

Seattle City Council Select Budget Committee
 Councilmember Budget Proposals | Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (OIRA)

Number	Title	Sponsor	Packet Page
OIRA-001-A-1	Make the \$4 million one-time investment in OIRA for immigrant & refugee community support ongoing and make permanent 3.0 FTE	Rinck	2

2026 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION

V1

OIRA-001-A

Make the \$4 million one-time investment in OIRA for immigrant & refugee community support ongoing and make permanent 3.0 FTE

SPONSORS

Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Mark Solomon, Sara Nelson

BALANCING SUMMARY

Fund	2026 Increase (Decrease)	2027 Increase (Decrease)
General Fund	\$0	
Total Budget Balance Effect	\$0	

CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY

This Council Budget Action (CBA) would change \$4 million (GF) in proposed appropriations for the Office of Immigrants & Refugee Affairs (OIRA) from a one-time to an ongoing investment and make permanent 3.0 FTE roles supporting this work. The 2026 Proposed Budget would have added \$4 million to OIRA's budget in one-time funding backed by the proposed Seattle Shield Initiative changes to the Business and Occupation Tax to support 2.0 sunset FTE, 1.0 temporary FTE and to expand existing and new OIRA programming for the immigrant and refugee community.

This CBA proposes this amount for ongoing funding that could be utilized for Rapid Response, Legal Defense, Immigrant Integration & Citizenship Support, Adult Immigrant Workforce Development & Ready to Work, Immigrant Youth Career Pathways Programs, OIRA Immigrant Safety Access Network, and Ethnic Media, and Translation & Community Advisors and the staffing needed to support these functions. This is a net neutral budget amendment in 2026; however, the change shifts this allocation to ongoing funding sources and would reduce the "federal funding backfill" reserve in future financial projections.

This CBA also changes the temporary Grants & Contracts Specialist staffing to a permanent FTE given the ongoing nature now proposed for this work and provides permanent status and Civil Service protections to the proposed 2.0 FTE Strategic Advisor 1 roles originally proposed to sunset at the end of 2026 and proposed as exempt from Civil Service.

ATTACHMENT: No

TRANSACTIONS - ONGOING

Dept	BSL	BCL	Year	Revenue	Expenditure
OIRA	Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs	00100-BO-IA-X1N00	2026		\$4,000,000

2026 COUNCIL BUDGET ACTION**TRANSACTIONS - ONE-TIME**

Dept	BSL	BCL	Year	Revenue	Expenditure
OIRA	Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs	00100-BO-IA-X1N00	2026		\$(4,000,000)

POSITIONS

Dept	BCL	Year	Position Title	Positions	FTE
OIRA	00100-BO-IA-X1N00	2026	Grants and Contracts Specialist	1	1.0
OIRA	00100-BO-IA-X1N00	2026	Strategic Advisor 1, General Government	2	2.0
OIRA	00100-BO-IA-X1N00	2026	Strategic Advisor 1, Exempt	-2	-2.0