



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

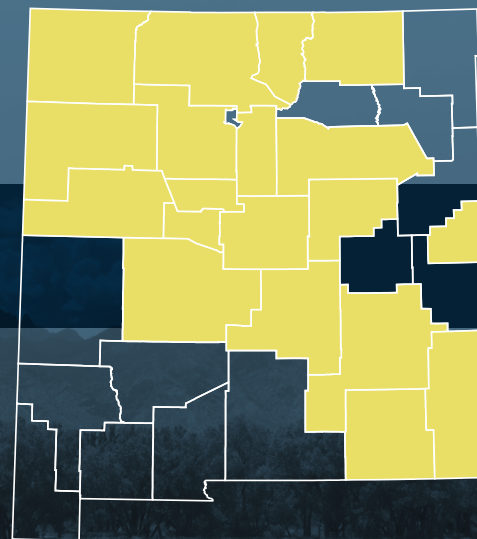
3,117 PEOPLE SERVED

- 723 LEGAL ADVICE
- 288 BRIEF SERVICE
- 606 DIRECT REPRESENTATION
- 1,500 PRO SE ASSISTANCE

2,946 COMMUNITY MEMBERS ENGAGED

- 1,794 REACHED THROUGH OUTREACH PROGRAMS
- 696 SERVICE PROVIDERS TRAINED
- 240 ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION STAFF TRAINED
- 174 NON-ATTORNEY VOLUNTEERS
- 42 PRO BONO ATTORNEY VOLUNTEERS

19 OUT OF
33 COUNTIES SERVED
27 MEDIA MENTIONS



WHAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE IN 2018

- 2 #EndImmigrantDetention
- 4 #FamiliesBelongTogether
- 6 #ImmigrantWomenToo
- 8 #HumanRights
- 10 #AmericalsHome
- 14 #HereToStay
- 16 #ADayWithoutImmigrants
- 18 #RebelliousLawyering

#WithGratitude

Dear Supporter,

As the immigrant community continues to experience unprecedented attacks under the current federal administration, NMILC continues to be responsive to the changing political landscape. The demand for our services, as well as the technical and legal support we provide to our community partners, has never been so great, nor have the stakes ever felt so high.

Attacks on the immigrant community have included increases in detention and deportation of immigrants; the rescission of DACA; the separation of children from their parents at the border; the mobilization of the military to deter asylum seekers; and attempts to limit the constitutional right of birthright citizenship. In addition, the Trump Administration has overturned established precedent and policies, such as effectively ending prosecutorial discretion that allowed individual immigration officers to look at the full circumstances of someone's case. Immigration lawyers nationally and at NMILC anticipate an unprecedented spike in applications being denied and referred to deportation proceedings. The Trump Administration is also currently attempting to limit citizenship for low-income immigrants by making it more difficult to obtain a fee waiver for indigent individuals and creating bars to becoming a permanent resident for immigrants who have obtained public benefits.

Thankfully, in response to the mounting barriers facing immigrant families and workers, we have also experienced an outpouring of support. We have watched how the immigrant rights movement, historically on the sidelines in progressive movement

building, has been uplifted and embraced locally and nationally. The expressions of outrage about the separation of children from their parents at Families Belong Together rallies, like the one earlier this summer in Albuquerque, show that despite the current political climate, a significant number of Americans share fundamental values about human rights and dignity. Welcoming immigrants is still a strong part of our national identity and fabric.

As the challenges to legal representation for immigrants increase and the political environment becomes ever more hostile, NMILC is focusing on the future. Recognizing that economic justice is a core component of immigrant rights, this year we are piloting two new collaborative economic justice projects to help support protections for immigrant workers, and to support immigrant entrepreneurs and asset building in the immigrant community.

None of our work would be possible without you, our donors, volunteers, pro bono attorneys, and the foundations who have supported us this year. Your generous donations enabled us to grow and provide more services than ever before, and have energized our work. We welcome you to become even more involved with NMILC—host a fundraiser or volunteer your time—and continue to join us as we fight for human rights and dignity for all of our neighbors.

With gratitude,

Mónica Córdova, Board Chair
Jennifer Landau, Executive Director



#EndImmigrantDetention



Adriel Orozco, Associate Director, testifies before the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee of the New Mexico State Legislature, about the abhorrent conditions in the immigrant detention centers in the state.

FAMILY AND IMMIGRANT DETENTION CRISIS

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) spends billions of taxpayer dollars to detain asylum seekers and other immigrants. Most detention centers are privately-operated jails, where stockholder demands to reduce costs and generate profit frequently result in human rights violations, including lack of access to medical care and overcrowding. With the asylum process taking from months to well over a year, detainees often endure such conditions for long periods of time.

This year, the increase in detention and deportation proceedings due to the Trump Administration's policy of separation of families at the El Paso border region and increased enforcement within the U.S. dramatically increased calls to NMILC from individuals seeking assistance from the Cibola and Otero detention centers in New Mexico, as well as from family members and lawyers from all over the country who are trying to assist them.

FACTS

The Cibola County Correctional Center is one of the largest detention centers for asylum seekers in the U.S., and a destination for housing asylum seekers who are initially detained all over the country.

In New Mexico, there are over 800 and 1,000 beds for immigrants detained at the Cibola County Correctional Center and Otero County Processing Center.

Language Support

With support from the Detained Migrant Solidarity Committee out of El Paso and the University of New Mexico, we received assistance from 40 remote translators on cases from the Cibola County Correctional Center, where many detainees speak languages other than Spanish or English, including Lingala, French, Portuguese, Punjabi and Hindi.

Our work at the Cibola County Correctional Center is funded by donors like you. We do not receive government contracts for this program.

PARTNERING TO INCREASE ACCESS TO LEGAL SERVICES TO DETAINEES

Because of your financial support, approximately 100 detainees participate in our legal workshops and 30 receive legal advice each week.

630

Detention Pro Se Assistance

280

Detention Brief Services

33

Detention Direct Representation Cases

The Program for Legal Services (PALS) at the Cibola County Correction Center is a partnership between NMILC, the Santa Fe Dreamers Project (SFDP), and the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC). The Cibola immigrant prison opened in Milan, NM in October 2016 as one of the largest facilities for asylum seekers in the nation. It was formerly run by the Bureau of Prisons, but shutdown because of a history of medical neglect and deaths of prisoners. In spring 2017, NMILC and SFDP met with representatives from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Executive Office of Immigration Review to establish PALS. Initially, the Assistant Field Office Director in charge of the Cibola prison would not permit access to outside medical and mental health providers, which are necessary both for detainee health and for preparation of their asylum cases. After NMILC and partner organizations appealed to ICE at the federal level, this policy was changed.

Since 2017, twice a week, a small team of attorneys from NMILC and SFDP (staff and pro bono), legal assistants, and volunteers provide legal consultations, advice and legal orientation presentations to immigrant detainees.

Even with the weekly commitment of SFDP and NMILC staff and dozens of local volunteer attorneys, the total attorney resources in New Mexico are inadequate to meet the needs of hundreds of asylum seekers at Cibola.

The NIJC, one of NMILC's national partners at the Cibola County Correctional Center, found that "even if all local immigration attorneys were at their maximum capacity, there would only be enough lawyers to represent approximately six percent of the jail's population."

PARTNERSHIPS FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE

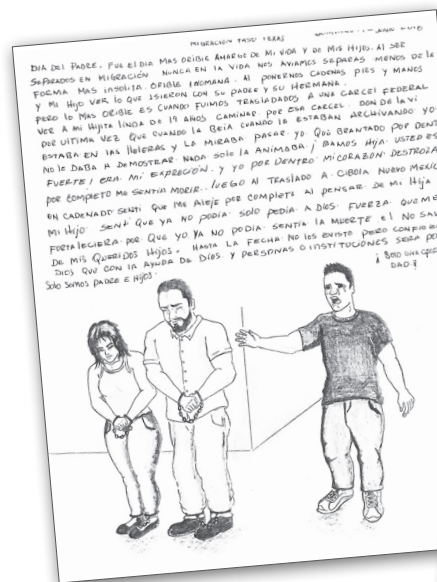
Blanket Denial of Parole

This year NMILC partnered with national advocacy groups to change policies that negatively impacted detained parents who were separated from their children and support the #EndFamilyDetention Campaign. We supported the ACLU's *Damus* case by identifying potential plaintiffs. The case challenged the blanket denial of parole in the El Paso ICE District.

Denials of Ability to Represent Clients Telephonically

NMILC collaborated with pro bono attorney and UNM Professor George Bach and Las Americas Advocacy Center in developing legal strategies to challenge an El Paso detained docket judge's practice of denying telephonic hearings to attorneys representing clients in detention. Only 14% of immigrants in detention have an attorney and the telephonic denials severely impeded our ability to provide representation.

DETAINED IMMIGRANTS shared stories and artwork depicting their experiences of being separated from their children.



SPONSOR OUR WORK

\$65 ONE HOUR INTERPRETATION FOR CLIENT WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

\$1,000 ONE TRIP TO DETENTION CENTER



NMILC STANDS AGAINST FAMILY SEPARATION

Last spring and summer, the Trump Administration’s Zero Tolerance policy systematically and forcefully separated children from parents seeking asylum, including children who are preschool age and younger. Thanks to the hard work, tireless advocacy, and incredible support of immigrant communities and their allies all over the country, the administration was ordered to reunite separated families.

However, hundreds of children remain separated from their parents. Here are the key points you need to know about the current status of family separation:



PHOTOS BY SUNLIGHT & AIR, LLC

#FamiliesBelongTogether

- ▶ In total, **2,654** children were separated from their families. **861** children were held for four days or more, leading to lasting trauma even after they are reunified.
- ▶ At the beginning of October, over three months since the enactment of the Zero Tolerance policy, **136** migrant children remain separated from their parents and in government custody. Additionally, there are over **200** children whose parents have been deemed unfit for reunification because of criminal issues, or have chosen not to reunify.
- ▶ There are over **400** parents who were deported without their children—the majority of whom originated from Guatemala and Honduras—who must now undergo an arduous and agonizing process to bring their children home.
- ▶ At the end of September, fewer than **30** of these deported parents had been reunited with their children. Some parents have opted not to reunify, in order to give their children a chance at life in the U.S.; some parents have reported abusive and coercive tactics by the Department of Homeland Security, including being coerced to sign documents relinquishing their right to reunification with their children; and still others were deemed unfit, though advocates have pushed back against determinations based on shaky grounds.
- ▶ The ACLU is working with the government to reach parents; however, they have still been unable to contact dozens of parents, further impeding the reunification process.

THANK YOU for your generous support in allowing us to be responsive to the Trump Administration’s Zero Tolerance policy.

JEN LAKE OF SUNLIGHT AND AIR PHOTOGRAPHY donated her talent to raise money for NMILC through a #FamiliesBelongTogether photo shoot.



Equal Justice Works Attorney Fellow Laura Garcia speaking at rally to end family separation. In July 2018, Laura assisted recently released and reunited families in Albuquerque to connect them to housing, provide information about the legal process, and to connect them to flights across the country.

THANKS TO YOU, NMILC JOINS OTHER GROUPS TO REUNIFY FAMILIES

Through the Program for Legal Services (PALS), during the height of the separation, we encountered 74 fathers who had been separated from their children. As part of the effort to reunite these fathers with their children and push back against family separation, NMILC and Santa Fe Dreamers Project shared their information with national and local groups to support litigation and awareness building about the impact of the policy. Thanks to the hard work of national advocacy organizations, with whom we partnered to provide Cibola-specific data, the Trump Administration was ordered to stop the practice of separating families and to reunite those already separated. Since then, the 74 fathers at Cibola were released and reunited with their children.

VOLUNTEER WITH US

Pro bono attorneys to provide representation to detained individuals. We have samples, mentorship, and step-by-step guides available. Each case takes approximately 50 hours over a period of approximately 10 to 12 weeks.

Bilingual volunteers who can make a regular commitment to assist with legal access presentations, help detainees fill out forms, and provide logistical support at the Cibola County Correctional Center. We can facilitate your travel to the detention center with our crew of experienced staff and volunteers. The time commitment is approximately 8 hours once a month or every other month, plus travel.

THANK YOU to the following businesses and artists for hosting fundraisers to support NMILC:

Dragonfly Yoga

Rise Barre

Sunlight and Air Photography

Postmark Café

Sheri Crider

If your business wants to support our work, please contact Christy Sobolik at csobolik@nmilc.org

SPONSOR OUR WORK

\$150 PRINTING CIBOLA MATERIALS FOR ONE MONTH

\$16,500 ONE MONTH OF SERVICES AT CIBOLA



#ImmigrantWomenToo

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION REVOKES ASYLUM PROTECTIONS FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Never has the voice of sexual violence survivors captured the attention of the country as it has this year. At a time of national reckoning on sexual violence toward women, well-established protections for immigrant survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault have been stripped away by Attorney General Jeff Sessions, making it harder for survivors to obtain immigration relief.

A precedent-setting decision in 2014 decided in the immigration courts made it possible for people to seek asylum on the basis of having experienced domestic violence from which their government would not protect them.

In June 2018, Attorney General Jeff Sessions issued a new precedent-setting decision, known as *The Matter of A-B-*, that overruled this essential case for migrants and advocates.

To be granted asylum in the United States has never been easy. After fleeing dangerous situations in their home countries, migrants are expected to compile evidence and build a case that demonstrates a history of persecution or likely persecution if they return to their home country. Fewer than 1 in 10 migrants who apply for asylum actually are granted lawful status in the U.S. Access to legal representation is a huge factor in whether an asylum applicant is granted asylum. **In New Mexico, cases are heard in El Paso, Texas, which is one of the most difficult jurisdictions in the country for asylum—immigration judges in El Paso deny 95% of asylum cases.**

**U VISA:
213 Direct
Representation
Cases for Crime
Victims**

**VAWA:
28 Direct
Representation
Cases for Women
Who Have Been
Abused**

BEATING THE ODDS: NMILC WINS ASYLUM FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVOR IN EL PASO, TEXAS

Mayra* grew up in a household with domestic violence in Mexico, and she yearned to find a safe and loving home. When a neighbor boy started courting her at age 11, she was flattered. At the age of 16, she married him, and they had a child together. Mayra's husband started out as controlling. Over the years he became increasingly physically abusive, including in front of her child. Mayra divorced, reported the abuse to the police, and pursued a criminal case against her husband. Charges were filed against him, but he was never taken to jail nor made to pay restitution. The violence continued, and Mayra obtained an order of protection, which her ex repeatedly violated while local law enforcement looked on.

Mayra decided that she had to leave Mexico to find safety. After presenting herself at the border and explaining why she was seeking asylum, Mayra was allowed to enter the United States with an ankle monitor while her case was pending. Under the current administration, many asylum seekers are not so lucky: the administration is seeking to increase detention capacity so that all asylum seekers are detained for months while their cases are processed.

Mayra joined family members who were living in the Albuquerque area. Her case was before an El Paso-based judge who grants only 1.6% of asylum cases. But, Mayra was referred to NMILC through our partnership with Centro Savila—a community mental health center in Albuquerque—and we quickly assembled a team to work on her case.

Volunteer translators assisted with the translation of hundreds of Mexican legal documents to present as evidence. Dr. Shannon Stromberg, Associate Professor and Medical Director of Inpatient Services at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, provided a free psychological assessment, which helped demonstrate to the court that Mayra's claims were credible and why she could not return to Mexico. Dr. Miguel Díaz Barriga, Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, provided an expert affidavit and testimony explaining that it would be unsafe for Mayra to return to Mexico. NMILC attorneys Eva Eitzen and Linda Wilson prepared the case and presented it to the judge. Jose Blanton and Taylor Zangara, attorneys from the Rodey Law Firm, worked to secure another form of immigration relief for Mayra's son in the event that the case was denied. And of course, Mayra had the hardest and most important part—testifying in court about what had happened to her and facing cross-examination by ICE attorneys.

In the end, Mayra was one of the few lucky ones. She testified consistently and bravely, and the judge was not able to deny her case because of the amount of proof she assembled. Her case was granted, and she can now focus on rebuilding her life. Her son is enrolled in high school and is quickly learning English. Both are finally excited about the future. They will be eligible to apply for permanent residence in one year, and eventually hope to become U.S. citizens. This victory would not have been possible without your support.

*Name changed to protect the identity of the survivor.

**VOLUNTEER
WITH US**

ATTORNEYS to assist crime victims to file U nonimmigrant status (the U visa). These cases are adjudicated through a review of documentation. There is no hearing or interview for these applications. A U visa case generally takes about 20 hours to prepare.

INTERPRETERS to provide language access at events or on an on-call basis when caseworkers need assistance. Priority languages are currently Portuguese and French.



#HumanRights

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE UNDER ATTACK

Providing legal representation to immigrant victims of domestic violence, trafficking and other crimes is a cornerstone of NMILC's work and represents nearly 50% of our cases. Recent policy changes in U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) guidance threatens to undermine these long standing victim protections. Per a July 5, 2018 memo, USCIS will begin to expand its policy to place people who have had applications denied in removal proceedings. While the first phase will not target humanitarian cases, future phases may. And on July 12, 2018, USCIS issued a memo stating that they will issue denials on many cases, including crime victim relief cases, without providing applicants an opportunity to respond with additional evidence.

This is unprecedented—in the past, if victim-based cases were denied by USCIS, internal policies required that those applicants would not be referred to removal proceedings so as not to deter victims from reporting crimes. Compounding this, U visa cases are currently taking an average of eight years to be adjudicated. Based on this new guidance, NMILC anticipates an increase in clients referred to removal proceedings, which will require increased attorney time and expertise to challenge those decisions.

NMILC currently has over 300 humanitarian cases pending that will be affected by these policy changes. With your generous donations, NMILC hired new attorneys to ensure that we can withstand challenges to pending applications and that we have internal resources for appeals, when needed.



“Given the rapid pace of changes in immigration policy, NMILC’s accurate, up-to-date information and high quality legal assistance for immigrant children and families are more urgent than ever.”

**—SIREESHA MANNE,
Executive Director,
New Mexico Center
on Law and Poverty**

PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT IMMIGRANT CRIME SURVIVORS

Last year, our staff trained victim service providers at Enlace Comunitario, Centro Savila and Casa Fortaleza to help them identify clients who might qualify for crime victim visas. In March, we also partnered with the NM Crime Victims Reparation Commission and ASISTA, a nationally recognized organization that works to support immigrant victims of crime, to host a training about U visa advocacy state-wide. Over 40 victim advocates and legal service providers from shelters, community organizations, and District Attorney offices around the state attended the training.

12
Trafficking
Visa Direct
Representation
Cases



Deshawnda Chaparro (top), and Diana Torres, Equal Justice Works Crime Victims Justice Corps Fellows, new positions to increase NMILC's capacity to represent trafficking survivors.

WE CAN END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Over the past few years, law enforcement agencies in New Mexico have increased their resources devoted to the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking, and NMILC has been the leading provider of immigration legal services to the survivors they have identified. The majority of these cases occur in rural New Mexico, where the existence of widespread trafficking, particularly in the agricultural industry, is an open secret. Our attorneys have worked to close the gap by collaborating with state agencies, developing new relationships with organizations working with immigrant survivors of human trafficking, and by training law enforcement and other state agencies and partner organizations. These trainings aim to help providers to effectively identify trafficking and to be aware of the immigration remedies and other social services available to survivors.

NMILC assisted several human trafficking survivors to report to the New Mexico Attorney General's office. In July we were granted funding through Equal Justice Works' Crime Victim Justice Corps to hire two new attorney fellows to focus on providing legal services to survivors of trafficking. These resources will allow us to further deepen the services we provide to immigrant victims of human trafficking, as well as to expand and strengthen our collaborations with service providers for that population.

NMILC's pro bono Attorney Aaron Wolf receives Justice Pamela Minzner Award in recognition of his pro bono work with immigrant youth and their mothers

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) can lead to a permanent legal status and eventually to citizenship, available to children who have been abandoned, neglected, or abused by one or both of their parents. Aaron Wolf, partner at the Cuddy & McCarthy Law Firm, has been a pro bono attorney with NMILC since 2016. He has personally taken on dozens of immigrant youth filings in family court and volunteers his time to train new pro bono attorneys. Aaron is currently training all associates at the Cuddy & McCarthy Law Firm on SIJS cases to expand the pool of pro bono attorneys.



68
Special Immigrant
Juvenile Status
Direct Representation
Cases

SPONSOR OUR WORK

\$75 FUNDS ONE HEARING

\$500 FUNDS ONE U VISA CASE

\$1,000 SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS WITH CHILD IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS



#AmericalsHome

ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF CITIZENSHIP

Increasing New Mexico's naturalization rate would increase the economic standing of many New Mexican families.

6.3 %

Increased chance of homeownership due to citizenship.

8.9 %

Average individual increase in earnings attributed to citizenship after controlling for detectable demographic differences (\$3,200).

33.2 %

The median increase in family income of citizen immigrants (\$57,828 vs \$38,600).

60%

New Mexico's naturalization rate which includes 36.3% of naturalized citizens and 24% who are eligible to naturalize but have not yet done so.

THE SECOND WALL: ATTACKS ON LOW INCOME IMMIGRANTS

The Trump Administration has expanded its attacks by increasing the barriers to pathways to citizenship for low-income immigrants. In September, the administration published a proposed rule that would disproportionately impact low-income communities as it expands the definition of "public charge." For example, households with low amounts of wealth, large families, or lacking private health insurance, may be considered to likely depend on government assistance in the future and be disqualified from obtaining a green card. This would be the most significant change to immigration law in decades and immigration advocates and lawyers estimate that it would impact millions. The administration also aims to limit low-income immigrants ability to access fee waivers if they are unable to pay for an application. The impact will be significant—on average, 73.5% of our citizenship fair participants qualified for a fee waiver.

#AlbuquerquelsHome #CitizenshipNow!

Working with local government to scale up citizenship

Albuquerque and Santa Fe are two of only 14 cities nationwide awarded funding through Cities for Citizenship (C4C) "America is Home," a four-year, \$5 million initiative aimed at supporting municipalities and community partners across the nation in the promotion of citizenship. NMILC joined several grassroots community partners in both Albuquerque and Santa Fe to provide free legal information and services. Participating cities recognize the multitude of benefits to investing in citizenship—including fostering civic engagement, protecting families from separation, and boosting local economies.

There are currently an estimated 20,000 lawful permanent residents eligible to apply for citizenship in Albuquerque and 4,000 in Santa Fe. Through the campaign, we will be able to help eligible immigrants in New Mexico become U.S. citizens, build security for families and have a stronger voice about the issues that impact our community. NMILC will work with local groups to maximize outreach to the immigrant community, including the refugee and Asian community. The collaborative will provide free legal services to citizenship applicants and develop a robust public information campaign, including citizenship corners at public libraries in Albuquerque and Santa Fe.



“For me, becoming a citizen means being safe and not feeling afraid. Even as a resident, one feels afraid of the police or immigration, even if one is here legally. Citizenship means security.”

–GERARDO PINEDA, NMILC citizenship fair participant

INNOVATION TO OVERCOME BARRIERS

In 2018, NMILC hosted three day-long citizenship fairs, where NMILC staff and trained volunteers assisted 177 individuals to complete applications for citizenship. NMILC’s innovative citizenship fair infrastructure addresses the top three barriers to citizenship faced by legal permanent residents. When asked why they have not yet naturalized, the most common responses among eligible immigrants were **lack of time (21%)**, the **cost of the application (18%)**, and **not knowing how to apply (14%)**.

TIME: Our pro se work streamlines the process, so most applicants can finish their application in a day.

COST: Our services are free, and we help eligible clients submit fee waiver requests to reduce or remove the government’s naturalization fee. 78% of NMILC citizenship fair participants qualified for fee waivers.

HOW TO APPLY: Our attorneys, legal assistants, and trained volunteers guide applicants through the lengthy and confusing application process.

NMILC’s naturalization fairs could not happen without the sponsorship, partnership and support of dozens of local community organizations who help with outreach, tabling at the fairs, conducting presentations, providing citizenship classes, and assisting with in-kind space and printing materials. We are grateful for the incredible partnerships that make our citizenship fairs possible.

Since starting its citizenship fairs, NMILC has partnered with Partnership for Community Action to provide fair participants with an interactive workshop on the responsibilities that citizens have to engage in their community to create a more inclusive, robust and representative democracy.

10
Direct
Representation
Cases for Citizenship

213
Citizenship
Pre-Screenings/
Consultations

177
Citizenship
Fair Applicants
Assisted



EXPANDING OUR REACH

NMILC recently created a targeted partnership with the New Mexico Asian Family Center (NMAFC) and Catholic Charities to increase access to citizenship for

the Asian immigrant and refugee communities. We are training NMAFC and Catholic Charities staff to screen community members and directly register eligible individuals at our citizenship fairs. NMAFC, Catholic Charities and the City of Albuquerque’s Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs are also collaborating to provide interpretation and translation support when needed.

“This is my home now and I want it to be a welcoming and nurturing place for us to grow our family tree in this land. Having a partnership to provide comprehensive naturalization process and civic engagement in New Mexico will help our overall well-being of our communities.” –Huong Nguyen, New Mexico Asian Family Center



Who we are

VISION

We envision a vibrant New Mexico where all people, regardless of immigration status, can achieve their full potential and are treated with dignity and respect.

MISSION

Advance justice and equity by empowering low-income immigrant communities through collaborative legal services, advocacy, and education.

26 STAFF MEMBERS
216 VOLUNTEERS
1,285 DONORS

PARTNERS

schools
health-based centers
social service agencies
immigrant rights organizations
civic engagement organizations
coalitions
foundations
government entities

Our Key Work Areas

NMILC is transforming legal aid by leveraging our resources, knowledge, and services to support long-term social change.

Immigrant Rights

Path to Citizenship

Economic Justice



FISCAL YEAR 2018 IN REVIEW

JULY 2017

Together with the ACLU of NM, EL CENTRO and Enlace Comunitario, NMILC drafts a letter to the Supreme Court of New Mexico to request a policy that prevents ICE from apprehending individuals at their state court hearings.

AUGUST 2017

Three Cibola detainees win their asylum case with NMILC's staff's pro se assistance and guidance through the asylum process. ICE does not initially release them because they are waiting for a decision about whether the government would appeal. They are all released after NMILC attorney Jasmine McGee enters appearance and advocates for their release.

SEPTEMBER 2017

On September 5, 2017, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announces the termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. DACA recipients eligible for renewal are given one month to submit their renewal application. NMILC quickly mobilizes with community partners to provide support to anyone affected by DACA's termination. NMILC provides walk-in DACA renewal clinics in Albuquerque, Farmington, and Taos. On the Sunday before the deadline, Listo NM hosts a 12-hour DACAthlon where people can come in or call in for assistance.

OCTOBER 2017

After two years of litigation, NMILC staff win asylum case for domestic violence survivor with the expert opinions of Dr. Shannon Stromberg of UNM Hospital and Dr. Miguel Barriga of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

NOVEMBER 2017

NMILC Citizenship Fair provides free application services to 48 aspiring citizens and legal advice to an additional 25 individuals and launches civic engagement training for all applicants with community partner, Partnership for Community Action.

DECEMBER 2017

NMILC hosts 2nd annual volunteer and donor appreciation event. NMILC has 216 volunteers assist at our citizenship fairs, Cibola project and with legal cases in fiscal year 2018.

JANUARY 2018

USCIS begins to accept DACA renewal applications due to a California federal court's injunction. NMILC staff see record DACA renewal applicants at Wednesday workshops. NMILC and partners United We Dream, W.K. Kellogg Foundation and NM Faith Coalition mobilize to secure scholarship funds for the renewal fees.

FEBRUARY 2018

NMILC joins ACLU in nationwide class action lawsuit to protect Iraqis lawfully living in the U.S.

What We Do, How We Do It

NMILC's community-centered lawyering model aims to address marginalization of immigrants in our country.

Legal services to build economic stability in immigrant communities.

Mentoring legal professionals from historically marginalized communities.

Connecting clients to community partners, and local organizing and advocacy efforts when appropriate.

Advocating for policies that support immigrant integration.



The Biggest Challenges

We are living in hostile times.

New restrictions on immigration and increased immigration enforcement under the Trump Administration.

"Zero tolerance" and family separation.

Erosion of policies and precedent that have historically protected immigrant families.

Daily fear and stress affecting health and well-being of our immigrant community.



What We Did in 2018

With your generous support, we've been able to:

Serve 3,117 people

Engage an additional 2,946 community members



MARCH 2018

NMILC hosts a training to increase knowledge about U visa advocacy and ensure that we can withstand challenges to pending applications considering the pending policy changes. Over 40 victim advocates and legal service providers from shelters, community organizations, and District Attorney offices around the state attend the training.

APRIL 2018

Federal judge rejects the legal rationale for Trump's decision to end DACA, stating that termination was "arbitrary and capricious" and gave the government a 90-day deadline for new response. NMILC hosts DACA renewal clinics in collaboration with the NM Dream Team and leverages scholarship funds for renewals.

MAY 2018

NMILC hosts its third Citizenship Fair in FY18, providing free application services to a total of 45 aspiring citizens and advice to 10 more. Attorney General Jeff Sessions ends Immigration Court's ability to administratively close cases. Backlog at all-time high with 714,067 pending cases.

JUNE 2018

NMILC identifies 74 fathers detained at Cibola County Correctional Center. Attorney General Jeff Sessions issues holding in *Matter of A-B-* aiming to limit asylum protections for survivors of domestic violence.

JULY 2018

Associate Director Adriel Orozco testifies before the New Mexico Legislature's Courts, Corrections, and Justice Committee about deplorable conditions at the Cibola County Correctional Center and the Otero County Processing Center, New Mexico's two immigrant prisons.

AUGUST 2018

The 74 fathers separated from their children at the border that NMILC staff assisted are released and reunited with their children. Jazmin Coronel, Corinne Wolfe Fellow for Transformative Advocacy, joins NMILC to lead economic justice project in collaboration with NM Dream Team to promote economic development for immigrant business owners and entrepreneurs.

SEPTEMBER 2018

NMILC, El CENTRO, City of Albuquerque and other partners launch Albuquerque is Home initiative to promote citizenship among the immigrant community. NMILC also partners with Somos Un Pueblo Unido, City of Santa Fe, and others, in CitizenshipNow! initiative. Both collaboratives are awarded the prestigious non-partisan Cities for Citizenship "America is Home" grant to scale local naturalization efforts.

OCTOBER 2018

NMILC hosts its final Citizenship Fair of the calendar year, providing free application services to 47 aspiring citizens and advice to 28 more, at a time when President Trump is threatening to unilaterally end birthright citizenship via executive order.



#HereToStay

DACA'S UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) enabled hundreds of thousands of immigrant youth to come out of the shadows and fully integrate into their communities by pursuing higher education, obtaining a driver's license, and upgrading jobs. Attorney General Jeff Sessions' rescission of DACA threw the immigrant community into uncertainty. Since then, several court cases have required the government to accept DACA renewals, but it is unclear how those cases will ultimately be resolved. Currently, only DACA renewals are being accepted by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). First-time applicants are not able to apply.

Like a game of ping-pong, these rapid changes are confusing for immigrants and allies. With multiple court hearings and appeals waiting to be resolved, there is no foreseeable timetable or expected outcome. These cases will likely end up at the Supreme Court, which will have the ultimate say. We have a muddy road ahead, but with your help, we can ensure that everyone who qualifies for renewal has the resources to do so.

330
DACA Renewal
Applicants
Assisted Pro Se

26
DACA Renewal
Direct
Representation
Cases

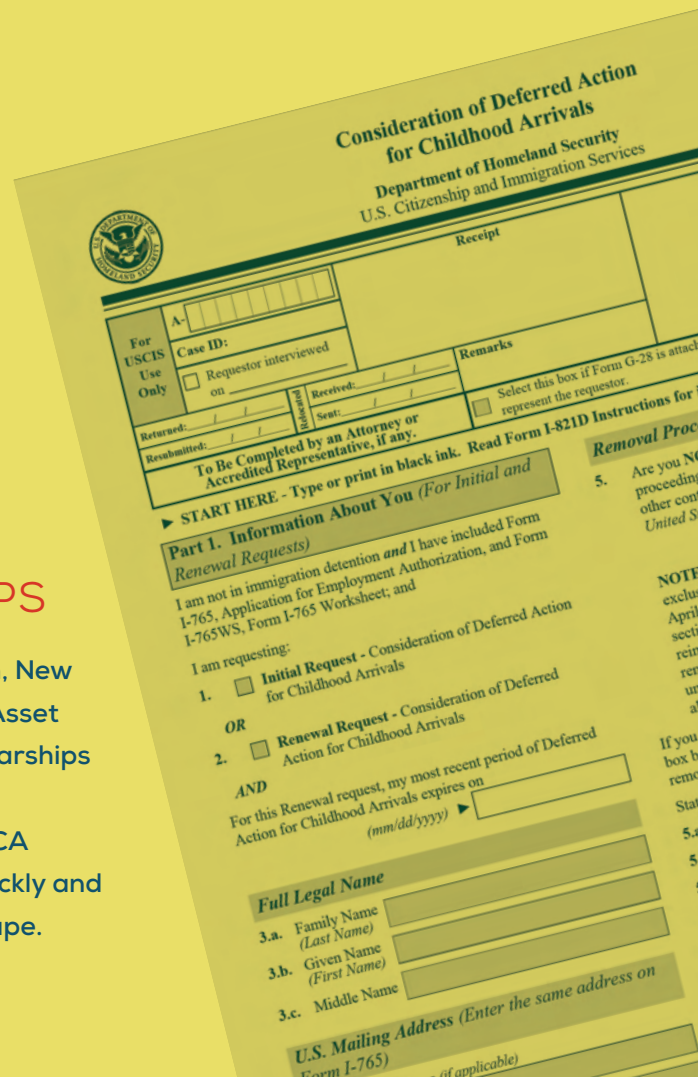
216
Pro Se Assistance
at Weekly
Walk-In
Workshops





SUPPORTING DREAMERS WITH RENEWAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to New Mexico Dream Team, United We Dream, New Mexico Faith Coalition for Immigrant Justice, Mission Asset Fund, and W.K. Kellogg Foundation for providing scholarships to DACA recipients to cover the \$495 cost of renewal applications. This support has helped hundreds of DACA applicants who were forced to submit applications quickly and at short notice due to the rapidly shifting legal landscape.



With your help, we are providing free legal services to get as many people to renew their DACA as possible

NMILC hosts weekly walk-in workshops at El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos and Encuentro, immigrant rights and immigrant-serving partner organizations. At the workshops, we provide legal support for a myriad of immigration needs, including DACA renewal applications. This past year we also collaborated with United We Dream and the New Mexico Dream Team to host DACA renewal clinics in Farmington and Taos. In addition, we provided remote legal assistance to United We Dream members who live in areas without access to affordable legal representation by reviewing DACA applications over the phone, snail mail and email. As of now, we are encouraging all eligible DACA recipients to come to our Wednesday workshop or speak to an attorney to renew as soon as possible.

VOLUNTEER WITH US

BILINGUAL ATTORNEYS AND PARALEGALS to make a weekly commitment to assist pro se applicants at our workshops which take place in Albuquerque on Wednesdays from 1-5 pm.

SPONSOR OUR WORK

\$100 FUNDS ONE SIMPLE DACA CASE

\$700 ONE PRO SE WORKSHOP

\$3,700 ON-SITE PRESENCE AT A SCHOOL FOR A YEAR



#A Day Without Immigrants

Jazmín's economic justice project addresses the top 3 barriers facing immigrant entrepreneurs and businesses:

FEAR OF INTERFACING WITH FEDERAL AND STATE TAX AGENCIES

We provide community education on how to navigate the federal and state tax systems and ITIN number use. We also provide legal representation for current tax case controversies.

KNOWLEDGE OF BUSINESS LICENSE PROCESS

We help immigrants register with appropriate federal and tax agencies as required by law. We also advocate for more accessible licensure and help identify the most appropriate business structure.

ACCESS TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

We help connect immigrant entrepreneurs to trusted financial institutions and financial literacy opportunities.

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF IMMIGRANTS

Immigrants play a vital role in New Mexico's economy. Between 2014 and 2015, immigrants in New Mexico contributed over a billion dollars in yearly taxes and generated \$3.4 billion in spending power. Nearly one in five small businesses is owned by an immigrant. Immigrant business owners are important job creators for local communities: Immigrant-owned businesses employ one out of ten workers in the United States.

Although immigrant entrepreneurs generally have success starting businesses in New Mexico, there are many additional challenges that individuals with DACA or without immigration status face in starting a business. In a climate of uncertainty about the future of DACA, this year NMILC is hosting a project led by Jazmín Coronel in partnership with the New Mexico Dream Team to provide legal and navigation support to immigrants who seek to start a business.



Jazmín Coronel with entrepreneur and New Mexico Dream Team member, Nora Hernandez. Jazmín is providing Ms. Hernandez with legal assistance for her family business.

Meet Jazmín Coronel

Jazmín Coronel, a Corinne Wolfe Fellow for Transformative Advocacy, launched this initiative in partnership with the New Mexico Dream Team and brought her project to NMILC this year. Jazmín's fellowship focuses on economic development for immigrant families and children through direct legal services, community education, and policy advocacy.

Jazmín was born in Sinaloa, Mexico and grew up in Phoenix, Arizona. Jazmín received her Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in finance and honors interdisciplinary studies from the UNM Anderson School of Management. As a DACA recipient, she graduated from the UNM School of Law in May 2017 and was admitted to the NM State Bar in December 2017.



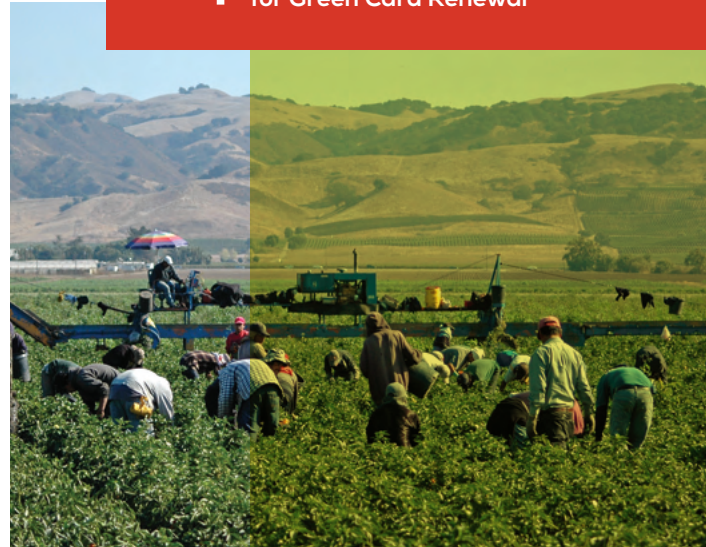
63 Direct Representation for Work Permits

4 Direct Representation for Green Card Renewal

NMILC PARTNERS WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS TO SUPPORT LOW-WAGE IMMIGRANT WORKERS

In this climate of fear, uncertainty, and raids on immigrant-owned businesses, low-income immigrant workers have higher risk for exploitation by their employers. They face many barriers to reporting abuse, like lack of awareness of their rights and fear of being deported—and abusive employers exploit these fears. Additionally, over the past year, ICE has continued targeting immigrants at courthouses, serving as an even greater deterrent for immigrant workers to fight this exploitation in the courts. Furthermore, business owners, particularly small businesses owners who employ immigrant workers, are being targeted for I-9 inspections.

NMILC has partnered with El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos to provide presentations on how to protect both workers and business owners during I-9 audits. NMILC, in partnership with El CENTRO, has provided presentations to small business owners, WESST, South Valley Economic Development Center, City of Albuquerque’s Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, NM CAFé, tax accountants, and others. NMILC has also joined a Wage Theft Collaborative lead by El CENTRO, NM Center on Law and Poverty, and the UNM School of Law, to provide monthly wage theft clinics. NMILC is expanding its work to build expertise in the intersections of employment law and immigration law.



Eduardo Garcia, the newest Equal Justice Works Attorney Fellow at NMILC, spoke at a recent press conference about the proposed changes on Public Charge and how they will negatively impact low-wage workers.

SPONSOR OUR WORK

\$50 ONE PHONE CONSULTATION

\$200 ONE RURAL FINANCIAL LITERACY CLINIC

\$700 ONE WORKER JUSTICE WORKSHOP

VOLUNTEER WITH US

DATA ENTRY ASSISTANCE to keep us on course.
Available on weekdays from 9 am to 5 pm,
for shifts of a minimum of 2 hours.



#RebelliousLawyering



"Throughout my fellowship I've learned a lot about social justice both by trial and error and learning from others. My eyes have been opened to a whole different lens, a whole different world of social justice issues."

**—ALEJANDRO MACIAS,
2017-2018 paralegal fellow**

CHANGING THE FACE OF LAWYERING AND SCALING OUR WORK

The legal profession has a dearth of lawyers from the immigrant community and communities of color. Yet, legal professionals from directly impacted communities make for more responsive and more competent legal representation, particularly when serving immigrants. NMILC's fellowship program works to fill this void and foster social justice lawyers in the process. This year, with additional support from Equal Justice Works, the UNM School of Law, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, we added four new attorney fellows and one new paralegal fellow. In addition to training and mentoring new social justice advocates and leaders, these new positions have enabled us to serve more people every month and expand our capacity to respond to emerging policy shifts. During the two-year fellowship, fellows receive technical training and supervision, peer support from other fellows, mentorship, and paid time and financial assistance to prepare for and take the LSAT.

SPONSOR OUR WORK

\$250 LSAT FEES FOR ONE FELLOW

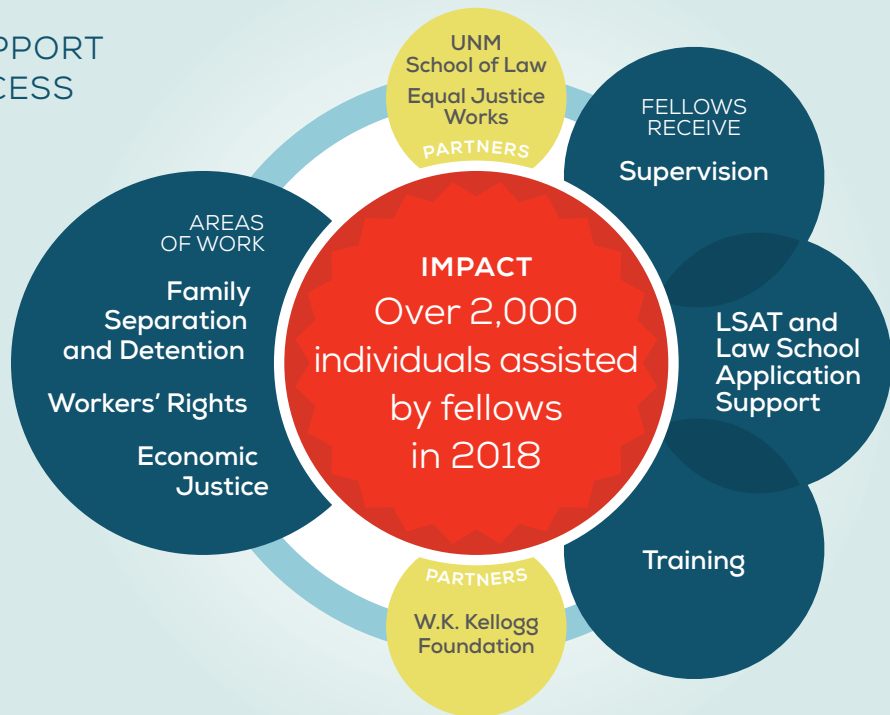
\$12,000 LSAT PREP COURSE

\$45,000 IMMIGRATION CORPS PARALEGAL FELLOW



ADRIEL OROZCO, former Equal Justice Works Fellow and Immigration Corps Program Manager was promoted this year to Associate Director, a new position that will enable NMILC to advance our policy advocacy efforts and ensure that we are strategically aligning our programmatic services with our mission and vision.

**INNOVATIVE MODEL
CREATES HOLISTIC SUPPORT
WHILE EXPANDING ACCESS**



VOLUNTEER WITH US

ATTORNEYS who can advise on employment law, powers of attorney and other life-planning documents in case of deportation and civil rights. Please let us know if you have expertise in another area of the law and you are willing to share your knowledge.

BILINGUAL volunteers to take shifts of at least 2 hours at our reception desk.

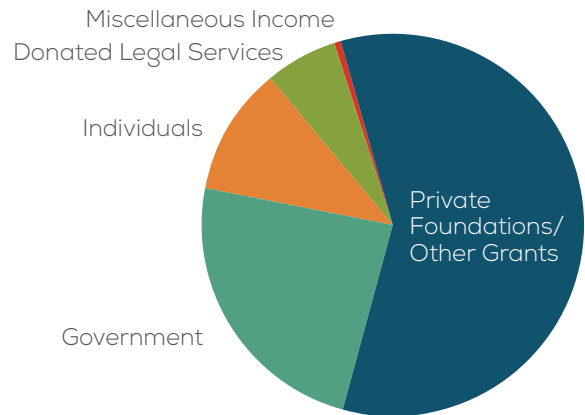
Financials

90¢ of every dollar NMILC receives is spent on essential programming.

REVENUE FISCAL YEAR 2018

\$769,781	Private Foundations/Other Grants
\$310,484	Government
\$143,970	Individuals
\$78,390	Donated Legal Services
\$5,662	Miscellaneous Income

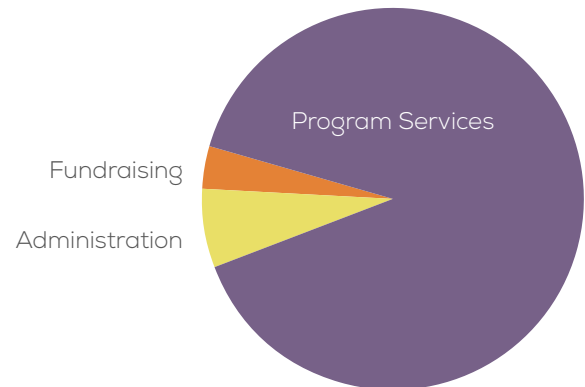
\$1,308,287 TOTAL REVENUE



EXPENSES FISCAL YEAR 2018

\$977,097	Program Services	90%
\$70,800	Administration	7%
\$36,769	Fundraising	3%

\$1,084,666 TOTAL EXPENSES



PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR WORK!

ONLINE: nmilc.org
 BY CHECK: NMILC, PO Box 7040, Albuquerque, NM 87194

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Do not be daunted by the enormity
of the world's grief. Do justly, now.
Walk humbly, now. You are not
obligated to complete the work, but
neither are you free to abandon it.
—Rabbi Rami Shapiro, *Based on Pirkei Avot II*



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