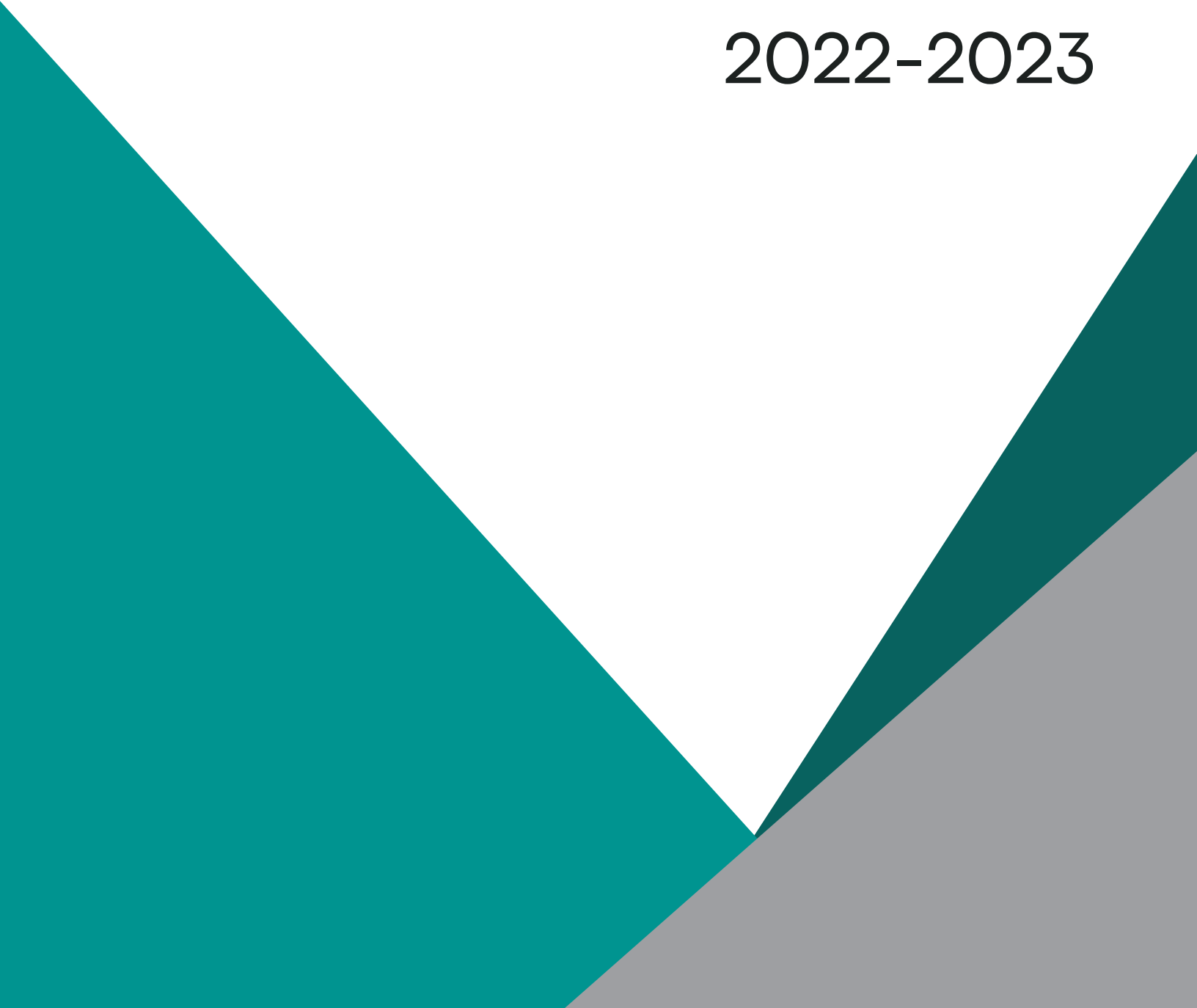


NEW YORK IMMIGRATION COALITION

2022-2023



OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS

The New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC) has made significant progress related to the administration of justice through its generous IOLA funding over the past year. During this grant year, we convened 187 organizations to coordinate service delivery and strategize on access to justice issues; 12,028 people through in-person presentations to community groups, provided interactive online trainings to 2,434 individuals, and reached 1,364 people through recorded online videos. The vast majority of our in-person presentations are to directly impacted community members, and the majority of our interactive trainings serve immigration service providers. Major accomplishments, described below and in more detail throughout this narrative report, include a completely new community-facing workshop on employment authorization document (EAD) applications; a new training series on immigrants and taxes; and a new volunteer cohort model that vastly expanded our volunteer program and capacity.

As a result of the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and the creation of the “Uniting for Ukraine” humanitarian parole program, over 20,000 Ukrainians have come to New York City fleeing the war. These individuals needed to apply for EADs in order to be able to support themselves, and there was insufficient legal help available for those who did not feel comfortable completing the applications themselves. In order to bridge this gap, the NYIC, working with the Immigrant Advocates Response Collaborative, created a recorded workshop providing step-by-step instructions for Ukrainian parolees to complete their EAD applications, and fee waiver applications if necessary, online. Recordings were made available in both Russian and Ukrainian, and the workshop was distributed through our website and throughout the online communities supporting recently-arrived Ukrainians. To date, it has been viewed over 1,364 times.



Population Served: Legal Service Providers of Immigrants and Refugees

Total Funding: \$1,556,970

Total IOLA Grant: \$95,850

Staffing Full Time Equivalents:

- Total Staff: 53
- Paralegals: 0
- Lawyers: 4
- Other: 49

For many immigration legal advocates working with clients, tax issues are a regular concern - tax filings are relevant to many applications as both evidence of income and assets, and proof of good moral character. However, advocates who are well-versed in immigration law often report being less confident about tax law and its impact on their clients. This past year, the NYIC created a series of new trainings demystifying important immigrant tax issues for legal and other social service providers working with immigrant communities. Nearly 200 people attended the sessions, which took place in June 2022 and received an enthusiastic response. Training attendees reported that the series really increased both their knowledge and comfort in dealing with these issues, and felt that their organizations were now in a better position to analyze their clients' tax circumstances and identify the appropriate type of assistance.

187
immigrant
& refugee
services
groups
assisted

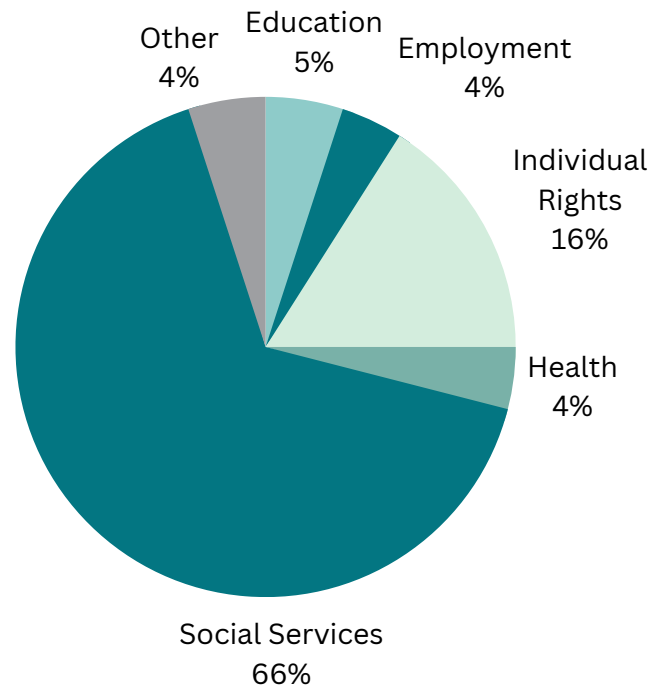
Finally, the NYIC has long used volunteers, and our need for them grew substantially over the last year as a result of both a return to in-person programming, and the arrival of roughly 60,000 new New Yorkers in need of assistance and information. In order to better meet our needs for volunteers at community events, we developed a volunteer cohort model for specific programs. In the past we have recruited volunteers for each from a single pool of individuals who have either worked with the NYIC in the past or expressed interest in doing so. With the cohort model, we set out to recruit volunteers for specific projects that would last between 6 months to a year, with clear expectations for participation in events and programming, team-building activities, and group communication channels. Cohorts were based on program area, language, and cultural competence. The model has been extremely successful, boosting recruitment and retention of volunteers far above past years. Specific recruitment numbers and hours are discussed below in the section on volunteering.

OTHER SERVICES: OVERVIEW

During the grant period, the NYIC has continued to provide a number of other legal related services to individuals, namely community legal education and online outreach - through our Immigrant Concerns Training Institute, Community Engagement programs, and immigrant-serving workshops and events.

Immigrant Concerns Training Institute

The NYIC’s Immigrant Concerns Training Institute offers free and low-cost trainings to attorneys, accredited representatives, and staff of community-based organizations serving New York State’s immigrant community. We have three primary audiences: first, we provide high-quality Continuing Legal Education (CLE) trainings to attorneys, both new and experienced, to support immigration legal service providers and enhance the quality of representation available to immigrant New Yorkers. Second, we support the expansion of immigration legal capacity in New York State by training new and experienced Department of Justice (DOJ) accredited representatives, and supporting organizations that seek to become DOJ-recognized, allowing them to host DOJ accredited representatives. Finally, we provide education on a broad range of legal and policy issues facing immigrant New Yorkers to non-legal service providers, such as case managers, health navigators, outreach staff, and social workers. Our main goal is to develop the skills and knowledge of professionals providing immigration legal services, and improve the quality and quantity of immigration legal services available to low-income New Yorkers across the state.



Types of Groups Assisted

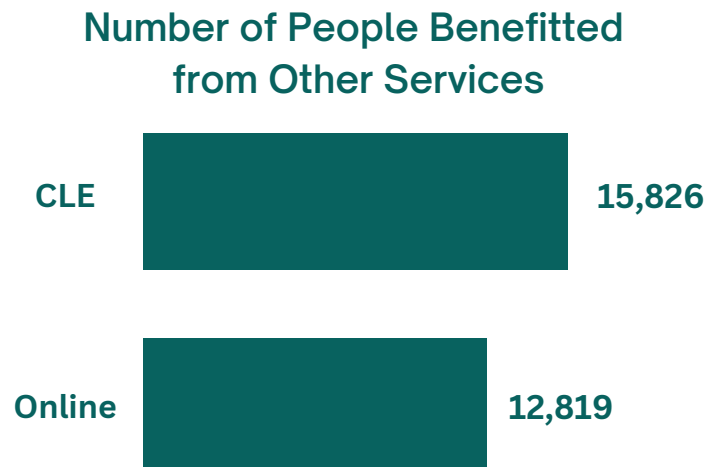
During the grant year, a total of 2,262 individuals received training through the Immigrant Concerns Training Institute. We offered two 40-hour trainings, which provide a comprehensive overview of immigration law, and several mini-series on topics including legal research and writing and immigration court practice. In addition, we covered topics such as interpretation for legal service providers, advanced asylum litigation, employment-based immigration, and immigrant access to child care, among others.

“Know Your Rights” Education & Community Events

We have a robust and extensive Know Your Rights (KYR) program, which was created to serve as an education guide for immigrant New Yorkers, so that they may learn more about their rights and the services that are available to them. The NYC’s KYR program has been a long-standing pillar of our community engagement work. We aim to share timely and accurate information regarding federal and state policies that impact our communities’ day-to-day lives and refer individuals to vetted partner organizations and agencies. Above all, we want to empower community members to feel confident in understanding and asserting their rights. Topics that are covered include recent changes in federal immigration policy, immigrants' rights when interacting with immigration officials, accessing legal services, and COVID-19 resources. As such, over the contract term, the NYC reached 13,562 individuals through both in person and online Know Your Rights sessions. To conduct these KYR sessions, the NYC partnered with libraries, shelters, local community-based organizations, and schools, offering both in-person and online workshops in both English and Spanish. Through these various community events, we provide opportunities to share pressing information and for communities to ask topic experts how to access services and protect themselves.

The NYC also has a number of existing materials that we share at community events, including a toolkit for immigrants in New York, which is a resource guide created for immigrants and allies that covers education, health, democracy, hate crime prevention, and more. Funding supported our work to update this toolkit on a bimonthly basis in 11 languages: English, Spanish, Arabic, Bengali, Burmese, Chinese, Creole, French, Karen, Nepali, and Somali. The toolkit is shared at events directly with community members, as well as with our partner organizations and through email blasts for further outreach.

28,645
 people benefitted
 from Services
 Other Than Direct
 Legal Services



OTHER SERVICES: TECHNOLOGY

While the NYIC has mostly transitioned back to in-person services at this point in the pandemic, we continue to maintain a presence in the online space in much of our programming because we found it to be an effective way to reach certain populations, and to supplement our in-person work. The skills and systems we built during the pandemic have continued to serve us; the NYIC regularly uses Zoom, social media, video editing and subtitling, streaming tools like Streamyard, and online live interpretation.

Data has a wide range of utility and untapped potential at the NYIC. Key to our mission is data efficacy, which serves as the cornerstone of any good policy making. We believe good data is often the first step towards good policy. The NYIC uses Salesforce as an organization, and has continued to refine our use of the database to better serve our partners. Some examples of the ways that we use Salesforce are to create quick registration systems for in-person events, to build and manage referral tools for partner organizations, and to pull reports for deliverables and to view trends for the data we collect in order to better serve our communities. To help us better organize our data and the use of the database, the NYIC hired an outside consultant, who specializes in the CRM Salesforce software to create new workflows, tracking capacity and further develop our relational database so we can easily identify and analyze trends, impact, capacity, funding, and areas of improvement. The NYIC's ultimate goal is to organize and tidy up all of our streams of data into long-standing reports, so we're able to properly utilize the relevant information when planning and executing the next course of action. This Salesforce consultant was just one of our steps towards continuing to invest in better data efficacy and organization.

In addition, this year we invested in building a member organization portal housed within Salesforce, which is aimed to provide an easily accessible place for all of NYIC's member organizations and support them in connecting to all the diverse programming and resources the NYIC has to offer. It is still in the early stages of development, but we envision this online portal to be a resource bank of documents, webinars, videos, etc.

OTHER SERVICES: TRAININGS

The NYC continues to prioritize leadership development for our staff at all levels. We hold bi-weekly professional development trainings for staff, which provide timely updates to policy changes, best practices in using technological tools, and briefings on internal systems. We provide frequent supervisor development opportunities, and have worked with external consultants to offer management skills building.

The NYC has completed a training series with the Community Resource Exchange (CRE) to create an organization-wide culture and team-building program. The NYC began this work in 2021, and continued to this day, by bringing together our teams, recruiting a representative taskforce, and developing a staff-wide survey. CRE helped us set up a staff CAT Force (Cultural Activation Task Force) who's an internal group that supports building the anchor and guides our organizational culture engagement. Our work with CRE is the first step for the NYC to engage in a larger DEI process and, we also engaged another consultant in a DEI process to create deep and lasting change. A shared set of operationalized values and a co-designed culture where everyone can contribute safely and meaningfully will not only make us a more effective organization, but will also position us for even more success as an organization.

With the changes in the last two years, an organizational leadership transition and the last strategic plan ending, the NYC needed to implement a new and ambitious strategic plan for the next five years with a focus on strengthening leadership, a racial justice lens to all the organizations does, supporting staff, and developing internal culture and processes to build our capacity. For this work, we hired Sikka Associates Inc. — who previously provided executive leadership training and media coaching to our executive leadership. We sought to develop a shared vision and clarity among staff and board members for the coming years that incorporates racial justice throughout our work. Key outcomes of this work included developing our theory of change and building consensus on our priorities and goals among the NYC's leadership for coming years; and that org-wide equity norms and practices are being established from our work on organizational culture and DEIA. At the end of 2022, the NYC concluded the development and finalized our next strategic plan spanning 2022-2027.

PRO BONO VOLUNTEERS

The NYCIC has historically had a strong volunteer program, and in 2022 we saw a huge resurgence in our need for and work with volunteers, after a slow-down brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting shift away from in-person work. As we have returned full-force to our in person services, and even increased them in some areas, we've welcomed back old volunteers and recruited many new ones.

Typically, we promote our volunteer program on our website where interested volunteers can directly sign up for an orientation. This year we also began adding QR codes for volunteer recruitment to our event flyers and calendars, and did more targeted outreach within specific communities for our cohort model, described above. In addition to the cohorts, we also continue to maintain a general mailing list of interested and trained volunteers, to which we send out upcoming volunteer opportunities when we need to supplement our cohorts or where there is an opportunity not tied to an existing program. On occasion, we may reach out to selected individuals based on their skills and experience. Volunteers are always provided with onsite training/orientation at the beginning of each service and, depending on the circumstances, may be required to attend a pre-service training as well. During the past fiscal year we recruited a total of 139 volunteers, of which 83 volunteers were active, and benefitted from 384 hours overall of volunteer service.

1 Law Student volunteered 4 hours

82 Other Volunteers volunteered 380 hours

SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATIONS

The strength of the NYCIC's work and role in increasing access to justice for immigrant New Yorkers lies in its partnerships and collaborations with its own member organizations and other partner organizations throughout the State. Through our organizing and strategy efforts and our issue-focused collaboratives, we are able to adapt and respond to policy changes and urgent service needs, as well as push for increased access to justice and critical benefits. The NYCIC engages members in

convenings and our annual goal setting process through several ways including a member congress, our annual roundtables, surveys, and monthly briefings. Through this close relationship with our members and our regional staff stationed around the State, we create established channels to hear the priorities, opportunities, and emerging needs that make us more effective and responsive in achieving our mission. These connections with our member organizations ensure that our campaigns are rooted in the needs of immigrant communities across the state. We are at a critical moment, and the NYIC membership along with their networks plays a direct role in prioritizing how we continue to shape our work in this climate. Bringing our members together also strengthens the nationwide network of partners working to facilitate access to care and coverage for New York's immigrant communities.

In Western New York, we connected virtually and in-person with partners across the region, from Justice for Migrant Families in Buffalo, to Alianza Agrícola in Geneseo, to Refugees Helping Refugees in Rochester. Along with our coalition members, the NYIC participated in the fight to secure funding for Immigrant Legal Services, a NYIC-led campaign. In 2022, we secured a 22% increase in funding with the support from both houses of the Legislature as well as the Governor. In 2022, we also had a huge victory in securing additional health opportunities for immigrant communities in New York. Specifically, we worked with longstanding partners within the Coverage4All Coalition, which we co-lead, to successfully expand Medicaid coverage to all seniors 65 years and older, as well as eligible women, regardless of immigration status, for up to 12 months post-pregnancy. This expansion of Medicaid is one of the largest in recent history with over \$220 million in funding being secured.

Support to Immigrant Legal Services: Immigrant Advocates Response Collaborative

The NYIC previously housed the Immigrant Advocates Response Collaborative (Immigrant ARC) which coordinated legal service provision for immigrants in moments of rapid response in immigration law. The NYIC's connections to legal service providers and role as a coordinator of organizations across the state allowed us to incubate this crucial program. Now that Immigrant ARC has become an independent organization, the NYIC continues to be a partner, sitting on the steering committee and working closely and collaboratively during moments of rapid response. This relationship was of critical importance during the late Summer and Fall of 2022, as thousands of asylum seekers arrived in the city and service providers worked tirelessly to build new systems and reach these populations.

In 2022, New York City experienced one of the largest increases of asylum seekers and migrants in recent history. It began when Governor Abbott of Texas started to bus asylum seekers from the Southern Border to Washington D.C. as a political stunt

designed to raise his national brand in an election year. As New York began to respond to incoming asylum seekers arriving via Washington D.C., Governor Abbott began sending buses directly to New York. These buses were sent with zero coordination, meaning that, at any given moment, one or up to five buses filled with individuals in search of asylum could arrive at Port Authority without notice. Bus riders were then left with no one to greet them, no understanding of where they were or what they should or could do to protect themselves and their families. Not long after Abbott began sending buses, Arizona's Governor and then the Mayor of El Paso Texas followed suit. As of today, New York City has received more than 45,000 asylum seekers in the past 9 months.

To help to meet the newcomers' overwhelming and unmet needs, the NYIC quickly launched the Welcoming NY campaign to ensure service coordination and support: emergency shelter, healthcare, legal assistance, food, and basic essentials; offering direct support to arriving individuals by providing items necessary for basic survival; and communicating with our state, federal, and membership partners to create a response to provide housing and the vital wraparound supports to facilitate the necessary humanitarian response. The NYIC was central to these efforts, coordinating with the City and with Immigrant ARC to both manage arrivals on the ground, and push for stronger systems and information sharing across the board. The NYIC took part in regular Immigrant ARC conversations as well as weekly rapid response meetings to track developments in the issue, share best practices and resources, and develop longer term plans for response. The arrival of asylum seekers isn't abating now that the elections have passed but is in fact growing with Colorado and Arizona joining Texas in busing migrants to New York City. As a result, there are increased and emerging humanitarian needs that call for a sizable response from our community; a response that will ensure all of our newest New Yorkers are able to not only survive here, but thrive. This is a critical juncture in time, one when New York finds itself faced with an historic opportunity to provide a path forward that will set the standard for the city and the state, as well as for the country as a whole.

DOJ Recognition and Accreditation

The Immigrant Concerns Training Institute, in addition to hosting trainings in support of organizations and staff seeking DOJ recognition and accreditation (DOJ R&A), also provides technical assistance to organizations and staff who are applying for the program. This includes application review, in-depth telephone consultations for agency staff, and advice on best practices, submission packets, and responses to issues like requests for evidence. This work is critical, as it is one of the most cost-effective ways to increase legal services capacity in New York State. Organizations

that cannot easily bring on board additional attorneys are able to train and seek accreditation for their existing services staff to provide a wide array of immigration legal services to the communities they serve. Nearly every DOJ recognized organization in New York State either an NYC member organization, has attended our DOJ R&A trainings, or both. The NYC collaborates closely with New York based organizations in the process of applying to the DOJ - providing tools, templates and tips for successful applications. The NYC also participates in a national working group on DOJ R&A, which serves as an important venue for sharing information about adjudication trends, strategizing on challenging issues in individual organization’s applications, and addressing areas of concern directly with EOIR about how they are administering the program.

SOURCES OF FUNDING

New York Immigration Coalition received
\$1,556,970
 in total funding this past year

IOLA Grant	\$95,850
City and County	\$1,355,520
Foundations	\$37,500
State Funding	\$68,100
Total	\$1,556,970

