move away from detention and surveillance and prioritize un-mandated, community-based care outside of DHS.
- No funding for border wall/barrier construction: rescind or redirect unobligated border wall funding from previous appropriations Acts, including from cancelled contracts, and sharply restrict "virtual" wall and mass-surveillance technologies; instead, provide reparations for border communities and resources to restore areas that have been negatively impacted by wall construction.
- Restrict DHS authority to transfer and reprogram funding to ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations account

No use of funds for "Operation Streamline" and discontinue the use of mass hearings for 'illegal' entry and reentry prosecutions

- End the "Operation Streamline" program as a first step towards de-prioritizing the use of criminal prosecutions for immigration-related offenses and phasing out the use of such prosecutions. Only in immigration prosecutions does the Department routinely use mass hearings in which individuals are unable to express concerns about their own case and have extremely limited time to consult with counsel.

No use of fund to compel plea deals from immigrants

- Discontinue the use of plea agreements requiring people to forgo seeking U.S. protection from persecution or torture, which violate international obligations.