

Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

Cuc Vu, Director

(206) 233-3886

www.seattle.gov/iandraffairs

Department Overview

The mission of the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (OIRA) is to improve the lives of Seattle's immigrant and refugee families. OIRA works to strengthen immigrant and refugee communities by engaging them in decisions about the City of Seattle's future and improving the City's programs and services to meet their needs.

OIRA collaborates with the City of Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission, community partners, government agencies, faith-based institutions, the private sector, and City departments to achieve our mission. According to the 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, immigrants and refugees comprise approximately 18.5 percent of Seattle's population. Today, the immigrant population has likely grown, as recent Census Bureau data shows that one in four (more than half a million) King County residents is foreign-born, increasing diversity in the region.

OIRA is dedicated to supporting the City's Race and Social Justice Initiative by consistently using the racial equity toolkit analysis, operationalizing racial equity in our workplans, and engaging directly with immigrant and refugee communities.

Budget Snapshot

	2019 Actuals	2020 Adopted	2021 Adopted
Department Support			
General Fund Support	4,374,367	4,379,420	3,864,854
Total Operations	4,374,367	4,379,420	3,864,854
Total Appropriations	4,374,367	4,379,420	3,864,854
Full-Time Equivalent Total*	9.50	9.50	9.50

** FTE totals are provided for informational purposes only. Changes in FTEs resulting from City Council or Human Resources Director actions outside of the budget process may not be detailed here*

Budget Overview

Faced with the deepest recession since the Great Depression, the 2021 Adopted Budget maintains support for vulnerable communities such as Seattle's immigrant and refugee communities while reducing spending to meet the fiscal challenge. Funding for important immigrant assistance programs like the Legal Defense Network, the New Citizen Campaign, the New Citizen Program, and Ready to Work will be maintained in full.

Because the Immigrant Family Institute (IFI) is based on in-person gatherings of more than 50 participants, OIRA is unable to offer the program due to COVID-19 restrictions. The 2021 Adopted Budget temporarily suspends the IFI until public health guidelines allow indoor gatherings of more than 50 people.

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City Council Changes to the Proposed Budget

The Council added one-time funding to the Legal Defense Network in 2021. See the Council Changes section for more details.

Incremental Budget Changes

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	Dollars	FTE
2020 Adopted Budget	4,379,420	9.50
Baseline		
Adjustment for One-Time Budget Changes	(615,000)	-
Baseline Adjustments for Personnel Costs	3,163	-
Proposed Operating		
Reduction of Funding of Immigrant Family Institute	(70,000)	-
Ready to Work Funding Swap	-	-
Elimination of Emergent Activities reserve	(10,000)	-
Reduction of Travel and Training	(3,740)	-
Proposed Technical		
Grant Funding Source Cleanup	(25,941)	-
Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes	16,952	-
Council		
Legal Defense Network	190,000	-
Total Incremental Changes	\$(514,566)	-
Total 2021 Adopted Budget	\$3,864,854	9.50

Description of Incremental Budget Changes

Baseline

Adjustment for One-Time Budget Changes

Expenditures \$(615,000)

This item includes budget adjustments for one-time changes in the 2020 Adopted Budget: \$375,000 for Rapid Response activities against the federal administration's anti-immigrant policies, \$50,000 for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and Temporary Protected Status scholarships, and \$190,000 for the Legal Defense Network.

Baseline Adjustments for Personnel Costs

Expenditures \$3,163

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This centrally administered change adjusts appropriations to reflect an annual wage increase, as outlined in the agreements between the City and the Coalition of Unions, for personnel costs included in this department's baseline budget. This includes increases to salary, FICA, Medicare, family medical leave, retirement, overtime and temporary labor. There is no increase assumed from 2021 to 2022. This does not include a 2021 salary increase for non-represented Executives, Managers and Strategic Advisors.

Proposed Operating

Reduction of Funding of Immigrant Family Institute

Expenditures	\$(70,000)
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This item eliminates funding on a one-time basis for the Immigrant Family Institute (IFI) in 2021. IFI is an 8-week program that brings together immigrant youth, their parents/guardians, and Seattle police officers to learn from each other. It is unlikely that the City could offer the IFI program in 2021 due to COVID-19 related public health measures; remote sessions would be much less effective than in-person, trauma-informed, facilitated sessions in bridging understanding between the groups and among the participants individually. OIRA is retaining the staff position that manages IFI. This position primarily supports community outreach and engagement and was expanded to support language access related to the City's COVID-19 response work. The position also supports OIRA's participation in digital literacy work, the Immigrant and Refugee Commission, and community outreach across projects and departments.

Ready to Work Funding Swap

Expenditures	-
Revenues	\$250,200

This item shifts General Fund support (\$250,200) for the Ready to Work program to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding instead.

Elimination of Emergent Activities reserve

Expenditures	\$(10,000)
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This item eliminates a small reserve the Office maintains for responding to emergent threats or challenges to immigrants and refugees. These funds have been used in the past to convene information sessions on refugee removals and a campaign to raise awareness and solicit public comments on the "public charge" rule.

Reduction of Travel and Training

Expenditures	\$(3,740)
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This item reduces the \$15,000 travel and training budget by 25 percent.

Proposed Technical

Grant Funding Source Cleanup

Expenditures	\$(25,941)
Revenues	-

This technical item removes grant-related budget and revenue lines which should not be included in the baseline budget.

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Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes

Expenditures \$16,952

Citywide technical adjustments made in the baseline phase reflect changes to internal services costs, including rates from the Department of Finance & Administrative Services, Seattle Information Technology Department, Seattle Department of Human Resources, and for healthcare, retirement and industrial insurance charges for the department. These adjustments reflect initial assumptions about these costs and inflators early in the budget process.

Council

Legal Defense Network

Expenditures \$190,000

This item adds \$190,000 of one-time funding for the Legal Defense Network to restore City funding to 2020 levels. The Legal Defense Network was established in 2017 by Seattle and King County to provide support to immigrants and refugees impacted by changes to federal laws. In the 2019 Adopted and 2020 Endorsed Budget, the Council added a one-time funding increase which lapsed in 2021. This item restores that funding for 2021 and brings the total City funding to \$1 million.

Expenditure Overview

	2019 Actuals	2020 Adopted	2021 Adopted
Appropriations			
OIRA - BO-IA-X1N00 - Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs			
00100 - General Fund	4,374,367	4,379,420	3,864,854
Total for BSL: BO-IA-X1N00	4,374,367	4,379,420	3,864,854
 Department Total	 4,374,367	 4,379,420	 3,864,854
 Department Full-Time Equivalents Total*	 9.50	 9.50	 9.50

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Budget Summary by Fund Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

	2019 Actuals	2020 Adopted	2021 Adopted
00100 - General Fund	4,374,367	4,379,420	3,864,854
Budget Totals for OIRA	4,374,367	4,379,420	3,864,854

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Appropriations by Budget Summary Level and Program

OIRA - BO-IA-X1N00 - Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

The purpose of the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Budget Summary Level is to facilitate the successful integration of immigrants and refugees into Seattle's civic, economic, and cultural life and to advocate on behalf of immigrant and refugee communities so that the City's programs and services better meet the unique needs of these constituents.

Program Expenditures	2019 Actuals	2020 Adopted	2021 Adopted
Office of Immigrant and Refugee	4,374,367	4,379,420	3,864,854
Total	4,374,367	4,379,420	3,864,854
Full-time Equivalents Total*	9.50	9.50	9.50

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