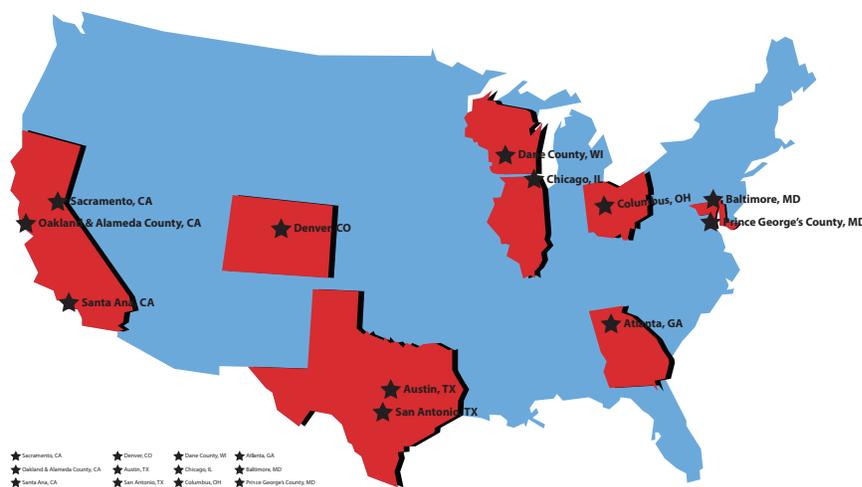


# SAFE (Safety & Fairness for Everyone) Cities Network

Immigrants who are represented in deportation proceedings are up to ten times more likely to establish a right to remain in the United States than those who are unrepresented. However, there is no right to government-appointed counsel in deportation proceedings. Thus, most immigrants face the devastating consequences of deportation—permanent separation from their families, communities, and businesses and, often, a return to violence and persecution—without an attorney to fight for them. Worse yet, many must navigate this complex legal system while locked up in detention centers far from their families and support systems.

The SAFE Cities Network is a network of 12 geographically and politically diverse jurisdictions nationwide that have partnered with the Vera Institute of Justice to promote safe communities and due process by providing legal representation to immigrants facing deportation.



These jurisdictions have invested public funding for the representation of immigrants facing deportation, with a focus on serving detained immigrants. The network is committed to the goal of “universal representation” – where the only criteria for representation are residency and an immigrant’s inability to afford an attorney – to ensure due process and fairness in our justice system.

To support the critical work of these leaders and the local legal services providers they partner with, the Vera Institute of Justice provides a one-time “catalyst fund” investment from private philanthropy; in-kind infrastructure and support in the form of program management, technical assistance and training; quarterly data reporting and ongoing research to provide the evidence of the program’s effectiveness, impact on families, and impact on the local economy.

## NATIONWIDE PROGRAM IMPACT

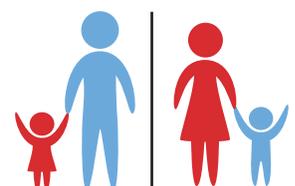
**168 CLIENTS**

THROUGH MARCH 2018



**130 Children**

WHOSE PARENTS ARE REPRESENTED



## SAFE Cities: Santa Ana, California

As of May 2018, SAFE Cities Santa Ana has represented 9 residents of Santa Ana or surrounding areas in their fight against deportation. 6 children have been impacted by the program’s representation of a parent. On average, clients have lived in the United States for 12 years.

Santa Ana was selected to join the SAFE Cities Network through a national competition in 2017 after the City dedicated \$65,000 to defending its residents from deportation. Immigrant Defenders Law Center (ImmDef) was selected through a competitive process to represent individuals in removal proceedings. The Vera Institute of Justice augmented the capacity of the City’s Legal Defense Fund, making available a \$100,000 catalyst grant to provide removal defense to area residents. ImmDef represents Santa Ana residents and other detained residents of Orange County who are identified through collaboration with community groups and other legal service organizations that visit the Theo Lacy and James A. Musick Detention Centers in Orange, California. Community members can call ImmDef at 213-634-0999 to schedule a consultation.

### IMMIGRATION COURT

**8,531**

ORANGE COUNTY RESIDENTS CURRENTLY IN DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS



UNREPRESENTED IN DETAINED DOCKETS NEAR SANTA ANA (FY15-FY17)

SOURCE: TRAC, SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY(DECEMBER 2017)

## Making an Impact in Santa Ana

Alex came to the United States as a young man, 21 years old, in 1992, in search of a better future. He was born and raised in Mexico in an area overrun by violence and poverty. Alex immediately settled in Santa Ana, California where he began taking classes and learning English. He learned how to repair cars and motorcycles as well as take up computer repair. Alex has worked as a janitor and also supported himself with his skills in automotive repair. In his spare time, Alex has volunteered his time repairing bicycles for homeless people in Santa Ana. In late March 2018, Alex’s life came to an abrupt halt when he was arrested by police while repairing a car on the side of the road. Alex had no arrest warrant and came to ICE’s attention only after he was forced to divulge information regarding his place of birth. Alex was detained by ICE and placed in removal proceedings. ImmDef represents Alex and is pursuing a motion to suppress evidence to terminate his proceedings.



### COMMUNITY

**102,015**

SANTA ANA RESIDENTS VULNERABLE TO DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS

**\$26.4 BILLION**

PAID IN STATE & LOCAL TAXES BY IMMIGRANT - LED HOUSEHOLDS IN CALIFORNIA



U.S. CITIZEN CHILDREN IN SANTA ANA WITH AN IMMIGRANT PARENT