## REVISED STAFF REPORT

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Agenda Item:** | 8 | **Name:** | Mike Reed |
| **Proposed No**.: | 2017-0070 | **Date:** | April 12, 2017 |

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

|  |
| --- |
| ***Proposed Ordinance 2017-0070 was amended and passed out of committee. The legislation was amended as described in the “Amendment” section of this revised staff report on pg. 4.*** |

**SUBJECT**

The proposed supplemental appropriation would allocate $750,000 to support education, advocacy and protection services for immigrants and refugees.

**SUMMARY**

Proposed Ordinance 2017-0070 would amend the 2017-2018 budget ordinance (Ordinance 18409) to add $700,000 to the Department of Community and Human Services Community Services Operating appropriation, and $50,000 to the Office of Equity and Social Justice, to support a number of services to immigrants and refugees.

The $700,000 in funding proposed to be added to the Community Services Operating appropriation would also be restricted via three expenditure restrictions defining the purposes for which the funding can be spent. The appropriation would be backed by the General Fund, which ended the 2015-2016 biennium with more fund balance than anticipated.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**BACKGROUND**

**County Initiatives on Immigrants and Refugees, and on Equity and Social Justice**

This measure follows the Council’s earlier initiative related to immigrants and refugees. In 2015, the Council approved Ordinance 18085, creating an Immigrant and Refugees Task Force, to make recommendations relative to a mechanism for ongoing input and advice into county policies and operations, from the immigrant and refugee community. That Task Force completed its report[[2]](#footnote-2) in 2016, recommending the creation of a King County office, and additionally, a commission, focused on immigrant and refugee issues and needs. Executive staff indicate that the efforts that would be supported by the proposed supplemental would be aligned with establishment of such a commission later this year.

**ANALYSIS**

According to the Executive’s transmittal letter, Proposed Ordinance 2017-0070 would allocate $750,000 from the General Fund to   
“support expanded immigrant and refugee education, advocacy and protections in 2017.”

**Office of Equity and Social Justice $50,000**

***2017/2018 Adopted Budget: $2,429,000***

***Supplemental Appropriations: $0***

***Cumulative Total Appropriation to Date: $2,429,000***

The legislation does not describe the purposes for which this $50,000 would be expended. Communication from the Executive indicates that this funding would be used for a number of purposes, including the following:

* Provide technical support and assistance and oversee contracting processes;
* Organize and communicate with a broad set of community organizations and partners;
* Support and convene jurisdictions in developing welcoming city policies;
* Train and provide technical assistance on welcoming practices;
* Hire a paid intern to support the expanded immigrant and refugee activities.

**Community Services Operating Fund $700,000**

***2017/2018 Adopted Budget: $12,234,000***

***Supplemental Appropriations: $0***

***Cumulative Total Appropriation to Date: $12,234,000***

The Executive has proposed a package of initiatives that would provide services to the immigrant and refugee community. The $700,000 in Community Services Operating is proposed to be allocated as follows:

* **$100,000 subject to the following expenditure restriction:**

*Of this appropriation, $100,000 shall be expended or encumbered solely to contract with nonprofit entities serving immigrants and refugees to do one or more of the following:*

*A. Develop education materials to share information about available community resources for immigrants and refugees;*

*B. Develop and provide education to the broader community about immigrant and refugee cultures;*

*C. Provide coordination with other nonprofit entities serving immigrant and refugee populations for distribution of those materials;*

*D. Create a response plan for members of the immigrant and refugee community who are in fear of returning to their home or workplace due to potential raids;*

*E. Provide emergency services, counseling and connection to other support services for immigrants and refugees; and*

*F. Track and report on hate and bias crimes committed against immigrant and refugee communities.*

Staff requested more specific information regarding several of these items:

D. Response Plan in anticipation of Potential Raids Executive staff has stated that the plan for this component of the appropriation would be to work initially with major organizations that are developing services to meet the needs of persons at risk of deportation.

E. Emergency Services Executive staff note that emergency services for immigrants and refugees would include safety planning, supporting information systems connecting persons to legal aid and other services, and supporting nonprofit organizations that are providing support and services that are sought by immigrants and refugees, but are beyond the usual service range of those organizations.

F. Tracking and reporting on hate and bias crimes Executive staff note that, while this legislation provides one-time contracted funding, they anticipate directing the funding to an organization that is currently seeking to create permanent infrastructure to track hate crimes in this region. As envisioned, the system would track hate crime events, and would provide follow-up and alerts.

* **$200,000 subject to the following expenditure restriction:**

*Of this appropriation, $200,000 shall be expended or encumbered solely to contract with community based nonprofit entities that provide culturally-specific support services to broad and diverse sets of immigrant and refugee communities within King County. Those support services should be focused on one or more of the following:*

*A. Customizing ‘know your rights’ education materials in a culturally specific way;*

*B. Providing outreach to immigrant and refugee communities about available resources and options for those at risk of deportation; and*

*C. Providing emergency resources and guidance for immigrants and refugees in communities requiring culturally specific outreach.*

Staff requested more specific information regarding the following:

1. “Know Your Rights” educational materials Executive staff note that they anticipate utilizing materials that are produced nationally. The expectation is that materials would need to be translated into additional languages, to be tailored for local use, and to be distributed widely.

* **$400,000 subject to the following expenditure restriction:**

*Of this appropriation, $400,000 shall be expended or encumbered solely to contract with nonprofit entities to fund legal defense for people with limited financial resources and in need of legal representation for issues related to their immigration status, who are:*

*A. Residents eligible for and on the path to naturalization; and*

*B. Immigrants and refugees.*

Staff requested more specific information regarding the provision of legal defense services. The Executive notes the presence of organizations currently providing legal defense to immigrants and refugees, and anticipates that this funding would go to support their work.

**King County Policies and Actions Related to Immigrant and Refugee Communities**

According to Executive staff, the Executive intends to create an Immigrant and Refugee Commission this year, following the work of the Immigrant and Refugee Commission (Ordinance 18085) and that the investments proposed in Proposed Ordinance 2017-0070 would be aligned with that effort.

**Potential Supplantation**

Potential issues of supplantation could arise with a renewed Veterans and Human Services Levy. The Executive transmitted Proposed Motion 2017-0028 on January 18, 2017, along with a report on potential areas of focus for a renewed levy. The report identifies civil legal aid and services for immigrant and refugee communities as areas to potentially be funded by a renewed levy. The motion was approved by the Regional Policy Committee on February 8th and the Health, Housing and Human Services Committee on March 7th, and adopted by the full Council on March 13, 2017. [[3]](#footnote-3) Currently, state law (Revised Code of Washington 84.55.050) specifies that funds raised by a levy may not supplant existing funds for the calendar year in which the ballot measure is approved by voters. If a renewed levy ultimately does support substantially similar services for similar populations, the General Fund support that the county provides in 2017 to civil legal aid and other services for immigrants and refugees could become an ongoing obligation unless the supplantation requirement is removed by the state legislature.

**AMENDMENT**

The Committee approved a striking amendment that revises the allocation of funding, managed through contracts with nonprofits and foundations as follows:

* $100,000—development and distribution of education materials, support services, bias crimes tracking and reporting (reference to a “response plan” is stricken);
* $350,000—contract with the Seattle Foundation for a “Resilience Fund” collaborative for urgent needs of immigrants/refugees, with the Foundation contributing at least $125,000 and leveraging additional funding;
* $300,000 for legal defense for limited-income immigrants, refugees, and residents eligible for, and on the path to naturalization.

The Committee also approved a title amendment.

1. Refer to materials for 2017-B0049 in the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee packet for March 8, 2017. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 2016-RPT0107 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Motion 14822 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)