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Our Demands

1. **Rental Assistance, Utility Assistance, and Eviction Prevention.** We demand that the city of Richmond allocate \$9 million in the FY2026 budget to significantly expand the Family Crisis Fund, with eligibility open to any adult aged 18 or older and living in the City of Richmond, with or without children, experiencing a financial burden. These funds may be utilized for needs including but not limited to housing, utilities, transportation, and medical costs.
2. **Access to City Services and Financial Assistance Regardless of Immigration Status, Criminal Justice History, or Past Evictions.** We demand that the city of Richmond will not require any resident to provide proof of immigration status or legal presence in the United States in order to access city services or financial assistance, except in cases where proof of legal presence is specifically required by federal or state law.

We further demand that the city of Richmond will not restrict access to city services or financial assistance on the basis of criminal justice history or past evictions.

In particular, we demand that financial assistance through the Family Crisis Fund will be accessible to all Richmond residents regardless of immigration status, criminal justice history, and eviction history.

3. **Maintenance Enforcement.** We demand that the city of Richmond provide its residents and tenants with maintenance enforcement that uplifts and upholds the right for Dignified Housing, free of mold, insects, and pests, with fully functional air conditioning and heating, and with working appliances. Specifically, we demand that the city:
 - a. Establish escalating fines for owners of multifamily rental properties who receive notice of a code violation from the local code enforcement inspector and do not promptly remedy the issue; and
 - b. Support and implement the rental inspection districts program for proactive inspections of properties in the city with a history of persistent maintenance issues and code violations.

Additional Information

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Background on the Family Crisis Fund: The Family Crisis Fund was created in 2022 using \$1 million in federal ARPA funds. It has since run through those funds, and in 2023 transitioned to funding through the Richmond city budget. The program is currently administered by HumanKind, and had assisted a total of 468 households as of Sep. 2023. The fund may provide an individual with **up to \$2,500 of direct cash assistance in a year**, to be utilized for needs including but not limited to housing, utilities, transportation, and medical costs.

- **Existing funding:** Funding for the Family Crisis Fund in Richmond's FY2025 proposed budget is **\$1 million**.
- **Our demand:** In 2023, according to research from RVA Eviction Lab, there were about 5186 eviction judgments in the city of Richmond, with a median of about \$1800 rent owed leading up to an eviction filing. $5186 \text{ evictions} * \$1800 \text{ rent owed} = \9.3 million . This is a rough calculation but speaks to the scope of Richmond's housing and eviction crisis.

Example of a policy on immigration status from Arlington County, Virginia: In July 2022, in response to organizing from migrant and undocumented communities, Arlington County passed a policy called "Arlington's Commitment to Strengthening Trust with Our Immigrant Communities." In addition to limitations on the county's collaboration with ICE, the policy included the following language:

"Arlington County does not and will not require any resident to provide proof of legal presence in the United States in order to access county government services unless required by Federal or State law, including, but not limited to: local police, fire, emergency medical services, parks, recreation, libraries, Arlington aging and disability services, **emergency financial assistance**, Arlington health, mental health, healthcare, food, shelter, educational or substance abuse services. Some federally funded programs and services require legal documentation to meet eligibility requirements."

Nuestras Demandas

1. **Asistencia con el alquiler, asistencia con los servicios públicos y prevención de desalojos.**
Exigimos que la ciudad de Richmond asigne \$9 millones en el presupuesto del año fiscal 2026 para ampliar significativamente el Fondo de Crisis Familiar (Family Crisis Fund), con elegibilidad abierta a cualquier adulto mayor de 18 años y que viva en la ciudad de Richmond, con o sin hijos, que experimente una carga financiera. Estos fondos pueden utilizarse para necesidades que incluyen, entre otras, vivienda, servicios públicos, transporte y costos médicos.