



Planning, Development & Transportation

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 1, 2022

TO: Mayor Arndt and City Councilmembers

THRU: Kelly DiMartino, Interim City Manager
 Kyle Stannert, Deputy City Manager
 Caryn Champine, Director, Planning, Development & Transportation
 Paul Sizemore, Director, Community Development & Neighborhood Services

FROM: JC Ward, Sr. City Planner, Neighborhood Services
 Leo Escalante, Program Coordinator, Neighborhood Services

RE: Immigration Legal Fund Pilot Quarterly Report – Q4 2021

The purpose of this memo is to provide City Councilmembers with an update on activities conducted and opportunities identified for the implementation of the City of Fort Collins Immigration Legal Fund. Information in this quarterly report is for service and activities October-December 2021.

Immigration Legal Fund Quarterly Report Overview

The City of Fort Collins Immigration Legal Fund appropriation was approved by City Council on July 6, 2021. After the Second Reading of Appropriation Ordinance was passed, City staff worked on developing the pilot and the competitive grant application process to contract with qualifying immigration legal service providers who could meet the most urgent need and reach the greatest number of impacted immigrant community members. Grant Recipients awarded \$50,000 each are Alianza NORCO, Interfaith Solidarity and Accompaniment Coalition (“ISAAC”), and Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (“RMIAN”).

Grant Recipients

Grant recipient’s progress for activities during October – December 2021 (Table 1)

- Organizations offering existing services through a scholarship model or with immigration attorneys on staff from outside the Fort Collins area were able to begin offering services under the Immigration Legal Fund Grant quickly.

Table 1 - Grant Recipient’ Progress – Q4 (October – December 2021)

Recipient	Quarterly Progress
Alianza NORCO	In the process of recruiting a Fort Collins-based immigration attorney for this project
ISAAC	Began service delivery under the Immigration Legal Fund in December 2021 which helped continue their existing scholarship model services
RMIAN	Hired for a new immigration attorney position this quarter and a designated portion of that attorney’s time will be dedicated to Fort Collins residents’ cases

Evaluation Criteria

Metrics from all grant recipients and service providers from October through December 2021 (Table 2)

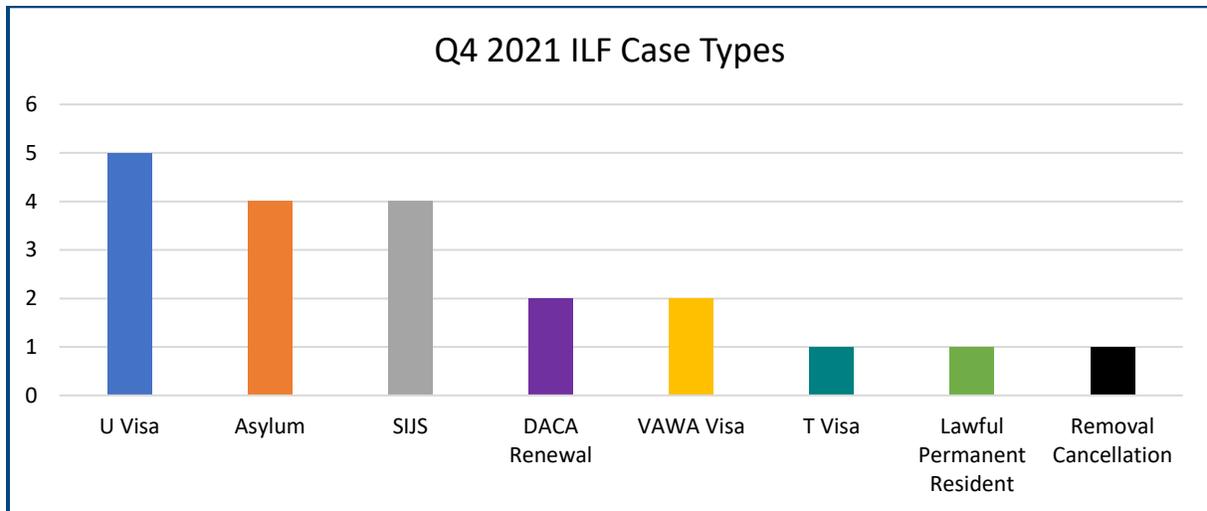
- **Outputs** - indicators of the amount of service provided
 - 20 people receiving direct representation; 4 secondary/non-direct representation of youth cases attached to the primary client
 - 11 adults (over age 21)
 - 1 children age 5-10 years; 6 children age 15-18; 2 children age 18-21

Table 2 – Grant Recipients’ Metrics for All Cases*

Type of Case	Cases (Q4)		Cases (Total)		Quarterly Change	
	Adults	Children/ Youth	Adults	Children/ Youth	Adults	Children/ Youth
U Visa <i>victims of crime</i>	5	0	5	0	+5	0
Asylum <i>victims of persecution or fear of harm or death upon return to home country</i>	2	2	2	2	+2	+2
Special Immigrant Juvenile Status <i>abused, neglected, or abandoned children</i>	0	4	0	4	0	+4
Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals <i>youth who arrived in the U.S. during a specified time period</i>	2	0	2	0	+2	0
Violence Against Women Act Visa <i>victims of domestic violence or crimes outlined in the Violence Against Women Act</i>	2	0	2	0	+2	0
T Visa/Office of Trafficking In Persons <i>victims of human trafficking</i>	0	1	0	1	0	+1
Lawful Permanent Resident Status <i>Permanent authorization to live in the United States as a non-citizen (sometimes known as “green card” residents)</i>	1	0	1	0	+1	0
Removal Cancellation <i>status adjustment by an immigration judge from ‘subject to deportation’ to ‘lawful admittance for permanent residence’ under certain</i>	1	0	1	0	+8	0

<i>circumstances</i>						
Detention/Deportation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	20		20	20		

Figure 1 - Grant Recipients' Metrics for All Cases



- **Outcomes** - measures of the quality and effectiveness of the service in achieving pilot goals as reported by Grant Recipients based on client intake and exit evaluations (Table 3)

Table 3 - Program Outcomes

Outcome*	Percentage
Participants more knowledgeable about their pathways to citizenship or lawful presence after the program	79%
Participants reporting greater likelihood of accessing City or community resources due to the program	N/A
Participants who feel they are safer due to the legal services and resources provided by grant recipients	28%

* All participants who reported income are in the 30-50% AMI range for the Fort Collins Metro Area

- **Gaps** - measures number of applicants ineligible for participation and reason for ineligibility (Table 4)

Table 4 - Program Gaps

Type of Cases Ineligible for Participation*	No. of Cases Ineligible for Participation
Asylum Cases Ineligible due to 12-Month Residency Requirement	4
Cases Ineligible due to Residence Outside of Fort Collins City Limits	2 U Visa Cases (Victims of Crime)

* 6 cases ineligible for participation with 15 children total in the ineligible households

- **Efficiency** – resources required to achieve certain outcomes are unknown for this quarter. Staff will follow up with Grant Recipients to track this for future reporting.

Impacts Beyond Metrics

To support qualitative measures of success through the narratives of participants in the pilot, Grant Recipients shared additional information about program impacts. The pilot program is helping protect community members at higher risk of persecution, death, and identity- or gender-based violence in their home countries. A young, transgender immigrant was targeted because of their identity and was the victim of a violent crime before coming to Fort Collins several years ago. They are now receiving legal support through the program. A young LGBTQIA+ community member is receiving assistance with their asylum claim based on persecution due to orientation. 35% of all cases receiving direct representation in Q4 were related to the protection of women who are the victims of violent crime or domestic violence.

Pilot program legal representation is also addressing needs of children and adults with cognitive disabilities, who may be particularly vulnerable to violence or human trafficking. 17 of the 20 clients represented in Q4 are children or have children associated with the primary case. Four of those clients are orphans who attend local high schools. A 17-year-old and an adult with cognitive disabilities were also among the clients represented this quarter.

The pilot program is benefitting long-term residents of Fort Collins. Half of the participants receiving direct legal services have been in the United States for more than 10 years. Four of the adult participants have lived primarily in Fort Collins for more than 20 years. Information about the Immigration Legal Fund pilot is available to the public at <https://www.fcgov.com/neighborhoodservices/immigration-legal-fund>.

Upcoming Activities

- April 21, 2022 – Next Quarterly Report for Council Members
- April 2022 – Second Quarterly Meeting with Grant Recipients

Appendix

- **Work to Date**

Status	Description
Completed	Development of Information and Communications Materials
Completed	Grant Review Team Recruitment
Completed	Immigration Legal Fund Competitive Grant Application Open Aug. 20-Oct. 1, 2021
Completed	Grant Applicants' Workshop - Sept. 24, 2021
Completed	Closing Date of Immigration Legal Fund Competitive Grant Application
Completed	Community Outreach for Grant Application Review Priorities
Completed	Grant Review Core Team Deliberation Meeting - Oct. 22, 2021
Completed	Grant Recipients' Collaboration Workshop – Nov. 2, 2021
Completed	Contracting Activities
Completed	Preparation for Start Date of Services
In Progress	Collaborative Promotion of Services Between City Staff and Grant Recipients
In Progress	Begin Service Delivery