

Narratives

Executive Summary

Catholic Legal Services of Miami ("CLS"), in partnership with the Legal Aid Service of Broward County ("LAS"), the South Florida Chapter of American Immigration Lawyers Association ("AILA"), Americans for Immigrant Justice ("AI Justice"), and the Cuban American Bar Association Pro Bono Project ("CABA Pro Bono") will have a total of 6 AmeriCorps Members (6 attorneys) who will provide legal services to Unaccompanied Children ("UACs"), build pro bono capacity to support that population, and increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the immigration courts in the location in which Members will serve. By the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps Members will be responsible for providing needed legal services in Immigration Proceedings to the projected population of Unaccompanied Children in the immigration court in Miami, Florida.

In addition, AmeriCorps Members will leverage an additional number of volunteers who will support the provision of legal services to Unaccompanied Children in Immigration Proceedings.

This program will focus on the CNCS partnership with DOJ to enhance legal services for Unaccompanied Children in Immigration Proceedings.

Rationale and Approach/Program Design

CLS has developed a consortium of five organizations ("the Consortium") to provide sites, direct supervision, and other services and resources to the AmeriCorps justice program. AmeriCorps Members will provide direct representation to UACs in the Miami Immigration Court and will collaborate with CLS and its partners to build and integrate pro bono networks. In addition, they will develop a comprehensive network of mental health, health, and social services in each of the communities served under this project. AmeriCorps Members, in conjunction with the Consortium organizations, will work together to ensure that every non-detained juvenile docket in Miami will be covered by attorneys acting as friend of the Court. Problem/Need Miami is a major receiving site for unaccompanied children released from ORR detention. UACs enter the United States fleeing abuse, threats, poverty, and gang violence and also seeking family reunification and educational opportunities. Each child's case is complex. UACs are apprehended and placed in Immigration Court removal proceedings without the right to an attorney. This year, more than 60,000 UACs are expected to enter the US. Currently there are approximately 12 juvenile dockets held at the Miami Immigration Court per month. However, there is no fully-funded attorney in South Florida

Narratives

designated to represent non-detained children in the Miami Immigration Court. According to EOIR and CNCS, it is anticipated that there will be approximately 660 children appearing before the Miami Immigration Court, who meet the definitions of "unaccompanied children" under the age of 16. With no fully-funded legal service attorney providing free or low-cost representation, the Miami legal service providers are forced to depend entirely on unfunded pro bono representation. While the Consortium organizations are constantly working to grow the pro bono community, pro bono attorneys only represent a fraction of children in need of representation, leaving many children to appear pro se in immigration court. While none of the Consortium organizations have fully-funded children's attorneys, since 2011, CLS operates the Legal Orientation Program for Custodians ("LOPC") subcontract for the Executive Office of Immigration Review ("EOIR"), conducting legal orientations for custodians of released unaccompanied children. The LOPC attorneys also act as friend of the Court to assist the Court in addressing unrepresented juveniles. This program is intended to assist UACs and their families through the immigration court process and to educate the caretakers of the applicable programs and laws intended to protect UACs from mistreatment, exploitation and trafficking, and inform the custodians of available resources to assist the UACs in this respect. The LOPC program at CLS anticipates providing orientations to over 500 custodians and their UACs this year, having served 468 between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014. CLS screened approximately 50% of those UACs, and matched 20% of screened children with pro bono attorneys. Even with a successful LOPC program, many of these children are unable to find legal representation and face an Immigration Judge and DHS attorney alone in court. LOPC funding does not allow for direct representation of UACs appearing before the Immigration Court, and CLS receives no funding to directly represent these children. After the orientations and friend of the Court sessions, our LOPC attorneys screen the UACs for legal relief, refer them to pro bono attorneys, and train and mentor the limited number of pro bono attorneys that volunteer and take a case. Over the past 4 years, CLS staff attorneys have taken many of these cases pro bono and have worked to place these children with pro bono attorneys through various networks including AILA's pro bono committee, CABA Pro Bono volunteers, other voluntary bar associations, and partnerships with law firms. The need, however, has grown tremendously and outpaced all resources. When LOPC started in 2011, the Miami Immigration Court held one non-detained juvenile docket per month (half-day docket), and CLS was the sole legal service provider present at the docket. As of July 2014, the Miami Immigration Court holds 12 full-day non-detained juvenile dockets, and CLS is one of three legal service providers present during the docket. Of this large number of juveniles, at least 660 are expected to be UACs under 16 years old in the upcoming year

Narratives

(CNCS Number). Of the juveniles appearing at the docket, at least half are unrepresented by legal counsel (See Syracuse University, 2014, TRAC Immigration Report New Data on Unaccompanied Children in Immigration Court, available at <http://trac.syr.edu/immigration/reports/359/> ("TRAC Immigration Report")). Many children appearing in the Miami Immigration Court are unable to attain representation. The pro bono community cannot fill the gaping hole that exists. The CLS LOPC attorneys also provide orientation at the non-detained juvenile court docket in the Miami Immigration Court twice a month and acts as friend of the Court. The Miami immigration Court allows volunteer attorneys to speak for unrepresented children as friend of the Court to assist the child and the Court in the initial hearing. This provides an opportunity to screen and eventually assist pro se children. Like CLS, AI Justice and CABA Pro Bono also appear at multiple juvenile dockets each month to provide friend of the Court services and screening. The Consortium cannot currently meet the growing need and ensure that every docket is covered. Additionally, the Miami Immigration Court recently announced an additional Immigration Judge will also hold juvenile dockets. With limited and overexerted organizational resources, many children will continue to appear in court without representation. Miami-Dade and the other 17 local counties have large communities of immigrants from the three countries from which most UACs flee, and they will likely continue to reunite with families here. Miami-Dade alone has a population that includes 18,035 Guatemalans, 21,218 Salvadorans, and 53,227 Hondurans. (Census Bureau, ASC, 2008-2012). Miami-Dade is a community of immigrants facing many challenges; 58.1% of city residents are foreign born; 29.5% live in poverty. This population is largely underserved, according to the Kaiser Foundation (2010), Florida spends just \$39.55 per capita on Mental Health Services Expenditures, compared to a national average of \$120.06; in PA the rate is \$280.78. This means that available, publicly funded, mental health services, like social services are severely stretched. AmeriCorps Members as Highly Effective Means to Solve Community Problems Proposed AmeriCorps Members' Service AmeriCorps Members will serve as a perfect complement to the LOPC program and existing friend of the Court services offered by the Consortium organizations, providing direct representation to the many UACs still appearing on juvenile docket without an attorney and expanding geographical reach. The Consortium requests six AmeriCorps attorneys to represent non-detained juvenile docket under age 16 before the Miami Immigration Court. The AmeriCorps Members, in conjunction with the Consortium organizations, will be responsible for representing, or finding representation, for all UACs under age 16 in the Miami Immigration Court. The Consortium organizations will host and supervise AmeriCorps Members at their offices. They also have longstanding relationships with the local law schools, St. Thomas

Narratives

University School of Law and Florida International University College of law, and anticipate requesting support in the form of student externs to assist the AmeriCorps Members. Each AmeriCorps member, coupled with student volunteer, will provide counsel and representation to at least 80-100 unrepresented UACs on the juvenile docket. The AmeriCorps member will work to recruit and train pro bono attorneys to represent the remaining unrepresented children on the juvenile docket. The Consortium organizations existing strengths and procedures will help the Members efficiently and effectively represent all the UACs appearing at the Miami Immigration Court. The friend of the Court program and LOPC program will be the central referral source for all AmeriCorps Members' cases. The LOPC program will refer UACs under 16 whose custodians attend the CLS orientations to the appropriate AmeriCorps member, depending on need, for screening and representation. With the assistance of the AmeriCorps Members, the Consortium will extend its friend of the Court coverage of the juvenile docket to each docket during the month that is not currently being covered by Miami legal service providers. The Consortium will coordinate to ensure that each docket has an attorney providing friend of the Court services. AmeriCorps Members will provide legal screenings to all unrepresented children they encounter on the juvenile docket, schedule intakes for children under 16, refer all over 16 UACs to appropriate pro bono services. Children meeting the AmeriCorps requirements will be placed with the AmeriCorps Members for representation or pro bono placement. Members will take cases based on each organization's strengths and each child's needs, prioritizing geographic, legal and mental health needs. Evidence Base Our Logic Model presents three main categories of intervention for UACs: (1) Representing children in their immigration cases; (2) facilitating adjudication of UACs through provision of both legal information and friend of the Court services at every juvenile docket in the Miami Immigration Court; and (3) providing UACs with culturally competent screenings and referrals to social services. The first intervention meets the UAC's most urgent need: legal representation. All UACs are issued Notices to Appear and placed into Removal Proceedings. Unrepresented children cannot effectively participate and communicate with the Court or pursue relief outside the Court. Competent counsel will advocate for the children's legal interests, minimizing the risk that they are inappropriately returned to abuse or violence. According to TRAC Immigration, approximately 43% of unaccompanied children appearing before an Immigration Judge are represented. (TRAC Immigration Report). Of those represented, 47% are granted relief to remain in the United States, whereas only 10% of unrepresented children are granted relief from removal. (Id.). Simply put, 9 out of 10 pro se children are ordered removed, and 4 of those children would have likely have had relief with proper representation. These statistics demonstrate the

Narratives

obvious: Representation makes a difference. An attorney not only affects the legal outcome, but also a child's safety and stability, helping achieve an outcome in the best interest of the child. (See generally Daily Business Review, John Pacenti, July 18, 2014, "Justice Watch: South Florida Feeling Brunt of Immigration Crisis" available at <http://www.dailybusinessreview.com/id=1202663815144/Justice-Watch-South-Florida-Feeling-Brunt-Of-Immigration-Crisis%3Fmcode=1202617073880&curindex=2&curpage=ALL>). With AmeriCorps Members, our partner organizations will ensure that 100% of UACs under 16 on the Miami juvenile docket are represented by competent counsel, and that no eligible child will fail to adequately present a claim for relief. Secondly, our interventions include assisting the Court in addressing UACs' cases.

Representation undoubtedly expedites court proceedings. From the years 2005 to 2014, 6,456 UAC cases were pending in the Miami Immigration Court. (TRAC Immigration Report). Of the total UACs in Court during this time period, 2,997 UACs were pro se and 3,174 UACs were represented. (Id.) The Miami Immigration court resolved 60% of the unrepresented UAC cases in contrast with 85% of the represented UAC cases. (Id.) When a child is represented, the Immigration Judge spends less time educating the child and can adjudicate claims more efficiently. The child and the Court both benefit. Increased representation will allow EOIR to allocate more resources towards eliminating the staggering immigration court backlog. (See TRAC Immigration Court Backlog Report, available at http://trac.syr.edu/phptools/immigration/court_backlog/; see also Congressional advisory on Unaccompanied Children, available at <http://msnbcmedia.msn.com/i/MSNBC/Sections/NEWS/SBS-UAC.pdf>). Furthermore, it avoids situations where children are not comprehensively screened for relief because of the rush to lower the backlog. (See e.g., Julia Preston, 2014, "Rush to Deport Young Migrants Could Trample Asylum Claims," available at <http://nyti.ms/1noimIL>). Efficient adjudication of children's cases also increases stability and security for the children in proceedings. Many children are hesitant to assimilate to their new life as they are living in constant fear of deportation (or that of their parents), and of their family being split apart. (See generally Ajay Chaudry, et al., 2010, "Facing our Future: Children in the Aftermath of Immigration Enforcement," available at http://www.urban.org/uploadedpdf/412020_FacingOurFuture_final.pdf) (examining effects of having parents in deportation proceedings). Children who are split up from their families face emotional burdens and exhibit anxiety, withdrawn, angry and aggression in addition to eating and sleeping disorders. (Id.). These problems are exacerbated in younger children. (Id.). The process of testifying and awaiting adjudication of their case also trigger anxiety and depression, further

Narratives

traumatizing children and the families who support them. This can range from experiencing anxiety from disclosing information about themselves to extreme trauma and suicidal behavior. (See Dianne Solis, 2014, "Advocacy groups call for court-appointed attorneys for immigrant children and teens," available at <http://thescoopblog.dallasnews.com/2014/02/advocacy-groups-call-for-court-appointed-attorneys-for-immigrant-children-and-teens.html/>). The immigration courts are generally set up identically as those of the adults and do not account for the major emotional issues facing children in proceedings. (Young and McKenna, 2010, "The Measure of a Society: The Treatment of Unaccompanied Refugee and Immigrant Children in the United States, available at https://supportkind.org/dmdocuments/harvard_cr-cl_journal_winter_2010-2.pdf). Even represented children experience emotional distress from attending immigration court hearings and asylum hearings. (KIND Pro Bono Volunteer Study, available at https://supportkind.org/dmdocuments/KIND_SurveyData-ALL.pdf) (citing survey data on children's feelings entering immigration proceedings and finding that only 8% reported never feeling nervous, with the remaining children either always feeling nervous or report feeling nervous some of the time). The accommodations of a juvenile docket accounts for some of those issues, but increasing representation and helping children get access to counseling and other necessary services will assist the Court in more effectively adjudicating children's cases by reducing their stress, and ensuring that a child does not slip through the cracks for lack of representation or Court resources. The third intervention is to provide culturally competent and trauma-informed care and referrals, essential to working with immigrant children (Fortuna & Porche, Issues and Challenges treating Undocumented Immigrants, *Psychiatric Times*, 2013; OJJDP, 2011). Lawyers who exercise cultural competency skills are able to more meaningfully serve populations diverse in both cultural and past experiences. (Miller, *Michigan Bar Journal*, 2008). These skills are essential to provide legal assistance unaccompanied minors, who are at a higher risk for complex mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, and PTSD. (Huemer et al., *Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health*, 2009). The Consortium and the social service centers to which we refer UACs observe the essential criteria of culturally competent and trauma-informed care. These criteria include addressing language barriers, recognizing exposure to trauma, recognizing shifting cultural identities and differences in cultural values and norms. (Measham et al., *Psychiatric Times*, 2010). The trauma services to which we refer UACs such as the Trauma Resolution Center ("TRC") also observe evidence-based care, which is essential to trauma-informed care. (See Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 2013, "PTSD, Trauma, and Comorbid Psychiatric Disorders in Detained Youth" available at

Narratives

<http://www.ojjdp.gov/pubs/239603.pdf>). Such care includes Trauma Incident Reduction (TIR), which alleviates PTSD and anxiety symptoms in a majority of cases (See David V. Baldwin, 2014, Trauma Information Pages). We have also designed our intake model with trauma in mind. Instead of several intakes and referrals among different organizations, we plan on having one intake before each child gets an attorney. Member Training The Consortium will ensure that all AmeriCorps Members are adequately trained from the inception of the program and receive continual training throughout their service. Approximately three to four times a year, some of the Consortium members already provide city-wide CLE (Continuing Legal Education) courses to train pro bono attorneys to represent unaccompanied children. In addition, some also conduct smaller more informal monthly CLE trainings at law firms to train pro bono attorneys to navigate Immigration Court and Juvenile Court procedures. CLS will provide each AmeriCorps Member the training and comprehensive, updated training materials upon their arrival. The comprehensive training addresses background information and materials on the child's journey to the United States; practicing in Immigration Court; forms of relief available for UACs in removal proceedings; practicing in Florida Dependency Court; ethical issues that arise when representing children; and child-friendly interviewing and cultural sensitivity to ensure effective communication and avoid re-traumatization to the child. Throughout the program, the AmeriCorps member will also participate in the CLE trainings to receive updated information and any new developments in the law. Furthermore, the AmeriCorps Members will be required to participate in the annual ethics training conducted by the University of Miami at CLS. The AmeriCorps Members will have unfettered access to the CLS, LAS, CABA Pro Bono, AI Justice and AILA legal resources and law libraries, as well as experienced AILA and CABA members and committees. In addition to the CLS supervisor and training, the AmeriCorps Members will be required to shadow other CLS, LAS, AI Justice, CABA Pro Bono, and AILA attorneys in client interviews and master and individual hearings in the Miami Immigration Court and Florida Dependency Court before conducting these activities unsupervised. At their interviews, prospective Members will be provided a copy of the AmeriCorps prohibitions contained in 45 CFR § 2520.65 and be required to sign a statement acknowledging their receipt, understanding, and consent. The supervising attorneys will ensure that the Members are adhering to AmeriCorps rules regarding prohibited activities. In the initial training, the supervising attorney will conduct a segment covering AmeriCorps regulations and discuss permissible and prohibited activities. The AmeriCorps Members will be closely supervised and will participate in meetings twice a month with the children's project attorneys. The meetings will cover referrals, attorney case-loads, and AmeriCorps compliance

Narratives

questions and concerns. The supervisor will complete a yearly evaluation to discuss performance and address concerns regarding AmeriCorps compliance. Member Supervision All Members will be closely supervised by one senior attorney at CLS who will be available for all issues, as well as training and mentoring, along with the other children's project attorney at CLS who will provide mentorship and guidance on Special Immigrant Juvenile proceedings. Since the CLS staff has the most experience with the non-detained juvenile docket they will be able to coordinate the Member's caseload and provide guidance on most of the issues facing the Members as they build their direct representation skills. In addition, each member will have an on-site supervising senior attorney for day-to-day questions and mentorship. Supervision will be tailored to fit the needs of each individual Member, and the head supervising attorney and other on-site supervisors will supervise court appearances and review work product until work is satisfactory, and whenever a member needs extra support or supervision. One central supervising attorney will ensure that the AmeriCorps Members are coordinating and complementing each other's work and achieving the desired goal of the program and will also make sure that the Members are not engaging in prohibited activities, and acknowledging their Membership in AmeriCorps throughout their placement. Membership supervision will include weekly check-ins and bi-monthly group meetings of all of the AmeriCorps Members and children's attorneys to continue building on their training, to check in on cases and any potential problems, ensure data reporting is accurate, and ensure that broader goals are being met and to make sure that the Members have adequate resources, are meeting their personal educational goals, and are engaging in the project. Commitment to AmeriCorps Identification AmeriCorps program's mission and requirements will be explained during interviews for prospective members. During orientation, Members will be instructed to wear their insignia during office hours (and advised when they may not wear them); they will also receive initial instruction on making community presentations about their AmeriCorps experience. Members will also be instructed to introduce themselves as AmeriCorps Members, and program staff will so introduce them, as well. In addition, each sponsor office will have spare logos in the office to provide to any member who forgets to bring one. When Members are given the opportunity to speak to community groups and attorney groups about their AmeriCorps experience, they will be given a chance to make practice presentations to host organization staff and the entire group of Members and children's attorneys.

Organizational Capability

Organizational background CLS provides legal immigration services to immigrants in South Florida lacking sufficient means to obtain private legal help, regardless of their race, religion, nationality,

Narratives

gender, or ethnicity. The CLS staff reflects the ethnic diversity of the community that we serve; almost all employees are bilingual, speaking Spanish, Haitian Creole, Mandarin, Japanese, and French. Since its founding in 1994, CLS has been a member of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC), a national organization that seeks to improve the quality of immigration legal services through training, coordination, and the conduct of professional activities. In 2011, CLS was subcontracted to run the EOIR-funded LOPC program in Miami. Under LOPC, CLS provides legal orientations to custodians of released UACs. Orientations benefit both the sponsor and UAC in understanding their legal remedies and laws intended to protect UACs from mistreatment, exploitation and trafficking, while also informing the custodians of available community resources. After the custodians attend the orientations, LOPC attorneys screen UACs to determine eligibility for legal relief and provide referrals for social services if needed. Screened UACs are referred to pro bono attorneys for assistance pursuing a legal remedy or representation in removal proceedings. CLS recruits, orients, advises, and mentors pro bono attorneys from the community to represent UACs. In addition, LOPC attorneys offer assistance to UACs as a friend of the Court in which attorneys make a limited appearance with unrepresented UACs at the court hearing. With AmeriCorps grant funding, we will provide direct representation to qualified UACs and expand pro bono legal representation. CLS has never applied for nor received CNCS funding, but CLS previously hosted two Catholic Volunteers of Florida (CVF) attorneys in 2001 and 2004. The CVFs received AmeriCorps education grants. In FY 2013, 59.7 % of CLS's total revenues of \$2,340,270 came from federal sources (\$1,396,235.96). These sources included EOIR for LOPC and LOP for detainees, ORR for Employability Status Assistance Services for Refugees and Entrants, and USCIS for naturalization legal services. In 2014, CLS was one of two agencies nationally subcontracted to provide NQRP services to represent severely mentally ill detainees at the Krome Service Processing Center. The Consortium of five partner organizations will serve to assure comprehensive services for all UACs. These partners will host member attorneys, conduct direct supervision of the members they host, materially assist CLS in defraying non-federal member costs, amplify and extend CLS's pro bono recruitment and support efforts, and provide guidance and insight to strengthen this collaborative effort. LAS provides access to other counties outside of Miami Dade (Broward, Collier, and Palm Beach) where many UACs and their Sponsors reside. LAS has provided legal services for over 40 years and has a mission to provide high quality free civil legal advice, representation, and education to people who are economically disadvantaged. LAS's goal is to assist in improving their lifestyle and living conditions, and to encourage self-sufficiency. LAS, through an AmeriCorps member who will be housed in its Broward office, will provide

Narratives

immigration legal services to support the UAC population in a tri-county region consisting of Broward, Palm Beach, and Collier counties. LAS has the capacity to recruit pro bono immigration attorneys to serve the UAC population in these counties through its well-established Pro Bono Units, Broward Lawyers Care and Colliers Lawyers Care, which have over 1,400 participating lawyers providing pro bono services to LAS clients in various legal matters including immigration. LAS' Broward Immigration Unit was established in 2005 and is currently the largest provider of free immigration legal services in Broward. LAS' Broward and Collier Immigration Units currently serve residents of those counties in a broad range of immigration. LAS as a whole has an experienced staff of 85, including 34 attorneys providing legal services in the following additional areas: Children's Advocacy, Foreclosure/Consumer, Housing, Homeless, HIV/AIDS Law, Low Income Taxpayer Clinic, Education & Employment Project, Broward Human Rights Initiative (LGBT community) and the Mission United Veterans Pro Bono Law Project. Clients are referred between LAS' various Units to ensure full coverage of their legal needs. AIJ has a dedicated team of four attorneys, three paralegals, and a volunteer to provide direct representation to UACs; AIJ is the second largest provider of immigration legal services in Miami Dade. AI Justice has been representing unaccompanied minors since 1999, with a dedicated Children's Legal team of four attorneys, three paralegals and a volunteer serving UACs in South Florida. The agency has been funded for several years by Vera Institute of Justice to provide KYR presentations, individual legal consultations and pro bono services for UACs held in the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement in South Florida. In addition, AI Justice provides legal services and pro bono placement to children released from ORR custody and facing removal proceedings before the Miami Immigration Court, covering dockets either as friend of the Court, or through direct legal representation. . AI Justice also has funding from The Children' Trust to serve a portion of this population under a service partnership with the University of Miami, Florida International University School of Law, the Trauma Resolution Center and The Humility of Mary Volunteer Service. The latter group places an AmeriCorps member with the organization to work as a paralegal each year. Through this partnership, AI Justice provides legal and social services to this vulnerable population. During calendar year 2013, AI Justice assisted more than 1,600 UAC children in South Florida; however, with the increased number of arrivals, the demand for services far exceeds the resources available. AILA South Florida is a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization and voluntary bar association comprised of nearly 750 immigration attorneys covering the counties of Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Collier, Martin, Monroe, St. Lucie, Indian River, Okeechobee, Highlands, and Glades. AILA South Florida's attorneys are dedicated to providing personalized and high quality

Narratives

immigration law counsel to immigrants throughout South Florida. The organization's attorneys represent U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents seeking legal status for close family members as well as businesses needing immigration services. AILA South Florida's attorneys also represent foreign students, entertainers, athletes, asylum seekers, and individuals in removal proceedings, often on a pro bono basis. Since 2010, the AILA South Florida Pro Bono Committee has worked closely with Catholic Legal Services and Americans for Immigrant Justice to increase the number of children represented by pro bono counsel. These efforts have included matching pro bono attorneys with UAC cases, mentorship, coordination of the Model Hearing Program with EOIR, organization of legal discussion groups, and offering CLE programs. The AILA pro bono committee also includes the AILA Krome Mental Incompetency Project (AKMIP), a subcommittee serving mentally ill and mentally incompetent detained immigrants the Krome Processing Center by providing pro bono representation. This committee also serves as a watchdog for this vulnerable group of people. They advocated for the Court to set special calendar hearings on the first and third Thursday of every month for individuals with these issues and provides an on-call committee member to intake unrepresented individuals identified by the judge, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), or the volunteers as requiring assistance based on possible competency issues. In addition to serving Krome detainees, this subcommittee has represent UACs with severe mental health issues, referred from the LOPC program. This expert team of immigration attorneys is available to advise all AmeriCorps members. CABA Pro Bono was established in 1984 and in 2013 founded the CABA Immigrant Children's Program to provide free legal representation in Immigration Court and dependency proceedings to UACs. Some children are provided direct representation and others are placed with pro bono attorneys that our trained and supervised by the CABA Pro Bono Staff Attorney. In February of 2014, CABA Pro Bono launched the CABA Special Immigrant Juvenile Pro Bono Project which recruits law firms and corporate legal departments to conduct intake interviews of unrepresented children on the Miami Juvenile Immigration Dockets twice a month. Participating law commit to providing attorneys at the Miami Immigration Courthouse, with CABA Pro Bono Staff, to cover the UAC dockets. CABA Pro Bono appears as a friend of the Court for each of the screened children and the law firm subsequently commits to representing a portion of the interviewed UACs. For children lacking a volunteer attorney, CABA Pro Bono either provides direct representation or attempts to find other pro bono representation. CABA Pro Bono Staff provides comprehensive training to all volunteer attorneys participating in the program prior to their assigned docket date as well as ongoing mentoring and guidance. CABA pro bono has unique access to CABA's 12,000 Hispanic attorney members and

Narratives

partners with the Miami Pro Bono Round Table. Last year the agency recruited over 100 pro bono attorneys to represent UACs. Compliance and Accountability In describing Membership Training above, we stated how CLS and its partners will ensure that AmeriCorps Members understand and adhere to the prohibitions in 45 CFR § 2520.65. These activities will also be used to address other compliance issues. Specifically, prospective AmeriCorps Members will be advised of their general service responsibilities at their interview, where they will have their first opportunity to raise any questions. The initial training segment on Members' responsibilities will include an orientation on their performance requirements, including the compliance assurance procedures outlined directly below. Supervisors at Consortium organizations will ensure that each AmeriCorps attorney maintains the appropriate caseload and completes the requisite hours (1700 hours/year). They will also ensure that Members will only serve UACs who have received an NTA and for whom the AmeriCorps attorney has filed an E-28 before the age of sixteen as part of their time served to fulfill their AmeriCorps responsibilities. In addition, each AmeriCorps member will be required to maintain an updated case spreadsheet, documenting each client served and also tracking progress of the cases, including pending hearings, interviews, and completed tasks. Members will also be required to log daily case activities. These will enable supervisors to both identify and provide appropriate guidance for those tasks with which AmeriCorps Members might have difficulty or need help doing more efficiently. In addition to maintaining a timesheet, Members will log their entry time and exit times at their sponsor organization (for example, at CLS, there is an electronic log in, but other offices may require timesheets). When responsibilities take Members (and staff) outside the office, they will be required to document their time spent elsewhere, e.g. by providing a copy of hearing notices or orders. The Consortium will maintain a central and local file for each AmeriCorps Member documenting performance problems that might arise and corrective actions undertaken, as well as evaluations and recommendations. When a compliance issue arises, the local supervisor will speak to the AmeriCorps Member to point out the problem and discuss with the member how it might satisfactorily be resolved. If egregious, this will be referred to the head supervisor for further action. Any disciplinary action will be noted in the member's file. The second time a similar infraction is made, the member will be reprimanded, receive increased supervision, and be advised that a further such infraction will result in termination. This too would be noted in the file. Should a third infraction result in termination, that would also be recorded in the file (whenever a vacancy occurs, CLS and partners will reopen recruitment). For all infractions, the Members will prepare a statement documenting the circumstances and a statement of the corrective action that has been agreed to. Before a Member is

Narratives

terminated, he or she and the supervisor will be invited to meet with the CLS supervisor, the CLS CEO, and the on-site management to assure that termination is warranted and appropriate. See Continuous Improvement below where we propose a series of meetings, teleconferences, and procedures to ensure continuing quality improvement. These same procedures will be used to address any compliance issues that may arise. Continuous Improvement CLS will hold weekly meetings of our project staff and Miami AmeriCorps Members to identify emerging problems, examine performance and performance standards, and develop plans and strategies for ensuring continuous quality improvement (CQI). The LAS senior immigration attorney will ongoing discussions with the AmeriCorps Member serving the counties north of Miami Dade. That attorney, our supervising program coordinator, and the agency will hold a monthly CQI meeting/ teleconference to include all participants. CLS maintains a Director of Evaluation who will assist the project coordinator in monitoring performance and provide advice as needed in CQI issues.

Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy

Cost Effectiveness CLS and its partners have relationships with attorneys and entities reaching all corners of South Florida. In response to the growing number of UACs, we plan to raise additional funds and resources through fund-raising, annual banquets, volunteer networks, and donations. Additionally, our offices will continue to seek funding opportunities in order to secure grants to provide representation to UACs. The program is allocating significant in-kind resources to support the AmeriCorps members and their activities to ensure that all UACs receive quality and efficient representation. The five organizations will devote a total of 3.27 full-time equivalents ("FTEs") comprised of a combination of management and supervising attorneys' time. In addition to student volunteers and pro bono attorneys, which will increase efficiency, AILA will provide eight AILA Pro Bono Committee members to supervise and mentor AmeriCorps members. The consortium will contribute a total of \$333,218 for the program in addition to the funding provided for by the AmeriCorps grant. These funds, enumerated in the attached budget, provide critical support for staff and member including health insurance, liability insurance, training and travel costs, and operational costs and the program as a whole. The UAC community need far exceeds the resources currently available to provide representation. With legal representation, each child is capable of advocating for their own family unity and safety from harm and violence experienced in their home countries, concepts that lead to prioritizing the best interest of the child. Under this highly efficient proposal, a mere 9.27 FTEs will contribute to ensuring that 660 children fully exercise their due process rights. The AmeriCorps members' services will positively impact UACs and their family members, which will

Narratives

result in a healthier, more stable community with minimal costs. Budget Adequacy The attached Budget is adequate and mathematically sound. CLS and the Consortium organizations have malpractice insurance applicable to the Members and can provide proof.

Evaluation Summary or Plan

Not Applicable

Amendment Justification

Not Applicable

Clarification Summary

Response to August 22, 2014 Clarification Letter for Application # 14AS162987 (CNCS clarification questions are denoted by an asterisk) * Clarify whether the program will provide direct legal representation to the entire estimated docket size of unaccompanied children in the immigration court location where you plan to operate your program? If your current proposal does not cover the entire estimated docket size of unaccompanied children in the immigration court location where you plan to operate your program, what would your program need in order to accept more Members (such as administrative support, funding, office space, etc.)? The Consortium designed its current AmeriCorps proposal according to CNCS's estimate of 660 qualified Unaccompanied Children (UACs) on the Miami Immigration Court docket. If these estimates are accurate, the program is designed so that the 6 AmeriCorps members can represent, or match with a pro bono attorney, every unrepresented child on the juvenile docket regardless of their eligibility for relief. This should also be possible up to the 20% potential increase addressed in the current proposal. The Consortium was created to utilize each member organization's strengths and ensure full coverage of the Miami juvenile docket with direct representation and pro bono placement. Since the Consortium submitted its AmeriCorps proposal, however, the Executive Office of Immigration Review has implemented many policy changes to handle the "surge" of children who entered the United States on or after May 1, 2014. This policy shift expedited and expanded the juvenile docket dramatically, doubling the number of Judges reviewing children's cases. There are now 4 Immigration Judges holding approximately 3 juvenile dockets daily, with a potential 5th Judge ready to be added. This has resulted in hundreds more children appearing in Court for initial master calendar hearings each month. The number of qualified UACs in Miami may easily exceed the 20% safety margin. In order to immediately address the problem of children appearing in Court alone, the Consortium has stretched its resources and has attorneys appearing as

Narratives

"Friend of Court" ("FOC") for each surge docket, with volunteers assisting with screening every child for legal relief, and referring each child for pro bono representation. This model promotes efficient and effective Court proceedings and has been commended by the Miami Immigration Court. Pro bono and organizational placement of these children has proven to be difficult, and many children continue unrepresented throughout this expedited process. Given our current resources and lack of direct representation funding, we are unable to represent each child appearing on the surge docket without the potential AmeriCorps members. If this expedited docket continue indefinitely, even with the AmeriCorps members, the Consortium will likely need additional resources to continue to provide full FOC coverage of the docket and match each child with a representative. Our need or capacity for additional AmeriCorps resources needed to cover the entire surge docket is unknown until we have more exact numbers of unaccompanied children under 16 in proceedings before the Miami Immigration Court. The Consortium will have to assess how many children included on the expedited docket are ineligible for AmeriCorps services including: children who entered as part of families ("Adult With Child" cases) and unaccompanied children 16 years of age and older. Knowing this number, we can better calculate how many children will need representation under the AmeriCorps program and how many more resources we will need. Based on our capacity, we estimate that we will need an additional fully-funded direct service attorney for each 100 additional unaccompanied children under 16 years old, as well as additional administrative assistance. While we are in need of additional resources to address this problem, the Consortium partners will have to secure additional funds to commit to additional AmeriCorps members. To adjust to the rapidly changing environment, we have and will continue to seek to complement our current resources as well as the AmeriCorps program. For instance, CLS has expanded the LOPC program and collaborated with Consortium partners to provide FOC services at every juvenile docket. This same LOPC expansion will streamline the AmeriCorps members' caseloads by providing additional support for intakes, referrals to pro bono attorneys, and substantive mentoring. CLS and the Consortium are also persistently seeking funding to support the rapidly growing need for representation for unaccompanied children. While we have not yet received any concrete funding, we intend for additional support to complement the AmeriCorps program and assist the Consortium in representing each child before the Miami Immigration Court alone. * Clarify whether the program will represent unaccompanied children based upon their eligibility for relief or will the program represent unaccompanied children regardless of eligibility for relief (i.e. directly represent each child as they are placed into proceedings until your program reaches capacity)? The AmeriCorps members will represent, or pair with a pro bono

Narratives

attorney, each child under 16 years old regardless of eligibility for relief. If the surge docket expands beyond the expected range (as estimated by CNCS), the program will have to triage and prioritize which cases are placed with the AmeriCorps members for representation. We have developed a mechanism for prioritizing and screening children for relief and are prioritizing in the following order from highest priority to lowest priority: 1) children under 16 who are eligible for relief with the Asylum office, the dependency court, or before USCIS; 2) children under 16 who are ineligible for relief but have some other special need such as a mental health problem or a disability, and; 3) children who are not identified as being eligible for relief under 16 without any extenuating circumstances. Despite this triage system, the program plans to continue to assist those children going through the court process alone through referrals for pro bono representation, our Friend of the Court program at the juvenile dockets, our know your rights trainings through the LOPC program, and also holding pro-se workshops to assist individuals without attorneys. * Clarify whether the program will have all proposed Members enrolled by December 1, 2014. The Consortium will start to recruit and select the AmeriCorps members as soon as our funding is approved. We already have several law graduates, former interns, and volunteers currently working with us that would serve as great candidates and are interested in applying. We hope to have them selected before October 15, 2014, and have them signed up within the enrollment period. * Criminal history checks must be conducted on all members, employees or other individuals who receive a salary, education award, living allowance, stipend or similar payment from the grant, regardless of whether these costs are coming from federal or non-federal share. The budget does not include costs for criminal history checks on staff or the AmeriCorps member. Please explain how these costs will be covered. You may revise the budget to include these costs, if necessary, but may not exceed the level of funding for which you are under consideration. Please see revised budget narrative. * Please explain how your program design will "improve the efficient and effective adjudication of immigration court proceedings involving unaccompanied children" Consortium partners have been in Immigration Court continuously since the local court docket was increased to three judges in July in response to the influx of cases to the Miami Immigration Court's jurisdiction. The Consortium is also responding to the addition of a fourth and possibly fifth Judge in September. Acting successfully as Friend of the Court (FOC) has enabled us to observe the flow of children's cases to the Court's jurisdiction. Having Member attorneys represent children directly in the Court will expand upon these achievements and will help further increase efficiency court proceedings. 1. With Member attorneys representing children under 16, Master Calendar hearings will move more smoothly and quickly. Member attorneys can verify basic

Narratives

information for the Court, avoiding a lengthy exchange about addresses and other details. The members can also alert the court to administrative errors in the paperwork such as errors in the child's name or birth date, and avoid future complications in a child's case. 2. Member attorneys will also prepare each represented child, explaining the courtroom process, thus avoiding confusion and eliminates the need for the Judge to explain the process to every child. This will improve courtroom efficiency and allow each Judge to hear more cases. 3. With Member attorney representation, a child will have a voice in the Court and be able to move forward with relief more quickly. This will reduce how many hearings are reset because a child is still seeking counsel. 4. Children with Member attorney representation will be less likely to have in absentia orders of deportation because someone can appear in Court on their behalf. This will also reduce the number of motions to reopen that the Court has to hear, and reduce other complications when children miss hearings. 5. With representation by Member attorney, an eligible child can pursue relief with the Florida Dependency Court, USCIS or the Asylum Office, and then the Judge may be administratively close or terminate the child's immigration case. Either termination or administrative closure removes the child's case from the court's active docket and allows the judges to progress through the docket more efficiently. The security and stability of the child's life is greatly improved when she or he no longer faces deportation. Clients are hesitant to set down roots in the community and begin assimilating into their new country when their future is uncertain. 6. Having a Member attorney who can evaluate a child's unique situation and determine whether the child has legal relief also helps to streamline the court docket and helps the judge set reasonable timeframes for future hearings instead of having nonproductive status check-ins. 7. Members will work to refer children who have experienced trauma and abuse to much-needed social services. Treatment enables children to process and come to terms with past mental and/or physical anguish. This improves the child's ability to prepare his/her case with the Member attorney and reduce the impact of having to relive the trauma when explaining their personal story to the judge or hearing officer. Trauma counseling is a significant contributor to enabling the child to move forward with their lives and, ultimately, with their legal case. 8. Having a Member attorney improves a child's communication with the Court because the Judges will be acquainted with the Member attorneys appearing before them. This also bolsters the Court's confidence that the children are seeking relief, as the Judges will know and expect that Member attorneys have done a thorough job of preparing the children's cases. 9. Legal representation for children who present a claim for relief means there will be an increase in the number of cases which are approved. Representation will help avoid having eligible children who are victims of abuse, neglect

Narratives

or other violence falling through the cracks and getting in absentia orders or deportation orders despite eligibility for relief. For all of these reasons, legal representation by a Member attorney will enable the Court to adjudicate children's cases more quickly and thus reduce the staggering backlog of current cases. * Provide the sources of additional funds necessary to run this program in the budget narrative and indicate each as in-kind or cash. Please see revised budget narrative. * Are there additional resources (e.g. community partners, pro bono support or other funds) that have become available since you submitted your application? If so, will these additional resources enable you to represent additional UACs or immigration courts? The Consortium has begun individual and collective efforts to secure additional funding to address the influx of unaccompanied minors in South Florida. In particular, we are seeking unrestricted funds to increase staff and add full-time children's attorneys who can directly represent minors in Immigration Court, USCIS, the Asylum Office and Florida Dependency Court. Joint grant applications have been submitted and responses are expected to take two to three months. We are also currently exploring any other funding opportunities that may arise with both private and institutional donors. Additionally, CABA Pro Bono and CLS have fund-raising events planned for October and November, respectively. The proceeds will be designated as part of the matching funds required under this proposal. As stated above, the Court dockets have been expanded and expedited considerably, and the number of additional children eligible for representation by the AmeriCorps Members could be considerable. The Court advised the legal community this week that a fourth judge is being added to cover three days per week, and that the docket may continue to grow. Pro bono efforts have resulted in the short-term recruitment of private attorneys and law students as Friends of the Court and assisting in conducting legal screenings to help with the current fast-track juvenile docket. The project will continue this successful effort, but we do not anticipate that we can recruit enough pro bono attorneys to make the necessary long-term commitment of accepting all UAC cases for full legal representation with no accompanying direct service attorneys. The Consortium is truly in need of the requested six Member attorneys to complement the strong community response. In addition to the funding resources we are seeking above, CLS was recently awarded an increase in LOPC funding for an additional attorney (.5 FTE). This person is not funded to directly represent UACs but will help facilitate pro bono placement and coordination with the AmeriCorps Members. * Please provide additional information about how you will be able to respond to the demand for services if the number of cases increases in the current or future years. The Consortium is committed to serving as many of the unaccompanied children under 16 as is practical. We are prepared to accommodate the court docket of 660 children with a percentage increase of up to

Narratives

20% during the first year. Many of the cases will take more than 12 months to be adjudicated. Each new attorney's caseload must be fashioned to take into account his or her experience and evolving skills to assure that all children receive the quality representation to which they are entitled. In order to adjust to an increase in demand for services for under 16 year olds, we would take these steps. We would first attempt to recruit additional pro bono to undertake new cases. Note, however, that each pro bono attorney will require mentoring and support services from Members and our agencies. Secondly, the agencies may need to prioritize cases in order to ensure that children eligible for relief and children with other special needs are the first to receive services. Simultaneously, we would continue to seek additional funding to hire attorneys that can directly represent the additional children and to expand administrative and support services. The non-profit partners wish to accommodate all qualified, needy children, but they remain constrained by their resource limitations. * a. Budget clarification items. Please make the following changes directly in the application budget in eGrants: Please see revised budget. * b. Please respond to the following items in the clarification summary field of the narrative and in the budget narrative as is appropriate: * The budget does not reflect staff or member training. Please clarify how training will be supported. Please see revised budget. * The following positions are not described in the narrative. Please provide a description of how the positions will support the proposed program: a. Staff Paralegal (CABA) at 25%, b. Executive Director (CLS) at 5% usage, c. Program Lead Attorney (CLS) at 60%, d. Program Staff Attorney (CLS) at 50%, e. Program Paralegal (CLS) at 20%. The Staff Paralegal (CABA) will support the AmeriCorps member placed at CABA's office in completing administrative tasks. These tasks include: making copies of documents for intake, creating files, contacting clients, data entry for reporting requirements, scheduling clients for attorney-client meetings, preparing filings with the AmeriCorps members to be submitted to the court, and any other administrative task that can arise during the course of representation. The Executive Director (CLS) will oversee the entire AmeriCorps program in Miami. He will ensure that the program is operating effectively, assist in developing stakeholder relations (with DHS and EOIR, for example), and be available to assist with overall programmatic challenges. The Program Lead Attorney (CLS) will supervise the 6 AmeriCorps members. The Program Lead Attorney ("LA") will ensure that the AmeriCorps members are adhering to the rules established by the grant and that the members, and program as a whole, are complying with the AmeriCorps contract. Further the LA, in conjunction with the on-site supervisors, will mentor the AmeriCorps members and volunteer pro bono attorneys, develop quarterly trainings, coordinate regular meetings, facilitate coordination between the LOPC program and the AmeriCorps program, ensure full coverage of the

Narratives

juvenile dockets, manage case-loads, respond to reporting requirements for AmeriCorps, and respond to challenges that arise within the program. Program Staff Attorney (CLS) will be responsible for coordinating the LOPC program and the AmeriCorps program. She will ensure both programs complement each other and that referrals between the programs are efficient and effective. Additionally, the Staff Attorney will be available for mentoring AmeriCorps members and volunteer pro bono attorneys. The Program Paralegal (CLS) will support the AmeriCorps member placed at CLS's office in completing administrative tasks. These tasks include: making copies of documents for intake, creating files, contacting clients, data entry for reporting requirements, scheduling clients for attorney-client meetings, preparing filings with the AmeriCorps members to be submitted to the court, and any other administrative task that can arise during the course of representation. * Please confirm your plans for raising additional funds to support the program. The Consortium partners have committed to providing funds for each AmeriCorps member to be housed in their organization and to support the program as a whole. CLS has committed \$110, 367 to support the AmeriCorps members. The CLS source of funds are: 1) funds from the EOIR LOPC program; 2) annual fundraising; and 3) in-kind donations. LAS has committed \$49, 856 to support the program, dedicating funds from Broward County Filing Fees. AIJ has committed \$29, 656 from general revenues. CABA has committed \$91,880, funds that are raised from: 1) the General Support grant - State of Florida Attorney General Office; 2) fundraising; 3) General Support Grant - Florida Bar Foundation; and 4) in-kind donations. AILA South Florida has committed \$17,052 towards the AmeriCorps program from: 1) member dues; 2) annual fundraising; and 3) in-kind donations. The Consortium is committing a collective \$5,617 to support the program from fundraising and in-donations from all organizations. As mentioned previously, the Consortium is in the process of securing additional funds to support the AmeriCorps members and build a larger children's project to meet the growing need of unaccompanied children. The organizations have submitted multiple proposals for funding (both local and nationally) for direct representation, pro bono coordinators, and administrative personnel. Additionally, CABA and CLS has committed to directing funds raised at their respective annual banquets to the children's projects. Finally, CLS was recently awarded additional funds to supplement the LOPC program with an additional attorney, effective October 1st. · In Source of Funds, clarify \$17,053 in match that the applicant notes as "to be determined". Please see revised budget. * c. Programmatic clarification items: Please respond in the eGrants narrative field labeled "Clarification Summary" * Please provide details on how the member will be supervised and supported. a. CLS Lead Attorney (LA) will closely supervise Member attorneys in developing individual legal representation

Narratives

skills and familiarity with immigration laws. The LA will be available for any questions and issues that may arise. b. Mentoring and regular training will be provided by the LA as outlined in the next clarification. c. Member attorneys will be required to check in with their on-site supervisor on a weekly basis. This will enable the Member to ask questions, voice concerns and obtain progress reports about their performance and the status of their cases. d. Member attorneys will attend required bi-weekly group meetings to review cases, share status reports, ensure correct data reporting, manage case-loads, discuss updates in the law, track trends in the courtroom and monitor progress toward service goals. e. Appearances at Immigration Court and Dependency Court will be supervised to ensure quality representation until such time as the Member attorney's court work is satisfactory. The work product prepared by Member attorneys will be reviewed prior to submission until such time as the work product is satisfactory. * Provide more detail of the program's plans for site supervisor training, including an understanding of AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps regulations, and oversight of the work of AmeriCorps members as they appear in Immigration Proceedings. Member attorneys will be comprehensively trained from the inception and will receive continual training throughout their term of service. a. Members will attend the required national training in December. Any and all updates regarding AmeriCorps program regulations will be reviewed and discussed with the members. The Consortium will rely regularly on CNCS for clarification of AmeriCorps regulations and policies. Members' questions and concerns will be forwarded to CNCS. b. Initial trainings on-site will include a segment on AmeriCorps regulations and permissible and prohibited activities. c. Upon acceptance into the program, Members will be given legal training materials to study particularly about the forms of relief and background information about a child's journey to the United States. d. Specific training will be provided in the identification of children who are victims of trafficking or abuse. e. Members will be instructed in culturally sensitive and child-friendly case interview techniques appropriate for traumatized unaccompanied minors. f. Members will shadow Consortium partner attorneys to learn how the Miami Immigration Court operates. g. Shadowing will continue to include client interviews, Master Calendar and Individual hearings, both in the Immigration Court and in the Florida Dependency Court. h. Consortium agencies will provide access to online legal research tools and the law library to ensure ongoing professional development and cutting edge advocacy and legal arguments. i. Cases will be assigned once they have been reviewed for acceptance at Case Review meetings. All Members will benefit from the group meetings and learn from the case review process about fact patterns and determining the best legal strategies for each child. j. Drawing upon the expertise of Consortium agencies, each organization will provide a quarterly training (some with CLE

Narratives

credits) on a variety of timely topics in January, April, July and October. k. All Member Attorneys will participate in the annual University of Miami Ethics Training held at CLS or AI Justice. * Provide the dosage of the proposed interventions. Each child has varying levels of needs that require the attention of an attorney or social service provider. The intensity and frequency of the proposed interventions depend on the form of relief available to the child and the severity of trauma to which the child was exposed. Some children have a limited form of relief (such as a request for administrative closure) and others a more extreme form of relief (such as asylum). In representing each child, the AmeriCorps member will assess the resources necessary to achieve quality and effective representation (for example, some forms of relief will require five times more resources than others). These cases are further complicated by family dynamics, mental health issues, and the need to access social services. That being said, certain interventions will occur weekly, such as FOC services in court, legal screenings, referrals to pro bono attorneys, pro bono attorney mentoring, and referrals to social service agencies (if necessary). Other interventions, such as direct representation before the Miami Immigration Court, USCIS, and the Dependency Court, will occur as often as the child is scheduled. If the current trend continues, and the Immigration Court increases the frequency and size of the juvenile dockets, then the dosages will naturally increase in frequency. * Provide how the program will ensure that the recruited pro-bono volunteer attorneys are aware of and will adhere to the rules regarding prohibited activities. Pro bono volunteer attorneys that are recruited by AmeriCorps members under the member responsibilities will be required to sign a volunteer agreement which will address permissible and prohibited activities to ensure compliance. Additionally, the Consortium and AmeriCorps members will inform the pro bono attorneys of the AmeriCorps rules regarding prohibited activities at the training stage of the process when the attorney signs up to take a case pro bono.

Continuation Changes

Member Training: Discuss how AmeriCorps members will be made aware of AmeriCorps identity and culture of service, not only compliance requirements. VF requires 5 additional trainings that should be incorporated during the year: Diversity Appreciation, Disaster 101, CPR/First Aid, Citizenship, Disability Awareness & Appreciation, and Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Response.

Each AmeriCorps member will be made aware of the AmeriCorps identity and culture of service from the first day of the new member orientation (which will occur as soon as all members are hired and have started). The members will attend a presentation on community involvement and participating in city-wide events such as National Service days and other volunteer opportunities in the community.

Narratives

Each member will be advised that they are required to wear AmeriCorps gear at service day events, as well as during the regular course of their service at the consortium organizations. CLS and the consortium organizations will coordinate with social service partner organizations and local law schools to ensure that the 5 required VF trainings listed above are incorporated during the member service year.

Member Supervision: Who will serve as the primary Program Director for the grant? VF requires a primary point of contact related to member management, site supervising and data reporting. VF notes that there will be a CLS senior attorney providing primary supervision and case load coordination. Describe how members will be supervised at service site (consortium partner organizations).

The Program Director for the AmeriCorps grant will be Elizabeth Sanchez Kennedy at Catholic Legal Services of Miami. She will be the primary point of contact related to member management. Each consortium partner organization has dedicated a supervisory attorney to mentor and provide primary supervision to which the member attorneys will report on a daily basis. The consortium supervisory attorneys will be responsible for training new members (in addition to the consortium trainings outlined in the original proposal), coordinating the AmeriCorps member's caseload, conduct regular weekly check-in meetings with the AmeriCorps attorneys, review work product, and provide support to each member. Consortium supervisory attorneys will ensure that the AmeriCorps members have the opportunity to shadow experienced attorneys from the host organizations to court to ensure quality representation. Finally, each on-site supervisor will ensure that data reporting is completed timely and accurately. The on-site supervisor will be in close communication with the Program Director to ensure that the program is running effectively. In addition to on-site supervision, the Miami AmeriCorps program and Program Director will have monthly* AmeriCorps meetings to review cases, share status reports, ensure correct data reporting, discuss updates in the law, track trends in the courtroom and monitor progress towards service goals.

*Note that the original proposal included bi-monthly meetings, but monthly meetings are more feasible given the distance that members will have to travel to attend the meetings.

Commitment to AmeriCorps Identification: AmeriCorps members must be in gear during all times of

Narratives

service. Budget should reflect gear costs. Service sites (consortium partners) should also be identified by 'AmeriCorps Serves Here' signage. Please update narrative to include.

The partner organizations will comply with AmeriCorps requirements to identify members' workspace the signage stating 'AmeriCorps Serves Here' in the office. Additionally, each member will be required to wear office (and court) appropriate clothing with the AmeriCorps logo. We anticipate that the logo will be worn on a suit jacket with a pin or badge.

Additional Clarification: Our original proposal stated that "Catholic Legal Services of Miami ("CLS"), in partnership with Legal Aid Service of Broward County ("LAS"), the South Florida Chapter of American Immigration Lawyers Association ("AILA"), Americans for Immigrant Justice ("AI Justice"), and the Cuban American Bar Association Pro Bono Project ("CABA Pro Bono") will have a total of 6 AmeriCorps members (6 Attorneys) who will provide legal services to Unaccompanied Children ("UACs"), build pro bono capacity to support that population, and increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the immigration courts in the location in which Members will serve.

This statement should be amended to reflect recent changes in the consortium organizations. AILA will no longer be a member of the consortium. The consortium has added St. Thomas University Human Rights Institute and Catholic Charities Palm Beach, totaling 6 consortium organizations. All organizations are confirmed and we do not anticipate additional changes to the group.

Grant Characteristics