Immigrant Justice Legal Services (IJLS) FY18 Grantee Project Descriptions

African Communities Together

**CLIENT POPULATION:** African immigrants, particularly (1) low-income immigrants unable to afford traditional immigration legal services and (2) Limited English Proficient (LEP) immigrants.

**SERVICES:**

* **Know Your Rights and Immigration 101 presentations in African-serving institutions in DC.**
* **Direct legal services & referrals.** Clients will receive direct representation or be given a referral to a partner agency. Direct representation includes: simple immigration matters, such as renewals of green cards and Employment Authorization Documents; routine naturalizations and adjustments of status; and complex matters, such as asylum.

Asian Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project

**CLIENT POPULATION:** The District’s A/PI community members facing domestic violence.

**SERVICES:**

* **Know Your Rights presentations in A/PI religious institutions.** DVRP will facilitate Know Your Rights sessions conducted in safe spaces where A/PI residents gather. BSF (Libraries Without Borders) will ensure that immigration materials can be digitally accessed in multiple languages. Additionally, BSF will: curate resources (PDFs, websites, videos, etc.); and make those resources available in nontraditional spaces (e.g. laundromats, restaurants).
* **Immigration information in nontraditional locations. Application preparation workshops.** DVRP will prepare A/PI survivors to file VAWA, Battered Spouse Waivers and U-visa petitions via several rounds of support group styled workshops.

Ayuda

**CLIENT POPULATION:** Foreign-born parents and children living in DC, with a focus on families where individuals have different legal statuses and those who are eligible for immigration relief.

**SERVICES:**

* **Consultation & family preparedness legal clinics.** Clinics will include individualized consultations with a volunteer law firm attorney who assesses eligibility for affirmative and defensive immigration relief, and Family Preparedness clinics develop legally enforceable safety plans to ensure that children are safe and stable should a family member be detained by DHS.
* **Outreach events.** Themes include: know-your-rights; eligibility for immigration relief; avoiding immigration fraud schemes; eligibility for public benefits; and others. In FY18, we will be working with American University, Washington College of Law Immigration Clinic to draft and prepare immigration curriculum modules focusing on different aspects of immigration law and eligibility.
* **Direct legal services & referrals.**
* **Immigration videos.** In partnership with the DC Hispanic Bar Association, Ayuda will produce and/or curate immigration related video content.

Briya Public Charter School

**CLIENT POPULATION:** Immigrant adults enrolled in Briya.

**SERVICES:**

* **Direct legal services & referrals.** Cases accepted under the IJLS will include applications and proceedings regarding green cards, citizenship, asylum, S, T, U, Special Immigrant Juvenile visas and VAWA petitions. Depending on client demand, cases in other areas of immigration law may be considered for representation.
* **Know Your Rights.**

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, Inc.

**CLIENT POPULATION:** Immigrants of all ages, families of mixed status with at least one family member in DC, and/or immigrant business owners in DC.

**SERVICES:**

* **Direct legal services & referrals. N**aturalization and citizenship, asylum, family and employment based immigrant petitions, relief from removal in Immigration Court, VAWA self-petitions for survivors of domestic violence, U and T visas for victims of crime and trafficking, Temporary Protected Status, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), and consular processing.
* **Training & mentoring for pro bono attorneys and outreach to educate the community on the latest immigration issues.**

DC Affordable Law Firm

**CLIENT POPULATION:** Open to all D.C. immigrants, but will particularly serve immigrants from Central America and those facing uncertainty about their legal status due to possible expiration of TPS.

**SERVICES:**

* **Direct legal services & referrals.** The DC Affordable Law Firm, working with CARACEN, will:
  + Help immigrants develop a comprehensive legal strategy for those who, facing the loss of TPS, are now pursuing affirmative asylum applications after the one-year filing deadline;
  + Assist with non-immigration law matters, such as power-of-attorney agreements and trusts to help families facing detention or deportation;
  + Conduct legal screenings and identify immigrants who may lose TPS for referral to DCALF;
  + Continue assisting immigrants in applying for green cards and citizenship, renewing DACA status, and completing family reunification cases.
* **Know Your Rights presentations.** CARECEN will assist DCALF attorneys in presentations focusing on options for immigrants concerned about losing TPS.

KIND (Kids in Need of Defense), Inc.

**CLIENT POPULATION:** Unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children in Washington, DC.

**SERVICES:**

* **Direct legal services & referrals.** Immigration legal services include but are not limited to asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), and T and U visas. KIND staff also screen for possible trafficking and social service needs.

Latin American Youth Center

**CLIENT POPULATION:** Immigrant youth age 12-24 and their family members seeking legal services. LAYC’s roots lie in supporting immigrant youth from Central and Latin America, but persons from other regions are also served.

**SERVICES:**

* **Education & green card, DACA renewal, work permit, citizenship applications, and other affirmative filings.**
* **Referrals.** Youth/families screened by LAYC staff who require legal representation beyond the scope of LAYC’s program services will be referred to two external partner attorneys and/or community legal service organizations such as Ayuda or CARECEN.

Torture Abolition Survivors Support Coalition

**CLIENT POPULATION:** Low-income survivors of torture and their families applying for asylum.

**SERVICES:**

* **Know Your Rights Workshops.** Monthly Know Your Rights briefings on asylum.
* **Direct legal services. N**ew asylum cases and ongoing legal support for ongoing cases.
* **Access to health insurance/public benefits and family reunification support.**
* **Mentor and provide trauma-informed trainings for pro bono attorneys.** TASSC will lead a two-day, 16-hour orientation on trauma-informed legal representation for asylum seekers.

Whitman-Walker Health

**CLIENT POPULATION:** DC immigrants with chronic health conditions and/or who faced persecution in their home country due to sexual orientation or gender identity.

**SERVICES:**

* **Direct legal services & referrals.** Whitman-Walker Health Legal Services and the law firms of Benach Collopy, LLP and Chong Immigration Law PLLC will directly represent immigrants on:
* Applications for asylum, withholding of removal, and protection under the Convention Against Torture;
  + Applications for green cards, applications for U.S. citizenship, and applications/renewals of DACA (including litigation to challenge use of DACA information for purposes of enforcement, if appropriate);
  + Applications under VAWA and U, T, and SIJS status, and petitions for family reunification;
  + Removal proceedings for persons whose case began before age 18; and
  + Applications for waivers of inadmissibility, Temporary Protected Status, travel documents, and applications to renew or replace any identity document issued by USCIS.
* **Place and mentor asylum cases with Pro Bono Volunteers.**
* **Public benefits.** WWHLS will help Washingtonians access healthcare through enrollment and coverage applications and appeals for health insurance under the DC Healthcare Alliance Program, DC Medicaid, and the AIDS Drug Assistance Program.