

Stand Together Contra Costa

Stand Together Contra Costa ("STCC") is a collaborative legal services and public education partnership between the County (through the Public Defender's Office) and local community-based organizations. STCC provides immigrant legal services, community outreach, and public education. STCC aims to ensure that immigrant families have access to accurate and trusted information about the rapidly evolving immigration legal landscape and that they are provided due process through no-cost legal representation in deportation proceedings before the immigration court.

In 2017, the Board of Supervisors voted to commit \$500,000 annually in AB109 Public Safety Realignment funds to the project for FY 2017/18 and FY 2018/19. At that time, multiple private charitable foundations expressed their intention to financially support the program in the amount of \$585,000, which was contingent on the County's agreement to contribute \$500,000 annually for STCC. The FY 2018/19 operating budget of approximately \$1.1 million was funded relatively equally between County and philanthropic funding.

Subsequently, the philanthropic funding has reduced to approximately \$150,000 in FY 2021/22. In response to the reduced funding, the Public Defender's Office requested and received an increased AB109 Public Safety Realignment funds allocation of approximately \$965,000 to maintain the current level of service.

For FY 2022/23, the Public Defender's Office has requested approximately \$1.1 million in AB109 Public Safety Realignment funds. This request is currently included in the Community Corrections Partnership's FY 2022/23 funding recommendations. This funding recommendation will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval, as part of the County budget process.

As philanthropic funding reduced, additional County funds have been allocated to sustain STCC's level of service. Consequently, Stand Together Contra Costa receives County funding to sustain the program's core functions. The County looks to the private charitable foundations to recommit their resources towards the program. The sustainability of the program will be reevaluated during the next fiscal year, taking into consideration the level of financial support provided by the private charitable foundations.

Recommendation

No Measure X funding is recommended for this program.