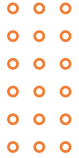


# IMPACT CAMPAIGN 2021-2025

*Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project envisions a world where systems are rooted in justice and equity; where everyone reaches their full potential without barriers created by racism and injustice.*



IMMIGRANT LEGAL ADVOCACY PROJECT



***Our vision is bigger than ILAP. While we fight for justice in the immigration system and for our clients, we know that the success of our mission is connected to the many partners working alongside us for social and racial justice, especially organizations led by immigrants and people of color in Maine.***



## **ILAP Strategic Goals 2021-2025**

- 1** *Increase access to justice by providing more legal assistance and strengthening outreach.*
- 2** *Make ILAP's services equitable for immigrants statewide.*
- 3** *Advance racial justice and equity for immigrants through advocacy and federal litigation.*
- 4** *Grow and sustain ILAP's fiscal health, infrastructure, and human resources, while centering our work in equity and anti-racism.*

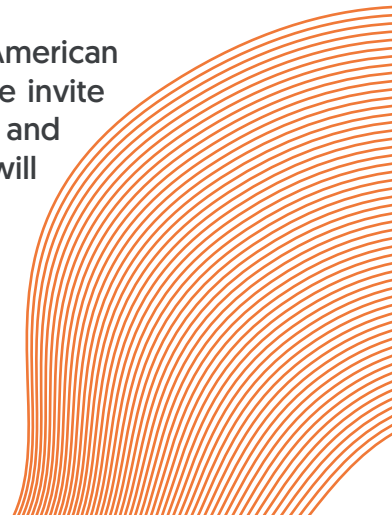




We have seen how our immigration laws can be manipulated by an administration hostile to immigrants and set on deporting or denying entry to people because of their race or religion. We cannot go back to the punitive, anti-humanitarian immigration policies that date back decades. Instead, we must look forward and build a new immigration system that welcomes those who come to the United States to seek safety, reunite with family, or pursue a better life.



We must act now if we want our immigration laws and policies to reflect American ideals of freedom, justice, and opportunity. In this important moment, we invite you to join us as we work to expand immigration legal services in Maine and fight alongside partner immigrant-led organizations for a system that will benefit us all.



## Why now?

- + *We continue to see an increasing need for immigration legal services in Maine.*
- + *We have the chance to push ahead with bold plans for change under the Biden Administration.*
- + *We are committed to helping build a just recovery from the pandemic for all Mainers.*
- + *We recently completed a strategic plan that lays out our roadmap for the next five years.*
- + *We have the expertise and experience, built over the last 25 years, to take action now.*





By increasing access to justice, more immigrants living in Maine will gain legal status, find stability, and pursue the hopes and dreams they have for themselves and their families. It will also strengthen our communities, ensuring the many contributions of our immigrant neighbors are recognized and valued.

**Join ILAP's \$5 million Impact Campaign to help us change systems and lives.** Together, we will help more people navigate the increasingly unjust immigration laws we have now, while we push for changes that will create a just and equitable immigration system for the future.

.....

.....



1

# Increase Access to Justice by Providing More Legal Assistance and Strengthening Outreach

***Providing legal representation to clients without legal status and those in danger of violence and persecution is a core part of ILAP's mission. We must redouble our efforts to meet the need today and in the coming years.***

.....

*ILAP clients and their Pro Bono Panel attorneys celebrate a grant of asylum in the halls of Boston Immigration Court.*

.....

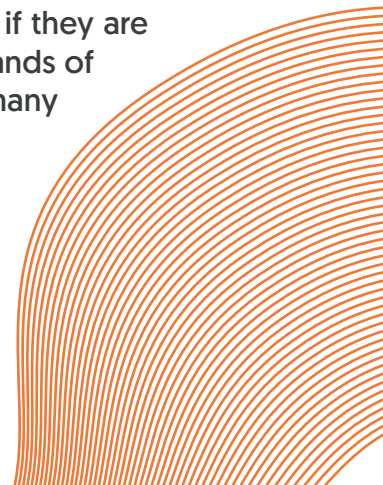




As Maine welcomes people seeking asylum and children and youth from war-torn countries seeking safety, the immigration processes designed to protect them have become increasingly unfair and difficult to navigate without legal guidance. Anti-immigrant policies have also made it more difficult for survivors of domestic violence, crime, and trafficking to get legal status, and have left most people who are out of legal status with few options for remaining in the U.S. with their loved ones.

To reach the basic human aspirations of personal safety, family unity, and economic security, immigrants now face a system that one immigration judge likened to “death penalty cases in a traffic court setting,” with no government-paid attorney if they are unable to afford their own. For more than 25 years, ILAP has helped thousands of clients gain asylum, reunify with family, and earn their citizenship. But many more face an unjust and confusing immigration system alone.

With immigration reform bills on the horizon, we also anticipate that we may have to quickly expand our services for people who qualify. They will need accurate information and help navigating any new application processes for legal status. To meet more of the demand for free immigration legal services across the state, ILAP must continue to grow.



At the same time, we need to augment our community legal education and provide more types of assistance to those we cannot represent. This includes important online resources, client education materials, and self-help guides that were created for the remote environment, but will remain essential tools for people we cannot provide with an attorney.

***ILAP must grow to meet the increasing demand for high-priority cases. This Campaign will help thousands more Mainers each year find safety, keep their families together, and achieve financial stability.***

.....

2

## **Make ILAP's Services Equitable for Immigrants Statewide**

***More and more people outside of Greater Portland need accessible and affordable immigration legal help. We must reach purposefully to all corners of Maine, from York to Aroostook counties.***

.....







*Keep families like José and Michelle's, originally from Honduras, together.*



ILAP has been a statewide organization since our founding in 1993. Over the last five years, we have opened an office in Lewiston, set up bi-monthly legal services in Milbridge in Washington County, and created a Rural Maine Project to reach all corners of the state more holistically.

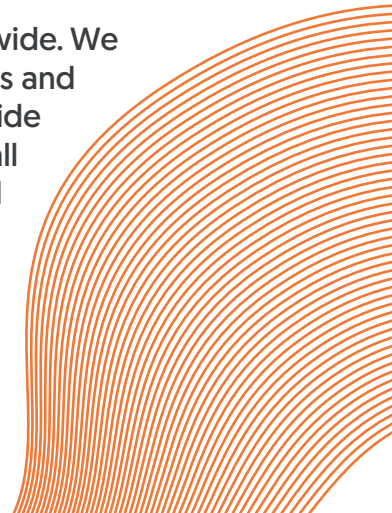
A recently completed review of community resources and immigration legal needs throughout Maine, however, found that transportation and isolation still present significant challenges to the delivery of services in many areas. Families with low incomes living in rural communities face additional challenges, such as lack of childcare or the inability to take time off from work, that can make it impossible to get legal help in their immigration cases.



Aggressive immigration enforcement and racial profiling have compounded those difficulties by making many immigrants, especially immigrants of color, more fearful of travelling. And the COVID-19 pandemic has added yet another hurdle, with many immigrant communities experiencing severe health and economic disparities that will have long-term consequences.



To address these inequities, ILAP will continue to expand our services statewide. We will grow our Lewiston office to provide more assistance to asylum seekers and other immigrants in the area. Through our Rural Maine Project, we will provide more robust statewide legal services and community legal education in all sixteen counties using technology and collaborations with local organizations and community-led groups.



***ILAP must bring accessible immigration legal services to our clients where they are.*** This Campaign will ensure that distance is not a barrier for accessing vital immigration legal services in our mostly rural state.

• • • • •

# 3 Advance Racial Justice and Equity for Immigrants through Advocacy and Federal Litigation

***It is more important than ever for us to be forward looking and proactively change the immigration system through advocacy and federal litigation, rather than simply reacting to anti-immigrant laws and policies.***

*Stand alongside people like Jocelyne, from Burundi, as their families build their lives in Maine.*

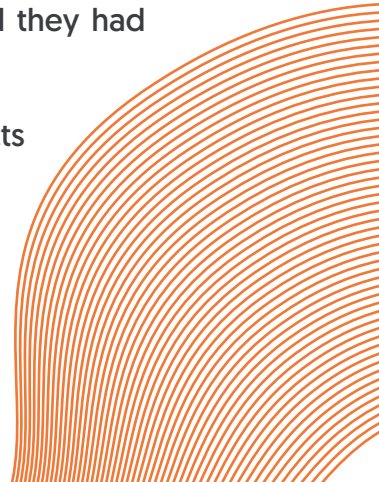




The U.S. immigration system is rooted in a history of racism, exacerbated by the over-policing of Black and Brown communities which feeds disproportionate numbers of community members of color into the hands of immigration enforcement. Despite the committed efforts of activists and community advocates, detention, mistreatment, deportation, and family separation frequently result. These systems threaten due process rights throughout the country, including Maine.

Our entire state also lies within the “100-Mile Border Zone” where immigration authorities can operate with greater impunity. A recent focus group of immigrants in rural Maine reported racial profiling as a serious problem. Almost all participants said they had been followed by police and stopped and questioned without cause.

There is a movement to rebuild the U.S. immigration system so that it reflects true justice and equity. ILAP is honored to be a part of it and joins with local and national organizations led by immigrants and people of color in the immigrant justice movement. Together, we advocate for changes to federal law and policy and challenge unjust laws and due process violations in court.



We also work with our network of partners on state and local advocacy issues that impact immigrant rights or have immigration consequences, such as reform of the criminal legal system and efforts that advance racial justice under the law.

***ILAP must do more to create a new immigration system rather than merely reforming the current one that is rooted in systemic racism. This Campaign will make us more effective partners in the immigrant justice movement locally and nationally.***

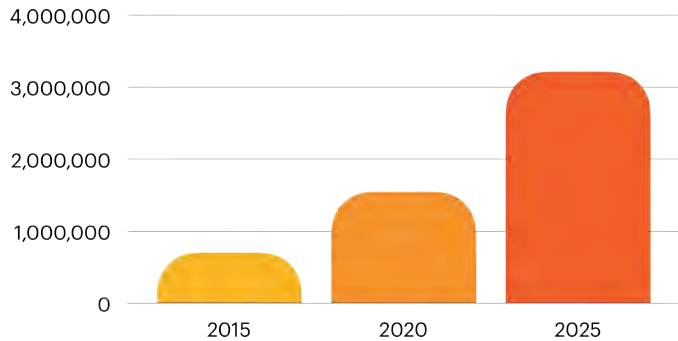
.....

4

## **Grow and Sustain ILAP's Fiscal Health, Infrastructure, and Human Resources, While Centering our Work in Equity and Anti-Racism**

***We must build ILAP's financial strength to expand the delivery of our services, push for systemic change, and respond to urgent needs as they arise.***

.....



Over the last five years, ILAP's budget, staff, services, and infrastructure have grown significantly, reflecting profound commitment from our community. Support from individuals, businesses, and foundations provides more than 90% of our revenue. Dedicated volunteers donate thousands of hours of time and talent through *pro bono* representation, translation, interpretation, and advocacy each year. Former clients and community members bravely speak out and share their stories to shine a light on the injustices in our immigration system.

ILAP Growth 2015-2025

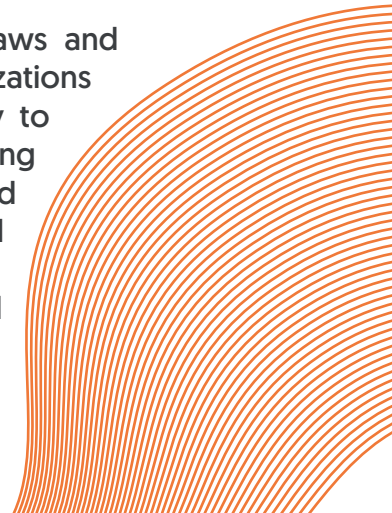




Yet the demand for immigration legal services in Maine and the need for systemic change have outpaced our growth and will remain acute for the foreseeable future. ILAP recently completed a five-year strategic plan to guide our response to these needs, setting the goals reflected in this Campaign. As we fulfill our mission in this difficult environment, we must support our highly trained and dedicated staff with fair compensation, ample professional opportunities, and a commitment to wellness.



And as we work to dismantle white supremacy in our immigration laws and systems, we must bring this same lens to immigration legal services organizations like ours. To that end, ILAP is investing in the internal work necessary to integrate equity and anti-racism into all aspects of our organization, including programming and services, advocacy, interactions with clients and communities, development, internal staff policies and culture, and board governance. In this effort, we will center the voices of Black and immigrant-led partners to build a more inclusive organization and movement.





***ILAP must continue to grow and build a strong foundation for the future. This Campaign will ensure that we can meet the priorities identified in our recently completed strategic plan and move ahead boldly into our next 25 years.***

▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪



# Your Impact

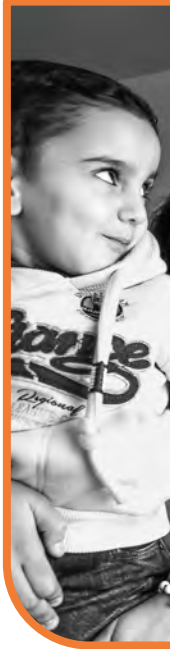
***Together, we can help more Mainers navigate an immigration system that has grown increasingly unjust, advocate for laws and policies grounded in justice and equity, and ensure ILAP's continued growth and transformation.***

To reach these ambitious goals, we have set a target of raising \$5 million in commitments over the next five years. We launch this important campaign with the confidence that long-time and new supporters alike will show up for and stand alongside ILAP and Maine's immigrant community, as they have for the last 25 years.

***If you can, please consider a one-time or multi-year financial commitment beyond your previous level of giving. Many donors are choosing to make a pledge up to five years and every new dollar adds to our collective impact.***



***+ Please contact Development Director Laura Simocko at [lsimocko@ilapmaine.org](mailto:lsimocko@ilapmaine.org) or 207-699-4407 to be a part of this critical campaign.***





Welcome families like Yassin and Fadia's, who fled Syria and found safety in Maine.

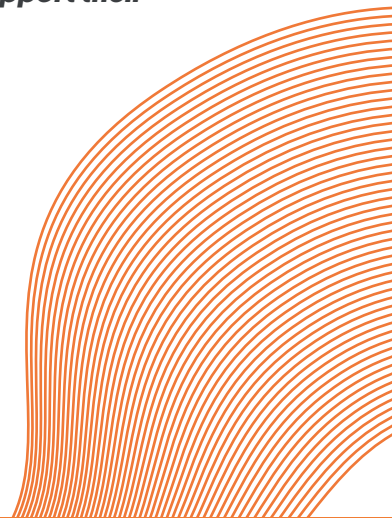


## You can help:

- + **Serve 3,000 more people each year** in addition to thousands more who will benefit from systemic advocacy and impact litigation.
- + **Improve our services statewide** by hiring more lawyers and staff to represent clients and investing in technology and community relationships.
- + **Advocate for people in our current immigration system**, while working alongside local, regional, and national partners to help create a more just future.



***We are committed to centering community in this Campaign, which means grounding our work in race, equity, and social justice and prioritizing the community over individual organizations. While we work to meet our goals, we will partner with Black and immigrant-led organizations and community groups to support their initiatives and strengthen Maine's immigrant justice movement.***



# Thank you for your support!

We deeply appreciate your generous support of ILAP's work, which is only possible because of community members like you and our robust network of partners, including the organizations and coalitions below. If you are able, please consider supporting other organizations in Maine's immigrant justice movement, especially those that are immigrant-led:

- + ACLU of Maine
- + Asylum Seekers Working Group
- + Campaign for Justice
- + Community-Centric Fundraising - Maine
- + Immigrant Resource Center of Maine
- + Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition
- + Maine Immigration Assistance Providers
- + Maine Mobile Health Program
- + Mano en Mano / Hand in Hand
- + Refugee and Human Rights Clinic at the University of Maine School of Law
- + Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) Predicate Order Working Group



# Notes

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



We were connected to ILAP and ever since **there's been a sparkle over all of our lives.**

▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪

– former ILAP client

I need you to tell all the **wonderful team of ILAP** that I volunteer as a simple way to convey my appreciation of what you are doing for the immigration community - your help and assistance is **HUGE!**

▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪

– ILAP volunteer

I am so happy and thankful, but I also cannot forget my situation in the past. I really thank America and everyone who helped me get where I am now. **I thank ILAP and everyone who did anything for our case.**

▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪

– former ILAP client

As an immigrant, I appreciate how arduous the process is. **Thank you for helping those who are looking to make Maine their home.**

▪ ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪

– ILAP donor



***Thank you for your support,** whatever form it takes. Achieving justice for immigrants will take the participation of all of us.*



[www.ilapmaine.org](http://www.ilapmaine.org)

Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project  
P.O. Box 17917  
Portland, ME 04112  
(207) 780-1593  
[contact@ilapmaine.org](mailto:contact@ilapmaine.org)

