



# 2022 American Rescue Plan: Services to Undocumented Immigrants

Submit Application to: [CDDapplications@cityofmadison.com](mailto:CDDapplications@cityofmadison.com)

Deadline: 12:00 pm CST (noon) January 28, 2022

*Late applications will not be accepted*

Please limit your proposal and responses to the spaces provided in this form. Any materials submitted in addition to this application form will not be considered in the evaluation of the proposal. Please *do not attempt to unlock or alter this form*. If you need assistance with this proposal or are unclear about how to respond to any questions listed below, please contact CDD staff at 266-6520

Agency Name:	Economic Justice Institute	Amount Requested:	\$150,000.00
Title of Proposal:	MISOL Program		
Contact Person:	Erika Rosales	Email:	erika.rosales@wisc.edu
Agency Address:	975 Bascom Hall, Madison Wi 53706	Telephone:	608-263-5067
Is this Group a 501 (C) (3)?	Yes or No Yes, it's a 501(C)(3)	If no, applicant will need to secure a fiscal agent with 501 (C) (3) status.	
Name of Fiscal Agent (if Applicable):		Fiscal Agent Phone:	
Fiscal Agent Contact Person:		Fiscal Agent Email:	

Project Goal:

- Please describe your proposal's goal of supporting undocumented immigrant households as they deal with the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. *The Mexico International Study Opportunity for Learning (MISOL) program, under the Economic Justice Insitute (EJI), will serve undocumented individuals that are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) holders through an Advance Parole-specific program. Although DACA recipients are not allowed to travel outside of the country, they can petition for Advance Parole, a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) permit that allows them to travel internationally and return to the US. DACA beneficiaries can request Advance Parole for educational, employment, or humanitarian purposes. Through MISOL, DACA recipients will attend an educational program at the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM-National Autonomous University of Mexico)*. Furthermore, they will receive free legal services through the Center for DREAMers and the Immigrant Justice Clinic that are both housed under EJI to apply for their Advance Parole permits.*

The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted the undocumented population in many ways. DACA recipients' ability to request Advance Parole was limited due to travel restrictions and USCIS' processing delays. Some even lost their DACA protections, including their jobs, as they waited for their applications to be processed. Their mental health has continuously been negatively impacted as they navigate a global pandemic as well as the complex U.S. immigration system. The partnership with UNAM will provide an international learning opportunity, with a focus on mental health and healing, and offer legal support for DACA recipients. It will open the door for family stability through reunification and a possible long-term impact of adjustment of

status. program participants will obtain lawful entry into the U.S. upon their return. This could potentially lead to a pathway to citizenship if they become eligible for an immigrant visa. Without a lawful entry, DACA recipients are unable to adjust their status to that of a lawful permanent resident. The lawful entry provided through MISOL could be the key to a pathway to citizenship for local DACA recipients. Additionally, MISOL aims to build more bilingual and bicultural professionals in Madison to continue serving the undocumented and immigrant communities. Through its strong established network and support system, participants will return from Mexico with a connection to our community and hope for their future. The city of Madison will benefit from this program as participants will have a greater sense of belonging and opportunities.

2. Please describe the demographics of the immigrant population(s) your organization serves. (e.g. age groups, ethnicity, economic status, holders, , specific income ranges, etc.).  
While the number of DACA recipients in the City of Madison is unknown, USCIS reports that as of September 2021, there were 6,190 active DACA recipients in the state of Wisconsin. DACA recipients include current students, working professionals, community participants, and family members. MISOL will serve approximately 60 DACA recipients (through 4 cohorts) as follows:
  - **Ethnicity:** The program will serve DACA recipients from different ethnicities.
  - **Age:** MISOL will serve DACA recipients over the age of 18. According to USCIS, as of September 2021, the median DACA recipient age range is between 24 to 31 years old.
  - **Mixed-Status:** Most DACA recipients are from mixed-status families. Some are married to U.S citizens and/or have U.S-born children.
  - **Lawful Entry:** While some DACA recipients have a lawful entry to the U.S, MISOL will prioritize DACA recipients without a lawful entry as this prevents them from adjusting their immigration status. Participants will receive a lawful entry upon their return from Mexico which may allow them to be eligible for citizenship on a case-by-case basis.
  - **Residence:** MISOL participants will primarily be City of Madison residents.
  - **Economic Status:** A 2017 National DACA study conducted by Tom K. Wong (Associate Professor at the University of California- San Diego) found that DACA recipients living in Urban areas made a median hourly wage of \$15.50. MISOL will predominantly serve DACA recipients from the City of Madison.
  - **Language:** MISOL will serve multilingual DACA beneficiaries. As DACA recipients come from various countries, they speak various languages. All participants of MISOL will become students of UNAM and have the opportunity to practice academic-level Spanish.
  
3. Describe how your project will address any formal and informal barriers that prevent undocumented immigrants from accessing needed services.  
Currently, there are no non-profit organizations in Dane County that are actively supporting Advance Parole applications. DACA recipients are forced to pay private attorneys or complete legal forms independently to submit a request. The Center for DREAMers and the Immigrant Justice Clinic (both under EJI), will provide MISOL participants with legal services to request Advance Parole and DACA renewals at no cost. While some DACA recipients have health insurance, many still remain uninsured as they do not qualify for public health insurance programs restricting their access to quality mental health services. Given that many DACA recipients have not been allowed to return to their home country in many years, leaving the U.S. and going to their birthplace can be an emotionally taxing experience. Therefore, in partnership with the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), MISOL will provide culturally responsive mental health counseling (before, during, and after travel). Another barrier that DACA recipients experience is a lack of access to higher education due to Wisconsin's out-of-state tuition rates and their ineligibility for FAFSA and other financial aid. MISOL has confirmed a collaboration with UNAM where participants will engage in an educational program centered around culture, history, identity, language, and mental health. Furthermore, during their stay in Mexico, participants will spend a period of time with their families in between the UNAM program. This is a significant portion of the program as many DACA recipients have not seen their home or family members in decades. In some cases, not being able to see their sick relatives that contracted COVID. Unlike the U.S., many other countries do not have access to medical resources and vaccines resulting in many deaths. Family is a crucial component in our lives that has become more apparent during the pandemic, given the uncertainties that the pandemic has created on top of the ongoing uncertainties that undocumented people always experience, especially

when many lost family members due to COVID without the ability to attend cultural ceremonies to honor the lives lost. Throughout the pandemic, DACA recipients have not had the privilege of providing direct access to care for their sick relatives abroad. MISOL will provide participants with an opportunity to care for their sick family members. Returning to the United States through Advance Parole grants DACA recipients with a lawful entry, which opens the door for possibilities of adjusting their status and becoming citizens someday. Currently, there aren't any programs in Wisconsin that meet this specific need for DACA recipients. Finally, and quite importantly, MISOL will provide a much-needed sense of community and hope to these undocumented individuals and the larger immigrant community. DACA beneficiaries often do not have a secure sense of "home" and lack a sense of community. Many grow up living in fear and do not disclose their status to protect themselves and their families from the risk of deportation. It can be extremely difficult to have a sense of community and support system even within the undocumented population when status is not disclosed. The impact of all of the above will be seen and felt as a ripple effect given what this program will provide to every single individual in connection with Madison as their community.

4. Describe the process your clients/participant will need to follow to receive assistance.

We anticipate that there will be a large interest in the program. However, we will limit the number of DACA recipients that will be part of each cohort. The number will be determined by housing, traveling, and program capacities. The Immigrant Justice Clinic (IJC) will ensure MISOL participants are eligible for Advance Parole. The program's steering committee will create an application process to select members of each cohort. Each MISOL participant will receive direct financial assistance for their immigration filing fees, passports, and UNAM fees.

Staff:

5. Please briefly describe any relevant lived experience, as well as formal training, possessed by your staff, and how it will help make this project successful.

Erika Rosales, Yesenia Villalpando-Torres, Dr. Gerardo Mancilla, and Dr. Donna Vukelich-Selva are the steering committee for MISOL. They are partnering with Professor Rommel Scorza from the Universidad Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM).

- Erika Rosales is the Director of the Center for DREAMers at the Economic Justice Institute. Erika is an undocumented DACA recipient. Erika is also a 4W Immigration and Human Rights Director. She holds a Masters in Cultural Foundations of Community Engagement and Education. As a DACA recipient, Erika has the lived experience of being an undocumented person and the barriers that exist for all undocumented people. Erika traveled to Mexico in 2021 after many years recently through Advance Parole. She is familiar with the Advance Parole application process and has established connections and commitment from faculty at UNAM. She has extensive experience organizing and strategizing.
- Yesenia Villalpando-Torres is a Master of Social Work student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As a DACA beneficiary herself, she has first hand experience on how the immigration system impacts undocumented communities. In 2021, Yesenia applied for Advance Parole through an educational program and had the opportunity to return to Mexico after 21 years. Professionally, Yesenia is a Bilingual Social Worker at Dane County's Immigration Affairs Office where she directly serves immigrant and refugee populations.
- Dr. Gerardo "Lalo" Mancilla is an Assistant Professor of Education at Edgewood College. He immigrated to the U.S. at a young age and was formerly undocumented. He also helped start the Leadership Institute for Borderland Research and Education (LIBRE) program where students traveled to the U.S./Mexico border to learn more about immigration, immigration policies, and various community-based organizations in Arizona. Most recently, he started the "Educators and Immigration" podcast to share resources with the community about supporting immigrant populations.
- Dr. Donna Vukelich-Selva is an Associate Professor of Education at Edgewood College. She lived and worked in Nicaragua for 15 years before returning to the US. She helped found the Leadership Institute for Borderland Research and Education (LIBRE) program at Edgewood College, where she teaches a first-year seminar called *Rethinking the Border*. She is part of a group of faculty and staff who have created a scholarship for undocumented students at Edgewood.
- Professor Rommel Scorza Gaxiola is a Mexican Culture professor and economist at UNAM. He teaches cultural diversity, culture & language, Mexican art, and gastronomic patrimony courses. His interdisciplinary vocation has driven him to continue his professional development in the areas of

communication, sociology, history, culture, and art. He has previously coordinated similar international programs.

Timeline:

6. Describe the anticipated timeline for your proposal.

Program Start Date	Program End Date
April 1, 2022	December 31, 2024
Remember funds will be allocated by the second quarter of 2022, and are available until 12/31/24.	

7. Budget: Summarize your project budget by estimated costs for staff and participants.

BUDGET EXPENDITURES	TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	AMOUNT OF CITY \$ REQUESTED
<b>A. Personnel Costs</b>		
Salaries/Wages (show detail below)	\$19,200	\$19,200
Fringe Benefits and Payroll Taxes		
<b>B. Estimated Program Costs</b>		
Utility Bills		
Internet Bill		
House Supplies		
Transportation		
Job Training Assistance		
Language Learners Assistance		
Meal Programs		
Telephone		
Other (explain below):	\$130,800	\$130,800
<b>TOTAL (A + B)</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>

Other please explain:

Steering Committee Monthly Stipends: \$150/committee member (4) x 32 months = \$19,200

USCIS Advance Parole Filing Fee: \$575 per application x 60 participants = \$34,500

UNAM Fees: \$1,500 per participant x 60 participants= \$90,000

Additional travel-related expenses: \$6,300

- Passports needed for travel (example 10 year Mexican passport is \$181), we could cover up to 34 passports.
- Passport pictures needed for Advance Parole applications (Walgreens charges \$15 for passport pictures).