In the 12-month reporting period, NYLPI provided direct legal services, education, and training that benefited more than 37,000 people in New York and accomplished significant impact achievements improving the lives of more than 1 million New Yorkers. Where direct benefits and cost savings were measured, the value to clients topped $640,000. Our unique community lawyering model depends on our long-term relationships with community groups to build power for positive change through a wide range of legal services, community education, and organizing.

**Won milestone ruling on ICE discharge planning.** NYLPI, with pro bono counsel Simpson Thacher, sued the U.S. government under the Federal Tort Claims Act to hold them accountable for their failure to provide mental health discharge planning in immigration detention. A federal judge ruled in March that NYLPI could proceed with its negligent medical care claims.

**Increased accessible transit for 144,000 New Yorkers with disabilities.** NYLPI and its coalition defeated a proposed Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) fare hike for Access-A-Ride paratransit users. NYLPI’s coalition also convinced the MTA to extend its on-demand paratransit pilot for 1,400 Access-A-Ride users, without any rationing of services.

**Filed lawsuit to stop race discrimination in high school sports.** More than 17,000 Black and Latinx New York City public high school students attend schools that offer no team sports whatsoever, and Black and Latinx students are twice as likely as students of other races to attend schools without sports teams. NYLPI’s class action lawsuit, with pro bono co-counsel Patterson Belknap, seeks to level the playing field and create equal access to high school sports for all students.

**Published five action research reports that catalyzed policy change.** Our “Lead Loopholes” report (with a coalition including IOLA grantees) revealed that New York City’s regulators have not taken a single enforcement action against any landlord for failing to conduct annual lead inspections in the 14 years since the city passed an ambitious lead poisoning prevention law in 2004. In the wake of the report, the City Council passed a comprehensive package of lead enforcement laws. Our 2018 “Left Behind” report found that Uber and Lyft failed to provide accessible vehicles to wheelchair users 70% of the time they are requested, and other ridesharing apps like Via did not offer any accessible vehicles. A series of three other reports, “Just Jobs in Waste,” “More Dangerous Than Ever,” and “A Wasted Opportunity” advanced our campaign to reform the dangerous and polluting commercial waste industry.

**NYLPI trained and empowered over 36,000 community members to organize for positive change.** Through our unique model of advocacy, we partner with communities to build collective power and achieve their own vision of justice and equality.

**We partnered with 904 pro bono attorneys from nearly 80 law firms,** who donated over 17,500 pro bono hours and represented 413 nonprofits serving 1.5 million low-income clients through the Pro Bono Clearinghouse.

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**Population Served:** People with Disabilities  
**Area Served:** New York City Metropolitan Area  

**Total Funding:** $5,157,696  
**Total IOLA Grant:** $400,000  

**Staffing - Full Time Equivalents:**  
- Total Staff: 30.72  
- Lawyers: 13.00  
- Paralegals: 9.96  
  Other: 7.76
Our client Maria was 16 years old when she was diagnosed with kidney disease that required regular dialysis. At the same time, she was bullied at school and forced to drop out. Since she arrived in this country as a child, she was eligible for DACA but when she came to NYLPI, she was struggling to prove her presence in the US because she had to stop her schooling. Our multi-disciplinary and tenacious team was able to demonstrate her presence through medical records and able to help her enroll in a GED program. Maria was granted DACA, which has been renewed under the current protocol, and in November 2018 received a kidney transplant. She is now working and building a life.

We received one request from an immigration attorney for a referral to a medical provider for a person in Hudson County Detention Center with diabetes and several other serious health conditions on a Thursday afternoon for a bond hearing the following Tuesday. Within 24 hours, we gathered the medical records and secured a junior and senior doctor to complete a review and advocacy letter. By Monday, they completed the six-page letter, which was used in the client’s bond hearing. At the hearing, the Immigration Judge granted bond partly based on the medical evidence, and the client was released.

Another client was detained at Orange County Detention Center and was torn apart from his long-term partner and their children for several months. This client has chronic knee pain and was further harmed during his arrest and detention. NYLPI submitted a legal advocacy letter on his behalf. One of our medical volunteers performed an evaluation of his medical condition and submitted a letter for his immigration case. With our support, our client was released on bond and is managing his health in the community.

NYLPI assisted eighty-one-year-old MG, who has multiple disabilities, in achieving true access to his residence. Due to the many steps in his building, MG had been unable to use his prescribed scooter for mobility. MG had been forced to walk, using a shopping cart to maintain his balance and keep from falling down the stairs when entering and leaving his apartment and building.

MG was concerned about his safety as well as the safety of other tenants, one of whom had to be carried with his heavy wheelchair up and down the building’s stairs every time he wanted to enter or exit the building. The requests for a ramp at the entrance of the building, as well as the two wings in the lobby, however, went unheeded for two years until NYLPI intervened. The landlord has now installed the necessary ramps, which will afford easy, independent, equal, and dignified access to all tenants and guests with disabilities.
Other Services...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of People Benefitted by Services Other Than Direct Legal Representation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Legal Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pro Se Assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Outreach</td>
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<tr>
<td>36,919 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19,813 people</td>
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<tr>
<td>8,577 people</td>
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<tr>
<td>7,801 people</td>
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**Other Legal Related Services: Overview**

NYLPI has an extensive community education program, supported in part by IOLA funds. NYLPI’s attorneys and community organizers regularly provide trainings to community groups and stakeholders to empower them to better advocate for themselves. In the past 12 months, we trained and provided resources to more than 20,000 community members on empowerment strategies to access healthcare, education, transportation, and housing.

**Other Legal Related Services—Examples**

**Deaf Justice Coalition:** In response to the NYPD’s pattern of discrimination towards people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and a difficult legal landscape in this area, NYLPI convened a coalition of organizations—the Deaf Justice Coalition (DJC)—to identify barriers, organize and educate the Deaf community, and develop legal and/or legislative responses. Roughly 8.6% of New York City’s population (approximately 688,000 people) are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. During the report period, we followed up on the successful pilot program the NYPD had agreed to institute, equipping NYPD officers with tablet computers to use video interpreting while interacting with people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing “in the field” and providing live, in-person interpreting service to people who are Deaf. The NYPD agreed to expand the pilot program to additional precincts. As of Winter 2019, every officer in NYPD has access to video remote interpreting on their smartphones, and the contract with interpreting services has continued.

**Special Education:** NYLPI’s special education program runs know-your-rights workshops for parents and caregivers of children with disabilities to ensure that children with special needs receive the educational services to which they are entitled in public, charter, and nonpublic schools. NYLPI hosts the workshops twice yearly at the NYLPI offices, and brings those workshops to partner offices, community organizations, and hospitals throughout the year. Topics include how to seek special education services (special education rights and procedures, including the least restrictive environment requirement, functional behavioral assessment/behavior intervention plans, and IEP meetings), rights to interpretation at school meetings and translated educational documents, students’ rights in charter schools, how to challenge determinations of the DOE, disability discrimination in schools, how to report and advocate regarding physical or verbal mistreatment by school staff, and practical options as students transition from high school to post-high school life. During the reporting period we conducted 15 trainings for 395 individuals.
Major Cases or Other Advocacy Projects

After working shoulder-to-shoulder with a range of advocates through our Fair Play Coalition addressing racially unequal access to public high school sports teams, NYLPI in June 2018 filed a putative class action, L.P. v. NYC Department of Education. NYLPI represents student-led organization IntegrateNYC and Black and Latinx students denied equal access to NYC public high school sports. Our suit charges that the Department of Education and Public Schools Athletic League have engaged in racial discrimination by denying Black and Latinx students equal opportunity to high school sports and the health benefits, leadership and teamwork skills, and college advantages they confer. NYLPI has used pro bono data analysis by NERA Economic Consulting to detail how Black and Latinx students have access to far fewer teams and sports, and that the city spends much less per student funding interscholastic sports for them than it does for students of other races. More than 17,000 Black and Latinx high school students attend schools that offer no team sports whatsoever, and Black and Latinx students are twice as likely as students of other races to attend schools without sports teams. We promoted “sunshine” legislation to illuminate financing and team grants and denials, with a City Council bill introduced in Fall 2018 and hearing testimony delivered in December 2018, the same month we facilitated a student lobby day supporting the legislation.

NYLPI’s multi-pronged campaign for public transit accessible to people with disabilities included a year’s worth of advocacy on behalf of people with disabilities who have limited English proficiency, as we continued to implement and enforce the successful resolution of our lawsuit Jorge v. New York City Transit Authority. We testified at multiple hearings and structured community rallies against fare hikes for the Access-A-Ride program (for which 144,000 New Yorkers qualify), resulting in a freeze (in February 2019) on increases for people with disabilities. We advocated for the city’s new on-demand service pilot for people with disabilities and met with officials and delivered testimony to ensure that the city’s Office of Inclusion attended to the needs of people with disabilities discriminated against in accessing transit. In doing so we assessed the intersection of race, poverty, and disability -- noting in Fall 2018 testimony that people with disabilities constitute nearly 11% of the population in New York City and that the incidence of disability in communities of color is higher than among whites, ensuring that the Office of Inclusion effectively addresses all aspects of discrimination and deficits in service by the for-hire vehicle industry, which requires measures informed by race, disability, and the intersection of race and disability. “Left Behind,” our high-impact May 2018 report on overwhelmingly inaccessible fleets of for-hire vehicles, garnered nation-wide notice, and we filed an amicus brief in April 2018 helping to defend rules passed by the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission to increase the availability of wheelchair accessible vehicles.
Significant Collaborations

Catholic Migration Services (CMS) is a local nonprofit that provides comprehensive legal, advocacy, educational, and pastoral services to advance equality and social justice in Brooklyn and Queens. CMS’s immigration services include applications for political asylum, Violence Against Women Act protection, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, and removal defense.

In partnership with CMS, NYLPI has continued to design and coordinate naturalization clinics to assist individuals who are permanent residents in applying for citizenship. In the reporting period, we held four naturalization clinics, and over 80 attorneys served 176 clients. NYLPI called on attorneys from several of its longstanding member firms (Arnold & Porter LLP; Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP; Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP; Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP) and attorneys from corporate legal departments at Goldman Sachs and HSBC.

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House is a multi-service community-based organization providing effective and integrated human services to over 20,000 New Yorkers in need annually. NYLPI has run a successful partnership with Lenox Hill to serve seniors who are often living on fixed incomes, to maintain their economic security and to remain in their homes despite rising rents and increases in the cost of living. This partnership helps seniors apply for or recertify for SCRIE, which allows low-income seniors to have their rent frozen at its current level. The partnership pairs seniors with volunteer attorneys who can guide them through the process and ensure that their applications are submitted and approved. Volunteer attorneys from Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP; Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP; Citi; and Morgan Stanley have served over 140 clients in the reporting period.

NYLPI continues to work closely with LEAP, a legal advocacy network of 18 NYC civil legal services providers who came together in 2004 to expand the availability of quality legal services. Collectively, we employ over 600 lawyers, advocates, organizers, and other staff, who provide critical assistance to over 130,000 low-income individuals annually via innovative legal services delivery models. In the last year, NYLPI has worked as part of LEAP on a Citywide initiative to provide anti-harassment services for tenants in rezoned areas. NYLPI has also collaborated to provide representation to immigrants and people with disabilities facing harassment or discrimination in their housing.

Dollar Benefits Achieved for Clients

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civil Rights Settlements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing Benefits</td>
<td>$64,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Education</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$284,251</strong></td>
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Pro Bono Volunteer Involvement

NYLPI promotes a legal culture where pro bono involvement is valued and prioritized. NYLPI’s staff regularly meet with key partners at law firms and corporate legal departments to encourage and facilitate pro bono opportunities, and when possible, tailor pro bono projects.

NYLPI works to foster a lifetime commitment to pro bono through its annual summer program. In 2018, we placed 38 summer associates from seven law firms at 15 public interest law organizations for two-week externships. These organizations included Vera Institute of Justice, Legal Aid Society, and Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation. Summer associates worked on a variety of issues ranging from disability rights to immigration law to prisoners’ rights. In addition, NYLPI hosts summer interns from law schools, providing an organized twelve-week program that introduces them to community lawyering and affords the opportunity to work on a range of issues.

During the grant period, the NYLPI Clearinghouse engaged 904 pro bono attorneys from nearly 80 law firms, who donated over 17,500 pro bono hours and represented 413 nonprofits and community groups by providing counsel on matters such as corporate structure, contract negotiations, litigations, and more. These nonprofits are then able to focus on serving their communities by utilizing their resources for their missions rather than on costly legal services.

The Clearinghouse has expanded its client services by organizing workshops for nonprofit leaders, using pro bono attorneys as teachers on topics including fiscal sponsorship, intellectual property, and employment law. Over 710 nonprofit representatives have attended these courses during the grant period. The Clearinghouse also produces an e-newsletter that is sent to over 1,500 contacts and contains resources including articles written by pro bono attorneys on a variety of topics that engage their expertise.

### Pro Bono Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Attorneys:</th>
<th>904 Volunteers</th>
<th>17,570 Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Law Students:</td>
<td>19 Volunteers</td>
<td>3,531 Hours</td>
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</table>

### Sources Of Funding

- **IOLA Grant:** $200,000
- **State Funding:** $606,150
- **Fundraising Efforts:** $2,155,464
- **Foundations:** $1,007,039
- **Other:** $1,189,043
- **TOTAL:** $5,157,696