



AILA Texas, Oklahoma & New Mexico Chapter

Date: March 10, 2016

To: Executive Committee - AILA Texas/New Mexico/Oklahoma Chapter

From: Donations Committee

Re: 2016 AILA Donations Committee Report and Recommendations

INTRODUCTION

During the 2016 donation application period, the Chapter received 16 donation request applications. Donation funds available for distribution by the Chapter are \$110,000. Donations Committee members reviewed the 16 applications and supporting documentation. Given the available funds for distribution, together with the number of organizations seeking funding, the Donations Committee worked to ensure constructive, equitable, and a productive distribution of Chapter funds.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The Donations Committee was established by the Chapter in the spring of 2010 in an effort to ensure equity and transparency in donation allocations by the Chapter. The goal of the Donations Committee is to make donation recommendations to the Chapter based on a thorough review of donation applications. This year's Donations Committee was chaired by Marisol Pérez of San Antonio, TX, and consisted of six other members: Simon Azar Farr of San Antonio, TX; Alison Cimino of Albuquerque, NM; Cathy Potter of the Rio Grande Valley, TX; David Sobel of Oklahoma; Sarah Brown of Dallas, TX; and Alexandre Afanassiev of Houston, TX.

The application process consisted of the following:

- Applicants were required to submit information in accordance with the Texas Chapter Grant Funding Checklist and Request Form which were available on the Texas Chapter website.
- The deadline for applications and all supporting documents was February 1, 2016.
- All submissions were to be submitted to the Chair of the committee.
- Applicants received email confirmation of their applications by the Chair of the committee.
- Chair of the committee reported to other committee members that 16 applications were received.
- Chair of the Donations Committee forwarded applications and supporting documents to all members of the committee for review.
- The Donations Committee Members reviewed and analyzed each of the 16 applications.
- Members considered the amount requested by each organization, proposed use of funding, region served, type of population served, annual income, annual expenses, and the organization's sources of funds, budget reliance on the amount requested to the chapter, and any other notable details from the submissions.
- The Donations Committee members met via teleconference on March 1, 2016 and had several communications via email afterwards regarding committee recommendations.
- The application process specifically does not provide for presentations to the Chapter at the spring meeting. Instead, recommendations by the Donations Committee are made based on a detailed review of documentation and information provided by each organization in accordance with the application process.
- Based on all of the applications and supporting documentation, the Committee made final donation recommendations based on the available funding of \$105,000.
- The Donations Committee Members believe that a comprehensive and just review of the applications took place and agreed by a majority vote to their recommendations.

FUNDING REQUESTS

Below is a summary of the funding requests received by the committee:

- Casa Marianella (Austin, TX) requested \$10,000 to support their immigration legal services program
- Raices (San Antonio, TX) requested \$15,000 for partial funding for an attorney to represent, advocate and coordinate services for families released from family detention centers to Houston, Dallas, Austin or San Antonio
- Human Rights Initiative of North Texas (Dallas, TX) requested \$16,000 for their asylum program
- Justice For Our Neighbors DFW (Grapevine, TX) requested \$14,500.17 to assist with direct service costs for an attorney and a legal assistant
- American Immigration Council (Washington D.C.) requested \$50,000 for general operating support
- Houston/East Texas Justice for our Neighbors (Houston, TX) requested \$10,000 for general operating support
- American Gateways (Austin, TX) requested \$30,000 for their asylum and detention program
- Mosaic Family Services (Dallas, TX) requested \$10,000 for interpretation and administrative fees needed to prepare immigration petitions for indigent victims of crime.
- Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma (Oklahoma City, OK) requested \$12,000 for general operating expenses for their immigration program
- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City (Oklahoma City, OK) requested 55,000 for a full-time bilingual attorney
- National Immigration Project (Boston, MA) requested \$20,000 for general operating support
- Diocesan Migrant & Refugee Services, Inc. (El Paso, TX) requested \$10,000 for general operating support
- Memorial Assistance Ministries (Houston, TX) requested \$10,000 to partially fund salaries for an immigration lawyer and a case worker
- ProBAR (Harlingen, TX) requested \$10,000 to help pay for an attorney salary for their adult detention program
- New Mexico Immigrant Law Center (Albuquerque, NM) requested \$30,000 for general operating support
- Equal Justice Center (Austin, TX) requested \$2,000 for statewide outreach, education, and legal assistance.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of a thorough review of all application information, the following are the Committee's recommendations:

- Casa Marianella \$7,500
- Human Rights Initiative of North Texas \$10,000
- Justice For Our Neighbors DFW \$7500
- American Immigration Council \$27,000
- American Gateways \$20,000
- Mosaic Family Services \$3,500
- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City \$7,500
- National Immigration Project \$5,000
- Diocesan Migrant & Refugee Services, Inc. \$5,000
- ProBAR \$10,000
- New Mexico Immigrant Law Center \$5,000
- Equal Justice Center \$2,000

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REGARDING THE CURRENT APPLICATION PROCESS:

During the application review process many committee members discussed whether the current chapter donation request application should be revised to request additional information from organizations seeking funding. Specifically, committee members were interested in seeking information regarding an organization's full compliance with IRS and BIA law. Committee members request that the Executive Committee appoint a subcommittee to recommend revisions and improvements to the current donation application. Committee member Simon Azar Farr had specific ideas about such improvements and we recommend that he be one of the members appointed to the subcommittee.

CONCLUSION

The Donations Committee is honored to have served the Chapter in determining the best use of Chapter funds. Each member took their position seriously and served as a steward of the Chapter's funds.