Overview of Achievements

The New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC) has made significant progress related to the administration of justice through its generous IOLA funding over the past year. During this grant year, we convened 308 organizations to coordinate service delivery and strategize on access to justice issues; reached 3,380 directly impacted community members with information on the law, available benefits, and their rights; trained 1,654 staff of service providers on immigration, public benefits and other legal topics; and reached 172,739 people through online outreach with information about immigration development and access to health services, housing assistance and other public benefits. Major accomplishments, described below and in more detail throughout this narrative report, include our fully revamped 40 hour training; the re-launch of our New York State Community Toolkit and expanded distribution of it through online and tech platforms; and our development of a new line of service provider trainings focused on supporting immigrant entrepreneurs as they navigate legal, regulatory, tax, and COVID-related challenges.

One of the flagship training programs that we run is our “40-hour training”, a comprehensive overview of immigration law that serves as an introduction and basic grounding for new attorneys. In addition, it is a critical training for individuals who are seeking to become Department of Justice Accredited Representatives, non-lawyers authorized by the federal government to provide legal services in underserved communities. The training covers a wide range of important topics for accredited representatives, including foundations in immigration law, adjustment of status, family-based immigration, citizenship, humanitarian options for relief (U and T status, VAWA, Asylum, and SIJS), client intake, ethics, and more. First-time applicants for accreditation are required to attend at least one comprehensive overview course as a part of their training, making our 40-hour course a hugely important part of expanding access to legal services in New York State. During the fall of 2021, NYIC engaged an immigration and pedagogical expert to revamp and refine our 40-hour curriculum.

Population Served: Legal Service Providers of Immigrants and Refugees

Area Served: Statewide

Total IOLA Grant: $95,000

Staffing Full Time Equivalents:
- Total Staff: 53
- Lawyers: 5
- Other: 48
Overview of Achievements

We made changes throughout the course to ensure that it is highly engaging, revamped an associated case study, and wove the new case study throughout the course in a way that helps attendees connect the legal issues to practical application. Finally, we updated our post-course exam as well. Since the revamp, over 160 individuals have attended the training, and evaluations indicate that the new curriculum has been very well received.

The New York State Community Toolkit is a completely revised, revamped and redesigned version of previous community education documents that we have shared and distributed in the past. Launched in April of 2021, the toolkit was developed by NYIC to provide a resource for community members as well as our partners and allies who work with them. It has an overview of the latest updates and information in the areas of health, immigration, education, democracy, and economy. The toolkit is updated on a bi-monthly basis, and every version is translated into Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Bengali, French, Burmese, Karen, Somali, and Nepali.

Finally, the NYIC continued to build our programming supporting immigrant entrepreneurs by building out a new training program for service providers working with this population. By bringing together experts on small business legal and regulatory issues in New York State, we were able to produce a new training series reaching 246 service providers. We focused on issues such as financing, ITINs, legal services and access, food business regulations, and more.

Other Services: Overview

During the grant period, the NYIC has provided a number of other legal related services to individuals, namely community legal education and online outreach - through our Immigrant Concerns Training Institute, Community Engagement programs, and immigrant-serving workshops and events.

Immigrant Concerns Training Institute -- The NYIC’s Immigrant Concerns Training Institute offers free and low-cost trainings to attorneys, accredited representatives, and staff of community-based organizations serving New York State’s immigrant community. We work to develop the skills and knowledge of professionals providing immigration legal services, and improve the quality and quantity of immigration legal services available to low-income New Yorkers across the state. Our trainings are a mix of CLE sessions aimed at immigration legal service providers, rapid response sessions responding to emergency situations or new developments in the law, and trainings aimed at a more general audience of service providers who work with immigrant communities, such as navigators, benefits enrollers, case managers, etc.
Other Services: Overview

In addition, we focus on supporting the development of immigration legal capacity by training new and experienced Department of Justice (DOJ) accredited representatives, and supporting organizations that seek to become DOJ-recognized, allowing them to host DOJ accredited representatives.

During the grant year, a total of 1,654 individuals received training through the Immigrant Concerns Training Institute. We offered three 40-hour trainings, which provide a comprehensive overview of immigration law, and several mini-series on topics including legal research and writing, immigration court practice, and asylum. In addition, we covered topics such as trauma-informed advocacy, Temporary Protected Status, FOIA, prosecutorial discretion, and the Child Tax Credit for immigrants, among others.

Finally, we continued to update our Immigrant Eligibility for Public Benefits Chart, which maintains critical information for immigration legal practitioners on the eligibility of their clients for different benefits in New York State. The chart is a key resource for providers and we have a new update coming out shortly, after the most recent edits in December of 2021.

“Know Your Rights” Education & Community Events -- We have a robust and extensive Know Your Rights program, which was created to serve as an education guide for immigrant New Yorkers, so that they may learn more about their rights and the services that are available to them. Topics that are covered include recent changes in federal immigration policy, immigrants’ rights when interacting with immigration officials, accessing legal services, and COVID-19 resources. We successfully updated and maintained the “Know Your Rights” community toolkit in 9 languages. The toolkit was distributed via email to listservs, in-person during canvasses and community events, and delivery to our member organizations.

| Number of People who Benefitted from Services Other Than Direct Legal Representation |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Community Legal Education        | 5,034         |
| Online Assistance                | 172,739       |

177,773 People Benefitted by Services Other Than Direct Legal Representation
Other Services: Technology and Other Innovations

By this point in the pandemic, the NYIC has transitioned most programming to online formats, and over the last two years has developed best practices to ensure that programming is still effective and has a broad reach. Our teams are adept at using Zoom, social media, video editing and subtitling, streaming tools like Streamyard, and online live interpretation. This year we were able to make additional investments in our use of technology through our participation in the Learning What Works cohort, a data visualization mentorship program for non profits in New York. Two staff members were selected for the six-month program, which included a capstone project to create a data visualization story using the organization’s own programmatic information. We are looking forward to training our larger staff on the various tools and best practices drawn from the program, to both improve our data presentation and our internal monitoring and evaluation.

In addition, this year we invested in a new staff position, our “Senior Systems Manager”, who is focused on managing and analyzing our use of technology and systems as an organization. This has allowed us to streamline and improve training and support to staff who seek to use new technologies in their work, and will continue to support and improve our collection and use of data in the years to come.

Other Services: Trainings

The NYIC continues to prioritize leadership development for our staff at all levels. We hold bi-weekly professional development trainings for staff, which provide timely updates to policy changes, best practices in using technological tools, and briefings on internal systems. We provide frequent supervisor development opportunities, and have worked with external consultants to offer management skills building.

The NYIC has completed an engagement with the Community Resource Exchange (CRE) to create an organization-wide culture and team-building program. The NYIC began this work in 2021 by bringing together our teams, recruiting a representative taskforce, and developing a staff-wide survey. Our work with CRE is the first step for the NYIC to engage in a larger DEI process and, we plan to engage another consultant in a DEI process to create deep and lasting change. A shared set of operationalized values and a co-designed culture where everyone can contribute safely and meaningfully will not only make us a more effective organization, but will also position us for even more success as an organization.
Other Services: Trainings

With the changes in the last two years, an organizational leadership transition and the last strategic plan ending in 2020, the NYIC will implement a new and ambitious strategic plan for the next five years with a focus on strengthening leadership, a racial justice lens to all the organizations does, supporting staff, and developing internal culture and processes to build our capacity. For this work, we have hired Sikka Associates Inc — who previously provided executive leadership training and media coaching to our executive leadership. We seek to develop a shared vision and clarity among staff and board members for the coming years that incorporates racial justice throughout our work. Key outcomes of this work include developing our theory of change and building consensus on our priorities and goals among the NYIC’s leadership for coming years; and that org-wide equity norms and practices are being established from our work on organizational culture and DEIA.

Pro Bono Volunteer Involvement

The NYIC has historically relied on volunteers to support our in-person events. Given the COVID-19 pandemic and the inability to host large in-person gatherings, the NYIC had very low engagement of volunteers over the grant period.

Typically, we promote our volunteer program on our website where interested volunteers can directly sign up for an orientation. We maintain a mailing list of interested and trained volunteers, to which we send out upcoming volunteer opportunities. On occasion, we may reach out to selected individuals based on their skills and experience. Volunteers are always provided with onsite training/orientation at the beginning of each service and, depending on the circumstances, may be required to attend a pre-service training as well. Although we were unable to hold in-person legal clinics during the first four quarters, we are looking forward to beginning again, as our first in-person clinic will be held at an upcoming outdoor community fair on May 7th. We have already begun recruiting volunteers for that event, and expect to hold many more such events over the second half of the contract.
Significant Collaborations

The strength of the NYIC’s work and role in increasing access to justice for immigrant New Yorkers lies in its partnerships and collaborations with its own Member organizations and other partner organizations throughout the State. Through our Member engagement work and our issue-focused collaboratives, we are able to adapt and respond to policy changes and urgent service needs, as well as push for increased access to justice and critical benefits. The NYIC engages members in convenings and our annual goal setting process through several ways, including Member Congress, our annual Roundtables, surveys and monthly briefings. Through this close relationship with our members, and our regional staff stationed around the State, we create established channels to hear the priorities, opportunities and emerging needs that make us more effective and responsive in achieving our mission. These connections with our member organizations ensure that our campaigns are rooted in the needs of immigrant communities across the state.

The Community Engagement team onboarded two Managers of Community Engagement in FY21. In NYC, this gave space for some existing relationships to be strengthened by introducing the regional Manager of Community Engagement to our existing partners and member organizations. During these 1:1s we discussed potential partnership initiatives involving our Test and Trace and Hate Crime Prevention projects. Throughout FY21, via our Test and Trace canvasses we strengthened our relationships with Latino, Asian, and Black small business owners in East New York, Brooklyn and Jamaica, Queens.

In Western New York, we initiated on-the-ground outreach with immigrant small businesses and community members in Buffalo’s Grant-Ferry and Broadway-Fillmore neighborhoods, providing resources on COVID-19, policy changes, and small business support programs. Many of these New Americans are refugees and immigrants from South and Southeast Asia, and Central and East Africa. We connected virtually and in-person with partners across the region, from Justice for Migrant Families in Buffalo, to Alianza Agrícola in Geneseo, to Refugees Helping Refugees in Rochester.

The NYIC Long Island team worked on state campaigns in 2021 and the first quarter of 2022. Partnering with Jobs with Justice and our member organizations, we were able to mobilize our coalition members around the Fund for Excluded Workers, which we ended up winning $2.1 Billion from the New York State government to provide large sums of payment to immigrants directly impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. When the Fund was successfully created and passed, we organized free training sessions that were open to all Long Island non-profit organizations and taught how to apply for the grant from the Department of Labor to assist eligible immigrants. When regulations were published, we organized further training sessions for agency staff. 11% of all successful applications were from Nassau and Suffolk counties, making Long Island the home of the largest number of approved applicants in any region outside of New York City. Most of the fund recipients were awarded the maximum amount of $15,600.
Significant Collaborations

Along with our coalition members, the NYIC participated in the fight to secure funding for Immigrant Legal Services, a NYIC-led campaign. We are advocating for the restoration of funding to Long Island for immigration law services that were cut by a quarter back in 2019. In 2021 we successfully blocked cuts to this program from the Cuomo Administration. In 2022 we secured a 22% increase in funding with the support from both houses of the Legislature and the Governor.

Support to Immigrant Legal Services: Immigrant Advocates Response Collaborative:
The NYIC previously housed the Immigrant Advocates Response Collaborative (Immigrant ARC) which coordinated legal service provision for immigrants in moments of rapid response in immigration law. The NYIC’s connections to legal service providers and role as a coordinator of organizations across the state allowed us to incubate this crucial program. Immigrant ARC has since grown and become an independent organization, but the NYIC continues to serve on the steering committee and collaborates closely on training initiatives and service coordination. This partnership provides insight into the ongoing challenges facing legal service providers and helps us to calibrate our own services in support of that community.

DOJ Recognition and Accreditation:
As mentioned above, the Immigrant Concerns Training Institute hosts trainings in support of organizations and staff seeking DOJ recognition and accreditation (DOJ R&A), and we also provide technical assistance to organizations and staff applying for the program. We review applications, counsel individuals, strategize with applicants on ways to make their applications more successful, and support applicants who have encountered challenges. Nearly every DOJ recognized organization in New York state either an NYIC member organization, has attended our DOJ R&A trainings, or both. The NYIC collaborates closely with New York based organizations in the process of applying to the DOJ - providing tools, templates and tips for successful applications. The NYIC also participates in a national working group on DOJ R&A, which serves as an important venue for sharing information about adjudication trends, strategizing on tricky issues in individual organization’s applications, and addressing areas of concern directly with EOIR about how they are administering the program.
Sources of Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IOLA Grant</td>
<td>$95,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City and County Funding</td>
<td>$451,458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Funding</td>
<td>$86,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$637,028</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>