Over the past year, we have witnessed the election of a president whose immigration policies include building a wall, deporting millions, and closing doors to those in need of protection. We have seen the termination of the DACA program, instatement of a travel ban, increased ICE presence in our community, and the opening of a new immigrant detention center 90 minutes outside of Albuquerque.

However, we have also seen a burgeoning sanctuary movement and unprecedented energy and support from our community around issues impacting immigrants. The election results do not undercut the fact that Americans overwhelmingly support immigration reform. There are millions of Americans who welcome immigrants with open arms and appreciate the strength immigrants bring to our national fabric.

While the past year has been full of challenges, this moment in history has given us at NMILC the opportunity to reassess our mission and values. The needs of the immigrant community in New Mexico have shifted with the political climate, and we have used this year to reflect on how we can stay responsive and relevant in light of these changes.

Our revamped NMILC mission, vision, and newly developed Theory of Change encapsulate how we view our role as an actor in the broader movement for social justice. Our Theory of Change reflects our organizational commitments to increasing civic engagement in the immigrant community, providing direct services that are flexible and responsive to the tumultuous political climate, and building the next generation of social justice legal professionals—especially addressing barriers to the legal profession facing immigrants and people of color. This document affirms our identity as a social justice organization dedicated to working with, rather than for, immigrants in New Mexico.

We are so grateful to you, our many volunteers and donors who have supported us this year, and we know there is so much work left to do. Our justice system should not pick and choose who it serves based on how much money they have or where they were born. We envision a vibrant New Mexico where all people—regardless of their immigration status—can achieve their full potential and are treated with dignity and respect. We made a lot of progress over the past year, and we can’t stop now. Please continue to join us as we fight for basic human rights with our immigrant neighbors. We cannot do it without you, and we thank you for your steadfast support.

With gratitude,

Mónica Córdova
Board Chair

Jennifer Landau
Executive Director
WHAT WE DO
This year, our staff and board members engaged in a planning process to update our organizational mission and vision statement. Given the increasingly hostile environment towards immigrants, we wanted our mission and vision to affirm our commitment not just to providing legal services, but to working towards social justice and equity for all, regardless of immigration status.

NMILC’S NEW MISSION AND VISION
Our mission is to advance justice and equity by empowering low-income immigrant communities through collaborative legal services, advocacy, and education.

We envision a vibrant New Mexico where all people, regardless of immigration status, can achieve their full potential and are treated with dignity and respect.

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE
Our newly developed Theory of Change is a visual representation of the strategies we believe are necessary to achieve our long-term goals and the methods we believe are foundational to our work. In collaboration with our organizational partners, we engage in policy, education and advocacy, direct services, and leadership development. Each of these work areas support and inform the other, contributing to increased civic engagement and a more equitable justice system.

WE CANNOT DO THIS WORK ALONE
We rely on volunteers to increase our capacity. If you are interested in volunteering, please call us at 505.247.1023 or email us at info@nmilc.org.
Over the course of the past year, we have seen increased Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) presence in our community. ICE officers have broadened the scope of their enforcement priorities, increased the detention of immigrants, and have targeted individuals at courthouses. This increased enforcement has made many immigrants fearful of going about their daily lives and exercising their legal right to seek help through the justice system—a reality that especially affects survivors of domestic violence and other crimes.

In response to this changing climate, we worked with Listo NM partners—El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos, Encuentro, and NM Dream Team—and other community groups to provide policy guidance, legal technical assistance, and training to community partners and constituents. We also provided legal guidance to support community groups in their movement-building efforts to protect immigrant families in an increasingly hostile policy environment.

ABQ RAPID RESPONSE
As cities across the U.S. grapple with how to respond to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids in their communities, we joined Listo NM partners, ACLU of NM, NM Faith Coalition for Immigrant Justice, Enlace Comunitario, SWOP, and the NM Asian Family Center to form the Albuquerque Rapid Response team. The team has developed various systems for legal support, advocated against and addressed harsh ICE tactics, and supported sanctuary policies locally.

ADVOCACY WITH THE COURTS ON ICE PRESENCE
Together with our partners on the ABO Rapid Response Team, we have worked on advocating for a policy that prevents ICE from apprehending individuals at their state court hearings. We also continue to seek permission for many of our clients to testify telephonically in order of protection and custody hearings, to reduce the risk of their being detained after testifying.

IMMIGRANT FRIENDLY POLICIES
Our staff provided support to El CENTRO in determining scope, strategy, and testimony in support of the Albuquerque City Council’s immigrant-friendly memorial and the Bernalillo County Commission’s immigrant-friendly resolution.

BUILDING COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE
In response to requests from the community, we have worked in conjunction with partner organizations and immigrant groups around the state to offer Know Your Rights, Legal Observer, and Civil Rights Trainings. We also regularly offer trainings for attorney volunteers and community groups to increase our community’s collective legal knowledge.

MANUAL ON STUDENT RIGHTS FOR APS SCHOOLS
In collaboration with the ACLU of NM, we published a community advisory on the rights of immigrant students in schools.
A study by the Center of American Progress shows that 97% of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients are employed and/or in school. Many have become the primary breadwinners in their families, taken advantage of educational opportunities, purchased homes, and even started their own businesses. An internal evaluation that we conducted last year on our DACA services reflected these national trends. The majority of our former clients interviewed reported becoming financially independent or earning more money since receiving their work permit.

On September 5, 2017, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the termination of the DACA program. DACA recipients eligible for renewal were given one month to submit their renewal application.

We responded. Together with Listo NM partners New Mexico Dream Team, El CENTRO, and Encuentro, as well as other groups across the state including Santa Fe Dreamers Project, Somos Un Pueblo Unido, El Instituto Legal, United We Dream, the Mexican Consulate, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, and NM Comunidades en Acción y de Fé, we quickly mobilized to provide support to anyone affected by DACA’s termination. We provided walk-in DACA renewal clinics in Albuquerque, Farmington, and Taos. On the Sunday before the deadline, Listo NM hosted a 12-hour DACAthon where people could come in or call in for assistance.

“I proposed the DACAtathon to ensure that we reached everyone and anyone who was eligible for renewal. I was delighted that NMILC and the project partners were able to mobilize quickly and without hesitation to make it a success.”

— ISAAC DE LA LUNA, Listo NM Communications Coordinator
The policies, promises, and threats of the Trump Administration have put an incredible strain on immigrant communities in New Mexico as we witness an increase in ICE raids, the rescission of the DACA program, and the expansion of immigrant detention across the country. Throughout this difficult period, we have been responsive to the changing needs of immigrants in New Mexico and have developed innovative ways to assist as many individuals as possible who are eligible for a path to citizenship. This has included growing our school-based outreach program, developing a self-help asylum project in response to ICE’s new detention of asylum seekers at the Cibola County Correctional Center, and increasing the accessibility of our weekly workshops where we provide free legal advice and assistance on specific types of cases.

NMILC Services and Partnerships that Lead to Citizenship

SCHOOL BASED PARTNERSHIPS

ABQ High, Leadership Schools (ACE, Health, Santa Fe, Toody, Highlands High, SWA)

SERVICES IN CIBOLA COUNTY CORRECTIONAL CENTER

If Dreamer Project, National Immigrant Justice Center, NM Faith Coalition for Immigrant Justice

PARTNERSHIP WITH VICTIM SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Encore Community, NM Asian Family Center, Solace, Esperanza Shelter, AD office

Our school-based programming started in 2012 with the introduction of DACA, and we have always endeavored to identify permanent paths to citizenship for students who qualify. Now that the political environment has shifted, we seek to ensure that every local undocumented student has access to a legal assessment to determine whether they qualify for a permanent path. One of the most common pathways to citizenship for youth is called Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, which allows children who have been abandoned, abused or neglected to apply for permanent residence. Our school outreach program has expanded to seven schools around Albuquerque, and is continuing to grow.

How does the school-based outreach program operate?

Each school has a unique culture and approach to holistic student support, and our program operates differently in each location depending on the systems they already have in place. In some schools, for example, the program is run through the school’s health program. If a student does not have health insurance, it is possible that this is due to their lack of permanent immigration status. In these cases, a guidance counselor or case manager will speak to the student and let them know that they can set up an appointment with me or one of the other NMILC legal caseworkers, if they are interested.

When we discover that a student is eligible for a form of relief but can not afford a private attorney, we work with NMILC staff attorneys as well as our network of pro bono attorneys to ensure that the case is staffed and completed with no charge to the student.

Why is this program important for students and their families?

With this program, we are creating safe zones for kids in their schools—the idea is to eliminate the stigma around being an undocumented student through our presence. By providing services on-site at schools, our aim is to make seeking immigration help as normalized as visiting the nurse or guidance counselor.

When receiving an immigration consultation, students are often able to find relief for their entire family. This is just one way that NMILC is working to keep New Mexican families united.

How does this program impact the community as a whole?

As a result of this partnership, schools have adopted policies that protect students from ICE and have started training staff members on how to respond to ICE presence on campus. The community is learning from the services we provide to students and is adopting policies and building infrastructure that supports our common goal of providing holistic support for immigrant members of our community. We have learned that all students benefit from an inclusive learning environment where everyone, regardless of immigration status, feels safe.

“Given the end of the DACA program and the vulnerable nature of temporary legal status, it’s more important than ever that NMILC assist as many community members as possible to identify eligibility for and help obtain legal immigration status that ultimately can lead to citizenship. At the same time, we are more committed than ever to providing immigration and financial solutions for those immigrants who don’t currently qualify for a permanent path.”

–JENNIFER LANDAU, Executive Director

AN INTERVIEW WITH ALEJANDRO MACIAS

Alejandro Macias, Economic Justice Fellow and NMILC Legal Assistance who coordinates NMILC’s School-Based Legal Program

2017 BY THE NUMBERS

62 SIJS cases filed

SPONSOR our work

$40 covers one consultation with a student at their school

$15,000 supports our on-site presence at a partner school for an entire year

VOLUNTEER your time

SIJS requires a State Court order. Join our Pro Bono SIJS Attorney Pool and represent a child in their State Court case.
DIRECT SERVICES

Asylum is a permanent path to citizenship, however, it is one of the most difficult and resource-intensive legal paths to obtain. Much of our asylum work takes place at the Cibola County Correctional Center—a detention facility located in Milan, New Mexico that houses the greatest percentage of asylum seekers in the nation and the only immigration detention center with a designated wing for transgender women. The facility began detaining immigrants in October 2016, just months after losing its contract to be run as a prison because of human rights violations.

We are working with the Santa Fe Dreamers Project to fight for justice and adequate legal representation to individuals detained in this facility. Twice per week, a small team of attorneys, legal assistants, and volunteers give presentations and provide consultations to detainees. We use a mix of pro se services and direct representation to assist as many people as possible.

PARTNER WITH US

$140 covers the cost of printing materials for our Cibola program for one month
$300 supports all costs related to one trip to the detention center
$3,500 funds one month of services at Cibola

Services in Cibola Detention Center

Ibrahim* recently graduated from university in West Africa, where he studied politics and foreign languages. A member of a rival political party to the government, Ibrahim had been arrested and detained several times by government police forces after participating in peaceful protests. While detained, he was denied food, forced to do unpaid labor, and tortured.

Things came to a breaking point one night when he was out of the house and the police showed up at his door. The police mistook Ibrahim’s uncle, who was visiting, for Ibrahim himself, and killed him in front of his mother. Knowing his life was in danger, Ibrahim flew to South America and then declared himself as an asylum seeker at the U.S.-Mexico border.

NMILC and the Santa Fe Dreamers Project worked together to advise Ibrahim on his case and found a pro bono attorney to directly represent him—greatly increasing the likelihood that he will win his case and be able to remain in the U.S.

*Name has been changed to protect the identity of the individual.
Since our founding in 2010, we have represented survivors of crime—including domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking—through partnerships with Enlace Comunitario and other victim service providers. Crime victim visas provide an increasingly crucial permanent path to citizenship. In the current enforcement environment, the need for our services has never been greater—we have over 50 eligible New Mexican families on our wait list who have survived a violent crime and need immigration legal assistance to gain protection from deportation and the economic stability that comes with having a work permit.

At one of our weekly intakes at Enlace Comunitario we met Angela*—a survivor of domestic violence and human trafficking. Angela’s abusive partner forced her to work in his construction business, including performing dangerous work when she was pregnant. We helped Angela obtain a T Visa—a visa available to victims of human trafficking—and to report the trafficking to the New Mexico Attorney General’s office. Now that Angela has a T Visa, she has the ability to work, access to public benefits, and the economic stability that comes with having a work permit.

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"Immigrant survivors of crime face increased barriers to seeking justice and safety in today’s environment of indiscriminate immigration enforcement, as well as increased awareness of racism and misogyny. Access to legal representation is vital to immigrant crime survivors being empowered to protect their families and increasing the safety of our entire community."
—EVA EITZEN, NMILC Legal Director

"The services provided by NMILC are vital to the domestic violence survivors at Enlace Comunitario. By gaining legal immigration status, survivors decrease their fears of losing their children through deportation and are less vulnerable overall. We are so grateful to NMILC for their partnership and amazing work."
—MARTA PEREIRA, Enlace Comunitario Interim Co-Director

Partnership with Victim Service Organizations

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Since the 2016 election, New Mexico has seen an unprecedented spike in citizenship applications, growing by over 50% in 2017 compared to 2015—the second-largest percentage increase of any state.

In response to this demand, we have greatly increased our citizenship services over the past year, helping more New Mexicans than ever gain safety from deportation, increased ability to travel, the ability to petition for visas for more family members, greater access to public benefits, and, perhaps most notably, the right to vote in elections.

Civic engagement is an important element of citizenship. Together with Partnership for Community Action, we are launching a new project to connect our citizenship service recipients with a greater voter action network. Through this project, we are asking local government to support citizenship outreach efforts and integrate Albuquerque’s immigrant community into everyday city programs, creating an active collaboration between legal services and civic engagement.

We could not do our citizenship work without our amazing community partners and volunteers. Special thanks to El CENTRO, Encuentro, and ACE Leadership High School for generously hosting our citizenship fairs and workshops.

GROWING BACKLOGS AND HIGH APPLICATION FEES build a “second wall” that affects immigrants’ ability to apply for citizenship and acts as a form of voter suppression. National groups are predicting that USCIS will increase the cost of applications and potentially get rid of fee waiver opportunities over the next few years. 2018 is a critical chance to help as many people as possible submit their applications, before these changes take place.

CITIZENSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2015</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applications filed in New Mexico</td>
<td>1681</td>
<td>2604</td>
<td>54% INCREASE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications filed by NMILC</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>900% INCREASE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 271 applications NMILC assisted with represent more than 10% of all applications filed in New Mexico in 2017.
Lizdebeth Carrasco-Gallardo is originally from Chihuahua, Mexico, but has lived in the United States since the age of five. She grew up in Pajarito Mesa and is a South Valley Academy graduate. Liz was NMILC’s first para-legal in the Equal Justice Works cohort and also the first to be accepted to law school. She is currently in her first year at UNM School of Law, where she is a WKKF-sponsored Child and Family Justice Scholar and the recipient of several scholarships, including the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, the Higher Education Department grant, the Keller and Keller LLC scholarship, and the Carlos Vigil Memorial scholarship. Lizdebeth is passionate about social change and social justice, and plans to continue advocating for the rights and justice for all. She is NMILC’s newest board member.

We believe that increasing legal representatives from communities comprised of those most directly impacted makes for stronger and more competent legal representation. Our Immigration Corps Program aims to increase the representation of historically marginalized groups in the legal profession as well as in the practice of public interest law. Immigration Corps Fellows mentor high school, undergraduate, graduate, and professional students interested in the legal field to create a pipeline of students interested in working with immigrant populations.

Key elements of NMILC’s fellowship program include regular supervision and mentorship, direct client experience, ongoing professional development and training, peer-to-peer learning opportunities, community networking opportunities, and support applying to law school.

“Movements, to be truly transformative, must be led by those directly impacted. Public interest lawyering is no different. Lawyers from communities of color and immigrants know firsthand the workings of systems of oppression and have the ability to be more responsive and innovative in addressing those systemic issues—for their clients and for their communities. That’s why NMILC is investing in a pipeline project that provides multifaceted support to people of color and immigrants who have an interest in entering the legal profession—from planning for the LSAT to preparing their law school applications.”

—ADRIEL OROZCO, New Mexico Immigrant Corps Program Manager and Equal Justice Works Attorney Fellow

Many immigrant students are not eligible for federal loans and financial aid, frequently making law school inaccessible. NMILC is partnering with the Nusenda Credit Union to provide affordable access to capital for former NMILC fellows to attend law school, while also advocating to reduce barriers for immigrant students with partners at the UNM School of Law.

“I’ve always dreamed of being a social justice lawyer. Without the Equal Justice Works fellowship and my mentors at NMILC, however, there is no way that I would be in law school today. I’m so grateful for my experience as a fellow and all the support that I received. The fellowship has changed my life and made it possible for me to pursue a career in public interest law to serve the immigrant community in New Mexico.”

—LIZDEBETH CARRASCO, former NMILC Fellow, Law Student, NMILC Board Member

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—LIZDEBETH CARRASCO, former NMILC Fellow, Law Student, NMILC Board Member
Many Thanks to all of Our Supporters!

None of our work would be possible without the many people and organizations who support us with their time, expertise, and giving. From pro bono attorneys representing our clients in court, to volunteers spending their Saturday with us at a Citizenship Fair, to all of our faithful donors, we are so grateful for our broad base of community support. Our success is because of you!

SPECIAL THANKS
To Rodey, Dickason, Sloan & Akin & Robb and Madrall Sperling Law Firms for each sponsoring CLEs for volunteer attorneys this year.

2016-2017 PRO BONO ATTORNEYS
Our law firm and pro bono attorney partners sponsor trainings for volunteer attorneys, offer legal expertise and mentorship to our staff, and take on cases pro bono.

Aaron Wolf
Aimee Gonzalez
Alana De Young
Alison Camino
Allegra Love
Amber Weels
Anne Alexander
Bridge Mullins
Charles Seibert
Christina Rosado
Cristina Chavez
Ella Joan Fenoglio
Ellen Louderbough
Emma O'Sullivan
Eunice Herrera
Frank Katz
Gabriele Ibanez Guzman
Horatio Moreno-Campos
J. Michael Osborn
James McClintick
Jean Friedland
Joel Espiria Cruz
John Feldman
John Hatt
John Russo
Jose Brinton
Judith Polich
Julia Barnes
Kari Converse
Leslie McCarthy Apodaca
Lynn Canning
Melanie Stambaugh
Monica Newcomer Miller
Olsi Vrapi
Pamela Kennedy
Parish Collins
Quentin Smith
Rachel Winston
Rebecca Klison
Robert Lucero
Rosie De Santiago
Sarah Stevenson
Stephanie Latimer
Taylor Zangaro
Tess Wilkes
Tom Stahl
Victoria Maqueada
Zach Ives

COMMUNITY PARTNERS
We believe collaboration brings about the best results. Our community partners stand alongside us in our mission, offering their guidance, support, and resources to maximize our collective impact.

ACE Leadership Hh School
ACLU of NM
Albuquerque High School
Catholic Charities
Archdiocese of Santa Fe and Las Cruces
Center for Civic Policy
Centro Savia
Comunidades En Accion Y De Fe
Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services, Inc.
El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos
Encuentro
Enlace Comunitario
Esperanza Shelter
Health Leadership High School
Highland High School
Innovation Law Lab
La Familia Medical Center
Lutheran Family Services
Mexican Consulate
National Immigrant Justice Center
New Mexico Asian Family Center
New Mexico Dream Team/United We Dream
New Mexico Dreamers in Action
New Mexico Faith Coalition for Immigrant Justice
New Mexico Bar Children’s Law Section
New Mexico Bar Immigration Law Section
New Mexico Legal Aid
Nusenda Credit Union
Partnership for Community Action
Pegasus Legal Services
Prosperity Works
Santa Fe Dreamers Project
SOLACE
Somos Un Pueblo Unido
South Valley Academy
SouthWest Organizing Project
Transgender Resource Center
UNM School of Law

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR WORK!
Donate today — online at nmilc.org
or by check to NMILC, PO Box 7040, Albuquerque, NM 87194.

FY17 TOTAL EXPENSES $851,714
Program $723,595
Financials

FY17 TOTAL REVENUE $952,514
Private Foundations/ Other Contracts $452,331

Other $1,298

Federal Government $216,795
State Government $117,593
Local Government $14,411
Donated Legal Services $62,390
Individual Contributions $87,696

Fundraising $34,928
Administration $ 93,191

85¢ of every dollar NMILC receives is spent on essential programming

SPONSOR our work
$40 one legal consultation
$150 printing for one month’s worth of materials for our Cibola Program
$250 one training to allied service providers
$600 one pro se workshop, serving 20-30 people
$1,000 legal representation for a child at risk of deportation
$2,000 one asylum case
$3,500 one month of services at the Cibola County Correctional Center
$12,000 one citizenship fair serving 50-70 people

Please continue to support our work
Human beings can be beautiful or more beautiful, they can be fat or skinny, they can be right or wrong, but illegal? How can a human being be illegal?
—ELIE WIESEL