



**STAND  
TOGETHER  
CONTRA COSTA**

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- 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 only 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

## Gender

- 56% Male
- 46% Female

## Age

- **0-17**      **27%\***
- 18-29      26.5%
- 30-39      25.5%
- 40-49      14%
- 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 \(syr.edu\)](http://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

