Overview of Achievements

During the grant period (April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022), UnLocal served low-income immigrants in New York, our primary target population, with legal services, education, outreach, and advocacy. More specifically, we handled 1,135 case matters, closing 588 cases, 484 of which were legal cases. Increasing access to justice for immigration populations by providing critical information about how to access courts and administrative agencies, we hosted a total of 73 in-person and virtual presentations, reaching 2,031 individuals on topics ranging from unemployment benefits, immigration policy updates, Covid-19 updates, the New York State Dream Act (NYSDA), tax resources, and more.

UnLocal delivered tailored services to our clients through specialized legal initiatives like the Post-Order Defense Team (POD) and the Queer Immigrant Justice Project (QIJP). The Post-Order Defense team is part of the larger Rapid Response Legal Collaborative (RRLC) with Make the Road New York and the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG). The POD team represented immigrants who were detained with final removal orders, working to stop their deportation and end their detention. In total, POD screened 41 clients for representation and handled 5 BIA Appeals and 3 bond hearings, and reopened numerous removal orders, making it possible for our clients to seek permanent immigration status.

QIJP served queer immigrant communities with identity-affirming legal services and community education, representing clients with defensive asylum, employment authorization, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJ), and adjustment of status. We hosted three presentations for LGBTQIA+ serving organizations: the Caribbean Equality Project, The Children’s Law Center, and Queer, Trans, and Intersex Educators (QTIE) of New York. We covered topics such as the Excluded Workers Fund, how to work with LGBTQIA+ youth, and more.

Service Area: New York City Metropolitan Area

Population Served: Low Income Populations

Area Served: New York City Metropolitan Area

Total IOLA Grant: $56,250

Staffing Full Time Equivalents:
- Total Staff: 17
- Lawyers: 8
- Paralegals: 3
- Other: 6
Direct Legal Services: Cases

UnLocal is an immigration legal service provider in New York. Using a multifaceted approach, we deliver holistic legal services by combining education, legal representation, and advocacy. We represent clients in an array of immigration case matters. Two examples are below.

**Case Narrative #1:**
We represented a land rights activist from Guatemala in his asylum hearing, during which he passionately described his work to protect communities from land grabs by mining companies, as well as the deep and complicated connection between private mining companies and the Guatemalan government. As a result of his activism, he was kidnapped and subjected to a false execution. He survived and fled immediately thereafter. More than three years after fleeing Guatemala, his case was finally heard. His testimony was so compelling that even the prosecutor agreed he was eligible for asylum.

**Case Narrative #2:**
We represented a single mother from Ecuador who survived years of intimate partner violence. Though she had survived extreme violence, our client had numerous legal complications in her case. Through exceptional advocacy and compelling testimony, together we were able to convince the Immigration Judge that she was eligible for asylum, which he granted over the prosecutor’s objection.
Other Services: Overview

During the grant period, we delivered 73 presentations on legal-related topics and vital resources. We reached 1,750 people with presentations that were delivered to partner organizations and community members via online platforms and a few in-person presentations. UnLocal organized 23 legal-related presentations. Eight were partner calls hosted for educators, community organizers, and students. During the calls, we gave information on court hearings, scheduling ICE appointments, USCIS asylum interviews, and updates on VISA Fees. We also organized two in-person events that reached 48 people, one at John Jay College and one for the Mott Haven Tenant Association. We also hosted 14 online presentations on DACA, TPS, and more. In total, the presentations have garnered 425 views. Lastly, we hosted an Instagram Live presentation on advance parole, which has garnered 245 views as of now.

In addition, we distributed information on vital resources to our communities. We connected immigrant students to college tuition assistance through the New York State Dream Act (NYSDA) Tuition Assistance Program. We delivered 27 presentations on the NYSDA to various schools including, but not limited to, Long Island Regional Bilingual Network, Mineola High School, Brooklyn Transitional & College Access Center, and Bay Shore Union Free High School. We delivered three presentations on the Excluded Worker Fund for community members that were excluded from receiving financial support during the pandemic. We also organized an Instagram Live for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) to explain who was eligible, how to apply, and tenant protections. Besides organizing presentations, we shared fliers on finding a good lawyer, a manual on detention visitation, and a one-pager for people whose loved ones are in detention. The fliers were distributed through our newsletters and saved on our websites.

| Number of People who Benefitted from Services Other Than Direct Legal Representation |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Community Legal Education        | 13,155  |
| Pro Se Assistance                | 791     |

13,946 People Benefitted by Services Other Than Direct Legal Representation
Other Services: Technology and Other Innovations

Last year, UnLocal switched to LegalServer, a new data management system, which allows us to collect the information we need and to generate customized reports to more accurately monitor the impact of our work and the reach of our services. LegalServer has also enabled us to launch new programs and initiatives and streamline our communication with funders.

Other Services: Trainings

In April 2021, our staff began attending an internal workshop series on race, class, power, power and privilege, taught by Uproot.Ed Founder Shannon Cumberbatch. We attended seven workshops in which we explored the ways white supremacy, anti-Blackness, and ableism show up in our work.

In collaboration with RRLC, we hosted a training for all RRLC staff on how to request and prepare clients for Reasonable Fear Interviews and a training on Title 42 and current border policies. During the reporting period, our staff also attended trainings on immigration policy, U Visas, homeless rights training, and appeals training sponsored by Practicing Law Institute and others.

Every UnLocal staff member has a professional development budget of $300 annually. Our staff attends paid and free trainings throughout the year.

Significant Collaborations

We collaborate with many grassroots organizations to deliver services. One significant collaboration is with our long-time partner CBST, as described above. The QIJP team regularly attends CBST monthly clinics for LGBTQIA+ clients seeking assistance with their asylum cases. The QIJP team provides free advice and counsel to attendees and trains volunteers to prepare legal cases before taking them on for full representation.

As part of the Rapid Response Legal Collaborative (RRLC), UnLocal meets biweekly with Make the Road New York (MRNY) and the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG). The team reviews intakes and discusses caseloads as well as any issues that arose. Additionally, we co-host trainings for attorneys and organize joint campaigns.
Significant Collaborations

During the grant period, the RRLC team launched the #FreeJorge campaign in conjunction with The Queer Detainee Empowerment Project (QDEP). Together, we organized community gatherings to demand the release of Jorge, created petitions, and shared updates about the case on social media. Thanks to everyone’s collective efforts a motion to reopen his case was granted, and he was able to schedule a court hearing to seek asylum before an immigration judge.

In addition, UnLocal is a steering committee member of the Bronx Immigration Partnership (BIP), a collaboration of community-based organizations that provide legal and social services for Bronx residents around their immigration-related needs. UnLocal attends bi-monthly meetings with BIP and participates in collaborative events and presentations with BIP partners.

As described above, we also partner with schools and grassroots organizations to deliver community education. Some of these partners include El Puente Bushwick, Claremont International High School, Maspeth High School, ASAP Laguardia, and others. We have had an ongoing partnership with ImmSchools since 2019 and have co-launched the Safe and Inclusive Schools Project (SISP) which aims to create a safe learning environment for all students. We arrange workshops for educators, parents, and students on the barriers encountered by immigrant youth. During the reporting period, SISP delivered 13 presentations, reaching 262 individuals. We also collaborate with the NYC Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs to deliver Know-Your-Rights presentations to community members and organizations.

Sources of Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IOLA Grant</td>
<td>$56,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City and County Funding</td>
<td>$487,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>$492,083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$417,006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,452,572</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pro Bono Volunteer Involvement

We recruit law students, volunteers, and high school and college students through our established partnerships, word of mouth, and recruitment events like the NYU Public Interest Legal Career Fair. We also create postings, which we circulate to local law schools and to our partners. During the summer, when we have the most interns, we organize a summer orientation series, during which we introduce them to the team, train them on how to file USCIS forms, how to represent families in immigration court, explain the life of a case, and introduce other legal-related topics. Interns receive support during our weekly legal team meetings and regular check-ins with advocates.

This Spring, we welcomed a high school intern from Flushing International High School. She has translated our presentations and resources into Spanish. She has helped us set up the UnLocal Clothing Swap that was held in March. She has updated our newsletter contacts, and she has been shadowing our Social Media and Communication Strategist. Lastly, she has helped the legal team with filing documents.

In addition, we have been fortunate to be paired, through the CUNY Law City Counseling program, with an experienced volunteer attorney, who has provided substantial assistance with our USCIS applications. Since last fall, we have also been working with a volunteer attorney who has been assisting with multiple complex litigation matters.

2 Attorneys volunteered 120 hours

4 Law Students volunteered 1,250 hours

1 Other Volunteer volunteered 8 hours