

ILRC PROGRAM AREAS

The ILRC works with immigrants, community organizations, legal professionals, law enforcement, and policymakers to help improve the lives of immigrants. Our work on a broad range of issues directly impacts immigrant families and the community through our three program areas.



MISSION

The mission of the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) is to work with and educate immigrants, community organizations, and the legal sector to continue to build a democratic society that values diversity and the rights of all people.

MESSAGE FROM THE ILRC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The ILRC spent 2018 fighting for the rights of immigrants and their families, thanks, in part, to the outpouring of support from individuals and organizations like you. Attacks on immigration processes and policies did not let up. One of the most heartbreaking and galvanizing assaults on immigrant and human rights was the current administration's policy of separating families seeking asylum, or other relief, at our borders. The ILRC responded by creating critical resources and preparing legal professionals and community groups to best protect and defend those caught up in this unnecessary cruelty.

The ILRC refuses to believe that relentlessly assailing immigrant rights is the new normal in this country. In order to push back against the government's systematic attempt to disenfranchise immigrants, in 2018, the ILRC grew its staff by six to bolster our expertise and grow our bandwidth to address a long-term strategy to help restore and repair the immigration system and to build our capacity to rapidly respond to crises affecting those in immigrant communities. Your investment in our work helped to make all of this possible. Thank you for believing in our mission.

G. G. Corc Eric Cohen



Our policy work focuses on immigration reform, Department of Homeland Security policies, and many other issues affecting immigrants and their families.



We engage immigrants in mobilizing and raising their voices on issues critical to their communities.



We provide technical legal assistance, trainings, and publications to immigration law practitioners and community-based organizations.



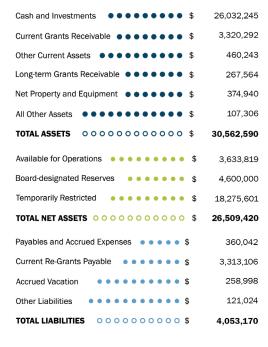
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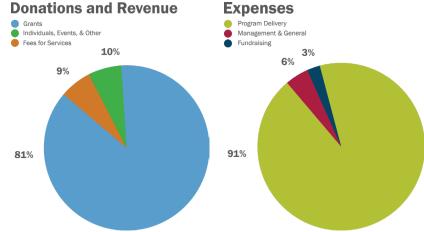
Rising to meet the challenge to protect and defend immigrants and their families in 2018, the ILRC maintained a solid financial standing throughout the year. Institutional giving increased by 8% from its previous record-breaking year in 2017. Individual giving contributions remained healthy, posting its second highest year for revenue in the ILRC's history. The ILRC welcomed over 400 new donors and tripled the number of donors making monthly recurring donations. Thank you for investing in our work and for helping to build the capacity in the immigrant rights field.

The ILRC is proud to share that **91 cents of every dollar raised is spent on delivering our programs** and that only 3 cents of each dollar raised is spent on fundraising-related costs.

The ILRC continued to partner with nonprofits across the country to deliver services to immigrant communities through our regranting program. Institutional funders committed to supporting the immigrant rights movement trust the ILRC to know what issues are the most urgent to invest in and what program partners are doing the most

critical, and oftentimes, grassroots work. These institutional supporters award the ILRC funding specifically to redistribute to nonprofits across the country. This helps to underwrite the work of key program partners, bolstering the impact we can all have in the field. In 2018, the ILRC distributed grants to 90 nonprofit organizations working to advance the rights of immigrants, an increase of 15% over 2017.





ILRC BY THE NUMBERS

2018

590,705



7,938



Attorney of the Day

Issues Answered for Non-Profits, Service Providers, and Pro Bono Attorneys



572

Trainings, Webinars, Community Meetings, Task Forces, Workshops, Media Reports, and CRISP Meetings



21,901

Attendees & Participants



2018 POLICY ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHT: PUBLIC CHARGE

In 2018, the administration instilled fear in immigrant communities with negative rhetoric and proposed policies focused on immigrant

families' use of public benefits and services. Early in 2018, a leaked draft of a possible rule about "public charge" circulated in the media. Then, in October 2018,* the Trump administration officially proposed a change to the "public charge" rule in immigration law. These proposed changes received significant media attention, and although the proposal did not have legal effect, the announcement of this proposal created confusion and fear in immigrant communities. Some people believed the proposal was already being implemented, some thought it would change eligibility requirements for non-citizens accessing public benefits, and others feared it applied to immigrants in all categories and statuses—causing concerns about deportation. Service providers reported that eligible lawful permanent residents were afraid to apply to naturalize due to these proposed changes, and social services agencies documented a chilling effect on the use of vital safety net programs. County agencies reported that individuals were cancelling their enrollment or the enrollment of eligible family

members, such as US citizen children in benefit programs, such as Medi-Cal and WIC, or choosing not to enroll altogether.

The confusing nature of immigration law and inaccurate information fueled these fears. "Public charge" is a legal term of art. It is a test applied to determine whether a person is likely to become dependent on government-provided cash aid or long-term care in the future. This is not a provision of law that applies to all immigrants. This law only applies to individuals seeking admission into the United States or applying for adjustment of status to become a permanent resident (get a green card). As such, this test does not apply to many immigrants, such as US citizens, most lawful permanent residents, refugees, and other humanitarian statuses. Nonetheless, the proposal would significantly increase the standard for those seeking to gain certain immigration benefits, such as a visa to visit the United States or a green card through a family member, to show they will not become dependent on public benefits for their support. The proposal seeks to drastically change longstanding current polices to penalize those that use vital health and nutrition programs, such as Medicaid and SNAP, threatening the health of our communities.

The announcement of the proposed change unleashed a surge of panic across immigrant communities, and families became afraid that this proposed change

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would cause family members to be deported or lose status. There is an urgent need to share accurate information directly with the immigrant community as well as to those service providers and others who work closely with the immigrant community in order for the immigrant community to access those benefits to which they are eligible and are vital to their health and wellbeing.

The ILRC worked to meet the urgent need for accurate

- "Public Charge: Your Questions Answered,"1 in English and Spanish, which gave service providers an overview on what public charge is, who is impacted, what benefits impact public charge, and where to refer people for immigration help.
- In partnership with AILA and AIC, "Public Charge Template Comment to the Proposed Rule,"² a template for comments against the proposed rule change that focused on the impact to immigrants and immigration legal service providers.
- Email messaging about the proposed rule change inviting the public to submit unique comments opposed to the change. The public comment period ended on December 10, 2018 and over 266,000 comments were received, with the majority opposed to the changes.

information within immigrant communities and service provider networks. We hosted trainings and created materials to help service providers and community members understand the public charge law, the proposed changes, and who would be affected under what circumstances. In addition, the ILRC worked with national partners to help generate over 200,000 comments in response to the proposal. These are some of the resources that the ILRC prepared in 2018 about public charge:

- "Public Charge and Naturalization," a practice advisory that provided an update on public charge for advocates providing naturalization legal assistance.
- "An Overview of Public Charge" (December 2018) to provide practitioners with the most updated information about the status of public charge.
- In-person trainings with legal practitioners throughout California and in other parts of the United States.
- National webinars on public charge.

*As of July 2019, nothing has changed in the public charge rules for people applying for a green card within the United States. However, we expect that new rules may be published later in 2019. Additionally, the US Department of State has made changes to the public charge rules that affect people who apply for immigration benefits at US consulates abroad.



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