



# 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:	End Domestic Abuse WI (RISE Law Center)	Amount Requested:	\$ 150,000
Title of Proposal:	COVID Relief Client Assistance Funds - RISE Law Center		
Contact Person:	Robin Dalton	Email:	rdalton@endabusewi.org
Agency Address:	1400 E Washington Ave., Ste. 262, Madison, WI 53703	Telephone:	608-256-1015
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):	n/a	Fiscal Agent Phone:	n/a
Fiscal Agent Contact Person:	n/a	Fiscal Agent Email:	n/a

Project Goal:

1. Please describe your proposal’s goal of supporting undocumented immigrant households as they deal with the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This pandemic has disproportionately affected clients at RISE – who are primarily immigrant survivors of violence - due both to:

- the lack of a public safety net of support needs available to US Citizens and immigrants who qualify – most RISE clients are under-documented and unable to access basic needs benefits including TANF type benefits, and
- the uptick in domestic violence throughout this pandemic

Many under-documented immigrants are essential workers without all the fringe benefits, and access to public benefits when needed, to be able to self-isolate when they have been exposed or fear being exposed to COVID. Further, as pandemic relief and stimulus opportunities have often systematically excluded under-documented communities. Moreover, many RISE clients were laid off due to the pandemic (even when their documented counterparts were not) – with no ability to collect unemployment or other assistance for basic needs. At RISE we’ve seen a direct impact on our client’s ability to access justice. While there are often barriers due to language, cultural humility in the law, fears of legal systems, etc., the pandemic has exacerbated barriers.

Our office has complimentary funding which supports free or reduced legal fees to immigrant families. However there is a huge gap in funding for peripheral support to immigrants to eliminate some of the financial hardships endured when applying for protections in WI Circuit Courts or immigration protections. For example, an immigrant survivor leaving an abusive relationship may want to file a restraining order, family action for child custody and support, and an immigration petition. Even when we can provide free legal services this client faces filing fees, service of court action costs, mandatory court ordered Guardian ad Litem and Family Court Study costs, passport costs, medical exam costs, potential deposition and transcript costs, travel costs to go to court, childcare costs for when in legal meetings or court hearings, and more. Meaning that even when legal fees are waived this client may spend thousands of dollars on these peripheral needs and requirements simply to try to access basic legal protections. This causes systematic failure to those who are often most vulnerable in our communities.

In short, our proposal goal is to create greater financial stability and economic freedom for immigrants to address our client needs in order to facilitate improved access to justice. This will be achieved through both direct payments to vendors (e.g. filing fees at WI Circuit Courts or to US Citizenship and Immigration Services) and payments directly to clients (e.g. to offset child care or travel costs when a client has court hearings, interviews, legal meetings, etc).

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.).

RISE (Refugees and Immigrants Seeking Empowerment) centers our work on immigrant and refugee survivors of violence. The majority of our immigrant clients (over 85%) are Latinx, followed by Asian, African and European - our client base represents every continent (except Antarctica). RISE serves adults (including the elderly) and children (through a parent or guardian), from any country or ethnicity, and any immigration status. RISE has a small amount of funding (\$15,000/year) that has a limitation on serving only clients who are TANF eligible (i.e., eligible for public benefits – of which the vast majority of our clients cannot qualify for due to being under-documented). Most RISE clients are fully undocumented – in the process of applying for VAWA or U Visa Status, followed by DACA holders, Asylees, T Visas, etc. Nearly all immigrant clients served under grants are at 150% or under the Federal Poverty Level (with exceptions for extreme victimization), while clients who pay reduced fees for legal services are at 300% or under. While most RISE's clients identify as female, RISE serves clients from all gender identities.

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

This funding will allow RISE to assist undocumented immigrant clients in breaking down barriers to accessing services. Some of those challenges and how this funding will alleviate them are described below. RISE is requesting funding to assist immigrants to pay for these costs:

-Filing fees to USCIS - USCIS continues to increase the fees immigrants have to pay to file their cases. Some filing fees, like DACA filing fees, cannot be waived.

-Travel - Madison residents have to travel to Milwaukee for immigration interviews and to Chicago for immigration court. Some have to travel to courthouses outside of Dane County, consulates, etc. just to pick up required records or other documentation. Many clients do not have their own transportation, or drivers licenses due to their immigration status. Moreover, immigration court could be scheduled early in the morning, rendering clients unable to be present, especially if a whole family has court or parents do not have child care for younger children. RISE proposes to allocate funds to assist clients with transportation costs (gas/bus/tolls/helping pay a friend to drive them), food costs while traveling, and lodging if necessary, child care, and other related costs.

-USCIS Medical Exams - Some immigration applications require a medical exam. There are specialized doctors who perform these exams. Since the pandemic began, the cost for these exams has increased as has the wait times for many of our clients due to COVID closures and new vaccine requirements. When a whole family is applying for immigration relief, many clients are unable to pay for these exams, which delays their ability to obtain status.

-Filing fees to Circuit Courts and Service Fees to the Sheriff - Circuit Courts fee waiver requests are not always granted. Those who receive public assistance automatically qualify for one; however for undocumented immigrants who do not qualify for public benefits, obtaining fee waivers is more difficult. This results in delays to file or obtain personal service on cases. If the other party is no longer in the country these fees can add up to well over \$1,000 to hire a service processor abroad or publish in a foreign newspaper. Service is mandatory for most of the family and protective orders we file to be granted/decided.

-Expert Witness Fees - Many family law cases require the use of expert witnesses (appraisers, mental health/AODA providers, domestic abuse experts) to ensure good outcomes for children.

-Court Reporter Fees - Many times as part of family law cases part of the discovery and gathering of evidence is done through depositions. Depositions take a lot of time and require hiring specialized court reporters to conduct them. These court reporters charge for their time, as well as for transcripts of the proceedings separately. Additionally, court reporters who work for judicial officers charge for copies of transcripts of proceedings in specific courts. Inability to pay for these services could seriously curtail immigrants from obtaining good outcomes and relief in family courts.

-Family Court Services (Custody Evaluations) - Even though Family Court Services workers are hired by the county to conduct custody evaluations, there are costs associated with them that clients have to pay. This can inhibit clients from rightfully requesting these evaluations, which could result in problematic outcomes, including the children being placed with abusive parents.

-Guardian ad litem (GAL) fees - Often appointed in family law cases where legal custody and physical placement of children is contested, GAL's are an expensive part of family court matters. Even when the county covers their costs, parties are required to reimburse the county for the cost. Immigrants often face an expensive GAL bill which deters them from fighting for their rights into settling into orders that are not in the best interest of children.

-Therapists - Often immigration cases need additional evidence from licensed professional therapists in order to prove elements of the case. Undocumented immigrants who often do not have health insurance to cover these costs run the risk of having their applications delayed, needing to submit further evidence, or having their application denied. There are also limited culturally competent and language competent therapists available which can translate to increased fees for these services.

-Cases filed with USCIS require criminal background checks. There are 2 main barriers for undocumented immigrants to obtain these background checks. First, they cost money. Second, in order to obtain background checks, fingerprinting is necessary, and police departments are often the main locations where fingerprints can be obtained. RISE staff will be trained in collecting clients' fingerprints to avoid the fear of law enforcement many undocumented immigrants face.

-Interpreters and Translators - While all RISE staff is bi/multilingual, there are times when we have clients who do not speak any of the languages we are versed in. Moreover, there are times where the nature of a case necessitates a translation or interpretation by a court or otherwise certified interpreter. Not having language access creates a barrier to access to other necessary, life-saving services.

-Costs of obtaining documentation - For legal cases, having evidence in the form of documentation is essential. However, clients often find it hard to obtain documentation due to lack of financial resources. For example, court documents cost \$1.25 per page, plus \$5 if they are certified. Medical records could cost over \$100 per patient. This creates a barrier for clients to be able to have credible evidence to prove their cases.

-General Client Assistance - Clients experience other barriers to legal representation. For example, USCIS requests proof of completion of sentences or payment of fines. Many RISE clients are not able to provide proof of payment of fines due to not having the financial resources to pay them. The most common unpaid ticket our client has is for driving without a licence - something that many of our clients must do to get to work, drop kids at school, etc - especially with limited public transportation options and in this pandemic with increased concerns of using public transportation.

By allocating funding from this grant to assisting immigrants to pay for these costs, RISE will assist in eliminating barriers to their legal cases, which will, in turn, result in clients being more financially stable once they obtain support orders, authorization to work in the US, and immigration status that will allow them to receive public benefits.

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

RISE obtains the majority of our clients through referrals from community partners and prior clients. Once clients contact our office, they receive an intake (often free of charge) for services, at which time they are assessed for all the grants RISE receives.

RISE always collects demographic information, information regarding immigration status, and income information for all clients. Using this information, we will determine if clients qualify for assistance under this grant, and which assistance. Additionally, clients of other providers who partner with RISE will also be eligible to receive assistance as outlined above with this funding.

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.

RISE has extensive expertise and lived experience – serving thousands of WI’s immigrant/refugee survivors of violence over 18 years. Our amazing team, supportive statewide coalition, community partnerships, high volume of cases throughout the years, multicultural and multilingual staff has provided a strong backbone at RISE for holistic, culturally-humble and high-quality services to immigrants. Currently RISE has 4 Attorneys and 1 Outreach and Client Specialist (we have 2 additional job openings for a 5th attorney and Bilingual (Spanish) Legal Assistant.

Our staff is as follows (along with formal education/training):

-Attorney Robin Dalton (J.D.)- For over 13 years Robin has successfully represented immigrants in petitions in front of US Citizenship and Immigration Services and in Immigration Court in Chicago. Robin is also a nationally recognized trainer on immigration protections for immigrant survivors of violence – teaching conferences from the Federal Bar Association, American Immigration Lawyers Association and ASISTA. She is past president of the WI Asian Bar Association and current Vice Chair of the AILA National Committee on U Visa, T Visa and VAWA.

-Attorney Jennifer C. Johnson (J.D.) - Jennifer spent time in Egypt, where she received her Certificate in Political Economy and Foreign Policy. While in Egypt, Jennifer took an interest in poverty issues amount different ethnic

groups. This experience has defined the work Jennifer does at RISE, as it helped her understand the difficulties groups face when labeled as "different."

-Attorney Molly Horwitz (J.D.)- A self-described proud Paraguayan, Molly's journey towards assisting those historically marginalized began at an early age. Her heritage has defined her work with immigrant populations in Wisconsin. Her experience will ensure that RISE continues to center those historically marginalized, and that we look beyond the surface to allocate these funds to those who need it most.

-Attorney Grisel Santiago-Rivera (J.D. & M.A.) - Grisel is a native Spanish-speaker from Puerto Rico. When she moved to WI she faced bigotry and discrimination, which helped her develop a passion for racial justice issues. Grisel has years of experience in violence against women issues (domestic abuse, sexual assault, human trafficking, and stalking), and has handled complex divorces while at RISE. Grisel will help manage the distribution of these funds in an equitable manner.

-Elizabeth Lorenz (M.A.) - A former Director of Operations at the Latino Academy of Workforce Development in Madison, Elizabeth's background in social justice was polished during the time she lived in Mexico where she received her M.A. from Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Elizabeth is highly engaged with Latino communities in Madison. Her expertise will ensure outreach to Madison residents about this funding.

All RISE staff are bilingual or multilingual. RISE staff speak 4 languages besides English, including Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic and basic French. This allows RISE to be responsive to the needs of the majority of clients served. Over 85% of RISE's immigrant clients identify as Latinx, and nearly all of those clients use Spanish as their main language. By having culturally humble and competent staff, RISE can respond to the needs of multiple populations.

RISE prides itself on creating an environment that attracts and retains a culturally rich, racially diverse and fully bilingual staff that reflects the communities we serve. Attorney Robin Dalton is biracial and a 2nd generation immigrant (Thai father; Kiwi-New Zealander maternal grandmother - both immigrated to the US). She speaks Spanish fluently. Attorney Molly Horwitz is Latinx, a proud Paraguayan. She speaks Spanish. Attorney Jennifer Johnson is bilingual, as she speaks Arabic fluently and lived in Egypt. Attorney Grisel Santiago-Rivera is Latinx, and is a native Spanish speaker. Elizabeth Lorenz, Outreach and Client Services Specialist, is a 2nd generation immigrant (German grandparents immigrated to the US). She is proficient in Portuguese and bilingual in Spanish. She lived in Mexico for 9 years. Three staff have raised or are raising second generation immigrant children (Hondureño, Argentine, Mexican) which add to our unique, blended, and diverse perspectives. Outside RISE's staff, End Abuse has diverse staff, African American, Asian-American, Native American and Latinx, as well as staff who identify as LGBTQA+. Our board is inclusive and reflective of many identities including Latinx, African-American, Hmong, and Native American members, our Executive Director is African-American, and our management team is 60% BIPOC. Needless to say, we are diverse, and our commitments to inclusion and racial justice are not only infused in our work, but for most of us are a part of our daily lived experiences

Timeline:

- 6. Describe the anticipated timeline for your proposal.

Program Start Date 04/01/2022	Program End Date 12/31/2024
<b>Remember</b> 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)	2,296,878	25681

Fringe Benefits and Payroll Taxes	527,593	3429
<b>B. Estimated Program Costs</b>		
Utility Bills		
Internet Bill		
House Supplies		
Transportation		2400
Job Training Assistance		
Language Learners Assistance		7200
Meal Programs		
Telephone		
Other (explain below):		111289
<b>TOTAL (A + B)</b>		<b>150000</b>

Other please explain:

See below Other Costs for Salary Costs Details.

	TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	AMOUNT OF CITY \$ REQUESTED
OPERATIONAL COSTS:		
Supplies -	\$105,874	\$785
Consultants -	\$178,870	\$420
Rent -	\$123,600	\$1,230
Insurance -	\$12,000	\$100
Telephone & Internet -	\$37,280	\$100
Professional Association Dues -	\$22,575	\$225
Advertising -	\$15,000	\$50
Indirect Costs -	\$961,167.48	\$9,910
CLIENT'S ASSISTANCE:		
Food (During Travel) -		\$6,000
Lodging -		\$820
Litigation Assistance		
(Medical Exams, GAL Fees, Expert Witness Fees		
Court Reporter Fees, Family Court Services Fees,		
Therapists, Filing and Service Fees, Documentation, Background Checks) -		\$87,150
Other Client Assistance (Payment of Fines, Child Care, and Others) -		\$4,500

PERSONNEL COSTS DETAIL:

Name	Position	% FTE	% of Time on Project	Project Cost
Robin Dalton	Director of Legal Services	100%	2%	\$ 5,619
Jennifer Johnson	Associate Attorney	100%	2%	\$ 3,434
Molly Horwitz	Associate Attorney	100%	1%	\$ 1,779
VACANT	Associate Attorney	100%	1%	\$ 1,717
Elizabeth Loren	Bilingual Outreach Specialist	100%	1%	\$ 1,395
VACANT	Bilingual Legal Assistant	100%	1%	\$ 1,717
Gricel Santiago-Rivera	Director of Sustainability	100%	1%	\$ 2,934
Annette Sauvola	Senior Staff Accountant	100%	1%	\$ 2,113
Sarah Carpenter	Director of Finance	100%	1%	\$ 3,159
Monique Minkens	Executive Director	100%	0.5%	\$ 1,814
Total Personnel				\$ 25,681