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Estrella del Paso Receives Grant from the Border Refugee Assistance Fund Following Federal Cuts to Immigration Legal Services

Funds awarded through the Border Refugee Assistance Fund

El Paso, TX - Estrella del Paso is honored to receive a grant of \$25,000 awarded by the Border Refugee Assistance Fund, a joint initiative of Bishop Mark J. Seitz and the Hope Border Institute. This funding comes in response to recent federal funding cuts that have threatened critical legal services for migrants and asylum seekers in the El Paso area.

This grant will allow Estrella del Paso to continue providing no-cost legal representation, Know Your Rights workshops, and advocacy support for immigrants navigating a complex and often hostile legal system. The funding will sustain urgent response efforts at a time when the need for legal protection at the border is more urgent than ever.

To formally announce the grant and highlight the urgent need for continued support, Estrella del Paso will host a press conference on Monday, May 5, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. at its office located at 2400 E. Yandell Dr. The event will feature remarks from:

- Dylan Corbett, Executive Director, Hope Border Institute
- Bishop Mark J. Seitz, Roman Catholic Diocese of El Paso
- Melissa M. Lopez, Executive Director, Estrella del Paso

The grant comes at a time of great need, following the elimination of key federal contracts that previously funded legal services for migrants across the southern border. Estrella del Paso, a trusted provider of immigration legal representation, now faces unprecedented demand from individuals at risk of deportation, detention, and family separation.

“In the face of growing legal barriers and shrinking federal support, our community is coming together to ensure due process and human dignity. This grant is a lifeline—not just for our organization, but for the thousands of vulnerable people we serve,” said Melissa M. Lopez, Executive Director of Estrella del Paso.

“The grant represents our Catholic community’s unswerving commitment to support vulnerable migrants and asylum seekers in the borderlands. The longstanding efforts of the Catholic Church to advocate for and accompany vulnerable people on the move are under attack in our country today. Here in El Paso, the Border Refugee Assistance Fund serves as a model for how the church can work collaboratively at the local level to accompany those who migrate. We’re happy to work with Bishop Mark J. Seitz and Estrella in making this commitment a reality,” said Dylan Corbett, Executive Director of Hope Border Institute.

Bishop Mark Seitz, a longtime advocate for migrant justice, praised the partnership: “Every act to welcome and protect those who migrate is an act of faith. By supporting Estrella del Paso in this urgent moment, we are living out our Gospel call to stand with the vulnerable and ensure that hope and justice remain alive at our border.”

Members of the public, media, and advocacy community are invited to attend the press conference and stand in solidarity with immigrants and those who serve them.

EVENT DETAILS:

What: Press Conference Announcing BRAF Grant to Estrella del Paso

When: Monday, May 5, 2025 | 11:30 a.m.

Where: Estrella del Paso | 2400 E. Yandell Dr., El Paso, TX

Speakers: Dylan Corbett, Bishop Mark Seitz, Melissa M. Lopez

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