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## **Community Support Network 2011 Network and Grant Invitations**

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) and the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. (PCUSA) are proud to announce the inception of a Community Support Network, a holistic approach to representing individuals legally eligible for release from detention combined with providing comprehensive services as they are released into the community. This network will ensure access to ongoing legal representation, housing and basic needs, educational services, medical and mental health care, and employment skills training, as well as offer a wide-ranging combination of cultural and spiritual support to promote safety and self-sufficiency. LIRS and PCUSA hopes to fund community-based organizations that bring together volunteers and service providers to accompany persons through release and provide a continuum of care as they (re)integrate into U.S. communities. In early 2012, LIRS and PCUSA will also host a retreat for network participants to gather, share best practices and discuss various service models being offered throughout the nation.

For decades, LIRS and PCUSA have supported legal and social service providers in their mission to serve vulnerable immigrants at risk of unnecessary and prolonged detention. In conjunction with our many partners, we have been successful in increasing legal service capacity and federal funding for Know Your Rights presentations for those detained throughout the nation, as well as advocating for safe release of persons seeking protection and legal status in the U.S. Most recently, our advocacy efforts have led to improvements in the system to allow for greater release for individuals who do not need to be detained and new policies that offer the public a standard access procedure to follow when attempting to visit immigrant(s) in detention and/or conduct an authorized facility tour. The dedication of concerned individuals and service providers, as well as cooperation from various government officials, is imperative for this work to be successful.

Continued collaboration is essential. While incredible progress has been achieved to assist vulnerable immigrants, LIRS and PCUSA cannot ignore the ongoing need for legal representation and the severe need for amplified services and advocacy to fully meet the needs of detained immigrants and their families. We recently conducted a national assessment, which confirmed the continued need for legal representation, as well as the need for increased housing and social service coordination to be made available for immigrants in and/or being released from detention. In response to the swell of faith-based groups seeking to support affected populations, we hope to more actively engage and organize this community's enthusiasm to provide pre and post-release services. We know the government is more likely to release individuals from detention, if they have an attorney and can provide a stable address for where they will live. We also know individuals are more likely to have their cases adjudicated fairly, if offered safe and appropriate guidance in understanding the prescribed system. Lastly, we know community-based care is a more humane and cost effective enforcement response than physical incarceration, and we want to demonstrate to the U.S. government it is feasible to meet its goals *and* abide by human rights standards.

Initial pilot sites will exist in strategically selected geographic locations near detention facilities where people are being released and/or residing post-release. Ongoing legal representation is imperative and a critical component of this work, and LIRS and PCUSA intend to further support such service with a comprehensive approach to human care. We plan to leverage our constituencies to build stronger relationships with congregations, local service ministry organizations, refugee resettlement programs and like-minded institutions to offer social services and systematic community support for immigrants seeking legal protection in the U.S.

### **Goals of LIRS and PCUSA Community Support Network:**

LIRS and PCUSA want to partner and create space with like-minded organizations in order to build and fortify the necessary infrastructure and capacity within the U.S. to meet the immediate and ongoing needs of immigrants in and eligible to be released from detention, or already released into the community. We believe preparing and counseling individuals facing forced deportation is a more support and humane response to potential removal than detention. Together, in strategic partnership with local organizations as well as the U.S. government, LIRS and PCUSA also aim to:

- 1) *Ensure individuals that are eligible for release are in fact released from immigration detention and have access to proper community-based services in order to successfully complete proceedings.*
- 2) *Educate Lutheran and Presbyterian institutions on the harsh realities of immigration detention and encourage their active participation in efforts to create a more hospitable environment for migrants in and/or being released from detention in the US.*
- 3) *Transform US Government policies and procedures to be less reliant on detention as the default to immigration enforcement, and utilize community-based alternatives when detention is not necessary.*

The community support network will track the outcomes of services delivered to individuals who:

- 1) *Are eligible for release and currently detained;*
- 2) *Are screened by an immigration attorney and/or found to have a meritorious claim for legal relief in the US;*
- 3) *Are released from immigration detention;*
- 4) *Demonstrate a clear need for housing and/or social service coordination.*

LIRS and PCUSA recognize and applaud community organizations and faith-based groups that have long histories of providing legal and social services, including hospitality, to individuals released from detention. As national organizations, we wish to partner with such groups to continue to leverage and build upon this capacity. The LIRS and PCUSA have an established track record for piloting local ideas and dramatically expanding capacity for holistic services by relying significantly on peer-to-peer learning and social systems methodology in meeting both the environmental and individual needs of persons released from immigration detention. LIRS and PCUSA offer space for peer networking, capacity trainings, data evaluation for collective outcomes, and established advocacy resources and policy expertise.

### **Invitation to Apply for Network Membership**

Network membership will reflect the many disciplines necessary to provide both legal and social services key to ensuring that immigrants in proceedings need not be detained. This is an opportunity to network with peers, engage in pre and post-release services, and track outcomes for individuals that will capture necessary data and lessons learned for broader systemic impact.

### **Invitation to Apply for Grants**

LIRS and PCUSA recognize certain local efforts will need additional resources in order to participate fully. Strong preference in our first year cycle is to build off of existing capacity for both legal and social service delivery models and engage one community/location at a time. It is our intention to increase funded sites more broadly beginning in year two. Ideal grantees will 1) leverage existing capacity within a community, and 2) employ or coordinate volunteer case managers, such as social workers, psychologists or other human services professionals, to assist individuals in finding stability and permanence in their new environment, while also fulfilling immigration requirements.

Case management entails ongoing individualized needs and strengths assessments, goal setting and planning, supervision, and individual monitoring. Continuous evaluation is critical to ensure services required to meet the client's health and human service needs, as well as compliance with immigration proceedings, are delivered. This structure promotes quality and cost-effective interventions, leading to positive outcomes for both the individual and community. Trained case managers are skilled in building healthy relationships with their clients, responding to their complex needs, and linking them with appropriate service providers in the community to facilitate safe, timely, and personalized care. Case managers strive to protect people who need

assistance in properly caring for their own health and wellbeing<sup>1</sup>. Immigrants, whether released from detention or living in the community, are often hesitant to approach federal agents for this type of care and support. Individuals may fear being re-detained and/or scrutinized by officials and are more likely to reach out to case managers unaffiliated with an office or governmental entity that determines the outcome of his/her outstanding immigration case.

Psycho-social and peer support groups, educational tutoring, job skills training, medical and mental health care, spiritual, recreational and acculturation services will be essential elements of our community support model. The network will empower released immigrants to share their stories, advocate for a humane response to migration and become integrated, participating members of U.S. society. Members and partners of the community support network will stand alongside immigrants in their journey to safety in the United States.

### ***Who will qualify for the Community Support Network pilot program?***

LIRS and PCUSA desire partner communities where well-established immigrant service providers can connect and work in conjunction with local allies to deliver quality services to immigrants in and/or being released from detention. We encourage local agencies to come together to decide who is already delivering which services, where gaps exist and how you all could best coordinate efforts to collectively attend to the various needs of immigrants in the community. If an organization does not have the expertise to provide a particular service, LIRS and PCUSA want to know how potential grantees plan to fill that void for individual clients. It is not required for the funded organization to possess each of the criteria mentioned below; however the application should fully articulate which of these conditions do and do not exist, who the funded organization plans to work with and how the community can provide services and ensure the pre and post-release needs of immigrants are fully met in the given locale.

Priority will be given to groups and/or organizations in a community where:

- Individuals released from detention have access to:
  - Legal services
  - Low/no cost housing
  - Case management services specifically targeting the needs of immigrants in the U.S.
  - Basic needs (food/clothing)
  - Public transportation
  - Medical, dental and mental health care
  - Educational, vocational training and/or job skills training
- A substantial immigrant community exists;
- Lutheran and Presbyterian churches and/or institutions are actively involved in ministry to immigrants in the community;
- Ecumenical or interfaith groups are engaged in immigrant services;
- Current and/or former LIRS/PCUSA partners operate;
- Authorized immigration detention facilities exist;
- Legal Orientation Programs and volunteer visitation occur;

and who:

- Demonstrate the ability and a clear willingness to work with ICE;
- Exhibit capacity to collect and disseminate data regarding individual client outcomes and programmatic progress.

### ***How can an organization apply to become a part of the Community Support Network?***

Organizations interested in becoming part of the LIRS and PCUSA community support network should complete all sections of the application as comprehensively as possible. Please note applications are due no later than November 30th, 2011.

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<sup>1</sup> International Detention Coalition, "There Are Alternatives," page 30, (2011), [http://www.scribd.com/full/54661929?access\\_key=key-ptqwr6iqwxth9v8zbne](http://www.scribd.com/full/54661929?access_key=key-ptqwr6iqwxth9v8zbne).

The information you provide will help LIRS and PCUSA:

- Assess applicant's ability to work with other providers in the community to best meet the needs of immigrants that could benefit from such support;
- Ensure faith communities can engage and participate in efforts to welcome immigrants in and/or released from detention.

Application Guidelines

Please submit a full proposal, including each component of the outlined format, using the guidelines provided. Incomplete or improperly assembled proposals will not be reviewed.

Send an electronic copy of your full application, including cover sheet and attachments, to [acampbell@lirs.org](mailto:acampbell@lirs.org) no later than November 30th, 2011; do not send parts of the application separately.

**Please direct all questions to:**

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