

Our Community, Our Power

*They tried
to bury us,
they didn't know
we were seeds.*



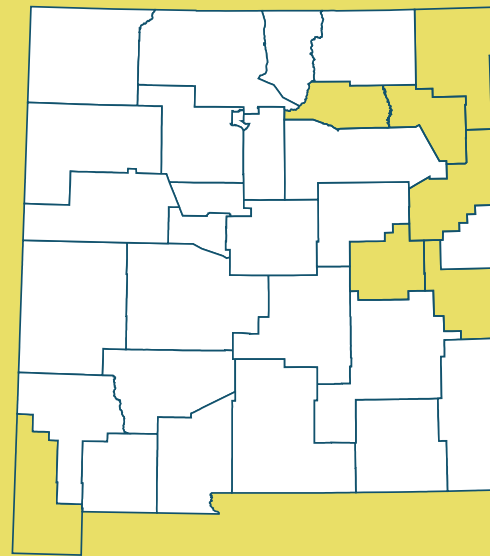
4,766
PEOPLE
SERVED

414 LEGAL ADVICE
496 BRIEF SERVICE
566 DIRECT REPRESENTATION
3,290 PRO SE ASSISTANCE

COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

26 OUT OF 33 COUNTIES SERVED

1,904 reached through outreach programs
11 community partners trained
230 non-attorney volunteers
12 medical volunteers
55 pro bono attorney volunteers
780 pro bono attorneys service hours volunteered



Bernalillo: 1805
Catron: 1
Chaves: 20
Cibola: 222
Colfax: 2
Curry: 19
Dona Ana: 5
Eddy: 9
Grant: 1
Guadalupe: 3
Lea: 14
Lincoln: 4
Los Alamos: 4
Luna: 7
Mckinley: 1
Otero: 6
Rio Arriba: 11
San Juan: 49
San Miguel: 9
Sandoval: 74
Santa Fe: 171
Sierra: 1
Socorro: 15
Taos: 4
Torrance: 9
Valencia: 117

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DEAR
FRIENDS



THIS YEAR CONTINUED TO BE A PIVOTAL MOMENT FOR IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES ACROSS OUR COUNTRY AND THE WORLD.

The policy landscape has continued to shift away from centering the dignity of immigrant communities and has moved toward restricting all channels of immigration. At the federal level, we have seen the implementation of the “Remain in Mexico” policy that forces migrants to wait outside of the U.S. during their asylum process, the declaration of a national emergency to fund a wasteful and unnecessary border wall, and policies that aim to restrict immigration benefits like residency and citizenship for low-income immigrants. In New Mexico, we also have seen the continued expansion of immigrant prisons and the continued use of the criminal justice system by Immigration and Customs Enforcement to target and arrest immigrants who have been living in our communities for decades.

Even though our federal policies continue to ignore the fundamental tenets of human dignity and respect, New Mexicans are rising up to demand justice. Cities like Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Deming and Las Cruces all stepped up to provide much needed resources to asylum seeking families who were released into their communities and a proposed immigrant child prison in Albuquerque was prevented from opening by advocates and state officials. **We are constantly amazed by the acts of courage and strength shown by New Mexicans all across our state.**

NMILC has also seen our volunteers stand up to support our immigrant community: more than 297 volunteers supported our work to provide legal services to 4,766 immigrants. Starting in July, a long-time supporter of ours, pro bono attorney Julia Barnes, helped us create a monthly workshop in Santa Fe and Albuquerque to expand our ability to assist immigrant youth who have been abandoned, abused, or neglected by one or both of their parents in obtaining a green card. At the same time, our staff has advocated with the Second Judicial District Court, by far the largest and busiest court, to remove barriers for low-income immigrant parents who need to obtain court orders for their children. Our detention team also began a program at the new immigrant prison in Torrance County to provide detained migrants with legal information and to prepare them for their asylum interviews.

NMILC also continues to be a leader in our efforts to make the legal profession and the nonprofit sector more representative of the communities we serve. Adriel Orozco, native New Mexican and child of immigrants from Mexico, became NMILC’s Executive Director in October. While at the national level 85% of the legal profession is white, the nonprofit sector also lacks diversity—the Building Movement Project found that 80% of executive directors are white. Our communities are stronger when those from the communities impacted are at the forefront of their movement for justice and NMILC is proud to be moving toward this vision.

As we near our 10-year anniversary in 2020, it is heartening to continue to receive immense support from our volunteers, donors, pro bono professionals, and foundations. With a pro-immigrant governor in our state and a presidential election in the next year, there are increased opportunities to advance immigrant rights locally and nationally; with your support, we will continue to fight for a world where everyone lives with dignity and respect, regardless of their immigration status.

Adelante,

Adriel D. Orozco, Esq.
Executive Director

Mónica Córdova
Board Chair

Responding TO INCREASED DETENTION

In September 2019, the federal government opened the Torrance County Detention Facility, a new immigration detention center in Estancia, New Mexico. This new center, referred to as a “staging center,” is designed specifically to imprison asylum seekers and expedite their credible fear interview process from a few weeks to only 48 hours. The facility is owned and operated by CoreCivic, a private company that also operates another immigration prison in Cibola County, New Mexico. This facility is designed to hold up to 900 asylum seekers, and is one of only two asylum “staging” detention centers for expedited removal in the country.

In response to the opening of the facility, NMILC began providing a Legal Orientation Program for Expedited Removal (LOPE) at the Torrance County Detention Facility. Our program includes Know Your Rights presentations and individual consultations. NMILC continues to run a similar program, Providing Access to Legal Services (PALS) at the Cibola County facility, which houses as many as 600 asylum seekers.



Taking on ICE’s Detention System in the El Paso Region

In the summer of 2019, NMILC joined a handful of El Paso-area non-profit organizations—including Santa Fe Dreamers Project, Las Americas Advocacy Center, Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services—and national groups—including Innovation Law Lab and American Immigration Council—to launch the El Paso Immigration Collaborative (EPIC). EPIC aims to use technology to track migrants through ICE’s detention system to identify trends and foster transparency while also identifying migrants who are eligible for release and connecting them to pro bono attorneys remotely. NMILC identifies migrants in northern New Mexico and connects them through the collaborative to track whether they have passed their CFIs and become eligible for release.

GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER: Sign up for a training and join our staff in going to Cibola or Torrance to provide much needed information to migrants.

Visit nmilc.org/volunteer

CONTRIBUTE: Because of their distance, travel costs can be steep for both staff and volunteers.

A \$60 donation can cover expenses for NMILC staff to travel to Cibola County Correctional Center.

Visit nmilc.org/donate to donate now!

HOW OUR PROGRAM WORKS

Every week, NMILC staff members and volunteers visit these prisons and provide informational sessions and consultations focusing on the Credible Fear Interview (CFI). The CFI is the first step in the asylum process, which asylum seekers must pass it in order to continue fighting their cases. By providing in-depth information about both the asylum and ICE detention processes, migrants are more prepared to navigate a system that is structured against them.



With the help of volunteers, donors, and collaborators, we provided:

Pro se services to an estimated 2,000 asylum seekers at Cibola County Correctional Center in 2019

Pro se services to over 200 asylum seekers at Torrance County Detention Facility in the first eight weeks of our contract (late August through mid October 2019)



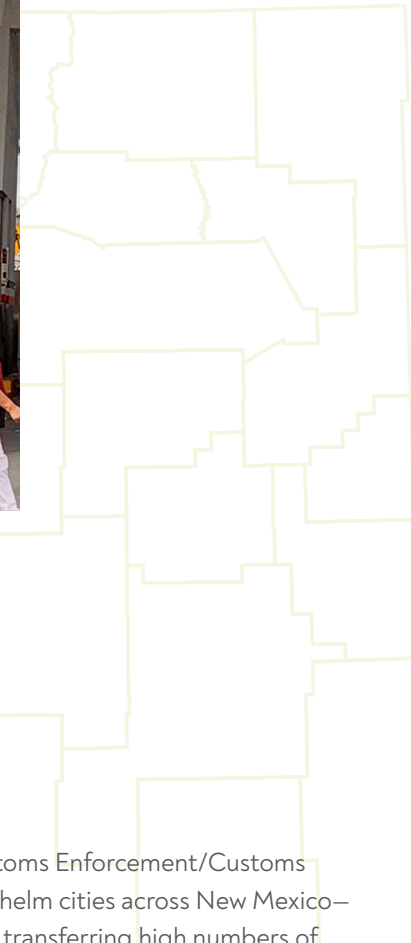
Quisieron enterrarnos, pero se les olvido que somos semillas.

Assisting

ASYLUM SEEKERS WITH DEPORTATION DEFENSE

In summer 2019, your donations made it possible to start a bi-weekly asylum workshop where NMILC staff guide non-detained asylum seekers with the asylum process. Participants meet with our attorneys for a consultation, get assistance in preparing their asylum applications, get help in applying for work permits if they are eligible, and get information about the removal process.

- › In 2019, our staff screened an estimated 70 asylum-seeking families for immigration relief through group-style workshops and individual consultations.
- › Since formalizing our twice-monthly Pro Se Asylum Workshop in August of 2019, we have served an average of five families per workshop.



SPECIAL THANKS to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Santa Fe Community Foundation's Fund for Refugees and Asylum Seekers, the Herb Block Foundation, and the Nell Newman Foundation for supporting our work to reunify immigrants detained with their family members.

ASYLUM IS A FORM OF PROTECTION available to immigrants in the US or at a port of entry who meet the legal definition of a “refugee,” as defined by the Refugee Act of 1980. This Act describes refugees as those who are unable to return to home country due to past persecution or a well-founded fear of future persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.

GET INVOLVED

Eles tentaram nos enterrar, não sabiam que éramos sementes.

ARE YOU AN ATTORNEY LOOKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

We are developing a Pro Bono Asylum Project that will connect and train local attorneys interested in representing asylum seekers in the Albuquerque area. If you're interested, contact Quiana Salazar-King, NMILC's Director of Community Engagement, at qsalazar-king@nmilc.org.



COMMUNITY IN ACTION

This past spring, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement/Customs and Border Protection attempted to overwhelm cities across New Mexico—Albuquerque, Deming, and Las Cruces—by transferring high numbers of immigrant families into local communities without providing financial support. These are just some of the ways the New Mexico communities are taking action to support of asylum-seeking neighbors:

Albuquerque

The City Council approved \$250,000 to provide direct services to asylum-seeking families. NMILC partners at Catholic Charities, El CENTRO, Lutheran Family Services, and the New Mexico Dream Team, among others, joined forces to build, organize and manage this large-scale, crisis-intervention-type operation.

Deming and Las Cruces

Two of New Mexico most impacted cities by Border Patrol's policy to drop asylum-seeking immigrants within the cities, allocated city funds and accepted grants from the state to cover the costs of shelter and humanitarian efforts for migrant families.

Santa Fe

The city partnered with the Santa Fe Community Foundation to launch a Fund for Refugees and Asylum Seekers, of which NMILC was one of the grantees, to raise funds for asylum seekers in Las Cruces, El Paso and Albuquerque support shelter, transportation, and staffing costs.

New Mexico

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham joined the City of Albuquerque in June and filed a lawsuit against Homeland Security and top immigration officials demanding reimbursement of city/state expenditures for humanitarian relief for these immigrants families.

Standing Up FOR IMMIGRANT YOUTH

Providing legal immigration services to undocumented children is critical in the current political climate where other forms of protection from deportation previously available to children, such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) are no longer available for first-time applicants and the fate of those renewing DACA is left to a conservative-leaning Supreme Court. That's why NMILC will not turn away any child from receiving legal services if they qualify for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS).

SIJS allows any immigrant child, before they turn 18 or 21 (depending on the case), who has been abandoned, abused, or neglected by a parent to apply for special status which can lead to permanent residency and eventually citizenship—which opens many doors for their futures.

NMILC's goal is to provide representation to every single New Mexico child who qualifies for SIJS and needs representation through collaboration with community partners and pro bono attorneys across the state.

WE COULD NOT DO THIS WORK WITHOUT PRO BONO ATTORNEYS!

SIJS requires a state order that includes a finding that an immigrant youth was abandoned, abused or neglected by one or both parents.

In 2019, 55 pro bono attorneys generously donated their time and talent to expand our capacity to obtain New Mexico State predicate orders.

This year, in partnership with Santa Fe Dreamers Project and pro bono attorney Julia Barnes, NMILC began a monthly SIJS Pro Bono Workshop. At the workshop, pro bono attorneys prepare petitions for SIJS clients. The workshop functions as an introductory model for attorneys who do not practice family or immigration law to shadow an attorney experienced in this area and gain experience for future cases.

Sign-up to volunteer your time as a pro bono attorney today!

If you're interested, contact Quiana Salazar-King, NMILC's Director of Community Engagement, at qsalazar-king@nmilc.org.



SPECIAL THANKS

To the following SIJS Predicate Order Workshop partners:

Julia Barnes, Esq.
Spearheaded the workshop model and has worked with us to establish best practices.

James Bristol, Esq.
Serves as an NMILC pro bono attorney, supporter, and generously hosts the SIJS workshops in Santa Fe.

Tess Wilkes, Esq.
An SIJS expert attorney with the Santa Fe Dreamers Project and workshop partner.



THANK YOU

Họ muốn chôn vùi chúng ta, họ không biết chúng ta là những hạt giống

INCREASING ACCESS TO THE COURTS FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

This year, in collaboration with Pegasus Legal Services for Children, we advocated to streamline the filing process for Applications for Free Process in the Second Judicial District Court. The process to obtain a predicate order can be costly and logistical barriers requiring pro bono attorneys and pro se applicants to go in personally to file a request can make it difficult to complete. NMILC and Pegasus are working with court staff and judges to make this process as efficient as possible and better the odds that immigrant families can successfully obtain a predicate order, which is often time-sensitive!

EXPANDING SIJS ELIGIBILITY IN NEW MEXICO

USCIS has increasingly scrutinized and rejected valid state predicate orders for SIJS-eligible immigrant children. This year, NMILC, in collaboration with the Yale Law Students Civil Rights' Project, began research to eventually amend New Mexico state law to:

ALIGN the state definition of "child" with the federal definition, which includes individuals up to age 21

PROVIDE consistent definitions of "child," "abuse," "neglect," and "abandonment"

GRANT explicit jurisdiction to district court judges to make determinations for the care and custody of children

Our goal is to ensure that every New Mexico child who qualifies for SIJS under federal law receives legal representation.

TO OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS AND DONORS!

This September, Young Business Leaders of the Albuquerque Community Foundation awarded NMILC a \$2,000 micro-grant to start up a revolving fund for SIJS clients who are unable to pay certain unwaivable fees for their SIJS cases. These costs often run up to \$700.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

YOUR DONATIONS make it possible for NMILC staff to advocate for systemic changes that improve the lives of some of undocumented youth in New Mexico.

Donate today at nmilc.org/donate

Advocating

FOR IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS' RIGHTS

Visas like the U visa and T visa were created to encourage immigrant survivors of violent crime and trafficking to come forward rather than live in fear of removal. However, in the past year, the Trump Administration has systematically eroded protections for undocumented survivors of violent crime, putting them at risk of deportation if their application is not approved, despite previous protections for these populations.

This year, legal protections for survivors of crime have faced the following attacks:

- › The Trump Administration continues to order adjudicators not to review U visas in an effort to push an anti-immigrant agenda and force applicants for humanitarian forms of relief to wait at least seven years before their case can be heard by the courts.
- › The Immigration Courts continue to deport victims of crime, disregarding the fact that they have a visa application pending. Furthermore, ICE has rescinded a long-standing policy to investigate the validity of a U visa application before removing a victim of crime.

Locally, ICE makes arrests in local courthouses, which has left survivors afraid to bring orders of protection against their abusers or to testify at trial.

NMILC's legal team provides free legal services to crime victims, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking survivors, which accounted for 74% of our team's clients in 2019.



IN THE PAST YEAR, NMILC has had to fight numerous subpoenas from defense attorneys whose motivation is to expose a victim as undocumented in an effort to undermine their testimony against their abusers.

DONATE TODAY

\$2,000 HELPS fund one U visa case

Donate today to help an immigrant survivor of a crime on their path towards legal status! Visit nmilc.org/donate



LEVERAGING COMMUNITY RESOURCES

NMILC has developed a strategic approach to assist survivors of crime. There are currently over 100 victims of crime preparing to file a U visa or VAWA self-petition with our office. NMILC takes new clients immediately once they are ready to file. In 2019, NMILC has focused on improving the quality of service clients receive by leveraging partnerships in the community. We have found that our legal advocacy is most effective when we are working in collaboration with community partners whom our clients know and trust. NMILC establishes referral processes for legal services for partners' clients and our partners assist us in preparing our mutual clients' cases.

To best meet the holistic needs of our clients, we continue long-standing partnerships with victim-rights organizations, including Enlace Comunitario, Esperanza Shelter, Life Link, Catholic Charities VAWA Immigration Project, the New Mexico Asian Family Center and the Crime Victims Reparation Commission.

In addition, this past year we have created new partnerships to improve and scale our legal services for survivors of crime.

- › We have an NMILC attorney co-located at **SOLACE Crisis Treatment Center**, a Santa Fe-based nonprofit that serves victims of sexual assault;
- › We provided trainings and created a streamlined referral process with designated staff liaisons at **Centro Savila**, a bilingual mental health clinic, and **Casa Forteleza**, an immigrant sexual assault organization.
- › Established a new relationship with **Healing House**, a shelter for domestic violence survivors in Deming. In 2019, we trained their staff on identifying clients that might qualify for immigration relief and we are actively working to develop a deeper collaboration to eventually provide their clients with direct services.

A SURVIVOR'S IMMIGRATION STORY

In 2014, Tania (pseudonym) came to the U.S. fleeing gang violence from Mexico. After both she and her family were victimized by a local gang, she realized that she needed to leave Mexico or she could lose her life. She was paroled into the U.S. and moved to Albuquerque. Without a support system here, she became homeless. During a cold night in the winter, a man saw her and offered to pay for a hotel room for the night so she could be safe from the cold. She initially rejected the offer, but eventually gave in because she was so cold. Before she knew it, this man was holding her against her will and forcing her into prostitution. She was threatened at gunpoint on multiple occasions and frequently physically assaulted. One day, she was able to escape.

Referred to NMILC by our community partner Enlace Comunitario, Tania came to NMILC wanting to know if there was anything she could do to get an immigration status in the U.S. and get permission to work. The attorney who screened her identified that she qualified for several forms of relief, including a T visa for survivors of human trafficking. NMILC filed a T visa and is currently working to fight against Tania's removal back to Mexico. Tania remains in limbo due to the long processing times for humanitarian forms of relief. However, having a T visa pending should prevent her from being removed.

مل و اننفد اول و اواج
روذب اننا او مل عي

Fostering THE NEXT GENERATION

3,388
IMMIGRANT
COMMUNITY
MEMBERS RECEIVED
LEGAL SERVICES
FROM FELLOWS*

*2016-2019

7
ATTORNEY
FELLOWS*

7
PARALEGAL
FELLOWS*

100%
OF PARALEGAL
FELLOWS
ACCEPTED TO
LAW SCHOOL
WHO APPLIED

100%
OF ALL PROGRAM
FELLOWS CONTINUE
TO WORK IN THE
IMMIGRANT
RIGHTS FIELD
POST-FELLOWSHIP



Nora Hernandez

Equal Justice Works Paralegal Fellow
2019-2021

"I became a paralegal because I am an immigrant, I was undocumented, I know how the system works, I know how hard it is to get a green card, and many people don't have a way to get one. That is why I want to be an immigration attorney."

Nora is originally from Mexico and came to the U.S. when she was 22. She's always wanted to become an attorney but because she was undocumented, she was unable to get financial support to go to law school. After becoming a Legal Permanent Resident in June, she applied for the Equal Justice Works Paralegal Fellowship and was awarded the full-time fellowship in September.



Luis Leyva-Castillo

First-year student at UNM School of Law
Communications Fellow 2017-2018

"NMILC provided me an inside look at what it meant to have a direct impact on people's lives. From the moment I met the NMILC attorneys I knew I wanted to follow in their footsteps."

Luis is originally from Mexico and grew up in Ruidoso, New Mexico. He entered law school in fall 2019 after finishing his undergraduate degree in Business. As our Communications Fellow, Luis led our efforts to make legal information accessible and timely to the immigrant community. Now in his first year of law school, Luis continues to advocate for the immigrant community by working on efforts to make professional and occupational licenses available to all immigrants regardless of citizenship status.

WHERE ARE OUR FELLOWS NOW?



Lizdebeth Carrasco

Third-year student at UNM School of Law
Equal Justice Works Paralegal Fellow
2016-2017

"Being a fellow at NMILC not only solidified my desire to be a social justice lawyer one day, it also opened many doors for me because it increased the number of scholarships and resources that I was able to obtain because of the work that I had done before coming to law school."

Lizdebeth first became involved with NMILC when she applied for DACA as a student at South Valley Academy with the help of our staff. Lizdebeth's dream was to become an immigration attorney and interned at NMILC. In 2016, Lizdebeth became the first Equal Justice Works Paralegal Fellow. Now in her third year at the UNM School of Law, Lizdebeth will be working for the Law Offices of the Public Defender to obtain litigation experience. She plans to return to immigration law or civil rights work to advocate for her community and the rights of all people.



Martha Laura Garcia-Izaguirre

NMILC Supervising Attorney
Equal Justice Works Paralegal Fellow
2017-2019

"NMILC is very intentional about creating a mentorship and support system for fellows."

Martha Laura Garcia-Izaguirre (Laura) was born in Mexico and grew up living in multiple countries. In 2017 Laura was awarded an Equal Justice Works Attorney Fellowship and in September 2019 became a Supervising Attorney at NMILC. To Laura, the biggest advantage of being part of the fellowship was the mentorship that allowed her to gain skills to become an effective attorney and advocate. As an attorney, she plans to focus her career on empowering immigrant communities through both direct representation and community organizing.

NMILC's Next Generation of Social Justice Legal Professionals program is a "pipeline" project to increase the representation of historically marginalized communities in the legal profession. Through our fellowships and internships, we enable those who have personal experience with the immigration system to take control of the systemic, legal, and political forces that affect their lives and their clients.

NMILC fellows use their experiences to propel their careers and shape the legal field. During the multi-year full-time fellowship, fellows receive:

- technical training and supervision to develop their legal acumen;
- peer support to understand their role in the legal profession and how to navigate institutional barriers;
- mentorship in preparing their applications for law school for paralegals; and
- paid time to prepare for and take the LSAT for pre-law staff.

NMILC's part-time internships during the fall, spring, and summer offer opportunities that support students on their pre-law path earlier in their careers during high school and college. These internships are designed to reduce financial barriers, support students in their personal and professional development, and create greater access to social justice lawyering careers.

NMILC fellowship and internship programs that are made possible with the generous support and partnership of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Equal Justice Works, University of New Mexico, University of New Mexico School of Law and the Corinne Wolfe Center for Child and Family Justice, the City of Albuquerque, the Albuquerque Community Foundation's MentorMe program, and the Partnership for Community Action.



Coming Together AS A COMMUNITY

Pro bono work is a professional responsibility and an individual ethical commitment to give back to the community. NMILC relies heavily on pro bono attorneys to increase our capacity to serve immigrants at this critical time. There is an unprecedented need for legal services at NMILC and we could not meet this demand without the tremendous help and support of pro bono attorneys and medical providers!

We are incredibly grateful to our pro bono partners and we invite you to learn more about what inspires them to do this work:



Julia Barnes

"Rather than taking 'pro bono work,' I feel it is my obligation to have a 'pro bono practice' in areas of law where I can lend my experience, learn the area of practice fully, and make a difference. It makes us all better and achieves great results for many families in New Mexico."



Eunice Herrera

"For years I have been involved in organizations that focus their resources on children and youth. It is my desire to help them break immigration barriers. Through NMILC and the SIJS Workshop, I have had the opportunity to be part of the process that will change the future of many children living in our state. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve my community."



Bridget Mullins

"I do pro bono work because I owe it to my community to use my privileges to support our immigrant families."



Andrés Santiago

"It is important to provide pro bono services to continue to give back to the immigrant community. Without immigrants we would not have the vibrant communities we are so fortunate to live and work in."



Paola Jaime Saenz

"I was born in Argentina, but New Mexico has been my home since I was seven years old. As an immigrant, and as a naturalized U.S. citizen, I recognize that it has been an immense privilege to build my life here and to pursue a career that I love. Because I have been so fortunate, I believe that I have a duty to use my voice and my platform as an attorney to give back to my community. I have immense admiration for NMILC's mission and advocacy efforts, and I highly encourage my colleagues in the legal community to consider taking a pro bono case, or a few!"



Horatio Moreno-Campos

"I love volunteering with NMILC because they do an excellent job of organizing quarterly Citizenship Fairs. They make it easy for the attorneys. Pro bono work is important for me personally because it reminds me of why I do what I do."



Leslie McCarthy

"As the daughter of a Spanish exile who was forced to leave her country with her parents after the Spanish Civil War and was taken in by Mexico, I have always had a strong interest in immigration and asylum issues. I volunteer for NMILC because I feel that despite this country's current immigration policies, the U.S. continues to be a symbol of hope for the world. I simply want to contribute, even in a small way, to helping those that seek a better life, particularly for their children."

Alana de Young

"What I find most rewarding about pro bono work with the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center has been the opportunity to work with wonderful immigrant families in our community and to play a small part in helping to resolve issues that have such a great impact on their lives here in New Mexico"



Thank You

PRO BONO ATTORNEYS

Meghan Medd
Aaron Wolf
Alana DeYoung
Alice Hendley
Andrea White
Andres Santiago
Annette De Bois
Bridget Mullins
Caroline Little
Charles Roybal
Cindi Pearlman
Cynthia Dettman
Doris Duhigg
Ella Fenoglio
Emma O'Sullivan
Eric Hannum
Eunice Herrera
Eva Eitzen
Frank Katz
Gretta Thomas
Haley Adams
Heidi Deifel
Horatio Moreno-Campos
J. Michelle Guttman
Jack Hiatt
James Bristol
JD Rosenblum
Jeni Dodd
Jennifer Salazar
Jessica Martin
Jill Shallenberger
Joan Friedland
John Kelly
Joseph Samora
Juan Flores

Julia Barnes
Karen Kahn
Kari Converse
Kendall Williams
Kerry Sherck
Leslie Apodaca
Mariel Willow
Melanie Stambaugh
Mike Osborn
Paola Saenz
Quentin Smith
Rachel Winston
Rebecca Dempsey
Roderick Ventura
Sandra Gomez
Sarah Stevenson
Sheila Sievers
Susan Weeks
Tess Wilkes
Tomas White
Zach Ives

PRO BONO MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

Amy De Bernardi
Bridget McCoy
Hope Ferodwsian
Jennifer Maree Haley
Jose Adrian Gonzalez
Lane Leckman
Lydia Wolberg
Marita Delaney
Rahul P Vasireddy
Samia Van Hattum
Shawn Sidhu
Tamara Thiedeman

GET INVOLVED

If you are interested in participating in NMILC's Pro Bono Program please contact our Director of Community Engagement, Quiana Salazar-King, Esq. at qsalazarking@nmilc.org.

Building

POWER THROUGH CITIZENSHIP

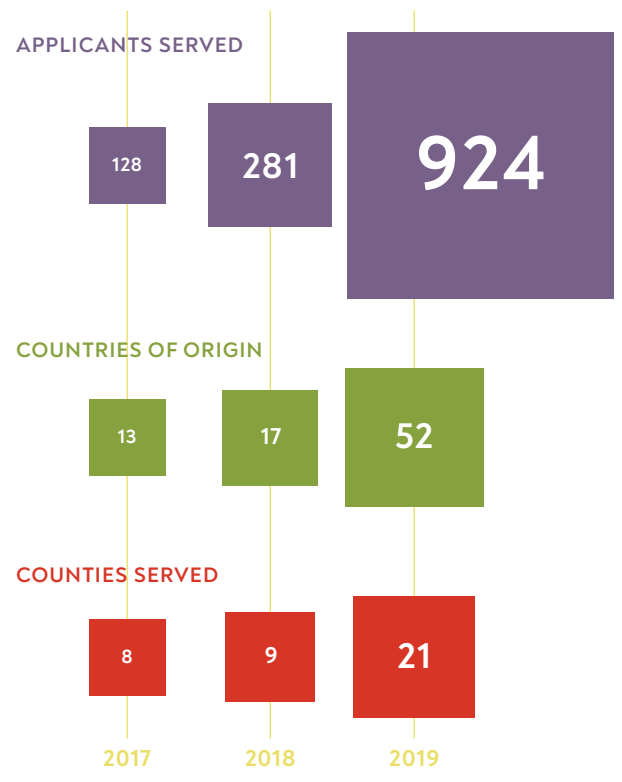
As part of a broad campaign to attack low-income immigrants, the Trump Administration is actively working to limit the channels for immigrants to become citizens.

- › By mid-2019, a nationwide backlog of citizenship applications left 700,000 immigrants unable to finish the citizenship process and become engaged voters.
- › In December 2019, it is expected that USCIS will make it harder for applicants to request a fee waiver if they are unable to pay the \$725 application fee.

Because of these restrictions, NMILC has worked to expand access to citizenship across the state. Obtaining citizenship is vital for the immigrant community as it brings greater protection from deportation, more economic security, opportunities to petition family members, and the ability to vote in all elections.



INCREASING ACCESS: OUR CITIZENSHIP SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS



THE IMPACT OF COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

In the past year, NMILC has been part of collaborations with community organizers and city governments in Albuquerque and Santa Fe to provide free legal services to New Mexicans eligible to become citizens. Our collaboration in Albuquerque includes the National Partnership for New Americans Cities for Citizenship Initiative, the City of Albuquerque, El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos, and Partnership for Community Action and aims to expand access to citizenship and civic engagement. In Santa Fe, we work with Somos un Pueblo Unido's community-based Citizenship Now! project by providing legal screenings and information.

OUR CITIZENSHIP PROJECTS

- QUARTERLY CITIZENSHIP FAIRS
- WEEKLY CITIZENSHIP AND DACA WORKSHOPS on Wednesdays at El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos and Encuentro in Albuquerque open to anyone and everyone interested in determining whether they're eligible to become a citizen
- ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS of First United Church's English and citizenship classes to help them determine whether they're eligible for citizenship through CitizenshipWorks
- INFORMATION ABOUT THE 2020 CENSUS that focuses on why it's important for local and statewide communities that everyone is counted, regardless of immigration status



EXPANDING ACCESS THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

This year, NMILC's Jabez Ledres, our Equal Justice Works Paralegal Fellow, started a monthly Citizenship Workshop hosted by the New Mexico Asian Family Center (NMAFC) to increase citizenship services to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in Albuquerque.

"To increase access to NMILC's citizenship workshops, we partnered with NMILC to provide onsite workshops at NMAFC's location to reduce geographic, cultural, and linguistic barriers for local Pan-Asian communities in need of citizenship services."

—KAY BOUNKEUA, Executive Director, New Mexico Asian Family Center

他们想要埋葬我们，却不知道我们是种子

GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER WITH US
Our Citizenship Workshops would not be possible without the support of over 150 community volunteers who guide applicants through the citizenship application, review applications for accuracy, provide instructions for final submission, provide interpretation, and assist applicants at every stage of the workshop.

Sign up to help at our Citizenship Workshops!
Visit nmilc.org/volunteer

Improving

ECONOMIC STABILITY IN IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

Immigrants continue to make significant contributions to the U.S. economy. Though foreign-born individuals only make up 13% of the population, they account for 30% of new businesses and 17.1% of the labor force. Obtaining an immigration status or starting a business can bring economic stability—which is essential for members of our community to thrive.

In 2019, with the help of your donations, NMILC provided free legal representation to help clients obtain work permits, access public benefits, start their own businesses, and become economically independent, which is vital for the stability and growth of our community.



ADDRESSING BARRIERS FOR IMMIGRANT PROFESSIONALS IN PURSUING THEIR CAREERS

Under federal law, professional, occupational and commercial licenses cannot be extended to undocumented immigrants unless states, who largely regulate these licenses at the state level through licensing boards, affirmatively opt out of those restrictions by passing laws that allow for eligibility. At least 10 states across the country have allowed some form of professional licensing for immigrants, regardless of immigration status. This is an economic development issue as more than 30 percent of immigrants 25 years old and older have a bachelor's degree or higher.

This year, in partnership with the New Mexico Dream Team, the Center for Civic Policy, and New Mexico Voices for Children, our Economic Justice Attorney Jazmin Irazoqui-Ruiz has been advocating to reduce unnecessarily strict licensing requirements for various professional, occupational, and commercial trades. This advocacy broadens employment opportunities for all New Mexicans, regardless of immigration status.

In 2019, New Mexico Dream Team and NMILC hosted 2 Economic Justice Workshops in Albuquerque and one in Farmington.

WITH YOUR SUPPORT,
we served 122 people through these Economic Justice Workshops.



A contribution of \$700 can support NMILC to host one more Economic Justice Workshop in the upcoming year!

DONATE TODAY

Donate today at nmilc.org/donate



"When one person has access to professional, occupational, or commercial licensing, it can bring a family out of poverty."

—JAZMÍN IRAZOQUI-RUIZ,
NMILC Economic Justice Attorney



SUPPORTING NEW MEXICO'S IMMIGRANT ENTREPRENEURS AND BUSINESS OWNERS

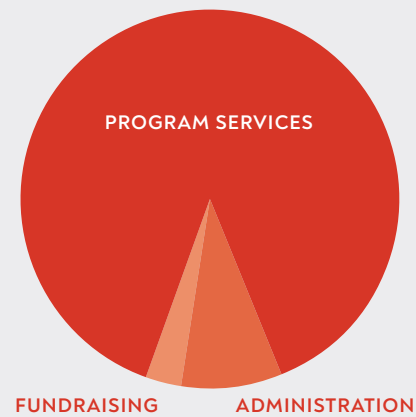
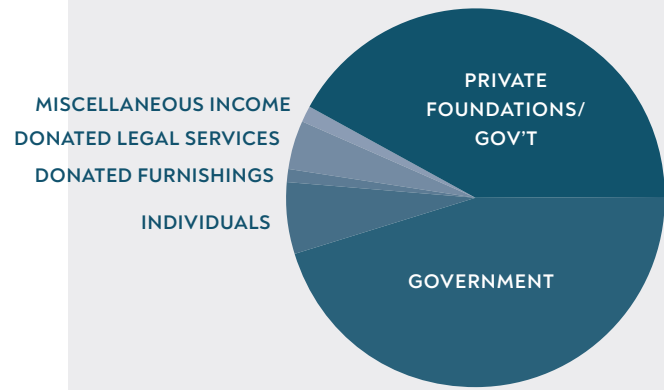
In 2019, Jazmin Irazoqui-Ruiz joined our staff as our Economic Justice Attorney. In 2017, Jazmin, through the Corinne Wolfe Fellowship for Transformative Advocacy, began a project aimed at addressing economic justice issues in the immigrant community. Now, the work is being integrated into NMILC's programming. This includes:

- Partnering with the New Mexico Dream Team to pair legal services with organizing tactics to build power around economic development for immigrants.
- Providing legal assistance to immigrant entrepreneurs on tax liability, EIN/ITIN options, and industry-specific regulations that allow immigrants to build their own businesses.
- Collaborating with community organizations, like WESST, South Valley Economic Development Center, Encuentro, among others, to provide resources to small businesses (such as financial literacy, technical assistance, consumer protection, and asset-building support).
- Organizing economic justice clinics where clients build connections with others to develop a business association made up of other immigrant business owners and create a space for clients to talk about the obstacles they face and share solutions, build capacity, and create a sense of empowerment.

These services save immigrant entrepreneurs upwards of \$7,000, the average cost of hiring a private lawyer to help them incorporate their business.

*Walijaribu kutuzika,
hawakujua yakwamba
tulikuwa mbegu.*

FINANCIALS



REVENUE FISCAL YEAR 2019

Private Foundations/Government	\$763,243
Government	\$826,775
Individuals	\$110,045
Donated Furnishings	\$18,371
Donated Legal Services	\$79,779
Miscellaneous Income	\$21,241
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,819,454

EXPENSES FISCAL YEAR 2019

Program Services	\$1,491,777	88%
Administration	\$145,062	9%
Fundraising	\$51,344	3%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,688,184	

88¢
OF EVERY DOLLAR
NMILC RECEIVES IS
SPENT ON ESSENTIAL
PROGRAMMING

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As immigrants in New Mexico and the U.S. have been devastated by separation due to deportation, violence, poverty, criminalization, and historical marginalization, customers and clients want to do business with companies that are connected and give back to the community.

THANK YOU to the generous support of the following companies and law firms, who are helping to advance justice and equity by empowering low-income immigrant communities:

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