



DENVER IMMIGRANT LEGAL SERVICES FUND

The City of Denver is enriched by the talents, culture, contributions, and assets of all of its residents, including more than 110,000 foreign-born people.

Yet many immigrants, their families, and families of mixed immigration status are under increasing threat of potential removal from this country and from our community.

In 2018 the Denver Immigrant Legal Services Fund (DILSF) was created to help vulnerable people access fair legal representation and due process, to reduce feelings of fear and isolation, and to equip those facing removal proceedings with resources to navigate the complexities of the immigration system.

What is the Denver Immigrant Legal Services Fund?

The Denver Immigrant Legal Services Fund is a special project fund at The Denver Foundation. The fund provides grants to qualified nonprofit organizations that offer direct legal representation to low-income, unauthorized individuals who are current residents of Denver and are subject to potential deportation. Resources can also be used to help nonprofit organizations expand the pool of pro bono or low-bono attorneys providing assistance.

DILSF was established on the principle that legal defense should not be for only those who can afford it. Providing representation to immigrants in removal proceedings is not about who deserves to stay or be deported: It is about bringing fairness to complex immigration proceedings.

- Deportation proceedings are the only legal proceedings in the United States where people are detained without access to legal representation.
- Immigrants are more than 10 times more likely to be able to stay in the country when they have representation.

The Denver Immigrant Legal Services Fund is overseen by a seven-member Advisory Board. Members are appointed by the Mayor, Denver City Council, The Immigration Roundtable, Colorado Lawyers Committee, and The Denver Foundation.

Immigrants make significant contributions to our shared community.

- The Denver Metro Area is among the 20 U.S. metropolitan areas with the largest populations of undocumented immigrants.
- Approximately 16% of Metro Denver residents are foreign born.
- In 2014, immigrants paid \$652.5 million in taxes in Denver and possessed \$2.1 billion in purchasing power.

Mass deportations cost our community valuable resources.

- Loss of vital tax revenue
- Disruption of local industries
- Schools shift focus from learning to providing crisis services
- Many children are separated from their parents and placed in the foster care system

THE IMPACT OF THE DENVER IMMIGRANT LEGAL SERVICES FUND

Since November 2018, DILSF has distributed \$382,500 in grants to four organizations:

- Justice and Mercy Legal Aid Clinic
- Lutheran Family Services
- Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN)
- University of Denver

As a result of funding from DILSF, these organizations have:

- Provided direct services to hundreds of immigrants eligible for relief and/or non-detained removal defense.
- Hired additional attorneys, expanded staff capacity.
- Held naturalization and/or Know Your Rights workshops to the community.
- Successfully led 20 applications/renewals under DACA.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

As a community foundation, The Denver Foundation relies on the generosity of donors to financially support our work in Metro Denver. The environment for immigrants and refugees is becoming increasingly hostile, creating a sense of fear in our communities.

We ask that you consider making a gift to the Denver Immigrant Legal Services Fund to help provide ongoing critical services. We see this as a human issue rather than a political one, and invite you to join us in taking action to make a difference.

To learn more, please contact the Philanthropic Services Group at 303.300.1790.

Please visit denverfoundation.org and search "legal fund" to make an online donation.



In this detention center, there are hundreds of persons who would like to have the possibility of qualifying to receive the help. I had the opportunity to have RMIAN represent me successfully. Not only was I able to retain my status as a permanent resident, but more importantly, I was able to remain together with my son and my family. I am grateful from the bottom of my heart to my attorney who represented me, for all of her time and the important work she dedicated to my case. Thank you to the entire staff and everyone who supports RMIAN.

GABRIEL

Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN) Client



We and our clients are profoundly grateful for the financial support given through the DILSF. Those funds have allowed agencies like RMIAN to be nimble and responsive to policy changes and to continue to defend the legal rights of adults in immigration detention in Colorado.

LAURA LUNN

Managing Attorney for the Detention Program, RMIAN



THE DENVER FOUNDATION

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