

Immigration

The IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE RIGHTS team protects and defends the rights of immigrants and refugees with low incomes statewide and advances pro-immigrant public policies.



OUR 2025 PRIORITIES

Address Federal Immigration Restrictions and Immigrant Concerns

- Host power of attorney clinics across the state, partnering with community groups and volunteer attorneys and advocates.
- Educate immigrant communities on key updates and emergency preparedness, which includes developing an Emergency Preparedness Guide.
- Coordinate legal services in response to immigration threats with immigrant rights groups.
- Share calls to action, social media posts, and media releases about federal immigration policy.
- Protect immigrants' constitutional rights in interactions with ICE and local law enforcement.



Advocate for Immigrant Rights and Protection from Deportation and Detention

- Provide legal representation to prevent deportation to dangerous situations.
- Protect immigrant workers from retaliation by abusive employers.

Ensure Immigrant Access to Benefits

- Promote inclusion of immigrants in North Carolina benefit programs and increase access where possible.
- Maintain and expand immigrant access to Medicaid, schools, and related programs and services.
- Improve language access in courts and government agencies.
- Educate on policy changes related to Public Charge.
- Address health equity for immigrants and refugees in North Carolina.

Prevent Anti-immigrant Legislation

- Block harmful anti-immigrant bills and advocate for pro-immigrant policies.

Combat Fraud and Abuse Targeting Immigrants

- Protect immigrants from fraudulent transactions and unfair housing practices.

OUR RECENT WINS

This year, we provided legal help in immigration, housing, and consumer issues while actively tracking and responding to state and federal immigration laws. We partnered with other organizations to address challenges that new North Carolinians face, including discrimination and barriers to education, health care, public safety, and economic security.

- Settled a class action lawsuit against a Wake County mobile home park, where owners illegally sold homes without required protections and evicted tenants for missed payments; the owners agreed to pay \$1 million and change their practices.
- Successfully represented tenants and homeowners who were at risk of eviction, including clients who had bought homes through installment contracts.
- Successfully represented numerous immigrants in cases before the Charlotte Immigration Court and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, including asylum, family-based petitions, U-Visas, and cases to prevent deportation. Examples include:
 - ◆ Securing legal permanent residency for family members of several Afghan parolees.
 - ◆ Filing a special immigration petition for a 14-year-old girl in foster care who had been abandoned.
 - ◆ Helping a couple from Mexico stay in the United States with their severely disabled U.S. citizen child, who needs constant medical care.



Core Strategies and Approaches

- Provide legal help for immigrants and refugees in civil cases, prioritizing high-impact cases involving public benefits, consumer protection, housing discrimination, and education
- Win permanent protections by helping immigrants secure legal status and work authorization as they navigate an unfair and broken federal immigration system.
- Work with local groups to track and explain immigration laws, offering resources and workshops in English and Spanish.
- Train organizations and government agencies on how immigrants can access benefits.
- Advance immigrant rights, fight discrimination, and offer training and support to grassroots groups—particularly those led by immigrants themselves.



LET'S WORK TOGETHER to end poverty, build power, and share prosperity across North Carolina!

← SCAN HERE to support policies that protect the rights of immigrants.
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