

# California Legislature

January 15, 2019

Senator Holly J. Mitchell  
Chair, Senate Committee on Budget & Fiscal Review  
California State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Phil Ting  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget  
California State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Community-Based Organizations Addressing the Humanitarian Crisis

Dear Chairs Mitchell and Ting:

We write to you regarding Governor Newsom's proposed \$5 million FY 2018-19 State Budget allocation to address the humanitarian crisis at our southern border. We applaud the Governor for acknowledging the desperate need for financial assistance. Now the Legislature must act to provide immediate financial relief to the safety-net of non-profit organizations that have stepped up to help.

The federal government's failure to appropriately address immigration has created a crisis at California's border with Mexico, and once again, California is being called on to pick up the pieces. Local community-based organizations and non-profits have stepped in to provide refugees with basic assistance, including food and shelter. However, these organizations cannot continue to provide these much-needed services with their limited financial resources.

Throughout December 2018, a coalition of county and city leaders requested the state open the armories in the San Diego region to be used as temporary shelters. Regrettably, the Office of Emergency Services refused that request and indicated that the use of armories was not suitable for this purpose. The San Diego Rapid Response Network, a coalition of community-based organizations and non-profits working to address the crisis, is in critical need of additional financial resources. The Network projects that at current capacity they will only be able to effectively serve families for one more month.

The Governor's proposed \$25 million allocation to aid the humanitarian crisis at the border includes \$5 million to be made available in the current year to support these organizations. Based on conversations with people on the ground, this \$5 million is critical for securing legal services once people are released from federal custody, providing daily shelter with food and medical services, and assisting with family reunifications. Additionally, we can provide a detailed spending plan for the San Diego Rapid Response Network upon request.

As members of the San Diego delegation, we urge you to expedite the approval of this budget augmentation in order to provide relief to the San Diego Rapid Response Network and the families they serve. Families arriving in our communities have traveled hundreds of miles, fleeing violence in search of a better life. Every day that the Network operates with limited funding is another day that refugee families struggle to obtain basic human needs. The humanitarian crisis continues to leave families, many with children, without support. California can and must act immediately to provide support for these families.

Please let us know if there is anything we can do in support of this request.

Sincerely,



TODD GLORIA  
Assemblymember, 78<sup>th</sup> District

TASHA BOERNER HORVATH  
Assemblymember, 76<sup>th</sup> District



LORENA GONZALEZ  
Assemblymember, 80<sup>th</sup> District



BEN HUESO  
Senator, 40<sup>th</sup> District

cc: California Governor Gavin Newsom  
California Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins  
California State Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon  
San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer  
Dianne Jacob, Chair, San Diego Board of Supervisors  
Dana Toppel, Chief Operating Officer, San Diego Rapid Response Network