

# 5 reasons why Long Beach should partner with the Vera Institute of Justice



## By the Sanctuary Long Beach campaign

As part of the Sanctuary movement to fight unjust deportations and family separation, the City of Long Beach has voted multiple times to establish the Long Beach Justice Fund, which will provide free legal representation to immigrant residents facing deportation regardless of their background. The City Council recently approved \$250,000 to establish the Long Beach Justice Fund. Now, the City must partner with an agency to help manage the fund and oversee its operation. The Vera Institute is the most qualified fiscal sponsor for the Long Beach Justice Fund because of their experience and history with handling complex structures like a legal defense fund and their commitment to supporting Long Beach in becoming a safe and welcoming city. Here are five reasons why Long Beach should partner with the Vera Institute of Justice.

- 1 Matching Funds.** Vera will grant an additional \$100,000 in recognition of the City Council's previous votes to allocate \$250,000 in public dollars to the LB Justice Fund and designate the program as universal, meaning all people will be helped regardless of their background.
- 2 Expertise.** Vera has a history of successfully supporting legal defense programs across the nation, beginning with the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project in July 2014.
- 3 National Platform.** With Vera's partnership, Long Beach will become a member of Vera's SAFE (Safety & Fairness for Everyone) Cities Network. The SAFE Network is a group of local cities that have committed public dollars towards universal legal representation to keep immigrant families together and communities safe. Member cities include Oakland, Sacramento, Santa Ana, Denver, Austin, San Antonio, Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, and Columbus.
- 4 Technical Assistance.** As a fiscal sponsor, Vera will provide program management, technical assistance and training for legal service providers, and research with an eye toward evaluation and coordination across the network.
- 5 Community Connections.** Vera has strong grass-roots level connections to immigrant rights organizations working in Long Beach neighborhoods. Vera is committed to an inclusive development of the criteria desired for local Legal Service Providers (LSPs) by including community stakeholders at the table.



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