



2022 American Rescue Plan: Services to Undocumented Immigrants

Submit Application to: 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:	Community Immigration Law Center, Inc.	Amount Requested:	\$ 150,000
Title of Proposal:	Project ACCESS		
Contact Person:	Aissa I. Olivarez	Email:	aissa@cilcmadison.org
Agency Address:	944 E. Gorham Street	Telephone:	608-640-4445
Is this Group a 501 (C) (3)?	Yes or No Yes	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.
 Gaining lawful immigration status in the U.S. is the only way to begin to solve the heart of the problem of our undocumented immigrant neighbors. CILC has proved that with adequate and expert assistance undocumented people can gain access to justice and get out of their undocumented status. Providing support to this effort is the most essential support Madison can provide. The Community Immigration Law Center (CILC) has been fighting for justice for our undocumented community members since 2009. Starting in 2018 CILC began defending Madison community members threatened with deportation. This work has been funded in part through City of Madison allocations, for which we have provided quarterly reports for three years. The record of this work is extremely hopeful because it shows that a community can make a difference for its undocumented members despite the fact that immigration is prosecuted and regulated by the federal government. A study shows that immigrants who face deportation in immigration court without an attorney only have a 4% chance of avoiding deportation. However, with a lawyer at their side, they have a 48% chance of success. The work of the CILC attorneys in Madison also show similar results.

COVID has dramatically changed the needs of our undocumented neighbors and the requirements from CILC. The primary goal of CILC has been to represent people detained by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) who cannot afford representation. But in the past two years of COVID, CILC has been inundated by requests from

undocumented people who are seeking asylum or unaccompanied minors needing support to stay in the U.S. While these community members may not be detained by ICE, they are undocumented and are also facing deportation. The reasons why COVID has exacerbated the already difficult lives of undocumented people are as varied as the origins of the asylum seekers themselves; some fled to the U.S. to avoid the economic slow-down in their countries due to COVID; some moved from other states in the U.S. in search of work in Madison since COVID has upended the workforce, especially as frontline, low-wage workers; some came to live with friends or family in Madison because they lost jobs in other places; some have been released from detention by ICE due to the rampant spread of COVID in the ICE detention system and have made their way to immigrant-friendly communities where they can pursue their fight to avoid persecution in their home countries; and some are even children who fled their countries unaccompanied and are reuniting with their families locally through the Office of Refugee and Resettlement. The substantial increase in undocumented people who need help with asylum and unaccompanied minor cases due to COVID has overwhelmed CILC's every other Friday clinic and the three staff who are at 100% capacity. CILC's proposal is to start "Project ACCESS (A Community Collaborating in Education and Social Service)," an asylum and unaccompanied minor project to provide education and support for the needs of our undocumented community members. Included in this project will be our recent immigrant arrivals from Afghanistan. Many do not realize that out of the 600 Afghans being resettled in Wisconsin more than 60% will need to file asylum applications before August 2022 or risk being deported. The federal government has provided several months of housing and job support for this group through Jewish Social Services of Madison, but there are no funds or existing Community Based Organizations (CBO) to support their asylum application efforts. Even though the U.S. military airlifted this group out of Kabul, they are still in the same undocumented status as DACA recipients - they only have a two-year reprieve from deportation and temporary work permits. This holistic project will comprise four parts and will leverage the best that Madison has to offer.

First, CILC will develop pro se (defending oneself in court without a lawyer) materials that will allow asylum seekers to take certain steps in their immigration process, even if there is not a lawyer available at this stage to represent them directly. These how-to documents and videos (in various languages) will provide practical guidance so undocumented people can reschedule hearings for their new residences in Madison, communicate with ICE as required by the federal government, prepare asylum applications, and apply for work permits. In this phase of the program, CILC will partner directly with the Madison College's Legal Studies/Paralegal Program to provide in-person clinics for undocumented people seeking asylum and unaccompanied minor assistance. Their Goodman South Campus provides an ideal location and trusted access for undocumented people. The legal studies/paralegal program has agreed to provide administrative support, scheduling, advertising, and facilities to run the clinics. As a recent example of this collaboration, Madison College legal studies/paralegal program co-sponsored an Immigration Resource Fair at the Goodman South Campus. CILC provided immigration application support to 53 participants, while 240 people met with the Mexican Consular officials, and 93 people were vaccinated against COVID. Madison College, and their Community Engagement team, have also committed to providing assistance to participants in seeking out community resources and educational information. This work continues our mission to provide a holistic approach to our assistance and help participants feel welcomed and supported by our community.

Second, CILC will develop a program to recruit, train, and support volunteer attorneys in Madison who are not immigration lawyers. Non-immigration lawyers do not have the experience or expertise to represent undocumented people in asylum legal proceedings but CILC often gets requests from these lawyers to provide help. Examples of these programs exist in nearby cities, such as Minneapolis and Chicago. Many lawyers are also too worried to try it for the first time on their own without support. CILC will give presentations at Madison law firms to recruit lawyers to take on one or two cases. The project will prepare support documents and develop libraries of template documents. The project will also run training sessions and provide on-going technical support to attorneys willing to represent a Madison-based person seeking asylum or help with an unaccompanied minor.

Third, depending on work volume, Project ACCESS will allow CILC staff to provide representation to some undocumented people directly in their asylum or unaccompanied minor efforts.

Fourth, CILC has been working with social workers at the County's Office of Immigration Affairs since it was established. This office has helped CILC to identify the currently limited economic assistance support for undocumented immigrants in our community. It also trained the CILC team to understand and address these holistic needs, but due to COVID, most of the economic support for undocumented people has been vastly oversubscribed as requests for the following temporary financial assistance has increased:

- transportation to legal hearings in Milwaukee and Chicago,
- food and utilities support when the bread-winner in a family has been detained by ICE or forced to stop working,
- psychological therapy and evaluations due to the trauma inflicted by persecution in their home country or stays in ICE detention,
- daycare so immigrants can attend hearings, meet with CILC, or visit loved-ones in ICE detention,
- and financial assistance for significant immigration application fees.

Project ACCESS would provide limited, temporary financial assistance for undocumented people to receive aid in these areas. When CILC assists immigrants they become deeply connected to them and their families. Immigrants share the painful stories of their lives and losses and often make requests to CILC to help with these temporary and limited needs. Since all CILC participants earn less than 300% of federal poverty guidelines, they have already established their economic need. Providing limited financial support when CILC is helping a family will provide immediate, direct, and needed support so undocumented people can support their families, heal their wounds, and participate more fully in their own immigration defense without taxing other social programs in Madison.

This grant will allow CILC staff to spend up to 30% of their time on Project ACCESS, expanding services for this increase in need due to COVID. No other CBO in Madison currently provides 100% free services to undocumented immigrants who are seeking asylum or assistance for unaccompanied minors except for the Immigrant Justice Clinic. It is also important to point out that undocumented people in Madison will not be able to receive any of the \$700,000 in ARPA supported funds if they are deported. Solving their immigration status issues is the best, most cost-effective, and empowering way to support undocumented immigrants. CILC has proved over the past three years that with adequate and expert assistance undocumented people can gain access to justice and get out of their undocumented status.

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.).

CILC currently serves an undocumented immigrant population who has experienced detention by the Department of Homeland Security and is at risk of deportation. 84% are males, 74% had a job in Wisconsin within the last year, 46% have children in the United States, and 38% have a spouse or domestic partner in the U.S. These undocumented people have a total of 77 U.S. citizen children impacted by the work. The top 4 countries of origin are Mexico, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Cuba. All fall under 300% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Since March of 2020, CILC has seen an increase of asylum seekers relocating to live locally needing assistance with understanding the asylum process. CILC attorneys spent over 300 hours in the last 22 months giving asylum orientations to non-CILC participants, as a means of providing triage support to the Immigrant Affairs Office of Dane County.

3. Describe how your project will address any formal and informal barriers that prevent undocumented immigrants from accessing needed services.

CILC has become a trusted partner in the community for serving the holistic needs of the undocumented immigrant community. Formal access will be in-person to review one's asylum options. We also provide assistance in preparing necessary forms to begin the formal process asylum seekers must follow in order to defend themselves against deportation to the country they fled. Pro Se assistance in reviewing their forms, the asylum process, changing their addresses and court venues is not something currently available to our community. This clinic would allow people to receive critical assistance since there are not enough qualified lawyers to take their cases. The initial steps to understanding the process and ensuring someone is meeting ICE reporting requirements are critical because missing an appointment with ICE or a court date in immigration court puts one's asylum case in jeopardy — resulting in a decision being made in one's absence. Other barriers this project addresses are both access to justice and language by providing trained staff to consult with individuals as they work to understand paperwork that is handed to them in only English and fill out forms only provided to them in only English. CILC also works very closely with the Immigrant Affairs Office of Dane County, Centro Hispano, and the Immigrant Justice Clinic at the University of Wisconsin Law School, meeting on a monthly basis to discuss topics, trends, and issues our immigrant community is facing and providing an immigration support lens to the scope of those meetings so that we can determine how to best meet their needs. We also partner with Madison College through its free legal clinic to screen and refer students and community members to CILC services, as needed. These partnerships create access to major community organizations and systems that help to integrate our undocumented families into our communities.

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

CILC will screen individuals for both immigration and financial need (fall under 300% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines), either over the phone or by appointment in our offices. These first screening questions will help us to ensure we are meeting with those asylum seekers who are most in need of our services and are struggling to stabilize in their new community. Then, we ask screening questions that allow us to determine where they are in their process to seek asylum. This will help us to be able to assess the emergent needs of the asylum seeker and their family and schedule them for a Pro Se clinic date that will meet their legal needs. CILC staff will consult with our existing Immigrant Collaborative partners to advise and provide guidance referrals to assistance or provide direct financial support in one of the areas listed above (Centro Hispano and the Dane County Office of Immigrant Assistance social workers and mental health counselors). Each family will be allowed a maximum \$2000 so we can ensure enough people have the support they need to the temporary COVID conditions.

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.

Almost 70% of CILC employees come from immigrant families and 100% are Spanish speaking (including native and heritage speakers), and all have JD degrees from the University of Wisconsin. We also receive formal ongoing support from top experts in the field like the Vera Institute for Justice, the National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA), and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc (CLINIC). Our staff all have experience serving the needs of the undocumented population in Madison. We are experienced in the asylum process, an area that is constantly changing and becoming more nuanced. We also attend ongoing training to keep up with these changes. We are experienced in screening the immigration status needs of our immigrant community and are able to make appropriate referrals to community organizations to meet holistic needs as they occur. Staff understands the importance of delivering trauma informed services and the nuances of the inequitable systems, namely Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Immigration Court system, that our undocumented community members must tackle in order to settle in safely in our country. Staff has built rapport and has regular communication with ICE

in Milwaukee to help individuals navigate this very complicated asylum system, that includes a required component to report in person to ICE in Milwaukee. During COVID, the ability to find transportation to Milwaukee, or even attend in-person check in dates, has been especially difficult. Our office’s communication with relevant federal agents makes it so that missing an appointment does not negatively impact their case. This grant would allow us to expand this assistance and provide it in a formal way so that access and understanding of these services across our community is more equitable.

Timeline:

6. Describe the anticipated timeline for your proposal.

Program Start Date April 1, 2022	Program End Date November 1, 2023
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
A. Personnel Costs		
Salaries/Wages (show detail below)	\$360,000	\$108,000
Fringe Benefits and Payroll Taxes	\$27,360	\$8208
B. Estimated Program Costs		
Utility Bills	\$6000	\$6000
Internet Bill		
House Supplies		
Transportation	\$2292	\$2292
Job Training Assistance		
Language Learners Assistance		
Meal Programs	\$9000	\$9000
Telephone		
Other (explain below):	\$33,792	\$33,792
TOTAL (A + B)	\$421,152	\$150,000

Other please explain:

Salaries -----

Employee 1 - total monthly salary: \$5000. 30% of time spent on project = \$1500/month

Employee 2 - total monthly salary: \$5000. 30% of time spent on project = \$1500/month

Employee 3 - total monthly salary: \$5000. 30% of time spent on project = \$1500/month

Employee 4 - total monthly salary: \$5000. 30% of time spent on project = \$1500/month

Payroll Taxes -----

Employee 1 - \$114/month

Employee 2 - \$114/month

Employee 3 - \$114/month

Employee 4 - \$114/month

Estimated Program Costs -----

Transportation to legal hearings in Milwaukee and Chicago: \$2292 (included in grid above)

Food and utilities support when the bread-winner in a family has been detained by ICE or forced to stop working:
\$15,000 (included in grid above)

Psychological therapy or evaluation due to the trauma inflicted by persecution in their home country or stays in ICE
detention: \$6000

Daycare so immigrants can attend hearings, meet with CILC, or visit loved-ones in ICE detention: \$2500

Financial assistance for significant immigration application fees: \$8,000