

UNLOCAL, INC.

2022-2023



OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS

During the grant period (April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023), UnLocal served low-income immigrants in New York, our primary target population, with legal services, education, outreach, and advocacy. We closed 332 cases for immigrant New Yorkers, including obtaining 83 employment authorization documents, 29 DACA renewals, 23 asylum orders, and 72 adjustments of status (lawful permanent residency). Providing critical information about USCIS and immigration court, we hosted over 60 in-person and virtual community legal presentations, reaching more than 10,000 people, on topics such as the basics of the immigration system, filing for DACA, advance parole, and asylum, and the eligibility requirements of the New York State Dream Act (NYSDA).

Our Queer Immigrant Justice Project (QIJP) served queer immigrant communities with identity-affirming legal services and community education, representing clients with defensive asylum, employment authorization, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), and adjustment of status. We launched the QIJP Ambassador Program to create spaces where our queer community members can gain valuable leadership opportunities and connect with people who share similar immigration experiences. Our Post-Order Defense (POD) team represented detained immigrants with final removal orders, working to stop their deportation and end their detention.

Our Immigrant Wellness Team, made up of our full-time social worker, social work intern, and off-site part-time social work supervisor, worked closely with staff attorneys to connect clients to supplemental resources and therapeutic services. During the reporting period, our Immigrant Wellness Team assisted clients in finding therapy, locating food pantries, applying for medical insurance, and connecting with community support groups.



Population Served: Low Income Immigrant Populations

Total Funding: \$1,894,947

Total IOLA Grant: \$75,000

Staffing Full Time Equivalents:

- Total Staff: 20
- Paralegals: 4
- Lawyers: 9
- Other: 7

In collaboration with our partners, we launched the Pro Se Plus Project (PSPP) in response to the thousands of new asylum seekers in New York City. PSPP increases legal services providers' capacity to assist immigrants in navigating the complex immigration system by empowering them to advocate for themselves and to train community members to support them through the asylum process. PSPP helps immigrant community members avoid in absentia removal orders, notario fraud, missed deadlines, and exploitation. PSPP trains applicants, volunteers, pro bono attorneys, partners, and community members to understand the requirements for screening and filing for asylum, relief under the Convention Against Torture (CAT), employment authorization, prosecutorial discretion, certain motions in immigration court, etc.

Dollar and other benefits realized by low-income people as a direct result of our efforts included helping our clients gain employment authorization through asylum, renewed DACA status, Temporary Protected Status, and other forms of immigration relief. We also filed numerous fee waiver requests, making it possible for clients to secure employment authorization and legal status. We connected clients to free social services such as food pantries, therapeutic and emotional support, and registered several clients for housing assistance and ESL classes. With funding from the Wild Gifting Project, we dispersed nearly \$40,000 to clients to pay for necessities, legal fees, and application filing fees.

DIRECT LEGAL SERVICES: CASES

Case #1

In our Queer Immigrant Justice Project (QIJP) client's own words: "My experience in seeking/applying for asylum in the USA was hard at first because I did not know anyone nor anywhere to go especially with the trauma I was going through having to flee my home country Nigeria for my life but once I was connected to UnLocal everything became very seamless from putting my statement together to application which my lawyer and the team ensured I was carried along and well represented. UnLocal also provided and linked me to other resources that I needed to help my transition seem effortless from psychological

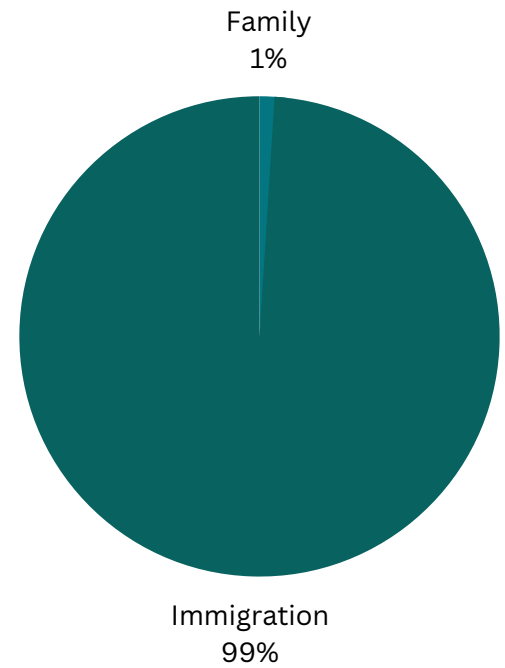
540
people
benefitted from
332
legal cases
closed

evaluation, to mental support which is still ongoing down to work and social connections. It is hard for queer immigrants to get around or get the protection they crave but with organizations like UnLocal I can say I'm in safe hands and will recommend them to anyone anytime."

Case #2

In early March 2023, our Post Order Defense (POD) team learned that the Second Circuit Court of Appeals had denied the stay of removal for a client detained in Orange County, NY, and that he would be removed to El Salvador imminently. We filed a comprehensive motion for a stay of deportation to the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) on March 6th, explaining all the errors made by our client's former counsel and why being deported to El Salvador would be so dangerous for our

LGBTQIA+ client. Despite the comprehensive motion, it was denied on the evening of March 8th, leaving the client set to be on a plane to El Salvador at 5 a.m. on March 10th. However, the next morning, we filed an emergency motion to reconsider the denial of the stay, which went to a different BIA panel and which granted the stay the evening of March 9th. Although our client is still in ICE detention, he is in the US where he can fight his case with our assistance.



Cases by Legal Problem Area

OTHER SERVICES: OVERVIEW

During the grant period, we delivered over 60 community legal presentations, reaching more than 10,000 people. These presentations covered topics such as the New York State Dream Act, the basics of the US immigration system, DACA, Advance Parole, how to complete and file an asylum application, and how to

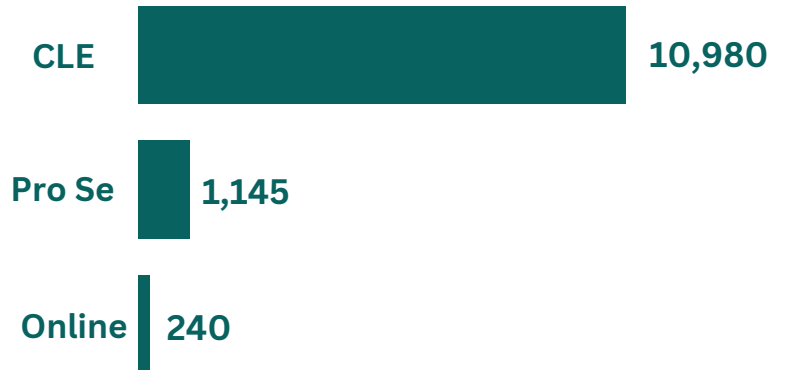
12,365
 people benefitted from
 Services Other Than
 Direct Legal Services

represent yourself in immigration court. The target population for these presentations is our diverse immigrant communities which include undocumented youth, queer clients, asylum seekers, and immigrant families.

The goal of our presentations is to provide accurate and up-to-date information on legal issues that affect immigrant communities, to empower

the people we serve with knowledge and resources, and to foster community engagement and collaboration. We host presentations at our office or at partner sites. UnLocal also uses various online tools to deliver presentations such as Zoom and Instagram to reach a wider audience. The presentations are often made available in Spanish to ensure accessibility for our Spanish-speaking community.

Number of People Benefitted from Other Services



OTHER SERVICES: TRAININGS

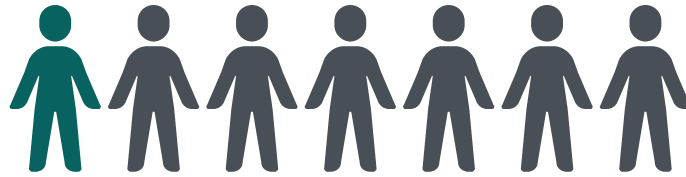
During the reporting period, we created and executed training series for our newest staff members and legal interns, which were open to all staff members. The training series included topics such as VAWA self-petitions, U/T visas, asylum, and DACA renewals. In addition, every staff member is allotted \$500 annually to attend professional development trainings.

OTHER SERVICES: TECHNOLOGY

UnLocal hired Social Ink, a website development agency that focuses on assisting nonprofits, to revamp and improve our website. As part of the redesign, Social Ink created a dedicated resource webpage where visitors can access and download helpful documents, such as our referral sheet, instructions on how to report to Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, how to apply for a social security number, applying for financial aid, and more. Through Google Analytics, we are now able to monitor the number of downloads for each resource and use this data to create materials that meet the most pressing needs of our clients.

PRO BONO VOLUNTEERS

We recruit law students, volunteers, and high school and college students through our established partnerships, word of mouth, and recruitment events like the NYU Public Interest Legal Career Fair. We also create postings, which we circulate to local law schools and to our partners. During the summer, when we have the most interns, we organize a summer orientation series, during which we introduce them to the team, train them on how to file USCIS forms, how to represent families in immigration court, explain the life of a case, and introduce other legal-related topics. Interns receive support during our weekly legal team meetings and regular check-ins with advocates.



1 Attorney volunteered 100 hours

4 Law Students volunteered 1,100 hours

2 Other Volunteers volunteered 20 hours

Each  icon is equal to 1 volunteer.

Attorneys are represented through the Green Figure.

Law Students and Other Volunteers are represented through the Grey Figure.

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATIONS

We collaborate with many grassroots organizations to deliver services. One significant collaboration is with our long-time partner CBST, as described above. The QIJP team regularly attends CBST monthly clinics for LGBTQIA+ clients seeking assistance with their asylum cases. The QIJP team provides free advice and counsel to attendees and trains volunteers to prepare legal cases before taking them on for full representation.

As part of the Rapid Response Legal Collaborative (RRLC), UnLocal meets biweekly with Make the Road New York (MRNY) and the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG). The team reviews intakes and discusses caseloads as well as any issues that arose. Additionally, we co-host training sessions for attorneys and organize joint campaigns.

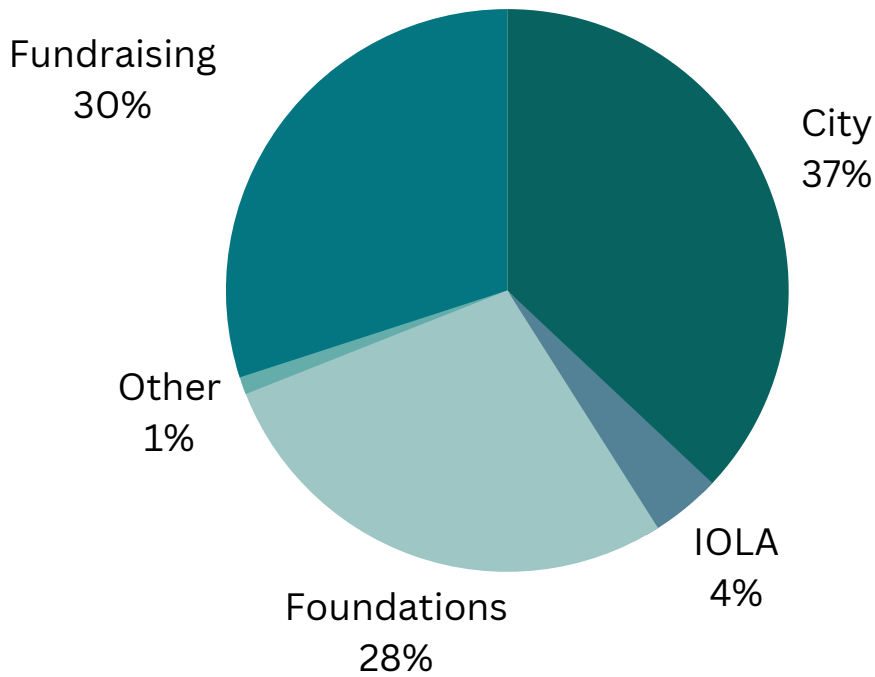
In addition, UnLocal is a steering committee member of the Bronx Immigration Partnership (BIP), a collaboration of community-based organizations that provide legal and social services for Bronx residents around their immigration-related needs. UnLocal attends bimonthly meetings with BIP and participates in collaborative events and presentations with BIP partners.

We are working closely with African Communities Together, Central American Legal Assistance, Catholic Migration Services, Masa, New York Legal Assistance Group, and Venezuelans and Immigrants Aid Inc. to launch the Pro Se Plus Project. We meet regularly to review procedures, discuss issues, develop solutions, and make improvements. Together, we have developed presentations, educational materials, and a shared calendar of events.

We partner with schools and grassroots organizations to deliver community education. Some partners include Evergreen Middle School, D79 PS, El Puente in Williamsburg, Mixteca, BronxWorks, La Red de Pueblos Trasnacionales, New Women New Yorkers and RIF Asylum support. We have had an ongoing partnership with ImmSchools since 2019 and we arrange workshops for educators, parents, and students on the barriers encountered by immigrant youth. We also collaborate with the NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs to deliver New York State Dream Act (NYSDA) presentations to community members and organizations.

SOURCES OF FUNDING

UnLocal received
\$1,894,946
in total funding this past year



Foundations	\$535,600
IOLA Grant	\$75,000
City and County Funding	\$707,276
Fundraising	\$562,856
Other	\$14,213
Total	\$1,894,946