

2025 OCJF Bond Fund Annual Report



1. Executive Summary

In 2025, the Orange County Justice Fund's (OCJF) Bond Fund operated in one of the most volatile enforcement environments we have seen since the program began. ICE increased the use of raids, indiscriminate arrests, and punitive check-in detentions. The legal landscape shifted week to week, with litigation—rather than policy—guiding who was bond-eligible. Despite these challenges, **OCJF supported 16 individuals** with bond contributions, helping reunify families, stabilize households, and ensure people could continue their immigration cases outside of detention.

This year, the fund received **29 applications**, approving **16** and contributing **\$111,500** toward bond posting. The average requested bond amount climbed to **\$10,343**, and nearly **88%** of cases required co-funding from partners and families. Through strong community support, OCJF raised **\$75,243** toward the fund, ensuring we could meet rising demand and shorten posting timelines.

OCJF posted bonds faster, strengthened our systems, and expanded public education and litigation support. As enforcement grows more unpredictable, continued investment will be essential to ensure that families can stay together and community members have a fair chance to pursue their immigration cases.

2. Who We Serve: Recipient Demographics & Community Snapshot

Recipients supported through the fund reflected long-term community ties and significant family responsibilities:



Demographic Profile

- Average age: **38.1** years
- Gender: **100% men**
- Primary languages: **Spanish**
- Countries of origin: **Latin America and Russia, predominantly Guatemala.**



Community & Family Ties

- Average time in the U.S.: **12.5 years**
- OC residents: **46%**
- Parents or primary caretakers: **72%**



Health & Vulnerabilities

- Medical or mental health concerns: **23%**
- Including diabetes, epilepsy, depression, and more.

Detention patterns also shifted dramatically. **80%** of recipients were detained in California, overwhelmingly at Adelanto. **76%** reported being detained during ICE raids, indiscriminate arrests, or at routine ICE check-ins—marking a clear shift toward more aggressive and unpredictable enforcement.

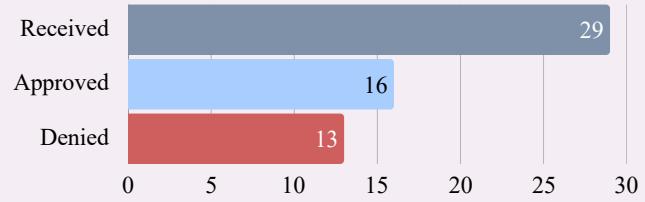
These numbers illustrate what we saw across the year: people with deep roots in the U.S., caring for families, and navigating serious vulnerabilities were increasingly targeted for detention.



3. Bond Fund Activity & Financial Stewardship

OCJF funds immigration bonds only. Cases must have an issued bond, cannot involve criminal bail, and must involve an individual who resides in or has strong ties to Orange County. In rare cases, OCJF may post a bond that is fully covered by a partner organization when logistical posting support is needed.

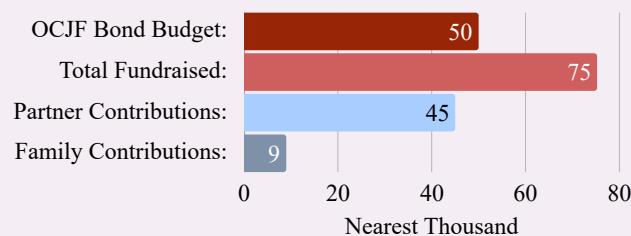
Case Volume (applications):



Top denial reasons: No bond issued or criminal bail requests.

Bond Fund Financial Overview

Funding Inputs (Resources Coming into the Fund):



OCJF entered 2025 with a **\$50,000** fund allocation and raised an additional **\$75,244** to meet rising needs. These community-driven resources expanded the fund's capacity to support more cases throughout the year.

Bond Amounts & How Bonds Were Paid

Total bond cost for the 16 approved cases:	\$165,500
OCJF contributions toward bonds (including ICE fees):	\$111,996
Partner fund contributions:	\$45,000
Family contributions:	\$9,000
Average bond amount:	\$10,343.75
Average OCJF contribution:	\$5,727.70
Percentage of approved cases requiring co-funding:	87.5%



Funds Revolved:
\$21,489

The total cost of the bonds OCJF helped pay in 2025 was **\$165,500**. OCJF contributed **\$111,996** (including ICE fees), while partner organizations added **\$45,000** and families contributed **\$9,000**—together fully covering all approved bond costs.

With average bond amounts reaching **\$10,343**, nearly **88%** of cases required co-funding, underscoring how essential these partnerships were to stretching OCJF's resources and ensuring timely posting.

OCJF also recovered **\$21,488.71** in previously posted bonds, a revolving component central to the fund's long-term sustainability. Returned funds, combined with community giving and co-funding partnerships, enabled OCJF to maintain operations despite rising bond amounts and increasingly unpredictable enforcement patterns.



4. Efficiency, Capacity, and Operational Growth

Even amid a turbulent year, OCJF strengthened internal systems and improved posting timelines. Investments in staffing and systems continue to improve our ability to respond quickly as enforcement conditions evolve.

Posting Efficiency

Average time from approvable application → bond posted: 1.7 days

- Common delays: securing partner or family funds.

Average time from bond posted → release: 3.2 days

- Common delays: automatic stays issued by ICE or no explanation provided.

Improvements Implemented

- Standardized data collection and centralized storage across all bond fund cases.
- Completed the organization's first **comprehensive Bond Fund Process Manual**.
- Initiated an audit of historical bond cases dating back to 2019 to align old documentation with current procedures.

5. Legal Landscape & Enforcement Trends

2025 was defined by rapid shifts in litigation rather than policy, dramatically impacting who was eligible for bond and how quickly people could be released.

Changing Detention Pathways

Unlike previous years—when most people were detained following prior contact with local law enforcement—2025 saw a sharp increase in ICE detentions during:



- community raids
- indiscriminate stops
- routine ICE check-ins

This shift created more urgent, unpredictable situations for families and advocates.

Trends in ICE Behavior & Bond Determinations

ICE dramatically escalated the use of the 9/11-era automatic stay regulation in 2025, invoking it even when Immigration Judges had already granted bond. This kept people detained for days or weeks without explanation.

Litigation Influencing Eligibility

Bond eligibility fluctuated sharply due to major court decisions:

- **Matter of Yajure-Hurtado:** temporarily eliminated bond eligibility for people who entered without inspection.
- **Bautista v. Noem:** restored eligibility nationwide.
 - Implementation remains uneven, with some judges still claiming they lack jurisdiction.

These trends required close coordination with movement attorneys, rapid community education, and flexible, time-sensitive responses from our team.



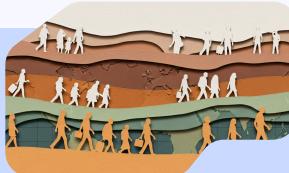
6. How OCJF Met the Moment

In a year defined by rapid legal shifts, rising bond amounts, and increasingly unpredictable enforcement, OCJF adapted swiftly and strategically to meet community needs.



Rapid Response & Direct Support

- Posted bond faster than before, despite bond amount increases.
- Provided extensive direct referrals, case navigation support, and accompaniment to individuals and families destabilized by detention.



Legal Strategy & Movement Alignment

- Released accessible, community-friendly FAQs to explain fast changing bond eligibility rules.
- Co-developed screening tools to identify potential class members in urgent litigation contexts.



Infrastructure, Growth & Sustainability

- Supported others seeking to develop their own funds, sharing OCJF's model.
- Participated actively in the National Bond Fund Network (NBFN), contributing to coordinated national strategies.
- Significantly increased bond-specific fundraising.

7. Public Engagement, Media, and Narrative Leadership

This year, OCJF expanded its public reach to strengthen understanding of detention, elevate community voices, and deepen trust in our mission. Through media engagement, local government and coalition presentations, community events and campaigns, partner recognition, and ongoing rights education and storytelling, OCJF connected with broader audiences across multiple platforms.

These efforts amplified narratives of resilience, highlighted the real-time impact of detention on local families, and reinforced OCJF's role as a trusted leader in community defense.



8. Historical & Cumulative Impact (2019-2025)

Since launching the fund in 2019, OCJF has become a vital regional resource for families navigating detention. Over six years, the fund has:

Bonded out:

115 PEOPLE

Total contributed (excluding fees):

\$549K

Total revolved:

\$121K

9. Recipient Stories

Scan below to watch videos and hear directly from community members whose bonds were paid by OCJF.



Detained while seeking day labor outside a Home Depot, a father was able to return home after OCJF posted his bond.



Detained while working at a car wash, a longtime OC resident with a chronic medical condition was released through OCJF's bond support.

10. Methodology & Data Integrity

OCJF's data is drawn from internal bond fund records, including application forms, intake notes, bond posting logs, reimbursement tracking, and post-release follow-up. Additional context is provided by partner organizations supporting referrals, case management, and legal services.

Data is reviewed on an ongoing basis and finalized during OCJF's annual year-end reconciliation process. Totals may adjust slightly over time due to post-release repayments, updated partner records, or case outcome updates. OCJF maintains rigorous internal controls to ensure accuracy, accountability, and transparency across all financial and program reporting.

11. Acknowledgements & Call to Action

We extend our deepest gratitude to the families, partners, volunteers, and donors who make this work possible. Each bond posted represents more than a financial contribution—it is a family reunited, a community member protected, and a step toward a more just future.

As enforcement intensifies and bond amounts continue to rise, sustaining the Bond Fund will require ongoing investment in both financial resources and staffing capacity. In 2026, we anticipate increased demand, higher average bond amounts, and a growing need for rapid legal education, coordination, and response.

Thank you for standing with OCJF and the families we serve. Together, we can ensure that community members have the opportunity to pursue their immigration cases with safety, dignity, and hope.