

Update: OIRA's \$4 Million Expanded Investment Portfolio

April 2026



Seattle
Office of Immigrant
and Refugee Affairs

Overview

+\$4M

Added to OIRA's
2026 Budget



Community Feedback

Data & Research

To mitigate impacts of federal funding loss and expand/create new programming to support immigrant and refugee communities, including legal services, workforce development, outreach and community navigation services and other critical programs.



\$4 Million Expanded Investment Portfolio

| Investment Area | Proposed Funding Amount |
|---|-------------------------|
| Legal Removal Defense | \$1,250,000 |
| Rapid Response | |
| Small Community Grants | \$280,000 |
| Support for Providers, Businesses, & Workers | \$500,000 |
| Community Response for Detained Individuals & Families | \$250,000 |
| Investment into Areas Impacted by Federal Funding Cuts | |
| Legal Orientation Program | \$140,000 |
| Naturalization Services | \$200,000 |
| ESOL & Adult Basic Education | \$655,000 |
| Emergency Assistance | \$300,000 |
| Other | |
| Language Access & Ethnic Media | \$75,000 - \$125,000 |
| Temporary Staffing (2 FTE) | \$300,000 |



2025-2026: We Listened

- Legal Services (LDN & Naturalization)
 - Legal programs convening & survey (May 2025 & March 2026)
- ESL and Workforce Education
 - Survey and in-person convening (July 2025 & March 2026)
- Rapid Response
 - Listening sessions (2025)
- 1:1 engagement with OIRA Director and 23 community partners



More Listening & Learning

- Mayoral Roundtables (February 2026)
- Wilson Mayoral Transition Team
 - *2 Listening Sessions and Survey*
- Ethnic Media Roundtable (March 2026)
- Peer jurisdictions
 - *Boston, Denver, Chicago, Minneapolis, San Jose*



#1 Priority: Legal Defense

- Roughly 8,000 of the 14,290 cases (about 60 percent) facing removal in Seattle's immigration court are **unrepresented**.
- 152 percent increase in enforcement from 2024 to 2025, along with increased challenges for communication with detained individuals.



Additional Priorities

- Significant cuts in federal funding to immigrant integration programs such as naturalization and ESOL.
- Immigrants and refugees are deeply afraid of being targeted by federal immigration enforcement.
 - Impact: Self-sufficiency, affording basic needs.



Additional Priorities

- Small community-based organizations need resources to support residents and workers at a hyper-local level.
- Need for expanded legal consultations, family safety planning workshops, and response protocols across business communities, workers, and immigrant-serving providers.



\$4M Expanded Investment Portfolio



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Legal Defense Network (LDN) Expansion RFP

Legal representation to low-income immigrants who are in detention, facing removal, or in danger of loss because of their immigration status.

Funding Details

- **Total funds available:** Up to an additional \$1,250,000
- **Contract Period:** June 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026
- **Submission Deadline:** 5:00 pm, April 24, 2026
- **Eligible applicants** must be a nonprofit organization with a 501(c)(3) status, have offices located within Seattle or King County and have at least one fully accredited DOJ Rep or licensed attorney with at least two years of experience providing removal defense services.



Legal Defense Network (LDN) Expansion RFP

Outcomes:

- Full representation for a caseload of 500, which effectively doubles the current caseload of 250 cases, including unaccompanied children, and an additional 100 derivatives.
- LDN provides critical, qualified immigration attorney services for cases through the complex and often lengthy immigration processes.



Small Community Grants RFP

One-time contracts with community organizations or neighborhood groups to offer resources, education, and tools to empower communities in Seattle. Examples include:

- **Community Aid for Basic Needs:** Groups assisting community members impacted by immigration enforcement and/or federal immigration policy changes with accessing basic needs (diapers, formula).
- **Know-Your-Rights Trainings or Community Education Events:** Host and deliver education on topics that are relevant and timely to immigrant communities in Seattle.
- **Immigrant Family Safety Planning Workshops:** Assistance with creating plans for care of children or dependents and legal preparations in case of detention or deportation.



Small Community Grants RFP

Funding Details

- **Total Funds Available:** Up to \$280,000.
- **Awards:** Each application may be awarded **up to \$10,000**.
- **Application Deadline:** Applications accepted on a rolling basis, with funding decisions announced within six-weeks of application submission, for as long as budget is available or until funds are exhausted.
- **Contract Period:** All funded activities must occur within the calendar year 2026.
- **Eligible applicants** must be a nonprofit organization with a 501(c)(3) status OR have a fiscal sponsor with 501(c)(3) status and show that they serving individuals with a tie to Seattle as residents, workers, and students.



Small Community Grants RFP

Outcomes:

Depending on the activity, the reporting of outcomes for each grant could include:

- number of events and the topic(s)
- type of service
- number of attendees and languages served
- number of completed family safety plans
- attestation of eligibility and delivery, receipts or financial reports for type of need (food, household essentials, etc.)



Small Community Grants: Sample Reporting Template

| Sample Report Template – OIRA Community Small Grant | |
|--|--|
| Organization Name | |
| Contract Number | |
| Project Title | |
| Type of Project – Depending on the type of project selected, the report will vary. Some projects will contain more than one type of activity, in which case the organization will need to provide the necessary information for each type of activity. | |
| Check all relevant activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Community aid for basic needs<input type="checkbox"/> Know Your Rights (KYR) presentations or community information sessions<input type="checkbox"/> Family safety planning | |
| Summarize the activity and the services provided. When applicable, provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Event type (online or in person) AND topics covered• Event location• Event date• Number of attendees• Number of individuals served• Total amount if program supplies purchased <p><i>Note that all program supply purchases must have accompanying receipts.</i></p> | |
| Response: | |



Next Phase of Funding



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Next Phase of Funding

The next phase of expanded investments from OIRA will be later this Spring:

- Support for immigrant inclusion services that have faced federal funding losses (Naturalization, ESOL, LOP)
- Community response for detained individuals & families

To learn more about open and upcoming funding opportunities, visit:

<https://www.seattle.gov/iandraffairs/programs-and-services/new-oira-funding-opportunities>



OIRA shares regular updates and resources through our monthly newsletter, blog, and on social media. Stay connected to stay informed!

Website: [Seattle.gov/iandraffairs](https://seattle.gov/iandraffairs)

Blog: <https://welcoming.seattle.gov/category/oira/>



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Questions?

