

From: [Sandy Morales](#)
To: [CSC](#)
Subject: Authorizing the allocation of up to \$700,000 of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021(ARPA) Funds
Date: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 4:52:18 PM

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Committee Members,

This is Sandy Morales, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County and also a Madison resident from District 3. I'd like the committee to reconsider the recommendations for funding that will go to organizations and programs to serve undocumented immigrants. I was very surprised and concerned to learn that there were organizations that scored highly on the proposal score and were not recommended for funding and are led by BIPOC individuals who are experienced at working with the undocumented community which is primarily made up of our Latinx community members. The Latinx undocumented community is struggling from young to elderly and by not allowing our Latinx-led organizations to have the resources to serve our own communities, the City is creating further inequities that will always put our Latinx community as "last" on the agenda of priorities. I urge you to reconsider and ensure that these one-time funds are allocated to support our experienced BIPOC-led organizations that know how to take care of our communities.

Sincerely,
Sandy Morales



SANDY MORALES

CEO

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County

She/Her/Hers

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From: [Iris M. Christenson](#)
To: [CSC](#)
Subject: Support for CMC Grant Application for undocumented people
Date: Monday, February 21, 2022 10:00:37 AM

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Today's date: February 21, 2022

Re: Meeting on February 23, 2022 at 5:30 pm

Dear Community Service Committee Members:

I am writing in support of Catholic Multicultural Center's (CMC) grant application to aid undocumented people—a grant that is intended to help them cope with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am a retired attorney and have been a volunteer with CMC since 2019. I have worked with the immigration legal services program and the program providing assistance to immigrants who are studying for their citizenship tests.

CMC serves undocumented individuals and their families in a comprehensive manner. CMC provides the tangible help that these people need whether they are just arriving in our community or have been in the community for years and suffered losses during the pandemic. CMC has programming to help with the most basic needs: housing, food, employment and legal services. I honestly don't know of any other program in our community that provides ALL of these services in one location.

COVID-19 just made the need for these services much greater and service delivery much more complicated. CMC adjusted to the demands of COVID-19 restrictions and continued to serve the most vulnerable people in Madison by quickly changing service delivery methods. COVID-19 did not stop CMC.

Beyond its role as a safety net (e.g. food and toiletries pantry services and meals for the homeless), CMC's entire team works to empower the people who are served by CMC programs to become self-supporting through its employment services and its immigration legal services. Full employment and permanent legal status are the keys to preventing homelessness and food insecurity.

I've worked most closely with the immigration legal services program as a volunteer attorney. I've had the privilege of helping clients navigate the complex immigration system and seen the incredible change that can occur for the person's whole family when the person obtains a green card or passes a citizenship test. Reuniting families is the most rewarding part of this work. Some families have been separated for years!

I hope that you give CMC's grant application serious consideration and provide the financial assistance that will help the undocumented individuals and families who are our neighbors.

Iris M. Christenson
Retired Attorney volunteer at CMC

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