

CASE FOR FUNDING

Community Need

Due to its proximity to the U.S.-Mexico border, San Diego has the largest border-crossing in the world and is a highly active location for deportations, rights violations, and abuse by Customs & Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Immigrants in the San Diego and Southern California border regions face many significant challenges, including family separation, Migrant Caravans presenting at San Ysidro Port-of-Entry, and increased enforcement activity in residential communities.

Immigrants apprehended by CBP or ICE have only hours to secure legal representation before potential deportation.

It is during these stressful times that this vulnerable population often falls victim to “notario” fraud or are preyed upon by unscrupulous attorneys with limited to no immigration experience. **Recent statistics show that immigrants who challenge their deportation with legal representation are five times more likely to win their case.**

About the San Diego Rapid Response Network (SDRRN)

In late 2017 as fear increased within our community, the ACLU Foundation of San Diego & Imperial Counties (ACLU) convened the San Diego Rapid Response Network (SDRRN), a broad coalition of 40+ immigrant rights and service organizations, attorneys, and community leaders. The SDRRN focuses on educating, protecting, and assisting immigrant individuals and families – including refugees and asylum seekers – with legal support and social services.

The Network’s collaborative infrastructure can quickly mobilize the expertise of multiple organizations to effectively respond to the critical needs of immigrants and asylum seekers in the region. Within the SDRRN, Jewish Family Service of San Diego (JFS) is leading the legal response effort and provides both emergency and non-emergency assistance for immigrants through a variety of services, including immigration benefit screenings, pro bono legal representation, and safety planning for families. JFS is also the fiscal agent for the Network.

In October 2018, federal immigration authorities abruptly ended “Safe Release,” which resulted in asylum-seeking families being released onto San Diego streets without food, clothing, transportation or shelter. SDRRN filled this critical gap by opening temporary shelters. In early March 2019, the shelter moved to a space owned by the County of San Diego and which will remain stable through December 2019. The shelter, operated by JFS, has housed and assisted more than 18,000 individuals.

Who We Help

Whether it is a new immigrant seeking protection and presenting at the Port-of-Entry, a separated family, a family that must Remain In Mexico (MPP), or an undocumented San Diegan apprehended in the community where they live and work, the SDRRN stands ready to defend against inhumane policies impacting immigrant communities and be a voice for individuals and families without resources to defend themselves.

- A mother who was sent to Mexico under the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), but who can’t legally find work to support her young sons. She faces homelessness, violence, and declining conditions in Tijuana as she awaits her asylum hearing back in the U.S..
- A 12-year-old girl whose brother, her sole guardian, was picked up and detained by ICE, leaving her unaccompanied at the border.
- An undocumented mother, living in San Diego with her two daughters, who was apprehended while travelling between California and Arizona. She was detained in Arizona for more than a month without treatment for a serious medical condition.

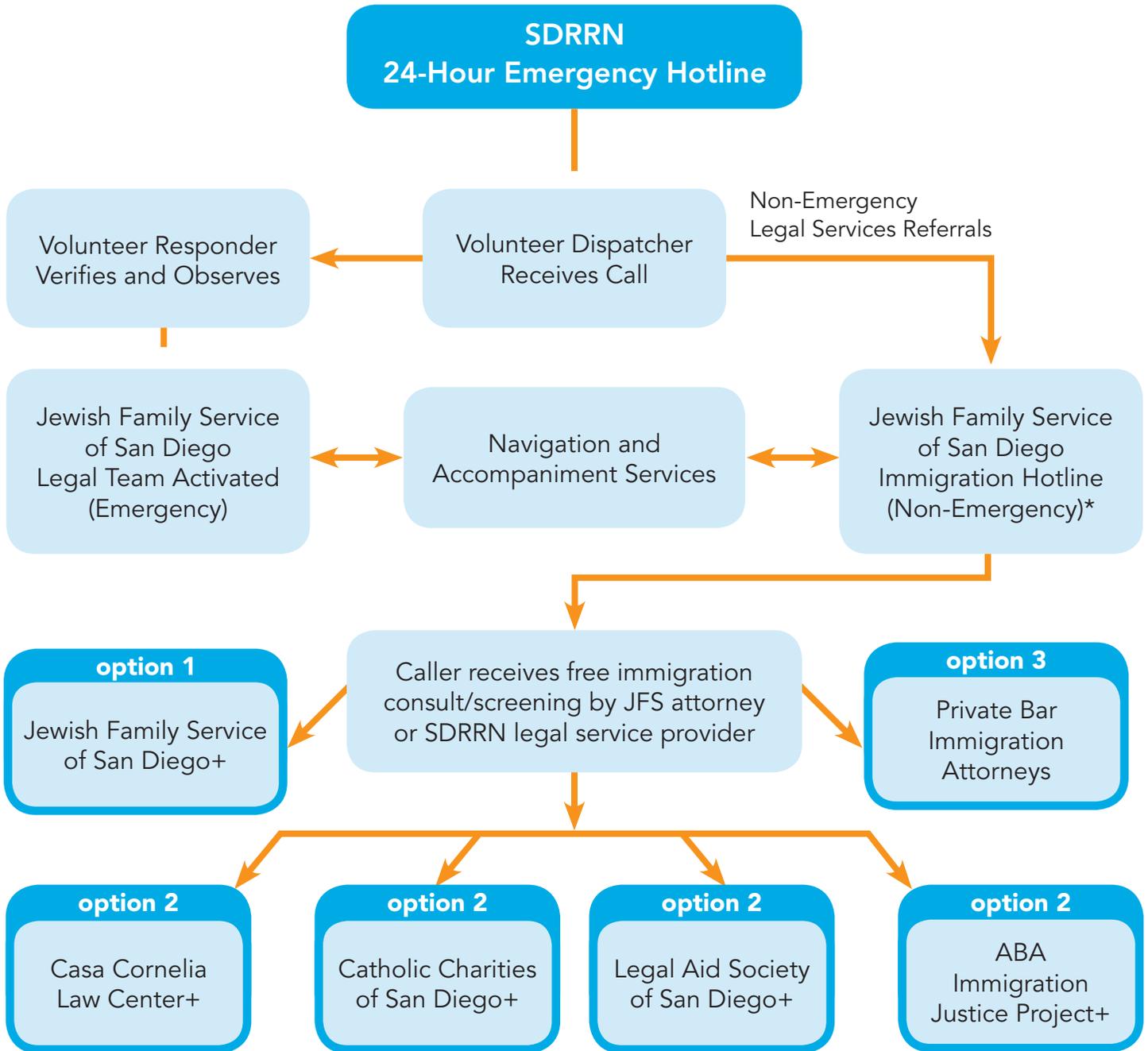


- A young mother with DACA status, who was barred from reentry after accidentally crossing the border into Mexico. Legal intervention was required for her return to Nevada, where she lives with her daughter, a U.S. citizen.



THE SAN DIEGO RAPID RESPONSE NETWORK

“No one stands alone in our community”



* JFS takes on cases with a viable immigration defense or refers the case to local immigration service providers – starting first with organizations that receive California Department of Social Services funding.

* JFS works with private immigration attorneys to place any case not already placed with a non-profit services organization.

+ Each of these agencies receive California Department of Social Services Funding for Removal Defense and Immigration Services, and train and mentor volunteer attorneys.

How We Help

Network Hotline & Dispatch System

The Network operates a 24-hour emergency hotline and dispatch system, managed by a Volunteer Coordinator at the San Diego Organizing Project (SDOP). Since its launch, the hotline has received nearly 3,741 calls and has been activated 129 times in response to urgent requests from immigrants in need of immediate assistance.

Volunteer hotline dispatchers receive calls, document reported immigration activities, and when necessary send a text message to volunteer responders who verify/witness the activity and provide immediate assistance. Currently, the Network has recruited and trained 33 volunteer dispatchers and 150 volunteer responders. When necessary, activation of legal support is initiated through JFS.

Legal Services Coordination

Within the Network, JFS leads the legal response by providing the following types of assistance:

- JFS operates a non-emergency legal helpline for immigrants who contact the Network. All callers receive free eligibility screening; JFS determines whether it can take the case or if the immigrant should be referred to other no-cost legal service providers. JFS has either taken the case in-house or worked with local immigration service providers to provide representation. Callers who are not eligible for immigration relief are offered safety planning sessions.
- JFS developed a referral system that coordinates all legal services rather than putting the onus on the individual. This level of service is not available in any other state or region and is made possible through a close working relationship with local non-profit immigration service providers receiving California Department of Social Services funding (Casa Cornelia Law Center, Catholic Charities of San Diego, ABA Immigration Justice Project, and Legal Aid Society of San Diego).
- JFS recruits, trains, and mentors volunteer attorneys to provide pro bono representation for immigration cases. It also trains and coordinates volunteer attorneys to respond in real-time to ongoing emergencies occurring in the region.

Since October 2018, the JFS Migrant Family Shelter has provided emergency shelter and humanitarian aid to more than 18,000 asylum seekers.

Who We Are

50
participating partners

33
trained dispatchers

150
trained responders

72
volunteer attorneys

Our Impact

3,741
calls received

129
referrals made for
immediate assistance

450
emergency preparedness
consultations provided

100%
of callers to legal
services hotline received
a free legal consultation

Navigation and Accompaniment Services

Beyond just legal needs, the Network will ensure all immigrants have the critical support they need to navigate the complex immigration services system. An Accompaniment Coordinator will facilitate wrap-around service provision tailored to each case including, but not limited to: volunteers to accompany individuals to ICE check-ins, shelter coordination, support in accessing counseling/mental health programs, food assistance, etc.

Defending Against Federal Policy Shifts

In response to the government's zero-tolerance immigration policies, the Network has stepped up to advocate on behalf of separated families and coordinate legal representation for their immigration proceedings.

- More than 6,000 asylum-seekers are living in perilous conditions in Tijuana, forced to "Remain in Mexico" until their asylum hearings in San Diego. These asylum-seekers, fleeing violence and persecution around the world, have no right to legal representation – but we know that with the expertise of an attorney they are much more likely to be granted asylum and the protection they are seeking.
- JFS receives an average of 30 calls each week on our legal services hotline for people impacted by the "Remain in Mexico"/Migrant Protection Protocols, and to date we have only had the capacity to take on 20 cases.

Funding Opportunity

The San Diego border region continues to show increased demand for free and low-cost legal services that far exceeds the current capacity.

As a result, the Network's greatest need is for increased resources to provide families with legal assistance, including representation at bond hearings and removal proceedings.

A grant of \$1,034,178 per year for two years would fund the critical Network components, including program expenses and staffing required to respond to the growing need for immigration services.

Contact Us

Hotline: For immigration emergencies (raid, arrest, checkpoint, and/or harassment) call the 24-hour hotline at **(619) 536-0823**.

Immigration Pro-Bono Legal Assistance:

For non-emergency immigration legal assistance inquiries, call **(858) 637-3365**. Staffed by the legal team at Jewish Family Service of San Diego.



CORE PARTNERS

ACLU - San Diego and Imperial Counties
Jewish Family Service of San Diego
Service Employees International Union – Local 221
San Diego Organizing Project

LEGAL PARTNERS

ABA Immigration Justice Project
Casa Cornelia Law Center
Catholic Charities of San Diego
Jewish Family Service of San Diego
Legal Aid Society of San Diego

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

(Partial List)

2-1-1 San Diego
ABA Immigration Justice Project
American Civil Liberties Union of San Diego & Imperial Counties
ACCE
AFT – Immigration Committee
City College
California Western Community Law Project
Casa Cornelia Law Center
Casa Familiar
Catholic Charities of San Diego
Center for Social Advocacy
Center of Community Solutions
Employee Rights Center
Legal Aid Society of San Diego
MAAC Project
North County Immigration Task Force
Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE)
Price Philanthropies
San Diego City College
San Diego Unified School District
San Diego Organizing Project
SEIU Local 221
SEIU USWW- San Diego
South Bay Community Services
Vista Community Clinic