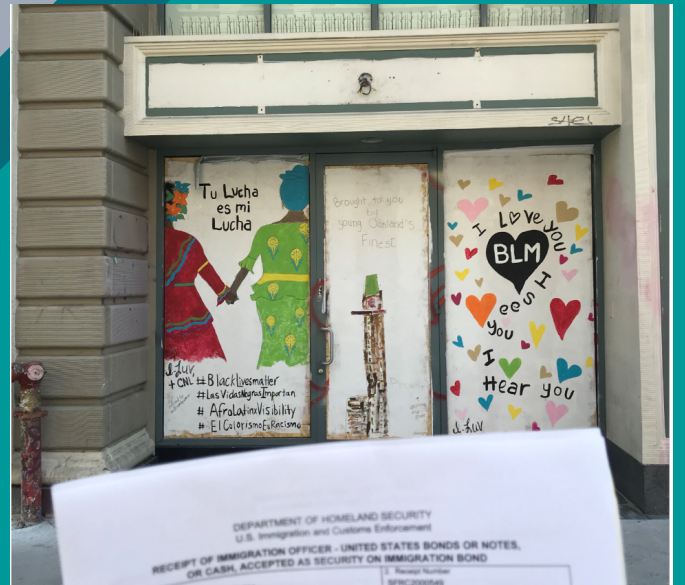




# FREEDOM FOR IMMIGRANTS

TOGETHER WE WILL END IMMIGRATION DETENTION



# LETTER FROM THE CO-FOUNDER

Dear Friends,

*It has been seven years since Christina Mansfield and I launched Freedom for Immigrants (formerly CIVIC) with an Echoing Green Fellowship. We are now a team of 14 full-time staff members and 4500 volunteers in 26 states. I could not be more proud of the work our team is doing every day to ease the immediate suffering of people in immigration detention, while also pushing for systemic change.*

**Let me illustrate this with a story.** *Luis, a 57-year-old father, presented himself at the border with his wife and three children seeking asylum. Luis was separated from them and detained.*

*Luis called our national hotline, and around the same time Luis's wife also contacted us. Freedom for Immigrants was able to raise and pay for Luis' \$5,000 bond, pick him up at the jail, and pay for a flight from California to Texas to reunite with his family. We also connected Luis, his wife, and children to a volunteer host family who was able to provide them with safe, secure housing. Luis' family is just one of about 8,000 families separated at the border within the last year.*



**But this is only part of the story.** *The Trump administration's zero tolerance policy was a startling escalation of the Obama administration's policies, but this practice is not new. Freedom for Immigrants has been working with families separated by our immigration detention system for years. In fact, approximately 400,000 people are detained each year, and according to our data, about half of these people have children under the age of 18.*

**Right now, there are over 50,000 mothers and fathers, people held in over 200 county jails and for-profit prisons that contact with ICE.** *But this was not always the case. Prior to the 1980s there were only about 30 people in immigration detention on any given day. So, what changed? In the 80s, two private prison companies were formed that lobbied for laws to expand immigration detention and our mass incarceration system. In the following decade, a new prison was built every 15 days.*

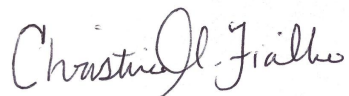
**Until recently immigration detention has been a bipartisan issue in the sense that every administration--Democrat or Republican--since the Reagan administration contributed to the building and growth of our modern immigration detention system.** *But it's time to abolish this system. Freedom for Immigrants is a national nonprofit with a mission to end the U.S. immigration detention system through a two-pronged approach.*

# LETTER FROM **THE CO-FOUNDER**

*The data and stories that we have gathered have allowed us to push for systemic change. In 2018, we passed the **first statewide bill** in the country to put a moratorium on immigration detention expansion. This bill was passed in California, a state that used to detain a quarter of all people in immigration detention each year. And we have seen how the bill has had a direct effect on immigration detention growth in the state. Now, other states, like Illinois, are following our lead and we were able to partner with Senator Kamala Harris and Rep Pramila Jayapal to introduce the **DONE Act** to put a federal moratorium on immigration detention. We believe that under the right administration, this bill is passable in the next 2-6 years. We are well on our way to abolition.*

*And we couldn't be here without all of you. Thank you for your generosity and support this year. We are excited to work with you to make freedom for immigrants a reality throughout the United States.*

*With hope and strength,*



**Christina Fialho**

**Co-Founder/Executive Director**





## FROM OUR LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

### Sylvester Owino

*Dear Freedom for Immigrants' Supporters & Friends,*

*This year, I celebrated my daughter's first birthday with the entire Freedom for Immigrants' staff. We cooked traditional Kenyan food and sang happy birthday. We have become a family. When I was in immigration detention, Freedom for Immigrants visited me.*

*My visitor volunteer, Katherine Weathers, became a mother to me. She has become like a mother-in-law to my wife, and she has become like a grandmother to my daughter. Freedom for Immigrants not only walked with me through that dark time in my life, they fought for my release. And they bonded me out of immigration detention. **It has been 6 years since I was released, and I now have a successful business, Rafikiz Foodz, and a growing family.***

*But freedom is not just about being released. I am still coping with the effects of the 9 years and 4 months that I spent in this supposed civil form of confinement. And my Freedom for Immigrants family is still in my life. This is an organization that is not just working to abolish the system through policy change, not just working to end the immediate suffering of people right now through direct service.*

**This is an organization working to build community so that together we can achieve true freedom.**



## FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



### Grisel Ruiz

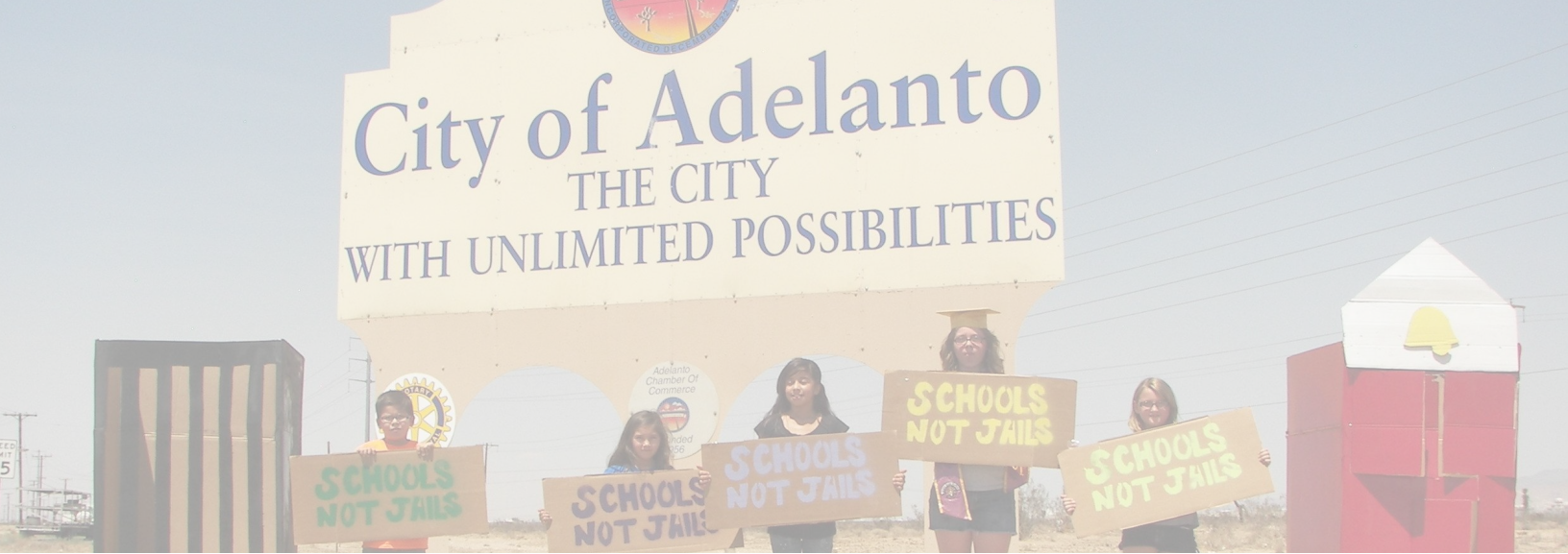
FFI Board Chair & Staff Attorney

*With every step the Trump administration has taken to attack immigrant communities, Freedom for Immigrants has been there. We have not only been resisting, but also building a solution to the inhumane immigration enforcement apparatus. We know that ending this system is as much about narrative and cultural change as it is about modeling what a country without immigration detention will look like through a robust community-based alternative to detention program.*

*We know that this work must be done by both liberals and conservatives, and that this issue should not be about politics but rather about humanity. We know that family separation due to cruel and unwise immigration policies is not new, and we know that this "crisis" will not be over until we abolish immigration detention.*

***We know we can end this system in our lifetime and make freedom for immigrants a reality.***





# OUR NATIONAL VISITATION NETWORK

**Freedom for Immigrants convenes the national visitation network. Our network of 4,500 volunteers visits people in over 50 of the largest ICE jails and prisons on a regular basis to provide them with support and monitor abuse.**

**4,500 VOLUNTEERS**

**51 ICE JAILS**

**26 STATES**

**~ 27,000 PEOPLE VISTED**

<b><u>Top 10 Types of Abuses Documented 2018-19</u></b>	<b><u>Top 10 Types of Support Provided 2018-19</u></b>
Medical neglect	Visiting regularly
Inadequate nutrition	Phone and mail correspondence
Prolonged detention	Referrals to legal service providers
Solitary confinement	Connecting with families
Restricted or denied legal access	Fundraising for bond & commissary
Restricted or denied phone access	Monitoring court hearings
Unsanitary conditions	Sending legal self-help materials
Forced labor violations	Sharing stories with the public
Physical abuse	Filing civil rights complaints
Restricted or denied right to religion	Obtaining case documents

# 2019 Rev. John Gutterman

## LEGACY AWARD

This year, Freedom for Immigrants awarded The Rev. John Guttermann Legacy Award to Friends of Miami-Dade Detainees (FOMDD).



**Initially** founded as a visitation program at the Krome Service Processing Center in Miami, over the years FOMDD has expanded to include four initiatives. FOMDD supports the immediate needs of detained immigrants by providing money for phone calls, books, connecting with family, clothes for deportation, and at times free legal consultations. For over a year, FOMDD also has helped sustain the Circle of Protection in Miramar, where immigrants are forced to report to ICE.

**Every week, volunteers stand outside and bear witness to silent raids and inhumane conditions while comforting immigrant community members and resisting ICE.**

For the holidays, FOMDD helped to organize an amazing party for the children and their parents outside the ICE office.

*“Rev. Guttermann often talked about providing a ministry of presence. It is beautiful to see his legacy live on in the love, hope, and compassion that FOMDD brings into some of the darkest systems of oppression in our country,” said Christina Fialho, the co-founder and co-executive director of Freedom for Immigrants.*



## We are excited to highlight two of our new Visitation Network Member Groups!

### Iowans for Immigrant Freedom

*“We have done a lot over the past six months becoming educated in visitation programs, forming our group's structure and dividing up areas of focus, drafting a direction for action, raising funds, and making many connections in our communities with individuals and organizations.*

*The vastly increased coverage of immigration in the media garnered us a ton of attention fairly early in our organization's life; we did not expect to be able to raise funds, awareness, and partnerships quite this quickly.*

*We are particularly happy that we were able to participate in a fundraiser that sent \$2,000 in*



*bond funds to Freedom for Immigrants, and \$1,000 to our group to pass on to the commissary funds and phone accounts of people in detention.*

*We worked with the Center for Worker Justice to co-host a well-attended Lights for Liberty vigil. We have spoken with several community organizations (League of United Latin American Citizens [LULAC], the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights, the University of Iowa Immigration Clinic, the Eastern Iowa Bond Project, the Iowa City Catholic Worker House, and ICompassion) who want to provide financial and logistical support and pass on important resources to people in detention.*

*We are so excited for our first visit coming up this month!”*

*- Jessica Pannell, coordinator*

Visitation  
program  
spotlight





## Justice for Migrant Families (JFMF) of Western New York (WNY)

*"In the past year, our visitation program at the Buffalo Federal Detention Facility began and it has grown very rapidly. JFMF currently visits over 50 people inside of the facility.*

*In this year, the visitation team has created a phone line system for people who are detained (it is very much a work in progress), given trainings to over 70 people on the background and basics for visiting people who are detained and court support, teamed up with a local college to work with students learning Spanish in the visitation program, set up a commissary program, created a pen pal program, and collaborated with immigration lawyers and allies to aid people who are being released from detention with housing, basic necessities and connecting with resources.*

*In addition, we have worked to connect those who are detained with legal and many other kinds of resources and have recently started collaborating with Journey's End here in Buffalo to have a couple of their lawyers do legal intakes for the people without representation in the detention center so that we can more easily do outreach for them.*

*It feels like our work keeps growing and growing and also that we keep finding ways to be more systematic, equitable and collaborative.*

*It's been quite a year. Our future efforts involve refining these current programs. We are working on making the phone line more available to people, and staffed with people who speak more languages. We are starting a legal case review committee with non-immigration lawyers who can write case summaries of the legal intakes.*

*We are working with groups and school further afield from Buffalo to educate them on what is happening in local immigration and in the detention center and finding ways that those who do not live near Batavia can help out.*

*We are doing more regular trainings because the response to them has been very positive. We have such an incredible team of people working with us and so many wonderful allied organizations who help us.*

*Thanks so much, Freedom for Immigrants, for everything you have taught us and done to support us during our first year!"*

*- Carra Stratton, Coordinator*

**Keep an eye out for more in-depth profiles of both the lowans for Immigrant Freedom and Justice for Migrant Families of Western New York in upcoming publications of IMM-PRINT!**



# SHUTTING DOWN IMMIGRANT PRISONS



In the last year, we have witnessed the closure of six immigrant jails, from California (Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center, West County Detention Facility, Theo Lacy Detention Facility, James Musick Detention Facility), to Oregon (Josephine County Jail), to Georgia (Atlanta City Detention Facility). We have demanded and worked toward “just closures” at these facilities.

**For example,** when the Contra Costa Sheriff’s Office announced the end of the ICE contract at West County Detention Facility in July 2018, Freedom for Immigrants quickly organized with a coalition of advocacy groups and raised more than \$250,000, which allowed us to free 47 individuals and thus prevent their transfers to far away detention facilities. We worked with our local partners to accomplish the same when the Orange County Sheriff’s Department announced in March 2019 that it was ending its ICE contracts at the Theo Lacy and James Musick detention facilities.

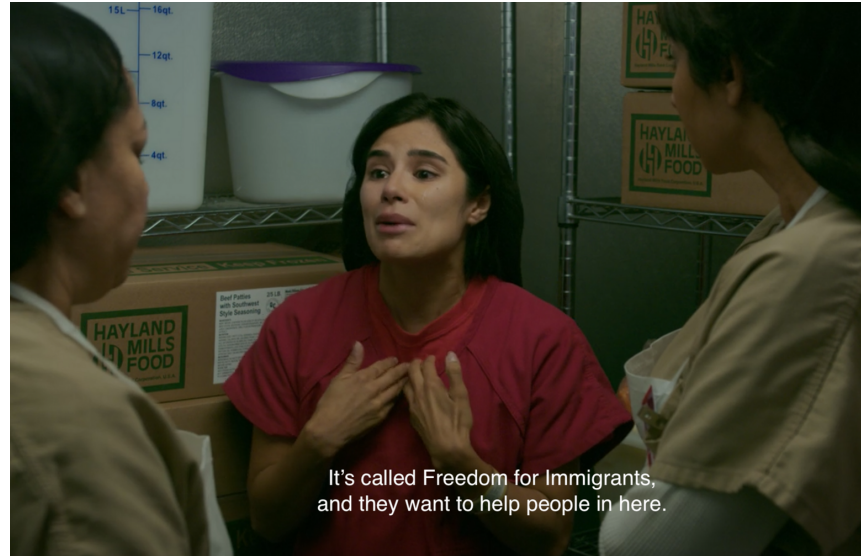
Both West County Detention Facility and Theo Lacy Detention Facility had been highlighted in the California Attorney General’s February 2019 report for their intolerable conditions and rampant abuse. This report was mandated by AB 103, a budget amendment Freedom for Immigrants helped draft and pass in 2017. In addition, our advocacy efforts have helped pressure at least four local municipalities to sever their profit-driven contracts with ICE, including in California (Adelanto Detention Facility, Mesa Verde Detention Facility), New Jersey (Hudson County Correctional Center), and Texas (D. Hutto Detention Facility).

While the future of these detention facilities remains unclear due to the federal government’s manoeuvring through procurement loopholes, these contract terminations are a clear sign that the movement for localities to stop profiting off the incarceration of immigrants is continuing to gain traction nationwide. Over the next three years, Freedom for Immigrants is committed to expanding and strengthening its national visitation network, and especially encouraging groups to more purposefully and thoughtfully follow the leadership of those directly impacted.

# National Immigration Detention Hotline

The national hotline ensures that we have a direct connection to people in detention no matter where they may be detained.

Freedom for Immigrants runs the nation's largest immigration detention hotline, connecting immigrants in detention to their family, resources, and abuse documentation support at no cost to them.



**There are over 200 immigrants prisons and jails**, many in remote areas like Jena, Louisiana, where it is hard to visit. The National Hotline is staffed by a team of highly trained multilingual advocates across the country. We receive between **600 to 14,500 calls per month** from people in immigrant prisons and jails around the country. We have received calls from immigrants from **148 countries** that speak **80 different languages**. Most calls come from people originally from Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Haiti, Ghana, Nigeria, Jamaica, India, and the Dominican Republic.

**Our National Immigration Detention Hotline also serves as a tool for elevating the organizing efforts of people inside of detention facilities.** For example, we worked with 70 men detained at the Otay Detention Facility. The men organized to sign a letter protesting medical neglect and safety concerns in the facility and then shared their demands with us. Freedom for Immigrants then elevated their letter in various media outlets, including the Los Angeles Times, La Opinión the San Diego Union Tribune, and IMM-Print.

“ My favorite part about answering the hotline is getting to hear little snippets of the stories of many different people's lives. Sometimes, people call just to hear a friendly voice and we might talk about our children or families or professions. It is also gratifying when I have been able to connect someone to a resource or a vital bit of information. ”

- Sarah Eggers, Hotline Volunteer







# Modeling a World Without Detention: Our Alternative to Detention Program

This year, Freedom for Immigrants raised approximately \$700,000 to bond out 120 people from immigration detention.

Freedom for Immigrants also increased the capacity of local and issue-specific bond funds by providing them with fiscal sponsorship, fundraising support, and by posing and serving as the obligor for the Bay Area Immigration Bond Fund, the San Diego Borderlands Get Free Bond Fund, and the Haitian Immigrant Bail Assistance Project. We have learned that the best way to reunite families is to pay their immigrant bond.

We have been honored to play a role in securing the freedom of children like Nelson\* who fled Honduras seeking asylum in the United States. For the last year, he was detained by the U.S. government apart from his family, with other minors in the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement. Repeated requests for his release from his parents were all denied. When a minor turns 18, they are at risk of being transferred to an ICE adult detention facility. On the eve of his 18th birthday, we were able to raise \$11,000 to secure his release and reunite him with his parents in Texas.

We also have been able to reunite husbands and wives separated at the border. Gabriela\* a 48-year-old woman from Honduras entered together with her husband, Jaime, after fleeing persecution, violence, and death threats in Honduras. They were separated and sent to different immigrant prisons. She was granted a \$5,000 bond in February, which Freedom for Immigrants paid in full.

In April, her husband was granted an \$18,000 bond. We held a fundraiser and, while it took a couple of weeks to get the funds, Freedom for Immigrants was able to bond him out with the assistance of our fiscally sponsored Bay Area Immigration Bond Fund. They are now living in Utah with their niece.

**We are modeling what a country without immigration detention will look like through our community-based alternative to detention program.**



# Our Bond Fund Revolves

**After** a person's immigration case is completed, bond money is returned to Freedom for Immigrants to bond our another person. For example, with one of the returned bonds, we were able to free two brothers, Kani\* and Edem\*. Kani and Edem fled Nigeria after narrowly escaping death. When they arrived at the U.S. border asking for asylum, they were immediately detained at the Adelanto Detention Facility.

Freedom for Immigrants helped the brothers get a sponsor so they would have a place to live after being released. , a couple in Los Angeles. The brothers were then each granted a \$5,000 bond, an amount that neither of them nor the sponsor family could afford. At this time, Freedom for Immigrants received our largest returned bond for \$15,000, and with that bond, we were able to bond both brothers out and get them safely to their sponsor's home.

**In the new year, we will be ramping up our bond fund program through the creation of an impact investment fund, called the Freedom100 Fund, to secure the release of more people and provide them with post release case management in addition to meeting their housing needs.**





# Legislating Change

## Journey Toward a Federal Moratorium on Detention

After drafting and passing the first statewide moratorium on immigration detention expansion through the Dignity Not Detention Act, Freedom for Immigrants took our fight in California to Washington, D.C.

### **Detention Oversight Not Expansion (DONE) Act:**

We led an effort to draft and obtain Congressional sponsorship for our Detention Oversight Not Expansion (DONE) Act, a bicameral bill introduced in May 2018 by California Sen. Kamala Harris and Rep. Pramila Jayapal of Washington. The proposed measure would prohibit the expansion of immigration detention nationwide, reduce detention by 50 percent, and fund community-based alternatives to detention. We are using this bill as a tool to educate representatives about the need to limit appropriations funding to DHS.

### **U.S. House of Representatives Passes Budget Amendment:**

Freedom for Immigrants drafted a federal budget amendment introduced by Rep. Jayapal that passed! The amendment specifically prohibits the U.S. Coast Guard from transferring funds to ICE for the purpose of building or expanding immigration detention facilities. This is critical because the Trump administration has diverted over \$200 million from other agencies, including \$29 million from the Coast Guard, for the purpose of detaining and deporting immigrants and their children.



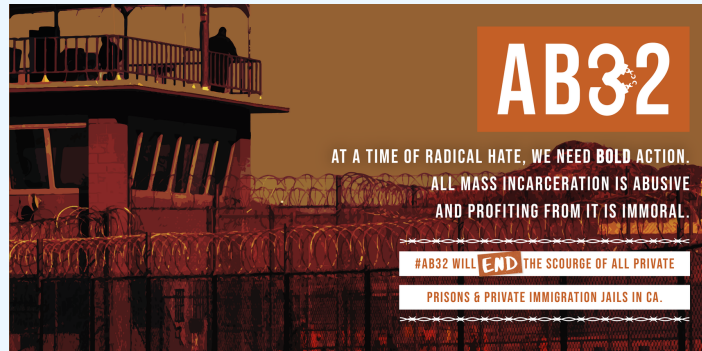
# Making Strides Statewide

## Illinois Passes Ban on Private Immigration Detention Facilities

Following in the footsteps of California, Illinois passed a statewide ban on private immigration detention facilities. However, the state took a further step and banned all private prisons. With this bold move, Illinois has prevented all private prisons from operating in the state, whereas in California, private prisons can still contract directly with ICE.

## California Builds on Dignity Not Detention with Criminal Justice Allies

Freedom for Immigrants partnered with criminal justice advocates to introduce A.B. 32 to ban all private prisons in California. The bill passed and was signed into law! This bill is building on the legacy of the Dignity Not Detention Act.



## Regulates Detention Calls

Freedom for Immigrants has been leading the fight to lower prison phone rates for years, including working with allies to create a federal FCC rule to regulate interstate phone calls a few years ago. But more work is needed. We are co-sponsoring in California SB-555 to regulate and decrease the costs of jail commissaries and phone calls.

## Preventing Rent-A-Cops from Acting as ICE Agents

Freedom for Immigrants co-sponsored AB 1292 (No Private ICE Act) to prohibit the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) from assisting or allowing private security contractors to arrest individuals in CDCR custody for immigration purposes.



# THANK YOU



Due to your generosity, Freedom for Immigrants has been able to support more people in immigration detention this year than ever before, and we have been able to launch innovative programming and policy with the potential for ending immigration detention. In addition, we grew stronger as a team, and we expanded with new offices in Washington, D.C., New York City, and Texas.

Freedom for Immigrants needs your continued partnership. Our work is made possible by the financial support of over 3,250 individual philanthropists across the country who stand for immigrant rights, freedom and equality. The median annual donation is \$50, which underscores the critical importance of each and every tax-deductible gift.

**We want to especially thank our foundation partners this year:**

**The California Health Care Foundation  
Child Welfare Fund**

**Hispanics in Philanthropy**

**The James Irvine**

**JM Kaplan**

**The Jacob & Valeria Langeloth  
Foundation**

**Orange County Community Foundation**

**RembeRock, Trinity Church Wall Street**

**Unitarian Universalist Service  
Committee**

**Y & H Soda Foundation**



# THANK YOU

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We also are grateful for the many actors, comedians, athletes, activists, organizers, writers, film makers, musicians, and companies who joined us this year. Special thanks to the writers, producers, and actors of Orange Is The New Black for selecting us as one of 8 organizational recipients of the Poussey Washington Fund.



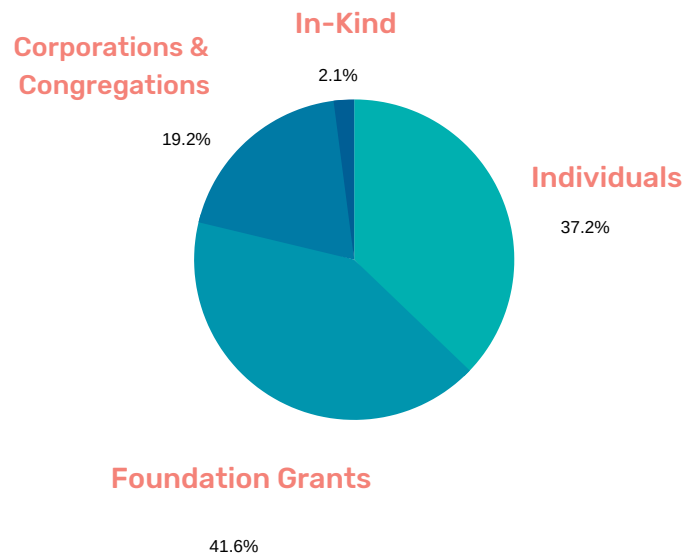


Freedom for Immigrants' management practices ensure that operating funds raised in the current year are effectively put to use to support programs that further our mission of creating a world without immigration detention. The following figures represent sources and uses of operating funds for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. Freedom for Immigrants publishes detailed financial information in the form of its annual report and IRS 990 tax returns.

## Sources of funds

**Individuals: \$1,402,483**  
**Foundation Grants: \$1,569,944**  
**In-Kind: \$724,117**  
**Corporations & Congregations: \$77,826**

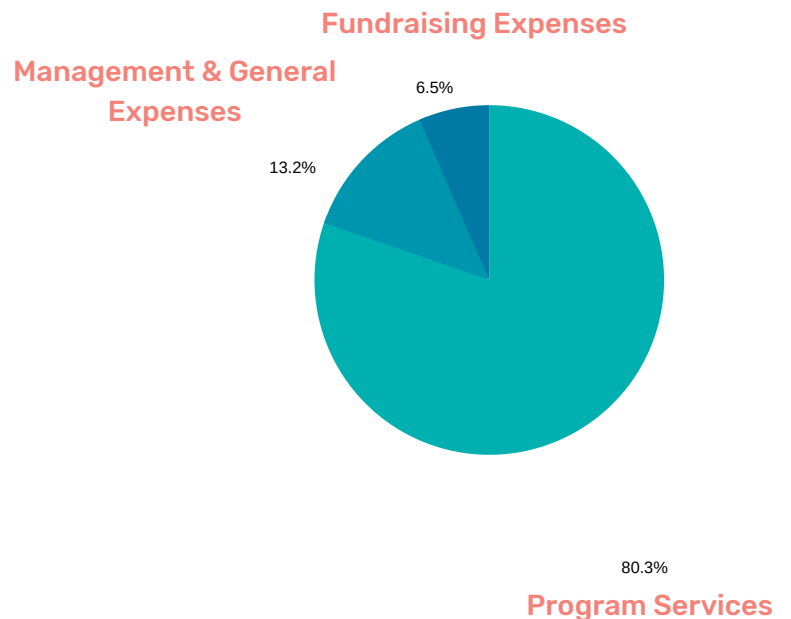
**Total: \$3,774, 370**



## Uses of funds

**Program Services: \$1,423,990**  
**Management & General Expenses: \$233,889**  
**Fundraising Expenses: \$115,680**

**Total: \$1,773,559**



For more information or to make a tax-deductible gift, email Christina Fialho at [CFialho@freedomforimmigrants.org](mailto:CFialho@freedomforimmigrants.org) or visit <http://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/donate>.