



# Stand Together Contra Costa

**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 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



# PROGRAM INFORMATION

- 2,511 legal consultations conducted since program inception in 2018
- 152 clients provided representation since 2018
  - 70 cases closed (79% Success Rate)
  - 82 cases ongoing
  - 101 clients currently waitlisted
- 2,735 clients served through community outreach from Jul-Dec 2020

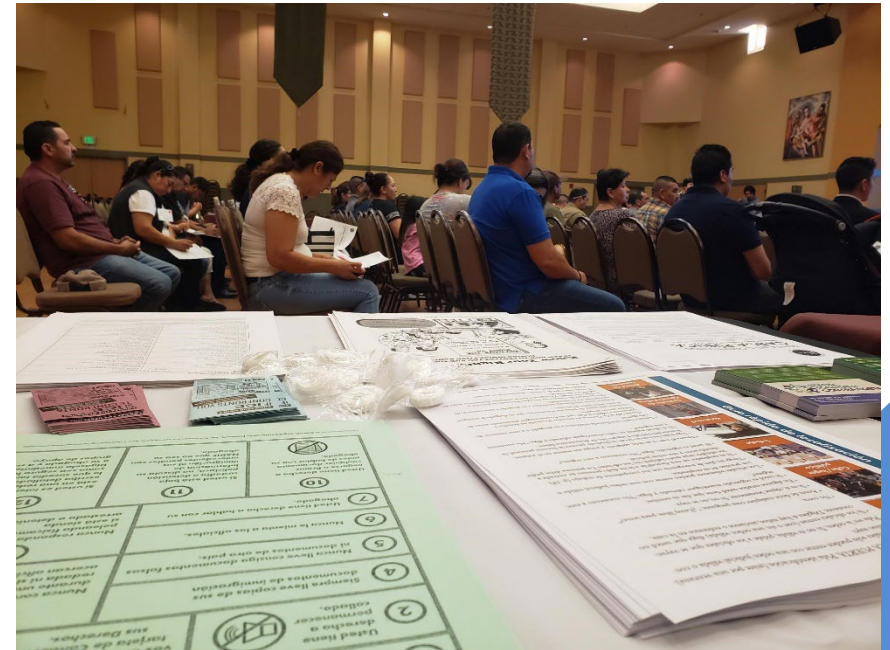


# DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

- Race/Ethnicity
  - 91% Latino
  - 5% Indigenous
  - 5% Other (Asian/Pacific Islander, African American & Middle Eastern)
- County of Origin
  - 34% El Salvador
  - 19% Mexico
  - 12% Nicaragua
  - 12% Guatemala
  - 12% Honduras
  - 11% Other (Venezuela, Peru, Cameroon, Vietnam, Laos, Uganda, Turkey)

# DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

- Representation is provided to indigent individuals who live, work, or attend school in Contra Costa
- To date ALL clients have been County residents
- Approximately 9% of all STCC clients have also been public defender clients



# COURT OUTCOME INFORMATION

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



# DEPORTATION DEFENSE SERVICES

- Counties
  - Contra Costa: 1 attorney plus support staff
  - Alameda: 7 attorneys plus support staff
  - San Francisco : 9 attorneys plus support staff
- Community Based Organizations
  - **Stand Together Contra Costa is the only program that provides pro bono deportation defense in Contra Costa County**
- Statewide
  - 16 of the 33 County Public Defender offices have immigration attorneys on-staff plus various support staff

# UNPRECEDENTED NEED

- In 2021 over 1.7 Million migrants were seeking asylum in the United States<sup>1</sup>
- 7,982 Contra Costa residents have pending deportation cases<sup>1</sup>
- 85% of residents newly placed in deportation hearings are without an attorney<sup>1</sup>
- 101 clients are currently on the STCC waiting list in need of representation
- Due to extreme backlogs and unprecedented filings, the Department of Homeland Security is opening a new deportation processing center (“Immigration Court”) in Concord



<sup>1</sup> Syracuse University – <https://trac.syr.edu/phptools/immigration/addressrep/>



# CURRENT PROGRAM OPERATIONS

- 1 Public Defender attorney (\$256k) & 2 Non-Profit partner attorneys (\$189k)
- FY 22-23 budget is \$1.06 Million funded entirely by AB109 funds
- Attorneys are at maximum capacity with a pending caseload of approximately 126 active clients



# FUNDING REQUEST

To sufficiently address the growing need, \$1.8 Million is requested to provide services

- 3.0 Deputy Public Defenders III - \$791k
- 3.0 Legal Assistants - \$350k
- 2.0 Client Services Specialists - \$283k
- CBO contracts (Community Engagement Specialists) - \$376k

