

Civil Legal Aid for Immigrants & Refugees

Civil legal aid provides low-income immigrants advice, representation, and information so they can protect their rights, safety, and financial stability—which have become paramount during the COVID-19 pandemic. **During the pandemic, immigration cases have increased by 15%.**

Legal Aid lawyers help immigrants and refugees

- Ensuring fair treatment and due process
- Assisting with DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and TPS (Temporary Protected Status)
- Educating people on their rights and responsibilities through workshops
- Helping people secure the right to live and work in the U.S. legally
- Removing barriers to education for immigrants
- Protecting access to safety net programs

Low-income people at or below 125% of the federal poverty level (\$34,688 per year for a family of four) qualify for civil legal aid.

Antonio's Story

Antonio*, born in Guatemala, was severely neglected and abused as a child. At 16, he left his homeland on a dangerous



journey to the U.S, eventually settling in Lynn. He contacted the Children's Law Center of Massachusetts, which helped him obtain a custody order, defended Antonio against removal, obtained a Special Immigrant Juvenile visa and, finally, secured him a Green Card. Despite numerous restrictions and delays posed by COVID-19, CLCM advocated for Antonio remotely to ensure his due process rights. *Name has been changed.

**Civil legal aid organizations in
Massachusetts closed**

2,397

**immigration cases
in FY21**

**Last year
legal aid provided**

\$103 million

**in economic benefits to
the Commonwealth and its
residents**

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