



Planning, Development & Transportation

281 North College Avenue
P.O. Box 580
Fort Collins, CO 80522.0580

970.221.6376
970.224.6134 - fax

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 12, 2022

TO: Mayor Arndt and City Councilmembers

THRU: Kelly DiMartino, City Manager ^{DS}
Caryn Champine, Director, Planning, Development & Transportation ^{DS}
Paul Sizemore, Director, Community Development & Neighborhood Services ^{DS}

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

RE: Immigration Legal Fund Pilot Quarterly Report – Q2 2022

This memo aims to provide City Council members with an update on activities performed and opportunities identified as part of the implementation of the City of Fort Collins Immigration Legal Fund for the period April 2022 to June 2022.

Immigration Legal Fund Quarterly Report Overview

The City of Fort Collins Immigration Legal fund 12-month metrics show that the pilot program is outperforming. Grant recipients have funded more cases with ILF funding than initial estimates. However, two out of three grant recipients, Interfaith Solidarity and Accompaniment Coalition (ISAAC) and Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMAIN), have depleted their ILF funding with six months left in the pilot program and are no longer able to take on new cases under the ILF. As such, data for their following quarterly report will be limited. City staff will provide City Council members with a 12-month assessment of the pilot program this fall.

Grant Recipients

Grant recipient's progress for activities during April – June 2022 (Table 1)

Table 1 - Grant Recipient' Progress – Q1 (April – June 2022)

Recipient	Quarterly Progress (Highlights)
Alianza NORCO	Began meeting with clients for “Brief Advice” consultation meetings to discuss possible immigration relief.
ISAAC	Continued service delivery under the ILF through their scholarship model. They have exhausted their funding with 6 months left in the pilot program.
RMIAN	Continued service delivery and began representing new clients. RMIAN has seen an increase in the request for their services.

Evaluation Criteria

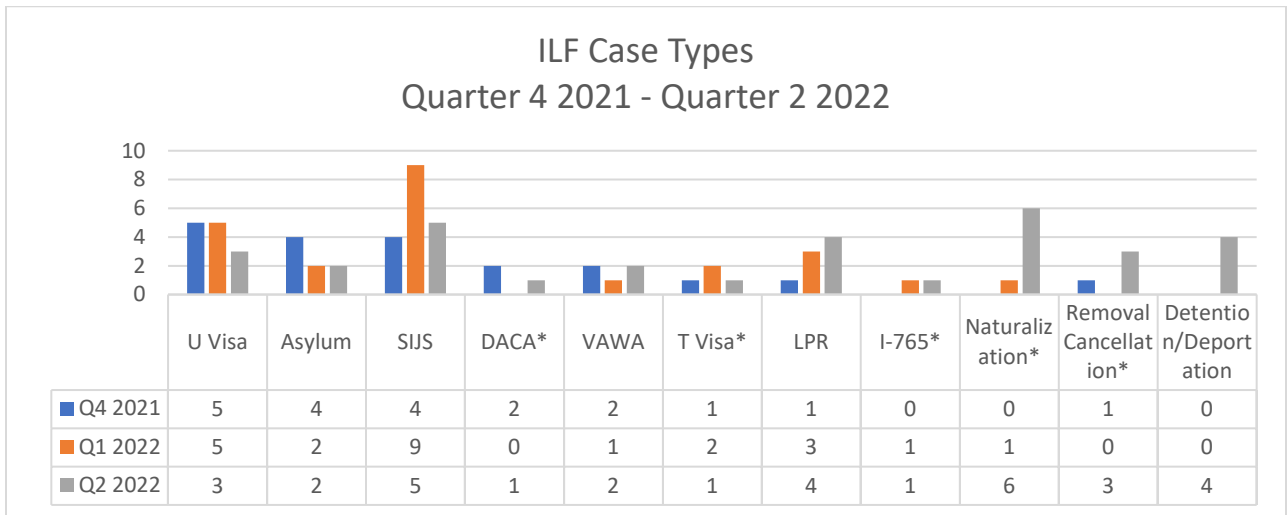
Metrics from all grant recipients and service providers from January through March 2022 and cumulative pilot program from October 2021 through June 2022 (Table 2)

- **Quarter 2 2022 Outputs** (indicators of the amount of service provided)
 - 13 people receiving direct representation
 - 8 adults (over age 21): Most adults receiving advice on Removal Cancellation
 - 5 Children: Most children pursuing Lawful Permanent Residence after obtaining Special Immigrant Juvenile Status

Table 2 – Grant Recipients’ Metrics for All Cases*

Case Type	Q2 – 2022 Adults	Q2 – 2022 Children/ Youth	Total Cases (Q3 2021 – Q2 2022) Adults	Total Cases (Q3 2021 - Q2 2022) Children/ Youth
U Visa <i>victims of crime</i>	3	0	13	0
Asylum <i>victims of persecution or fear of harm or death upon return to home country</i>	0	2	4	4
Special Immigrant Juvenile Status <i>abused, neglected, or abandoned children</i>	0	5	0	18
Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals <i>youth who arrived in the U.S. during a specified time period</i>	1	0	3	0
Violence Against Women Act Visa <i>victims of domestic violence or crimes outlined in the Violence Against Women Act</i>	2	0	5	0
T Visa/Office of Trafficking In Persons <i>victims of human trafficking</i>	1	0	1	2
Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) <i>Permanent authorization to live in the United States as a non-citizen (sometimes known as “green card” residents)</i>	1	3	3	5
Removal Cancellation <i>status adjustment by an immigration judge from ‘subject to deportation’ to ‘lawful admittance for permanent residence’ under certain circumstances</i>	3	0	4	0
I-765 Employment Authorization <i>Initial, replacement, or renewal work permit that gives applicants permission to work in the U.S.</i>	1	0	2	0
Detention/Deportation	4	0	4	0
Naturalization <i>Process to become U.S. citizen if born outside of the U.S.</i>	6	0	7	0
Column Total	22	10	46	29
Combined Adult & Youth Case Total	32		75	

Figure 1 - Grant Recipients' Metrics for All Cases



*No quarterly comparison available due to lack of cases in each quarter.

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

Table 3 - Program Gaps

Program Gaps	No. of Cases Ineligible for Participation in Q2 2022	No. of Cases Ineligible for Participation Q4 2021 – Q2 2022
Cases Ineligible due to 12-Month Residency Requirement	29	39

- **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 narrative of participants, Grant Recipients shared additional information about program impacts. Highlights this quarter include:

- Three recipients of ISAAC’s scholarships were approved for asylum; this includes two minors ages 17 and 9 and one mother of a three-year-old child.
- Participants who had previously received assistance with ILF funding continue making progress on their pathway to legal status, going from SIJS to becoming eligible for Legal Permanent Residence or from having a U-Visa or Asylum application to becoming eligible for work authorization or Legal Permanent Residence.
- Grant Recipient’s attorneys provided legal assistance to a Fort Collins resident who had been in detention at the Aurora ICE Facility for two weeks and who, after receiving legal guidance, elected to request an order of removal.
- One adult female applicant who has been working on her case for five years and is housing insecure received additional funding to continue pushing her case forward.

Grant recipients continue seeing an increase in the demand for their services, due in part to a rise in the referrals among agencies and the growing trust from returning program participants. Program metrics show that ILF funding continues to be used to serve vulnerable community members such as victims of domestic violence, unaccompanied minors, asylum seekers, etc. Nonetheless, two grant recipients have exhausted their funds which could negatively impact the continuity and outcome of the participants’ cases.

Information about the Immigration Legal Fund pilot is available to the public at <https://www.fcgov.com/neighborhoodservices/immigration-legal-fund>.

Immigration Legal Fund Pilot 12-month Update

The 18-month pilot Immigration Legal Fund was approved by Fort Collins City Council in July 2021 in the amount of \$150,000. Three grant recipients have been providing services under the ILF since 2021. As of September 1, 2022, two of the three grant recipients are out of funds but have waitlists for residents seeking legal services. The overall expenditures we have seen in the last 12 months for the pilot program align with the cost projection for unmet community need assessed as part of the initial pilot proposal, which ranged from \$180,000 to \$350,000 for an 18-month pilot. Although the pilot is designed as an 18-month endeavor, we will not receive additional data from the two grant recipients that are currently out of ILF funding after September 1, 2022.

18-month Pilot Grant Program Estimated Results compared to 12-month Actual Results

	Total Number of Cases	Detention - Deportation Cases & Removal Cancellation \$6,000/case	Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Cases (SIJS) \$4,000/case	Affirmative Cases (DACA, LPR, Naturalization, Asylum) \$1,000/case	Funding Range
18-month Pilot Funding Example from 2021	Up to 45	15-20	0-5	0-20	\$180,000-250,000
Actual # cases in 12-month pilot	75 (167% of estimated)	8 (40% of estimated)	18 (360% of estimated)	26 (130% of estimated)	\$150,000

Lessons learned in the first 12 months of the 18-month pilot:

- Due to the 12-month residency restriction on participation in the pilot, we were unable to assist almost all asylum seekers (who must file for asylum status within 12 months of arriving in the U.S.). The few asylum cases resolved under the pilot program were for youth participants. Based on reporting from grant recipients, there were 29 asylum seeking residents of Fort Collins who needed services during the first year of the pilot but were ineligible for participation due to the residency restriction. Asylum seekers are immigrants who fear death or imminent bodily harm upon return to their home country.
- Case types related to human trafficking, violence against women, and victims of violent crime were not calculated in the initial pilot proposal as a distinct set of case types but make up a significant portion of the need for immigration legal services in Fort Collins. Over the last 12 months, service providers have handled 21 cases (28% of total cases) from victims asserting these protections. Program participants asserting these protections also demonstrate greater intersectional vulnerabilities related to identity than participants in any other case type.
- Overall unmet community need for immigration legal services was underestimated in general and in the SIJS and VAWA (Violence Against Women) case types. As previously indicated, this is likely due to the reluctance of undocumented community members to self-identify to government entities.

- The majority of adult participants in the first year of the pilot have been residents of Fort Collins for more than five years with several residing in this community for 20 years or more.
- All participants in the pilot to date had “very low household income” as defined by HUD (50% or less than area median income of \$107,300). In SIJS cases, some older children are the primary earners for their household and younger siblings.