

ELLEN MCDONNELL, PUBLIC DEFENDER





- Stand Together Contra Costa (STCC) is a collaborative partnership between the County and community-based organizations to provide immigrant legal services, community outreach, and public education to ensure immigrant families have access to due process and accurate information
- The vast majority of indigent immigrants lack legal representation as attorneys are not provided by immigration courts
- Through STCC our county protects due process rights by providing no-cost attorneys to represent indigent clients facing deportation
- Stand Together Contra Costa is the <u>only</u> program that provides pro bono deportation defense in Contra Costa County









PROGRAM INFORMATION

- 2,979 legal consultations conducted since program inception in 2018
- 154 clients provided representation since 2018
 - 70 cases closed (79% Success Rate)
 - 84 cases ongoing
 - 124 clients currently waitlisted
- 2,735 clients served through community outreach from Jul-Dec 2020



DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

<u>Gender</u>

- 56% Male
- 46% Female

<u>Age</u>

- 0-17 27%*
- 18-29 26.5%
- 30-39 25.5%
- 40-4914%
- 50+ 7%

Race/Ethnicity

- 90% Latino
- 5% Indigenous
- 5% Other (API, African, Middle Eastern)

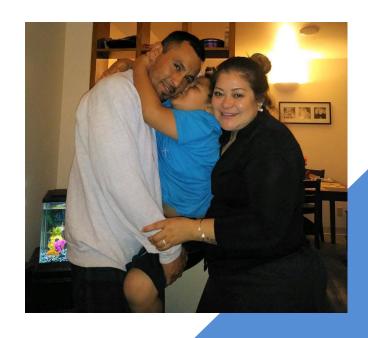
Country of Origin

- 34% El Salvador
- 19% Mexico
- 12% Nicaragua
- 12% Guatemala
- 12% Honduras
- 11% Other (Venezuela, Peru, Cameroon, Vietnam, Laos, Uganda, Turkey, Fiji)

^{*}One-Third of New Immigration Court Cases Are Children; One in Eight Are 0-4 Years of Age (syr.edu)

OUTCOME INFORMATION

- STCC has 79% success rate in deportation defense
- 55 out of 70 of the families represented were granted the right to remain together in the United States
- Various types of relief are sought in deportation cases:
 - 79% Asylum
 - 12% United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
 - 9% Cancellation of Removal



PROGRAM OPERATIONS

- 1 Public Defender attorney & 2 Non-Profit partner attorneys
- FY 22-23 budget is \$1.06 Million funded via AB109
- Attorneys are at maximum capacity with a pending caseload of approximately 130 active clients
- Growing waitlist of 124 unrepresented immigrant families with pending deportation cases
- Federal FY 2022 is on pace for the highest number of new deportation cases in US history
- Providing due process is good public policy



UNPRECEDENTED NEED

- 124 Contra Costa immigrants with upcoming deportation hearings are currently on the STCC waiting list in need of legal representation
- Over 1.7 Million migrants were seeking asylum in the United States in 2021
- 8,241 Contra Costa residents have pending deportation cases
- 85% of residents newly placed in deportation hearings are without an attorney
- Due to extreme backlogs and unprecedented filings, the Department of Homeland Security is opening a large deportation processing center ("Immigration Court") in Concord starting in 2023



FUNDING REQUEST

- \$1.8 Million annually is requested to address the current need
 - 3.0 Deputy Public Defenders III \$791k
 - 3.0 Legal Assistants \$350k
 - 2.0 Client Services Specialists \$283k
 - CBO contracts (Community Engagement Specialists and events in East, South, Central, and West regions of Contra Costa County) -\$376k



VIDEO TESTIMONIAL

