



2023 Orange County Justice Fund

# Bond Fund Impact Report



**A commitment to justice irrespective of financial circumstances**

## **New challenges in the immigration landscape**

In 2019, the Orange County Justice Fund (OCJF) launched its bond fund program to address the legal and financial barriers faced by community members detained in immigration facilities. This program connects detainees with legal representation and covers the costs of their release. Since its inception, the local and national immigration landscape has undergone significant transformations. In 2023, notable shifts include increased surveillance, mandatory electronic monitoring, detention expansion, higher budgets for ICE and CBP enforcement, the introduction of flawed online bond payment systems, and a decimation of existing immigration relief processes.

## **Meeting the need in 2023**

Despite ongoing challenges, OCJF has remained committed to advocating for an end to detention and providing accessible legal and financial resources for our community members. The organization has actively engaged in advocacy campaigns to expand rights for noncitizens, close detention centers, and promote transparency in DHS and USCIS procedures. As our flagship program, the bond fund and the relationships built through it have always informed our ongoing advocacy and legal empowerment efforts. This impact report focuses on OCJF's bond fund, its growth, and its future.

## **Impact Snapshot**

**16**

People freed from detention in 2023

**92**

People freed from detention since 2019

**\$416,150**

Distributed in bond support since 2019.

## Outreach

41

Requests  
received

16

Requests  
contributed to

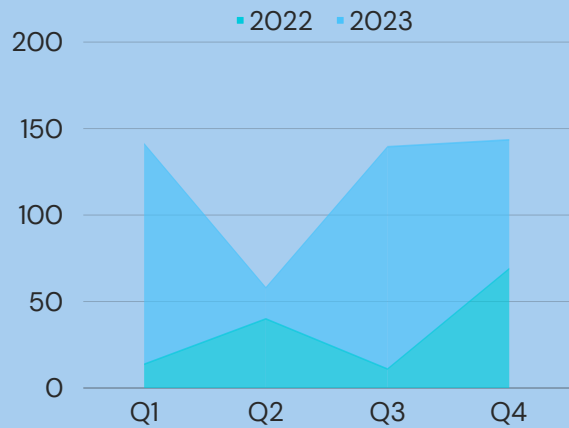
\$4.8

Thousand, contributed  
on average per request  
contributed to

In 2023, the Orange County Justice Fund was asked for 102% more in fund contributions than we were in 2022 and received 41% more requests. Requests came from partner organizations like the National Bail Fund Network, local CBOs, attorneys, and family members of detained individuals. People requesting funds were from all over the world and were detained throughout the nation. Their stories were unique, and for those who were assisted through our fund, all settled in California post-release.

Bond requests varied significantly, ranging from \$25,000 to \$1,500, illustrating the considerable discretion and volatility inherent in immigration bond amounts.

The quarterly amount of bonds requested from us each year.



### Total Funds Requested

2022: \$172,000

2023: \$348,500



### Total Amount Contributed in 2023

By OCJF: \$73,350

By Partners: \$79,650

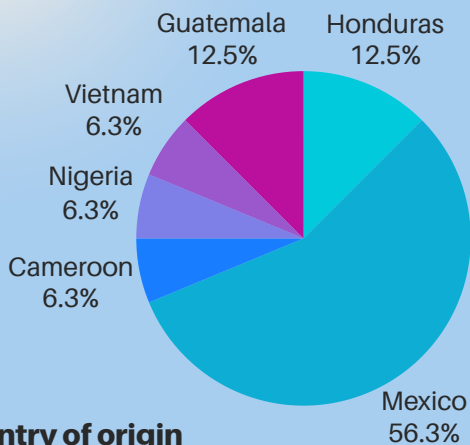
By OCJF 2019-2023: \$416,150



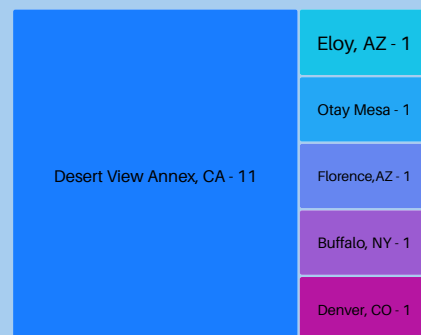
### Average Bond Request Amount

\$9,172

## 2023 OCJF Bond Recipients



Country of origin



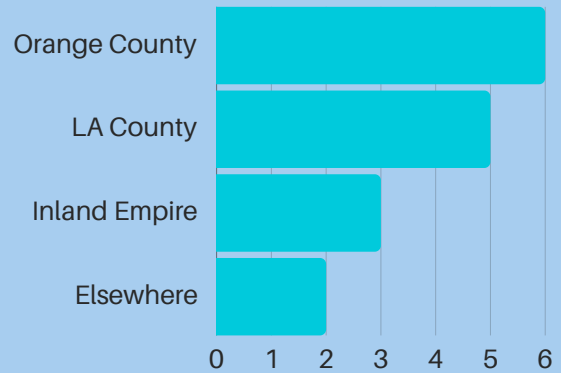
Facility detained in



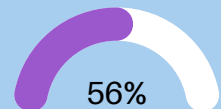
## Strengthening Communities

The majority of our bond assistance applicants are long-term residents of the United States, with a significant number arriving as young children. They hold essential roles in our communities, serving as pastors, parents, daughters, sons, caretakers, and activists. Many gave back to their community even while detained and facing their own legal challenges. They engaged in rehabilitation programs like Paws for Life, initiated hunger strikes at facilities such as the Golden State Annex and Mesa Verde, and advocated for reinstating in-person family visits at ICE detention centers. Additionally, they took part in campaigns at the Otay Mesa detention center, raising concerns about sexually abusive pat-downs by ICE officers. Meanwhile, other applicants to the bond fund are recent arrivals seeking asylum due to dangerous conditions in their home countries. OCJF has been privileged to connect with resilient individuals this year, underscoring the critical importance of accessible legal counsel and reduced financial barriers to freedom in the pursuit of immigrant justice.

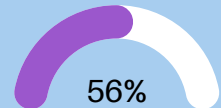
### Where do OCJF bond recipients reside post-release?



Over half of OCJF bond recipients have lived in the United States for over 15 years!



What percentage of bond recipients had post-release lawyers prior to applying?



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## More Quick Facts

**What percentage of bonds posted are funded in collaboration with community partners? (Including local CBO's, or family/friend contributions)**

**81%**

**On average, how many working days did OCJF take between the date the application was received and the date OCJF contributed funds?**

**9**



# THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS



**We couldn't have done it  
without your generous support.**

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