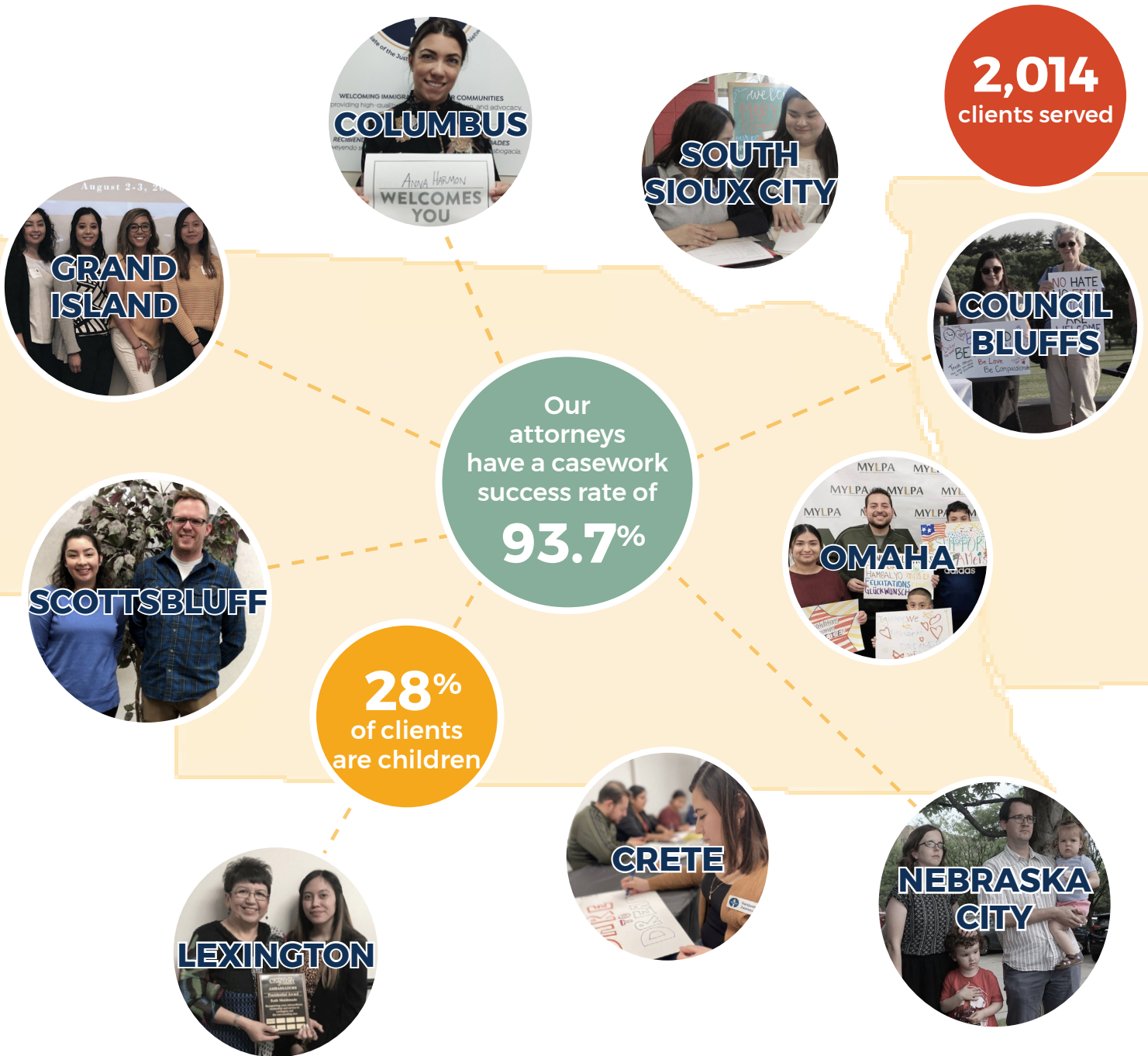


2019 ANNUAL REPORT



WELCOMING IMMIGRANTS
INTO OUR COMMUNITIES

A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION



NINE OFFICES ACROSS NEBRASKA AND SOUTHWEST IOWA

Our staff invest time in building strong community relationships and true community engagement, by giving presentations, serving as a trusted resource and source of information, and participating in local leadership programs. Our staff and volunteers make a meaningful impact in the communities we serve.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the support you have shown the thousands of people who turn to Immigrant Legal Center in their time of need. We are proud to join with you to advocate for immigrant rights and stand in solidarity with all those who have been victims of crime, abuse, or persecution.



This annual report highlights the tremendous accomplishments of former Executive Director Emiliano Lerda, and the entire Immigrant Legal Center team over the past year. I know I join many in thanking Emiliano for his leadership. What started as a few offices in a church basement, is now the largest nonprofit provider of legal immigration services in the state of Nebraska.

Anti-immigrant rhetoric and the volatile legal landscape present huge challenges in the communities we serve. Understandably, immigrants and those close to them, feel unprecedented levels of fear and confusion. The future, for many, is uncertain.

Now is the time to build on the accomplishments you find in the pages here. As ILC moves further into our third decade of service, we are shifting our focus to long-term sustainability in this ever-changing field of immigration. We look forward to fostering relationships with existing and new community partners to advance our shared goals and working to deepen ties in our community, especially in rural Nebraska.

The generosity of foundations, corporations, volunteers, supporters, and all who believe that everyone is deserving of dignity and respect are critical to our success. Thank you for your compassion and support.

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Erik Omar'.

Erik Omar, *Executive Director*

UNPRECEDENTED CHANGE EXTRAORDINARY NEED



HIGH-QUALITY LEGAL SERVICES

Since January 2017, there have been nearly 800 distinct immigration law or policy changes. It is vital that all individuals pursuing immigration relief have access to high-quality legal services, regardless of their ability to pay. We assist with all forms of family and humanitarian-based immigration, but specialize in the most complex, time and resource-intensive cases.

- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status
- U-Visa, T-Visa, and Violence Against Women Act
- Affirmative and Defensive Asylum
- Removal/Deportation Defense



EDUCATION

We provide factual, timely information about the U.S. immigration system to immigrant and nonimmigrant communities and professional audiences.

IN 2019, WE GAVE 80 PRESENTATIONS TO 6,000+ PEOPLE

To counter announcements of widespread enforcement actions and expedited removals, we doubled our efforts to equip immigrants and allies with **Know Your Rights and Safety Planning**. This critical information advises all residents, regardless of immigration status, of their constitutional rights if they encounter immigration enforcement officers and how best to prepare their families in an event of deportation.

To request a presentation or invite ILC to participate in an event, email education@immigrantlc.org.



We welcome immigrants into our communities by providing high-quality legal services, education, and advocacy.



ADVOCACY

In collaboration with nonprofit organizations, we advocate for fundamental policy changes at the local, state, and federal levels. In addition, we provide technical research and assistance for bills related to secondary education requirements and access to benefits.

ENSURING IMMIGRANTS CAN SAFELY WORK, LIVE, AND THRIVE IN THE UNITED STATES.

During the most recent legislative session, we advocated for immigrants through support of several key bills.

LB 745, our legislative priority, would bring much-needed accountability and uniformity to state law enforcement's processing of certification requests for U and T-visa applications. We're honored to have worked closely with Senator Blood's office and the Women's Fund of Omaha to assist in drafting, revision, education, and lobbying of this bill.



AMPLIFYING IMPACT THROUGH COLLABORATION

We are grateful for our partner organizations support of our efforts to welcome immigrants to Nebraska and southwest Iowa communities. Our collaborations amplify our impact. Working with other nonprofits, faith communities, schools, public officials, and local leaders helps us take a holistic approach to our clients' complex, interwoven needs.

THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED LEGAL PARTNERS

With a continuous waitlist, our legal staff is accustomed to working at maximum capacity. We thank our legal colleagues who provide advice on legal matters outside our expertise, accept ILC referrals for pro bono assistance, and regularly volunteer to provide friend of the court guidance for our Attorney of the Day program.

- Raziel Arguetta, *Sonia Parras Law*
- Brian Blackford, *Blackford Law*
- Maren Chaloupka, *Chaloupka, Holyoke, Snyder, Chaloupka & Longoria*
- David Chipman, *Monzon Guerra*
- Chawnta Durham, *Lindemeier Law Offices*
- Henry Evans, *Evans Law*
- Kristen Fearnow, *Doman Law Team*
- Rose Godinez, *ACLU of Nebraska*
- Joel Hatch, *Jason Finch & Associates*
- Laurel Heer Dale, *Nebraska State Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project*
- Nancy Lopez, *Centro Hispano*
- Joseph Lopez Wilson, *Lopez Wilson Law Office*
- Joseph Lord, *Curley Immigration*
- Audrey Lutz, *Multicultural Coalition of Grand Island*
- Shirley Mora James, *Mora James Law*
- Ann Naffier, *Justice For Our Neighbors – Iowa*
- Daniel Oldenburg, *Cline Williams, Wright, Johnson & Oldfather*
- Heidi Oligmueller, *Olegmueller Law*
- Andrea Paret, *Mary J. Treglia Community House*
- Sonia Parras Konrad, *Sonia Parras Law*
- Lesley Perez, *Centro Hispano*
- Elena Reveiz, *Women's Center for Advancement*
- Mindy Rush Chipman, *Lincoln Commission on Human Rights*
- Shannon Seim, *Nebraska State Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project*
- Nathan J. Stratton, *Stratton, Stratton, DeLay, Carlson, Buettner & Stover*
- Revathi Truong, *Vriezelaar, Tigges, Edgington, Bottaro, Boden & Roxx*
- University of Nebraska College of Law Immigration Clinic



FINANCIALS

IMMIGRANT LEGAL CENTER STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (UNAUDITED) FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2019.

REVENUE

2019 Total

Contributions and Grants	\$1,263,437
Special Events	\$398,902
Earned Income	\$194,644
Other Income	\$14,216
Total Revenue	\$1,871,199*

EXPENSES

Administrative	\$867,495
Fundraising	\$289,402
Programs	\$2,310,533
Total Expense	\$3,467,430

Change in Net Assets	(\$1,596,231)
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$8,228,109
Net Assets, end of year	\$6,631,878

IMMIGRANT LEGAL CENTER IS A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION.
OUR TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER IS **74-3195841**.

*REVENUE DOES NOT INCLUDE FUNDING SECURED IN PRIOR YEARS FOR USE IN 2019



SARA'S STORY

THREE VOLUNTEERS CAME TOGETHER

In 2019, three volunteers came together to defend Sara, a young mother, who was charged after fleeing violence to protect herself and her children. Maren Chaloupka, a Scottsbluff civil rights lawyer with a national practice, accepted the pro bono referral. With the help of Nathan Stratton, a Norfolk civil rights and criminal defense litigator, and Kaitlin Larimer, an Omaha psychotherapist and trial consultant, they successfully defended Sara in criminal proceedings.

AN ILC VICTORY PROVIDES A PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP

Sara was then transferred to immigration detention, and ILC attorneys filed U-Visa and asylum applications. ILC successfully defended Sara, she was granted asylum, and she was released from detention. This successful result will provide Sara with a pathway to citizenship.



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO HELP US WELCOME OUR NEWEST NEIGHBORS.

OUR CLIENTS INSPIRE US

Serving clients from **55** countries

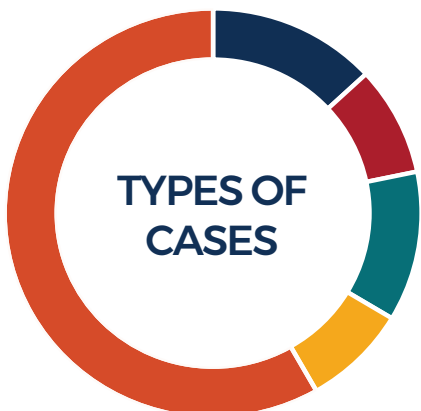


- Mexico - 38%
- Guatemala - 24%
- El Salvador - 12%
- Honduras - 6%
- Other Latin American Countries - 6%
- Africa - 10%
- Asia - 3%
- Other - 1%

CASES WORKED

2014: 1,664
 2015: 2,011
 2016: 2,726
 2017: 3,410
 2018: 3,821
 2019: 4,297

- Omaha - 47%
- Lincoln - 3%
- Iowa - 13%
- Eastern Nebraska - 10%
- Grand Island - 7%
- Lexington - 3%
- Central Nebraska - 4%
- Western Nebraska - 4%
- Other - 9%



- Family-based/work permits, DACA/ other - 58%
- Special Immigrant Juvenile - 9%
- UVisa/VAWA/TVisa - 12%
- Asylum - 8%
- Removal - 13%



5TH ANNUAL FOOD TRUCK WORLD TOUR RAISED A RECORD \$239,000!

HONORARY CHAIRS

Kristin Williams & Roxanne Wiles

HOST COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Ryan Ellis & Jonathan Taylor
Esther Mejia & Jeneen Sagon

WORLD TRAVELERS

Susan & Mike Lebens
Annette & Paul Smith
Betiana & Todd Simon
Omaha Steaks
Polina & Bob Schlott
Warren Distribution
Weitz Family Foundation

Our 5th annual Food Truck World Tour surpassed our expectations! We entertained more than 500 guests and raised \$239,000 – \$36,000 was raised in only five short minutes during our Gifts from the Heart appeal.

Attendees enjoyed an evening of ethnic, mouth-watering food and lively performances. Our venue allowed plenty of space for all to mingle and enjoy friends and family.

Thank you to food trucks MARIA Bonita Mexican Cuisine, Chaima's African Cuisine, El Arepon Venezuela Food, Omaha Steaks, and to Coneflower Creamery and Rico Pan for topping off the night with delicious dessert!



A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION

NEBRASKA IMMIGRATION LEGAL ASSISTANCE

NILAH is a centralized hotline for low-income residents of Nebraska and southwest Iowa seeking immigration legal assistance. We began operating NILAH in 2018 on behalf of 11 nonprofits. In 2019, NILAH screened callers from 21 Nebraska counties; nearly half of callers are from outside of Omaha.



NEED IMMIGRATION LEGAL HELP?

Monday through Friday: 9:00am – 3:00pm CT

Call **1.855.307.6730** to determine if you are eligible for a consultation.

THANK YOU!



“Thank you to all those who supported Immigrant Legal Center over the past year, and helped increase the number of cases worked to an organizational high of 4,297! On behalf of the board of directors, we are proud to welcome Erik Omar as our new Executive Director, and are grateful for the leadership of our former director Emiliano Lerda. Together, we are making a difference in our community. Thank you for believing in our work. **There is more to do, but we can and will do it together.**”

Mary L. Umberger, *Chair, Board of Directors*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary L. Umberger, *Chair*

Thomas Simms, *Chair-elect*

Denise Powell, *Secretary*

Mike McMeekin, *Treasurer*

Erik Omar, *Executive Director*

Lester Katz

Esther Mejia

Emily Moody

Mick Mulhall

Jonathan Wegner

LOCATIONS

OMAHA, NE

4223 Center St
Omaha, NE 68105

COLUMBUS, NE

Centro Hispano
3020 18th St, Ste 7
Columbus, NE 68601

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA

Centro Latino of Iowa
300 W Broadway, Ste 40
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

CRETE, NE

United Church of Christ, 1st
Congregational
440 E 12th St
Crete, NE 68333

GRAND ISLAND, NE

Great Western Bank
1811 West 2nd St, Ste 325
Grand Island, NE 68803

LEXINGTON, NE

2401 Plum Creek Pkwy, Ste 2
Lexington, NE 68850

NEBRASKA CITY, NE

611 Central Ave, Ste B & C
Nebraska City, NE 68410

SCOTTSBLUFF, NE

615 S Beltline Highway W
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NE

Unity in Action
1000 West 29th St, Ste 320
South Sioux City, NE 68776

YOU CAN HELP

Your donation supports those in need in our community - survivors of violence, children who are abused or abandoned, and those who have fled persecution in their own countries. Make a gift and learn more at immigrantlc.org.

IMMIGRANT LEGAL CENTER

An Affiliate of the Justice For Our Neighbors Network

4223 Center Street | Omaha, NE 68105 | P: 402.898.1349 | F: 402.502.4604 | immigrantlc.org

