

# **Improving Immigrant Integration**

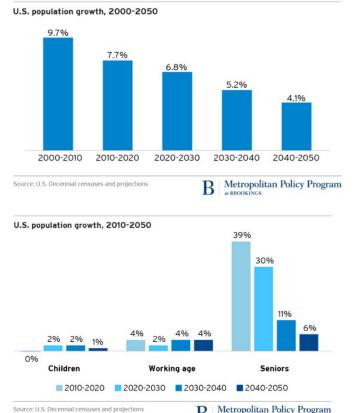
Welcoming this generation's immigrants and ensuring a prosperous future for our whole community



Alianza NORCO 5/2023

### **U.S. Population, Economy and Immigration**

- Historic demographic stagnation
- Increasingly dependent on immigration
- Less than half the pop. growth in 2040-2050 than in 2000-2010
- Immigration will account for most of national growth after 2030
- By 2035, there will be more seniors than children
- Top Three Myths: Drag on the economy, steal American jobs, depress wages
- The Impact of Immigration on American Jobs and Income
- In-depth Panel: Economics of Immigration
- Documentaries: La Jaula de Oro, Which Way Home, A Better • Life, De Nadie, The Other Side of Immigration, The Least of These



Source: U.S. Decennial censuses and projections

### In the News Now: The End of Title 42

- Title 42 is a federal policy that allowed authorities to quickly expel migrants on public health grounds
- It is set to expire today: May 11, 2023
- Second influx of migrants arriving in Colorado
  - Total migrants served by the city and county of Denver since December 2022: 8,861
  - 0 New arrivals in the last 72 hours: 286 migrants (May 8) and 378(May 9)
- Denver response & immediate next steps
  - O Shifted in temporary shelter service A-number is required
  - Enhancing transportation services out of Denver
  - Shorter length of stays in shelters
  - Looking for other short-term shelter space
- Our experience with the newcomers
  - 0 70 newcomers over Christmas
  - Raising additional dollars for distribution
- Lack of response from other Colorado counties
- Advocacy efforts locally and with congressional delegation from Colorado
- The situation at the border



## Snapshot of Immigrants in our Region

### Alianza NORCO's Immigrant Fact Sheet

19,000 immigrants in the Fort Collins'(FC) Metropolitan Statistical Area 11,000 immigrants in FC

6,285 children in FC that live with at least one immigrant parent

- 4,872 of these children are US citizens
- 4,036 naturalized citizens in FC
- 2,310 undocumented people in FC
- 2,963 Larimer County residents eligible for immigration relief

2,191 Larimer County residents eligible for naturalization/citizenship

### **Integration Services: Giving and Receiving**





Additional Integration Services:

Business support, tax preparation, ITIN information, communication technology, childcare services, community events, immigration reform advocacy, local municipality involvement, transportation services

### Why Immigration Legal Services?

- Response to the immigrant community's need for affordable legal representation
- Alianza NORCO provides our region's only pro-bono / lowcost immigration legal services
- Advocacy for increased access to legal services for all immigrants

#### Advocacy Focus: Fort Collins Immigration Legal Defense Fund (ILDF) Denver, Aurora, Boulder ILDF Colorado-wide ILDF Nationwide Universal Representation





Students introduce flags during a naturalization ceremony for people becoming U.S. citizens at Dunn Elementary on Friday, April 7, 2023, in Fort Collins. Friday marked the first such ceremony since 2019, as COVID-19 stopped this annual event from taking place at the school from 2020-2022 IUCAS BOLAND/THE COLORADOAN



### **Universal Representation: Ripple Effect**

#### Publicly Funded Deportation Defense Programs

This map depicts the more than 50 publicly funded local and state deportation defense programs nationwide, including the 23 communities within 11 states that are formal partners of the SAFE Network. Map updated March 2023.

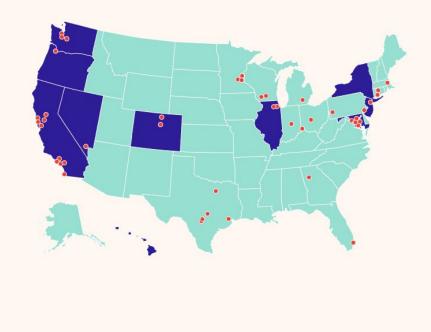
#### Filter:

✓ All Points on Map

SAFE Partners Only

#### Timeline:

Year: 2022



#### More Info on these

### Fort Collins Legal Defense Fund

Three nonprofit organizations are providing services for the Fort Collins Immigration Legal Fund:

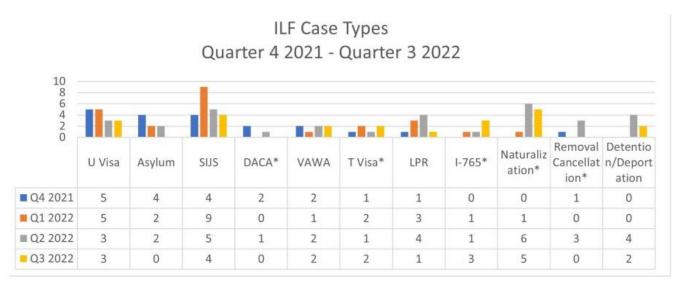
- Alianza NORCO provides pro-bono/low-cost legal representation for immigration cases and provides wrap-around services
- **ISAAC of Northern Colorado** provides financial assistance for private attorney representation for a variety of immigration case types and offers services for immigrants
- **Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network** provides families with pro-bono representation in detention/deportation cases











From October 2021 through September 2022, the Immigration Legal Fund service providers assisted 97 people with direct legal representation in immigration matters. Including:

- 62 adults (over age 21)
- 35 child/youth age 5-20 years

### LDF Pilot: Case Types



Case types included:

U Visa - victims of crime

Asylum - victims of persecution or fear of harm or death upon return to home country

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status - abused, neglected, or abandoned children

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals - youth who arrived in the U.S. during a specified time period

Violence Against Women Act Visa (VAWA) - victims of domestic violence or crimes outlined in the Violence Against Women Act

T Visa/Office of Trafficking In Persons - victims of human trafficking

Lawful Permanent Resident Status - Permanent authorization to live in the United States as a non-citizen (sometimes known as "green card" residents)

**Removal Cancellation -** status adjustment by an immigration judge from 'subject to deportation' to 'lawful admittance for permanent residence' under certain circumstances

Detention/Deportation - persons detained and/or at risk of deportation with matters pending before an immigration court

### Alianza NORCO: Affirmative Cases



### 12,000 non-citizens in Larimer County (LC)



#### 2,963

LC residents eligible for immigration relief who need low-cost legal services

#### 2,191 LC residents eligible for citizenship

Naturalization (citizenship) Family-based petitions/applications Adjustment of status (green card) applications Self-petitions for battered spouses and children Violence Against Women Act U Visas for victims of crimes T Visas for victims of trafficking Application for Temporary Protected Status(TPS) Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) **Application for Work Permits** Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) Asylum/Refugee Other forms of relief with EOIR, USCIS, or ICE



### Asylees and Unaccompanied Minors (SIJS\*)

1,213 asylum decisions in Colorado in 2019
27% didn't have legal representation
84% of unrepresented asylum seekers were denied





Asylum seeking unaccompanied minors Angie, 11, and Elene, 15, from Honduras, await transport by U.S. Border Patrol agents in Texas after they crossed the Rio Grande on a raft on Sunday. Adrees Latif/Reuters

1,918 juvenile immigration court deportation proceedings in 2020 1,172 (61%) of those individuals were not represented

\*SIJS: Special Immigrant Juvenile Status

### **LDF Pilot: Stories**





Newsletter Spring 2023



A new U.S. citizen accepts an American flag during a naturalization ceremony at Dunn Elementary on Friday, April 7, 2023, in Fort Collins. Friday marked the first such ceremony since 2019, as COVID-19 stopped this annual event from taking place at the school from 2020-2022.

LUCAS BOLAND/THE COLORADOAN



Yenny Vivas smiles while attending a naturalization ceremony as a translator for people becoming U.S. citizens at Dunn Elementary on Friday, April 7, 2023, in Fort Collins. Friday marked the first such ceremony since 2019, as COVID-19 stopped this annual event from taking place at the school from 2020-2022. LUCAS BOLAND/THE COLORADOAN



Students celebrate during a naturalization ceremony for people becoming U.S. citizens at Dunn Elementary on Friday, April 7, 2023, in Fort Collins. Friday marked the first such ceremony since 2019, as COVID-19 stopped this annual event from taking place at the school from 2020-2022. LUCAS BOLAND/THE COLORADOAN



<u>Coloradoan Story -</u> <u>April 2023</u>



### Wrap-around Bilingual Navigation Services

- SB251 Driver's Licenses for immigrants
- Education on Tax preparation and ITIN numbers
- Passport info, appointments and renewals
- Know Your Rights and Immigration Legal Info
- Emergency rent assistance and referrals
- Filing fees for United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
- Expert fees for services such as family lawyers, mental & medical evaluations, and country condition testimony for legal clients
- Translation and interpretation
- Outreach program to identify community needs & share
   resources

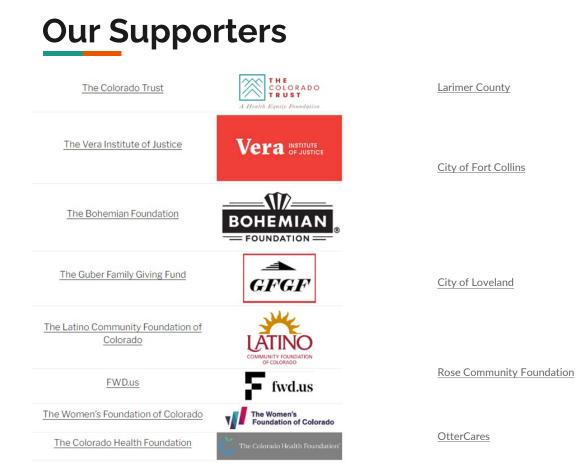


Integration Services: Giving and Receiving



Legal Bilingual Healthca Assistance Navigation Access le Educati Program

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-City of -Ort Collins **City of Loveland** COMMUNITY FOUNDATION





# **Backup Slides**

### Vision de Alianza NORCO Alianza NORCO's Vision



- To establish more immigration legal services programs to serve Fort Collins' low-income immigrants through low-cost or pro-bono services
- With approximately 2,310 undocumented immigrants and 7,195 non-citizens with temporary status in Fort Collins, the need for immigration assistance is considerable
- Not every immigrant needs the same type of assistance. There are 2 different groups of individuals who can help: lawyers and accredited representatives who are either fully or partially accredited through the Department of Justice



## Representantes Acreditados por el DOJ DOJ-Accredited Representatives

- Improve access to justice by increasing the number of representatives serving low-income immigrants
- Immigrant visa petitions, naturalization applications, asylum applications, applications for adjustment of status (green cards), DACA applications and refugee applications
- All work is done under the supervision of an immigration attorney

### Under a Deportation Order



Detained and Non-Detained

### 237 Pending Cases (2019)



#### 49

FC residents fighting deportations lack **experienced** legal services

Servicio de Inmigración Immigration Service	Abogado de Inmigración Immigration Attorney	Representante totalmente acreditado Fully-Accredited Representative	Representante Parcialmente Acreditado Partially-Accredited Representative
Decidir qué formularios llenar Decide what forms to fill out	Si / Yes	Si / Yes	Si / Yes
Completar formularios migratorios Fill out Immigration Forms	Si / Yes	Si / Yes	Si / Yes
Recopilar los documentos requeridos Collect supporting documents	Si / Yes	Si / Yes	Si / Yes
Envíe paquetes de presentación a USCIS Send submission packages	Si / Yes	Si / Yes	Si / Yes
Brindar estrategia legal y opiniones Provide legal strategy and opinions	Si / Yes	Si / Yes	Si / Yes
Representar el cliente en procedimientos DHS Represent in DHS proceedings	Si / Yes	Si / Yes	Si / Yes
Representar el cliente en procedimientos EOIR Represent in EOIR proceedings	Si / Yes	Si / Yes	No
Representar en procesos judiciales federales Represent in federal judicial proceedings	Si / Yes	No	No
Prometer resultados específicos Promise specific results	No	No	No





## Vera's SAFE Network



- The SAFE Initiative (Safety & Fairness for Everyone) is a unique collaboration among governments, immigration legal service providers, and advocates working together to build a movement for universal representation—a public defender system for all immigrants facing deportation. SAFE has catalyzed momentum for local- and state-funded deportation defense and driven a national movement toward federal systemic change.
- We believe that every person facing deportation is entitled to legal representation regardless of income, race, national origin, or history with the criminal legal system. Yet, there is currently no right to appointed counsel in immigration court. Our goal is to lay the foundational blocks that make federally mandated universal representation a reality.
- Vera's Catalyst Fund seeks proposals for innovative, publicly funded programs that will advance the objective of universal representation in our immigration court system.



## **Denver Immigrant Legal Services Fund (DILSF)**

- The DILSF is a special project fund at The Denver Foundation. DILSF was developed following an executive order signed by Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock in August 2017, pledging support for immigrants and refugees
- DILSF fund qualified organizations that provide direct legal representation to low-income, unauthorized individuals who are current residents of Denver and who are subject to potential deportation. Resources can also be used to help nonprofits expand the pool of pro bono or lowbono attorneys to provide assistance.
- More than \$755,000 has been distributed to local nonprofit organizations since the inception of the DILSF in 2018. These organizations have provided direct legal representation to hundreds of immigrants in detention, provided affirmative relief services, and expanded the capacity of immigration attorneys in the Denver Metro region.

