

Greater Boston Immigrant Defense Fund:
Delivering on the Dream Initiative
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Initiative Overview:

Greater Boston is home to over 800,000 immigrant and refugee residents, including an estimated 180,000 individuals without immigration status¹ within the Boston NECTA division,² who may need deportation defense. Collectively, they contribute to the economic vitality and vibrant cultural fabric of our communities. Despite the long-standing and important role that immigrants and refugees have played in our Commonwealth, a shifting and uncertain federal policy landscape and growing anti-immigrant sentiment threaten already vulnerable community members with deportation without representation and full knowledge of their rights, discrimination and fraud, and heightened confusion, anxiety and fear.

Greater Boston's Immigrant Defense Fund is a public-private partnership and funder collaborative committed to building Greater Boston's capacity to protect and defend our immigrant and refugee communities. The design of the initiative is the product of a collaborative effort between the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement, Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation and Massachusetts Law Reform Institute with input from local funders and immigration advocates. Local foundations and corporate partners contributing to the fund include the Barr Foundation, the Klarman Family Foundation, the Boston Foundation, the Fish Family Foundation, the Herman and Frieda L. Miller Foundation, Foley Hoag, Mintz Levin, and the Hyams Foundation, the lead funder for the initiative.

The fund seeks to connect legal assistance with community education and outreach supports in 3-5 immigrant communities³ in Greater Boston, while also supporting the coordinated infrastructure necessary to enable community partners to collectively respond to shifting needs across the network. The initiative is a member of Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees' (GCIR) national Delivering on the Dream Initiative.

Grantmaking plans & Initiative goals:

To advance the goals of GCIR's Delivering on the Dream Initiative, the Greater Boston Immigrant Defense Fund will support the following goals for low-income immigrants currently subject to deportation:

¹ Temporary Protected Status (TPS) has been designated through January 5, 2018 for Honduras, January 22, 2018 for Haiti, and March 9, 2018 for El Salvador, with an estimated 303,242 people from these countries who have TPS. If these designations are not extended, the Greater Boston region would be particularly harmed, as many of the estimated 9,859 residents from Honduras, 47,583 from Haiti, and 30,401 from El Salvador have TPS themselves or rely on family members who have it.

² NECTA: New England City and Town Areas. NECTAs are analogous to metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas and are defined using the same criteria, except that they are defined on the basis of New England towns instead of entire counties.

³ Particular subregions in the the Greater Boston Area with large immigrant populations and high need for legal representation, community education and outreach supports.

Enhancing legal service capacity:

1. Eligibility screening and non-profit legal assistance, when appropriate, to help facilitate and increase applications by immigrants determined to be eligible for some form of immigration relief which could include a combination of the following options:
 - a. General regional legal screenings for immigrants who may be eligible for some form of immigration relief;
 - b. Regional legal screenings to assess immigrant eligibility for a specific type of relief or legal status such as “cancellation of removal” or “U-visas”;
 - c. Local legal screening and legal consultations through community-based anchor organizations working in partnership with a legal services organization.

2. Legal representation and deportation defense for those facing deportation proceedings⁴:
 - a. Priority 1: Immediate Deportation Defense: Legal representation for low-income immigrants facing a serious risk of removal, including immigrants recently arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or issued Notices to Appear (NTA) for a removal hearing, immigrants released or denied release following an ICE arrest, and immigrants with outstanding removal orders who are likely to be detained under current ICE enforcement priorities and now need to file motions to reopen their closed proceedings in order to avoid deportation.
 - b. Priority 2: Protecting Against Threat of Future Deportation: Legal representation for low-income immigrants not currently arrested, detained, or issued an NTA, or who do not have existing removal orders, but who are within the 2017 ICE enforcement priorities and who are eligible for any kind of relief or legal status that, if granted, would avoid deportation in the future.

Strengthening community education, outreach, organizing & referrals:

1. Multilingual and multicultural outreach, education & organizing efforts tailored to unique needs of targeted communities
2. “Know Your Rights” training and information dissemination to combat immigration scams, fraud, and discrimination, and increase awareness of rights, benefits, and protections
3. Referrals to legal services providers for those needing representation for deportation defense

⁴ Legal assistance providers receiving funds will give priority to those matters where representation has a reasonable chance to achieve a favorable outcome for the person seeking assistance. Funds will not be used to provide representation to individuals with a final conviction of certain violent felonies that foreclose viable immigration defenses and relief, absent extraordinary circumstances (i.e. a situation in which a grantee legal services program determines that doing so would: address a larger, systemic issue; set an important legal precedent; and/or involve compelling factors strongly mitigating in favor of the representation).

Building network infrastructure:⁵

1. Network-wide communication and information sharing, tracking and documenting network activities
2. Development of network-wide communications strategy
3. Tracking and evaluation of initiative impact, collecting qualitative and quantitative data

Partners: The Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation (MLAC), the largest funding source for civil legal aid programs in Massachusetts, will serve as initiative fiscal sponsor. Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI), a statewide poverty law and policy center, and legal services Immigration Coalition convenor, will lead network coordination.

Fund Priorities: The Greater Boston Immigrant Defense Fund will invite individual or collaborative proposals that seek to support the connection and coordination of legal services with community outreach and education providers.

Priority will be given to: collaborative requests where applicants can demonstrate a record or history of successful partnerships as well as a robust approach to collaboration with its chosen partner; applicants with a proven record of successful impact in the aforementioned areas of work; strong connections with local immigrant communities; strong data collection, measurement and reporting abilities⁶; and those with BIA recognition and accredited representatives (if there are no attorneys on staff).⁷ For requests submitted by Community Outreach Organizations, priority will be given to organizations with grassroots community organizing experience.

Additionally, the fund will give priority to requests seeking to serve immigrant communities in Greater Boston with significant immigrant populations, as well as communities where the legal service and community outreach resources may be more limited relative to need: including Boston area, metro-west, northeast, and southeast. Requests that propose to maximize the impact of awards geographically will be prioritized.

⁵DOTD grantee organizations will be part of a coordinated network, led by the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, that will meet regularly to share information, provide updates, develop strategies, and identify new needs and/or barriers encountered by the target client population(s).

⁶ Note that the Initiative Fund will require tracking and evaluating of the impact of the initiative over the course of grant.

⁷ The Board of Immigration Appeals is part of the Department of Justice's Executive Office of Immigration Review. BIA Recognition and Accreditation allows non-lawyers to assist clients in immigration proceedings before the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), or the Executive Office for Immigration Review's (EOIR) immigration courts and the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), or both. BIA Recognition is a designation reserved for organizations. All accredited representatives must be affiliated with a recognized organization.

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Award Information:

Estimated Number of Awards: Up to 10
Anticipated Funding per Organization: Up to \$40K per year for Community Outreach Organizations
Up to \$100K per year for Legal Service Partners

Larger awards may be considered for coalitions/partnerships that involve more than one legal service partner and community outreach partner, and/or support multiple immigrant communities.

Performance Period: Two years (Oct. 15, 2017 to Oct. 14, 2019)
Applicant Q&A Conf. Call (optional): Sept. 18th, 2017 1-2PM
Dial-in: 617-367-9194 Code: 907104
Proposal Deadline: Sept 29th, 2017 By End of Day (5PM)

Grant Eligibility:

1. The Greater Boston Delivering the Dream Initiative will only make grants to organizations with 501(c)(3) tax status or to organizations that apply through a fiscal sponsor that has 501(c)(3) tax status.
2. This RFP will support only organizations in communities that fall along and/or east of the 495 corridor (i.e. inclusive of Lawrence, Lowell) as well as 195 (i.e. inclusive of Fall River, New Bedford).

Please direct questions regarding the proposal to:

Janne Hellgren, Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation
jhellgren@mlac.org

Agnes Chang, Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement
agnes.chang@boston.gov

Required Materials:

The following components of a proposal must be submitted for a proposal to be considered for funding:

1. [A Proposal Cover Sheet](#)
2. Narrative Proposal – Please address each of the following questions and requests for documents in your proposal. We request that you limit the narrative portion of your proposal to four pages.

Organization Background:

- a. Briefly describe your organization's background, mission and track record of aligned work.
- b. Staff and Board Information – Provide brief biographical descriptions of the board and staff that will be involved in the proposed work and what their roles will be.

Proposal:

- a. Please provide a description of the work for which your organization seeks funding

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from the initiative (please reference “Grantmaking plans & Initiative goals” section above), and describe its ability to carry out this work. Be sure to note whether you are applying to conduct Community Outreach or Legal Services. If submitting a collaborative proposal, please outline the respective role and work that each applicant partner will undertake.

b. Please describe the target population you intend to serve and your geographical focus.

c. What are the expected outcomes of this project?

d. How will your organization collect and report case data including outcomes and impact? How will your organization collect and report other data associated with the services you intend to provide?

e. Describe any partnership, allies, or intersectional work that will be leveraged or developed as a result of this project.

3. Financial Information

a. Organizational Budget – Organizational line-item budget reflecting income and expenses for the fiscal year in which the majority of the work will be performed.

b. Project Budget – Project line-item budget reflecting income and expenses (you may include staff time and other organizational costs) for the actual grant term in which the proposed work would be performed.

4. IRS Tax Status Letter – Please include a copy of your organization's IRS determination letter indicating your status as a 501(c)(3) organization. If your organization does not have its own 501(c)(3) status, but is a project of a sponsoring organization, you must include:

a. A letter from the sponsoring organization stating that it is assuming all fiscal, legal, and programmatic responsibility for your organization

b. A copy of the sponsoring organization's 501(c)(3) determination letter

c. The sponsoring organization's budget

Where to Send Your Application:

Applications must be submitted via email to MLAC, Janne Hellgren jhellgren@mlac.org, by September 29, 2017 end of day (5PM).