



CHRISTOPHER WARD
COUNCILMEMBER, THIRD DISTRICT

January 17, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Immigration-Related Emergency Funding

Dear Governor Newsom,

I am writing to express my support for the inclusion of \$5 million in General Fund expenditures to address immigration-related emergencies that occur during the 2018-2019 fiscal year, as was proposed by your administration earlier this year.

Within the past three months, the Rapid Response Network (RRN) has provided temporary shelter and meals to over 4,500 asylum seekers, primarily women and children. The RRN is a coalition of non-profit partners, who have filled the void of responsibilities that the federal government has created upon the termination of the "Safe Release Program". Although the RRN has provided invaluable support in preventing an even worse humanitarian & health crisis, further institutional support is necessary.

Families are released daily from Immigration and Custom Enforcement's custody into the streets of San Diego, without any food, water, or transportation plans to their intended destination. The result of this is a humanitarian crisis, in which the County and City of San Diego are responsible for providing a federal service.

\$5 million in emergency funding would go a long way to ensure that these asylum seekers have access to temporary shelter, health screenings, transportation, and the basic care & necessities that every human being is entitled to. Additionally, providing these services will help prevent a surge in homelessness and exposure to potential communicable diseases.

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and look forward to working with your office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christopher Ward".

Christopher Ward
Councilmember, Third District
City of San Diego