



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Empowering immigrants to live with confidence and free from fear.



OUR MISSION

Immigrant Legal Center (ILC) welcomes immigrants into our communities by providing high-quality legal services, education, and advocacy.

OUR VISION

We empower immigrants to live with confidence and free from fear.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Perhaps the best and only word to describe 2020 is unprecedented.

No one could have predicted that a global pandemic would put the world at a standstill. However, because of your support, and our resilient staff, we came together and rose to the occasion of COVID-19. Together we advocated for immigrant rights and stood in solidarity with those who have been victims of crime, abuse, and persecution.



Throughout 2020 our capacity to deliver high-quality legal services did not diminish. We worked 3,045 cases, serving more than 1,400 clients throughout Nebraska and southwest Iowa with a 93 percent case success rate.

The immigration legal landscape is rapidly changing and we are coordinating efforts to respond to the anticipated increase in demand for immigration legal services. As we continue our efforts to respond to President Biden's immigration related executive actions, ILC is working to make people aware that comprehensive immigration reform is imperative.

I humbly ask you to reach out to your representatives and tell them we need comprehensive immigration reform now.

Your support and generosity play an integral role empowering immigrants to live with confidence and free from fear. Thank you for helping us welcome our newest neighbors to Nebraska and southwest Iowa.

In gratitude,

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

Erik Omar, JD
Executive Director

UNPRECEDENTED TIMES EXTRAORDINARY SERVICES



HIGH-QUALITY LEGAL SERVICES

It is vital that all individuals pursuing immigration relief have access to high-quality legal services, regardless of ability to pay. ILC's diverse team of experts assist with all forms of family and humanitarian-based immigration, but specialize in the most complex, time consuming and resource-intensive cases.

- Asylum
- Removal/Deportation Defense
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)
- Refugee Services
- Family-based Options
- DACA
- U-Visa, T-Visa, and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
- Naturalization
- Temporary Protected Status (TPS)



EDUCATION

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

In 2020 there were 329 distinct immigration law or policy changes. Out of the 329, 72 were COVID-19 related and 57 were Presidential Orders.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, our staff continued to equip immigrants and allies with critical information and training to help individuals understand the complex immigration legal system.

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



ADVOCACY

In collaboration with partner organizations, we advocate for fundamental policy changes at the local, state, and federal level. In addition, we provide technical support, analysis, and testimony on state and federal legislative matters affecting immigrants.

THROUGH IMPACT LITIGATION AND LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY ILC IS ACTIVELY CHANGING IMMIGRATION LAWS AND POLICIES.

During the 2020 legislative session, we advocated for immigrants through support of several key bills.

In August 2020, our legislative priority bill LB 745 amended to LB 512 was signed into law by Governor Pete Ricketts. We are honored to have worked with Senators Carol Blood and Lou Ann Linehan, and the Women's Fund of Omaha who introduced and championed this legislative relief for victims in Nebraska.

The bill brings uniformity to law enforcement's receipt and processing of victims' requests to certify certain crimes, including sexual assault and human trafficking.

Because of ILC's advocacy, a client of more than three years was able to apply for U-Visa status, and if the U-Visa application is approved this will provide a pathway to citizenship.

Scan the code to read her story.



THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED FUNDERS

We depend on the generosity of our community to provide high-quality legal services, education, and advocacy for immigrants in need.



THE **Sherwood**
FOUNDATION®

Weitz | FAMILY
FOUNDATION

LOZIER
FOUNDATION



Omaha Community
Foundation
Good grows here.

HOLLAND
foundation

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COMPANIES

- Fred and Eve Simon Charitable Foundation
- Nebraska Commission on Public Advocacy
- Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
- Paul and Annette Smith
- Polina and Bob Schlott
- Todd and Betiana Simon
- Mike and Susan Lebens
- H. Lee and Carol Gendler Charitable Fund
- William and Ruth Scott Foundation
- John and Diane Scott Foundation

FINANCIALS

IMMIGRANT LEGAL CENTER STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2020.

REVENUE	2020
Contributions and Grants	\$2,452,895
Special Events	\$170,486
Other Income	\$76,542
Total Revenue	\$2,699,923

EXPENSES	
Program Services	\$2,368,575
Management and General	\$903,650
Fundraising Expenses	\$212,460
Total Expenses	\$3,484,685

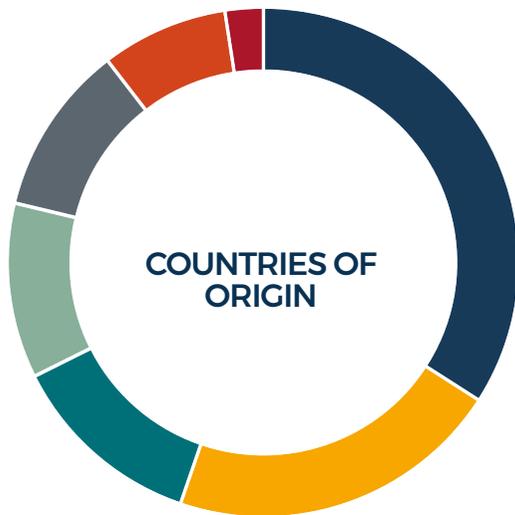
Change in Net Assets	-\$784,762
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$6,631,878
Net Assets, end of year	\$5,847,116

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

For a copy of audited financials visit immigrantlc.org

CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Serving clients from
50
countries

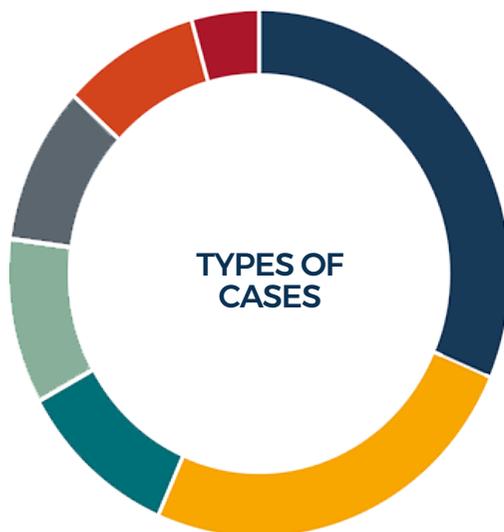


- Mexico - 438
- Guatemala - 272
- El Salvador - 159
- Other Latin American Countries - 143
- Other - 139
- African Countries - 103
- Asian Countries - 31

Cases worked
3,045



- Douglas, NE - 160
- Pottawattamie, IA - 64
- Dawson, NE - 19
- Lancaster, NE - 18
- Hall, NE - 17
- Scotts Bluff, NE - 14
- Saline, NE - 12
- Woodbury, IA - 11
- Other - 78



- DACA/Citizenship/Family-Based/ Employment Authorization - 956
- Fee Waiver/ FOIA/ Waiver/ Brief Service - 765
- U-Visa/ T-Visa/ VAWA - 316
- Removal Defense/Appeals - 309
- Asylum/Refugee - 294
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status - 270
- Other - 132



ROBERTO'S STORY

El Salvador has among the world's highest homicide rates. Gangs forcefully recruit children and kill, rape or disappear those who resist.

After being abandoned by his father, Roberto fled El Salvador to escape gang violence and reunite with his mother who had also sought refuge in the U.S.

Once safely in the U.S., Roberto came to ILC for help, referred by our partner organization Completely Kids.

Our attorneys helped Roberto file for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status which allowed him to obtain his "green card" or lawful permanent resident card.

Because of ILC's advocacy, Roberto was not only the first person in his family to attend and graduate high school, but also attend college.

Today, he is a fourth-year college student at the University of Nebraska-Omaha studying early childhood education. His dream is to inspire young kids like him to seek better opportunities.

In addition to being a fulltime student, Roberto now works at Completely Kids, inspiring kids just like him.

Scan the code to watch Roberto's story.





Host Committee Co-Chairs

Dana & Josh Bartee
Laura & Greg Chambers

Host Committee

Dr. Jason & Libby Burrows
Valeria & Washington Garcia
Roberta Wilhelm & Vic Gutman
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Tulani & Othello Meadows
Emily & Craig Moody
Juan Padilla
Natalie & Daniel Padilla
Mary & Jay Palu
Denise & Hobson Powell
Esther Mejia & Jeneen Sagon
Todd & Betiana Simon
Ryan Ellis & Jonathan Taylor

THE 2020 DRIVE THRU FOOD TRUCK WORLD TOUR RAISED OVER \$200,000!

In response to COVID-19 and concerns for the safety and well-being of our staff, volunteers, and supporters, we introduced the 2020 Drive Thru Food Truck World Tour.

The drive thru event allowed attendees to continue supporting our mission while staying in their cars and sampling delicious food from Omaha's favorite food trucks. After the drive thru event, attendees were able to watch our first ever virtual program, hosted by KMTV 3 News Now anchor Maya Saenz.

The virtual program allowed attendees to learn more about ILC and the clients that we serve, as well as introduced attendees to our new executive director, Erik Omar. During the virtual event, attendees watched performances from local Omaha musicians, Mesonjixx, Grace Titus, and Steve Lovett.



Scan the code to watch a recording of our virtual program.





NEBRASKA LEGAL ASSISTANCE HOTLINE

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 2020, NILAH received **2,847** callers from **35** Nebraska counties and **15** Iowa counties.



NEED IMMIGRATION LEGAL HELP?

Call **1.855.307.6730** to determine if you are eligible for a consultation Monday through Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. CST
Press 9 to leave a voicemail

THANK YOU!

“On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank you - those who’ve supported us in the past, and those who currently support us. Even those who are considering supporting ILC - we thank you all!

Your support plays a vital role in the work of ILC. Your generosity and belief that everyone is deserving of dignity and respect are critical to the success of ILC and to our clients.

ILC empowers immigrants to live in our communities free from fear, and with confidence. You’re a part of that and we thank you.”

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



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Diana Morales McFarland

Mick Mulhall
Tonya Wilson Conley

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 (UCC)
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 325
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
3900 Dakota Ave, Ste 11
South Sioux City, NE 68776

LINCOLN OFFICE COMING SOON!

1221 N Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

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 home 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