

SAFE (Safety & Fairness for Everyone) Cities Network
Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the SAFE Cities Network?

The City of Santa Ana partnered with the Vera Institute of Justice to establish a fund to provide legal representation to eligible immigrant facing deportation. As part of this partnership, Santa Ana became a member of the [SAFE \(Safety & Fairness for Everyone\) Cities Network](#), which is a network of diverse local jurisdictions from around the country that recognize their duty to keep their community safe and secure and to protect the well-being of all their residents.

2. Who is eligible for the SAFE Cities Program?

To qualify for this program you must:

- Be a resident of Santa Ana (priority given) or the County of Orange
- Have a household income of below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level
- Be in removal proceedings before the immigration court

3. Which office is providing services under the SAFE Cities Program?

After completing a thorough selection process, the City selected [Immigrant Defenders Law Center](#) as the City's legal service provider. Immigrant Defenders Law Center will utilize their expertise to support removal defense in Santa Ana and in the surrounding community.

3. How can I get services under the SAFE Cities Program?

To get services under the Santa Ana's SAFE Cities Program, you should schedule an appointment with Immigrant Defenders Law Center by calling: (213) 634-0999.

4. Where is Immigrant Defenders Law Center located?

Immigrant Defenders Law Center main office is in Los Angeles, however they have an office in Santa Ana. Their Santa Ana office address is 2101 North Tustin Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705, however you must have an appointment to be seen at that office. Call (213) 634-0999 to schedule an appointment.

5. How much will I have to pay to receive services?

This program is funded through a partnership of the City of Santa Ana and the Vera Institute of Justice. Therefore, if you qualify for the SAFE Cities program and your case is accepted, you will not be charged any fees for your legal representation.

6. Who is funding the initiative? What is the breakdown of private and public funding?

The City of Santa Ana committed \$65,000 of city funds for the first year of the program and an additional \$80,000 for the second year. The Vera Institute of Justice contributed \$100,000 in catalyst funds during the first year of the program.

7. Why is the City of Santa Ana funding this initiative?

The City of Santa Ana believes this initiative will show that a policy that provides legal representation to immigrants facing deportation is a more efficient long-term use of resources through:

- Lowering the number of deportations and getting people released from custody, which allows immigrants to go back to their jobs and their families, keeping families together;

- Saving expenses for foster care and welfare of children remaining behind from deported parents;
- Minimizing disruption to local industries;
- Maintaining the tax revenue from immigrants; and
- Fostering trust among our residents in their officials and institutions by knowing they will be treated justly and with dignity.

8. Does the City of Santa Ana have the resources to provide this representation to all residents who need it – and if not, how is it decided who gets a lawyer and who does not?

The City of Santa Ana’s ultimate aim is to have the resources to provide funding for every person facing deportation whose household income is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level and is in removal proceedings. However, currently our program is limited by our funding levels.

Our aspiration is for universal representation, where every immigrant facing deportation has access to an attorney. The constitutional guarantee of due process applies to people residing here, including immigrants. We will provide representation to as many immigrants as our funding allows.

9. What other cities/counties are in SAFE Cities Network?

The Vera Institute for Justice has partnered with 12 cities and counties in 8 states to implement this initiative. These include: Atlanta GA, Austin TX, Baltimore MD, Chicago IL, Columbus OH, Dane County WI, Denver CO, Oakland/Alameda County CA, Prince George’s County MD, Sacramento CA and San Antonio TX.