

**Secure Families Fund  
Bidders' Conference  
Questions & Answers  
May 2, 2018**

Thank you all for attending the Bidders' Conference. Please find below questions that participants raised at the conference, answers, as well as some additional information that may be helpful as you develop your responses.

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Q: Who will administer this Fund?

A: This donor-advised Fund is hosted by the Sonoma County Community Foundation, but is governed by the Fund's Trustees, who are Bruce Goldstein, Lisa Carreño, and Michelle Mercer. An Advisory Committee made up of local attorneys and community members with relevant experience will assist with the review and selection process.

Q: Is it a contract with the County of Sonoma?

A: While the RFP results from an initiative of the Board of Supervisors, there is not any legal or official contractual relationship with the County of Sonoma.

Q: What is the payment structure for the selected proposal?

A: The payment structure is consistent with other donor-advised Funds hosted by the Community Foundation. Once the grant recipient is selected, and a budget approved, the Community Foundation will provide the grant that may be paid out in at two installments. There is a 6-month and a year-end reporting requirement. The grant for Year 1 is \$500,000.

Q: What is the fundraising expectation for the grantee?

A: Our aspiration is to raise \$2 million over three years, and to work in partnership with the grantee to identify new funding streams and to raise funds for Years 2 and 3. We are cognizant that local non-profit organizations are already engaged in this difficult work with specific funding sources, and will work to ensure we are able to engage with new sources and to increase local capacity to access additional funds.

Q: Are you open to funding infrastructure development at the outset of this effort? To complete a comprehensive gap analysis and assessment of the population to be served?

A: We hope to direct the majority of our funding towards direct services, and we hope to rely on our community expertise to identify the need. However, if we hear that this is an overriding important initial focus, we will consider the need.

Q: What is the role of the Sonoma County Public Defender in this effort? In other counties, there is a Public Defender who is also representing PD clients in their immigration cases.

A: The Sonoma County Public Defender's Office does have a Deputy who advises the Department on the immigration consequences of their clients' pleas and charges. However, this Deputy does not practice immigration law and there are no current efforts to expand that role.

Q: What does "pre-detention" mean on page 2 of RFP under 1<sup>st</sup> priority?

A: It is a way to identify people at higher risk for removal. It is anticipated that legal services for people both detained and non-detained would be provided deportation defense services.

Q: What is your expectation with regard to pro bono attorneys' role in this effort?

A: We understand the specific challenges in a smaller, rural community, as compared to the well-resourced firms in urban areas. The desire here is to find ways to increase the services provided to immigrants in Sonoma County, and it may be in other areas of law, not just immigration. We hope to hear how you are able to create an effective model to maximize services of all kinds. The focus is on removal defense, as that was the greatest need identified in our planning efforts, but family preparedness, post-conviction relief, and representation in housing/employment discrimination (based on documentation status) are considered important ancillary legal services.

Q: Can you explain whether your focus is on "immigrant" or "undocumented?"

A: We understand the ways in which documentation status creates lack of stability throughout a family, even when there are members which may have status. It is the Secure Families Fund, not just Undocumented Person Fund.

Q: Can you comment on your commitment to funding this effort after the year is up?

A: The contractual commitment is for one year, however, we are committed to raise money over the full three year term. It would be helpful to identify in the proposal future phases, as we work to fundraise towards reaching that vision.

Q: What kind of participation or partnership do you mean?

A: The overarching goal with this effort is to increase our local capacity and expertise to provide removal defense legal services, as well as to coordinate County-wide. We encourage local organizations to partner regionally with established legal service organizations providing removal defense in urban centers to increase the resources available during surges in need, as well as to ensure coverage in San Francisco immigration court and to do outreach in detention centers.

Q: Please define “Navigator Services.”

A: Navigator Services refer to the need to assist immigrant families who may have suffered losses during the fires to access and coordinate services and to address other forms of increased vulnerability due to their status. This may include assigning a “case worker” to provide broader services outside of those immigration legal services that spurred a family’s visit to the organization.