



March 13, 2025

Senator Mike McGuire  
President pro Tempore, California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 8518  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Robert Rivas  
Speaker of the Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 8330  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Scott Wiener  
Chair, Senate Committee on Budget  
1021 O Street, Suite 8620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget  
1021 O Street Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Christopher Cabaldon  
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration and General Government  
1021 O Street, Room 7320  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva  
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on State Administration  
1021 O Street, Suite 4210  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Support for the Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications in the California's 2025-2026 State Budget in the Amount of \$25 million to grant to CBOs.**

Dear Honorable Senators and Members:

On behalf of **The Trusted Messenger Coalition, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (CRLAF) and Education & Leadership Foundation (ELF)**, we respectfully request and support the sustainability and preservation of the funding for the **Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications (OCPSC)** to continue helping California's most marginalized hard-to-reach communities receive vital information through targeted outreach and education campaigns implemented by key community based organizations (CBOs). Since 2023, OCPSC has partnered with CBOs providing grants to facilitate the work within their communities as trusted messengers disseminating information on priority issues. **We support the investment of \$25 million in the 2025-2026 budget to provide grant funding for the CBOs.**

**The Trusted Messenger Coalition** represents statewide non-profit CBOs serving the most marginalized of California's rural and urban poor residents and communities. **The Trusted Messenger Coalition's** goal is to help the rural and urban poor improve their knowledge, awareness, individual capacity of economic, social, and health conditions in their communities.

**The investment of \$25 million is for California's 2025-2026 state budget.** The funding is necessary to the extent practical to avoid negatively affecting the CBOs ability to help hard-to-reach immigrant and mixed status populations throughout California into 2025 and beyond to implement critically needed campaigns to inform and educate these impacted populations. Moreover, the current funding will conclude in May/June 2025 and the extended funding will avoid unnecessary retrenchment and limit the capacity of the CBOs to implement new and effective campaigns. To eliminate extended funding will effectively limit the OCPSC program from sustaining successfully established relationships with trusted CBOs, which in partnership with the State of California, has conducted outreach and education on priority issues such as extreme heat, water conservation, COVID-19 pandemic, ITIN, and the current youth behavioral health campaign bringing and connecting vital information and resources to probable harmed immigrant and migrant communities. The youth behavioral health campaign is proving to be a lifeline for already stressed communities fearful from drastic federal policies that can separate families at a time when navigation and support services are urgently needed. More not less targeted campaigns that are diverse, cultural and linguistically competent are needed to address emerging immigration and refugee related issues to maintain family unity.

CBOs have demonstrated that they are the trusted messengers critical to working with thousands of residents such as immigrant and rural farmworker communities. According to *TMN 2024 data from May 2024 to January 2025, 142 CBOs conducted 1.35 million interactives, which covered 55 languages.* To eliminate OCPSC funding would seriously undermine the momentum established with the community and risk the short-term, intermediate and long-term benefits gained by the program. Moreover, the lack of funding will tear the safety net and breach the trust with the CBOs that will take years to mend.

CBOs are committed and dedicated to the social, economic, health and well-being of their communities, they have their trust to continue serving them with information. OCPSC was established, in part, relying on the good faith CBOs have to improve and sustain the well-being of communities. While **The Trusted Messenger Coalition** appreciates the funding that established and implemented the OCPSC, we believe that without the much needed support CBOs will have to make difficult financial decisions when capacity is of utmost importance.

Thus, we must sustain equitable policies and programs to help the most marginalized hard-to-reach communities from the effects of climate change resulting in natural disasters and human made disasters that impact California's underserved communities. On behalf of **The Trusted Messenger Coalition, CRLAF and ELF needs your support to invest \$25 million to fund CBOs working with the most diverse and marginalized communities.**

Your consideration is appreciated. Please contact Noe Paramo with CRLAF at [nparamo@crlaf.org](mailto:nparamo@crlaf.org) with any questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,

California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation  
Education & Leadership Foundation

CC:  
The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1020 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814