

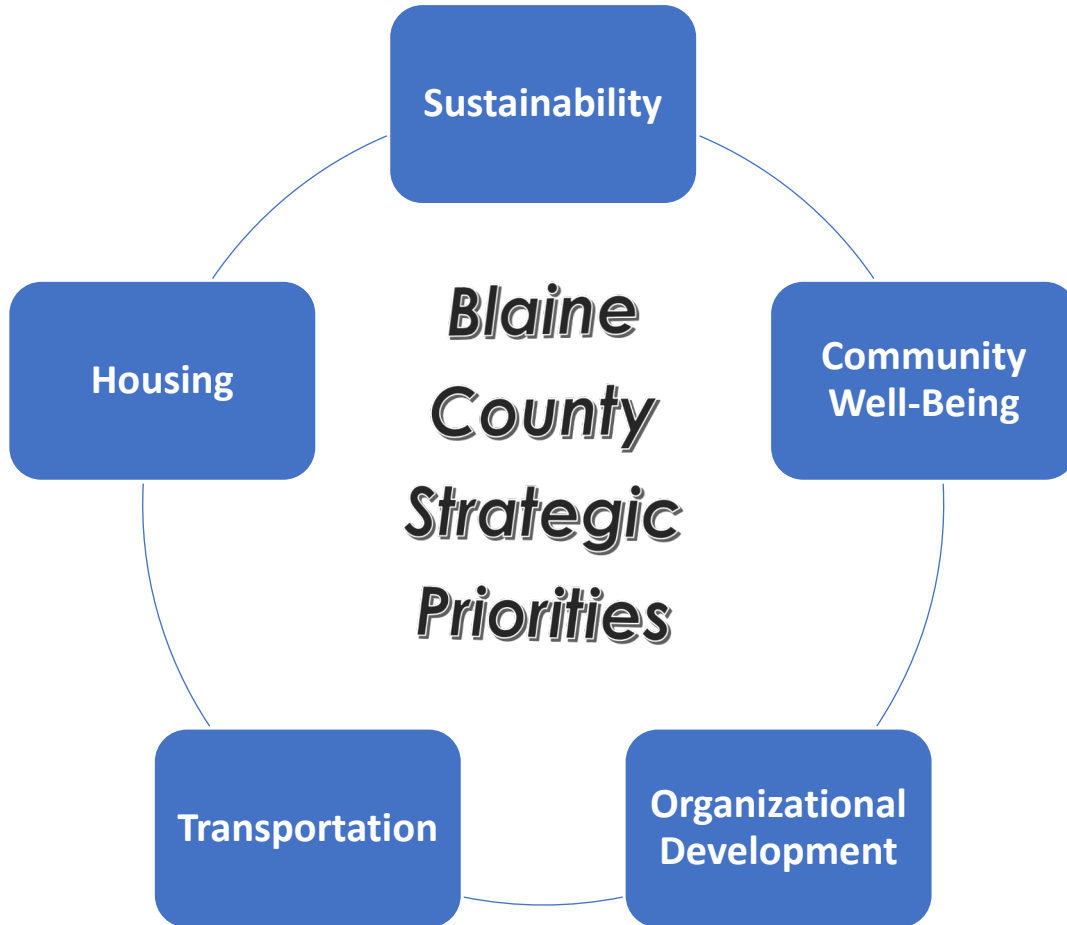


Fiscal Year 2024
External Organizations Budget Request

Prepared by:
Blaine County Administrator's Office
May 1, 2023

FY24 Strategic Priorities

Each budget request for FY24 should directly correlate to at least one of the FY24 Strategic Priorities. All funding requests and approvals will be weighed against how they align with the Strategic Priorities.



General Information

Organization: The Alliance of Idaho
Budget Contact Person: Sarah Sentilles

Organization Profile

Organization Mission

The Alliance of Idaho protects the human rights of immigrants and their families. Our goal is to build safe, just, and welcoming communities for all.

Operational Description

The Alliance of Idaho provides community workshops and low-cost immigration legal services to members of Blaine County. Here is a snapshot of our programs:

HAZTE VALER: INITIAL CONSULTATION PROGRAM:

*Hazte valer is an idiom that means *Assert yourself* or *Make yourself matter*. Through “Hazte Valer,” immigration attorney Luis Campos offers hour-long initial consultations to anyone who has immigration questions or needs help or a second opinion. We charge clients only \$50 for this hour, and The Alliance pays the remaining part of Luis’s fees (\$100) and expenses.*

WOOD RIVER ASYLUM PROJECT (WRAP)

The Alliance is the only organization in Blaine County that takes on asylum cases due to their complicated and time-consuming nature. Through WRAP, The Alliance offers clients access to low-bono and pro-bono asylum legal services with attorney Luis Campos at a radically reduced rate based on income. The Alliance vigorously protects the human and legal rights of both immigrants and asylum-seekers. These rights are guaranteed by the Constitution, by U.S. statutory law, and by our treaty obligations, no matter what your immigration status is. Our work through Wood River Asylum Project focuses on representing clients seeking asylum in the United States. Through the Wood River Asylum Project (WRAP), The Alliance empowers our clients and protects their human rights by providing them with access to ethical and affordable legal representation that makes a life-saving difference for families in our community.

WOOD RIVER ASYLUM PROJECT LAB (WRAP LAB)

WRAP LAB is a cutting-edge approach to asylum cases. Through our team’s work providing direct representation to asylum seekers – people who arrive having survived trauma, who flee because their lives and the lives of their children and their relatives depend on it – we have learned that a new model of direct representation is needed. This new model – now being developed by Luis Campos and our team at The Alliance – would include a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach.

WRAP LABS approach would involve collaboration among: Attorneys and Legal Staff; Mental Health Professionals; and Social Scientists (including Memory and Language Experts, Anthropologists, Sociologists, Political Scientists, and Historians).

In his more than 25 years of experience in immigration law, Luis says he knows “of no law firms or human rights groups that have formally adopted this approach, making it a part of their DNA.” The Alliance will make it part of our DNA – and we will be leaders in asylum law when we take this collaborative approach.

PROJECT SOLO:

SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS PROGRAM

Project Solo is a brand new – and urgently needed – program at The Alliance of Idaho designed to meet the needs of some children who are immigrants in Blaine County. Undocumented immigrant children are an extremely vulnerable population. One way to empower and shelter this precarious group of children is to help them obtain legal permanent residence in the United States.

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) is an immigration classification designed to protect immigrants under the age of 21 who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned by one or both parents – a situation that is more common in Blaine County than we first realized. SIJS is a way for these children to apply for and obtain legal permanent residence in the United States. Sometimes “abandonment” looks like desperate families sending their children to cross the border alone. Other times it entails one parent bringing children across the border to escape an abusive parent. Of the clients and families The Alliance is currently working with, we know already about six children who would be eligible for this program. And in conversation with Hunger Coalition staff and staff at Blaine County School District, they listed more than a dozen who would be eligible. We imagine these numbers will grow exponentially.

Though SIJS is a life-changing classification that has generational impacts, SIJS is not a well utilized option in immigration legal circles due to the fact that it involves the interplay of federal and state law. SIJS requires that immigration attorneys expand their practices to include representing their child clients not only in immigration court but also in state court dependency, delinquency, guardianship, and/or family law proceedings. This is beyond the scope of expertise and capabilities for many organizations.

The Alliance team is committed to serving immigrant children in our community. To do so, we have brought together a working group to help us create this program: two local attorneys (Sam Linnet and Justin McCarthy), our immigration attorney Luis Campos, and our Executive Director Becky Lopez. We have also been studying, researching, and collaborating with other organizations who have created similar programs so we don’t have to reinvent the wheel: Maria Andrade of Immigrant Justice Idaho in Boise, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), Safe Passage Project, and Equal Justice Initiative.

We are convinced that there are many children in Blaine County who are eligible for this program, but they do not yet know about it. Even our immigration attorney – who was a law professor, who has twenty-five years of immigration experience, did not know about SIJS. An essential part of our job is educating both our team and local families about how to obtain the potential adjustment of status available for their children.

Organizational Structure

Include a current organizational chart that highlights any new FTEs that were added the last FY and highlights in a different color any new FTEs being requested in the upcoming FY.

Becky Lopez, Executive Director

Sarah Sentilles, Director of Communications and Development

FTEs added in 2023

Cristina Romero, Legal Assistant

Luis Campos, Legal Director and Immigration Attorney

FTEs for upcoming FY

Additional full-time immigration attorney

FY23 Fiscal Year Review

FY23 Performance Metrics

(Provide a bulleted list of at least 3 performance metrics - Note – going forward these should be reported on year-over-year as well as a history of this data)

- **Doubled Staff:** We doubled our staff from two to four, increasing our capacity and our ability to meet our community's needs. We anticipate needing to add at least two more staff members in the next two years.
- **300 families:** Our Hazte Valer: Initial Consultation Program continues to grow. Before we became a 501c3, we helped 25 families per year; we now meet with 25 families per month. We are on track to serve more than 300 families this year.
- **12:** We anticipate helping 12 immigrant youth apply for permanent residence through our SIJS program, which will change their families for generations.

FY23 Fiscal Year Highlights

(Provide a bulleted list of three to five highlights from FY23 – should tie directly to budget requests and approvals from current FY and how the budget approvals help(ed) your organization achieve your metrics)

- Hired Luis Campos as a full-time immigration attorney for The Alliance; this will cost The Alliance approximately \$120,000 per year
- Hired Cristina Romero as a full-time Legal Assistant for The Alliance; this will cost The Alliance approximately \$75,000 in salary and benefits per year
- Launched Project Solo: Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Program (see description above)

FY23 Other Highlights

(Provide any other highlights and updates from FY23)

- In our first four years, we served 100 families for initial legal consultations; in our fifth year, we served more than 100 families for initial legal consultations in a single year; this year, we are on track to serve 300 families for initial consultations. The need in our community is enormous and growing and urgent.
- We moved into a larger office, across the street from the Hunger Coalition. This move was essential for our clients and our growing staff, and it has allowed us to continue our close collaboration with the Hunger Coalition.

FY24 Fiscal Year Budget Request Highlights

Requested Resources and Associated Costs

(Identify any significant budget requests and applicable information to support the requests. Explain how the requests will support increased performance of the above identified performance metrics.)

- People; Facilities; Equipment; Programming Costs; Other Requested Resources
 - \$30,000 in Programming Costs for Project Solo: Special Immigrant Juvenile Status
 - Please see attached budget for 2023 Project Solo. We anticipate that these costs will only increase as our client numbers climb.
 - This request supports COMMUNITY WELL-BEING and ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. The funds will help us pay and grow our legal team, and support the most vulnerable members of our community – children who are immigrants who have been abandoned, neglected, or abused by one or both parents. Even as the border restrictions increase with policies enacted by the Biden Administration, children are often exempt from these restrictions. This is why, even if the flow of asylum seekers is slowed, the flow of vulnerable children, alone, without support, will not slow.

FY24 Fiscal Year Anticipated Highlights

FY24 Anticipated Projects, Performance and Highlights

(Provide a bulleted list of at least 3 anticipated highlights based upon budget requests or anticipated projects.)

- Children and their families in the Wood River Valley eligible for SIJS will learn about Project Solo and available legal assistance through our outreach efforts.
- We anticipate helping 15 immigrant youth apply for permanent residence (and work permits) through our SIJS program, which will change their families for generations.
- We anticipate building our collaborations with local attorneys and pro-bono groups at large national law firms so we can grow out legal community and help more young people in Blaine County.

**PROJECT SOLO
PROGRAM
BUDGET,
JANUARY 2023 to
DECEMBER 2023**

Monthly

NOTES

Lawyer Hours on SIJS Cases	\$6,000	40 hours of lawyer time, billed at \$150/hour
Attorney Travel	\$250	One quarter of the monthly travel costs: \$750 for round trip flight and \$250 for week car rental
Legal Assistant Time	\$1,000	One quarter of monthly pay
Executive Director Time	\$1,560	One quarter of monthly pay
General Attorney Advisor	\$250	Consultations with attorneys familiar with SIJS
Office Rent	\$150	Quarter of our monthly rent (which is \$600)

MONTHLY TOTAL **\$9,210**

Annual

Notes

Legal Hours on SIJS Cases	\$	72,000.00
Attorney Travel	\$	3,000.00
Legal Assistant Time	\$	12,000.00
Executive Director Time	\$	18,720.00
General Attorney Advisor		\$3,000
Office Rent	\$	1,800.00

ANNUAL TOTAL **\$ 110,520.00**

**CONFIRMED &
PROJECTED SOURCES OF
INCOME**

Idaho Community Foundation	\$10,000	received
Donations	\$50,000	year-end donation drive received
Client Flat Fee Payments	\$20,000	pending (based on low-bono rate and expectation that only 50% of clients will pay at all)
Spur Community Foundatio	\$15,000	received

PROJECTED INCOME

TOTAL **\$95,000**