

## American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding for Immigration Legal Services

### *Tracking Examples & Resources*

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provides an opportunity to provide critical services to immigrants and their families in effort to address the hardships immigrant communities have faced due to the pandemic. The U.S. Department of the Treasury [encourages](#) governments to spend ARPA dollars to “foster a strong, inclusive, and equitable recovery, especially with long-term benefits for health and economic outcomes”. The state and local fiscal aid provision in ARPA does not specify any restrictions based on immigration status.

We believe that allocating ARPA funding for immigration legal services aids in economic recovery and stability for immigrant communities by providing vital community education around legal and social services available to them; and, assisting individuals and families in applying for life-changing immigrant benefits that allow them to access better job opportunities and economic security.

Across the NPNA and UnidosUS networks, organizations have won campaigns, or are currently driving campaigns, for ARPA funding to go towards immigration legal services. Below is a list of examples and resources from across the country:

### East Coast Region

#### Connecticut

- New London: [\\$53,820 - Immigration Advocacy & Support Center](#) (pg. 120)
  - The Immigration Advocacy & Support Center (IASC) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide quality low-cost immigration legal services to Southeast Connecticut residents. IASC also educates the community and local service providers on immigration law and policy through clinics and presentations. Due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, IASC has seen visits and casework volume double in 2021 compared to 2020. IASC is requesting funding to ensure that our most vulnerable residents, most of whom are very low-income or unemployed, remain able to receive immigration legal assistance at a low cost.

#### Maryland

- Montgomery County - [approx \\$4 million](#) for "the Bienvenidos Initiative (Newcomers Initiative)" which "was propelled by the unprecedented increase in the number of unaccompanied migrant children and asylum-seeking families approaching the southern U.S. border and arriving in Montgomery County. Through the application of an equity lens framework, the initiative focuses on expanding the County's capacity to address the unique needs of this subset of the newcomer population in the mental health, legal and social services realm. The initiative brings together a robust network of providers that offer consistent information and access to services regardless of point of entry. Funds are allocated to support the expansion of existing healing informed and culturally based school and community - based services; such as Wellness Center services, family reunification, Street Outreach Network supports, youth leadership development, legal screening and representation for any and all newcomers in the County.

## Massachusetts

- The Massachusetts Immigration and Advocacy Coalition (MIRA) effectively advocated for \$12M in ARPA funding for Afghan arrivals; and, the state legislature awarded \$8M of ARPA funding to be administered by a local MIRA member Haitian organization, the Immigrant Family Services Institute, Inc. (IFSI) to support Haitian migrants in Massachusetts who arrived in the United States after the qualifying date for Temporary Protected Status. (see articles [here](#) and [here](#))
  - MA Resettlement Fact Sheet [Here](#)

## Pennsylvania

- Pittsburgh: Immigration Court Program Match, \$100,000 (see [here](#) and budget doc [2021-1652 Exhibit A VERSION 2](#))

## Washington DC

- Immigrant Justice Legal Services, \$2,000,000 ([pg.14](#))

## Southern Region

### Florida

- Miami-Dade County: [\\$1M for TPS for Haitian legal services](#)
  - At the First Hearing, the Board approved \$1 million in funding for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian and Venezuelan nationals, and extended TPS has now been granted to other nations. In my memorandum dated September 7, 2021, I indicated that a program would be brought forward to identify organizations that will provide these services. I recommend that the County provide a grant to Hispanic Unity of Florida (\$500,000) and the Haitian Neighborhood Center Sant La, Inc. (\$500,000), to provide these much-needed services including through subcontracts with other nonprofits. This will allow the program to begin without delays and provide support to vulnerable populations.
- North Miami: [Funding allocated](#) for a new program, “Immigrant Services for Residents”, amount not specified

## Midwest Region

### Illinois

- Chicago: [Chicago Legal Protection Fund](#) - \$1M Increase to the Program

### Oklahoma

- Tulsa - Tulsa allocated \$130,500 to seed a zero interest loan fund for citizen application fees. They will be working with a CDFI to administer this and securing private funding to cover the administrative costs.

### Wisconsin

- Milwaukee: [Immigrant and Refugee Welcome Center](#) (RFP)
  - Welcoming Center: \$100,000 (CDBG); and,
  - ECBO capacity building: \$100,000 (CDBG)
- Madison: [Services to Support Undocumented Community \(\\$700K\)](#) (RFP)

- Allocated under “[Emerging Needs - \\$1,000,000](#)” Funding helps members of our community, including undocumented residents and seniors, gain access to services and resources that meet their basic needs.

## Texas

- San Antonio: City Council approves [\\$31 million for small businesses and nonprofits](#).
  - RFP process approved June 2nd: [\\$1.5million allocated](#) for immigration legal services.

## West Coast Region

### California

- LA County - [Phase 1 Summary Here](#)
  - Allocates \$12.5 million to support immigrants and immigrant-focused community-based organizations that provide a broad range of services, including legal representation, wealth-building assistance and organizational capacity building—in addition to a broad range of other ARP-funded assistance, from nutrition to childcare to health outreach.
- Long Beach - [Long Beach Justice Fund](#) - \$300,000 in additional support
  - See press release [here](#), funding allocation categorized under “Healthy and Safe Community”

## Additional Resources

- NPNA’s [Accessing ARPA toolkit](#) (2021)
- Vera Institute of Justice’s [How the American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\) Can Support Immigrant Communities](#)
  - See [a fact sheet](#) that can be used for advocacy and outlining how deportation defense programs further ARP funding objectives and the safety and health of all communities.
- IRAP and the Refugee Advocacy Lab’s [Report: Utilizing American Rescue Plan Funds to Serve Refugee and Immigrant Communities](#)
- NAC & UnidosUS - [Best Practices Toolkit: Municipal or State Funding for Immigration Legal Services](#)
- Center for Community Progress - [Local Leaders Need to Know: \\$360 Billion in State and Local Relief Is Coming to Every American Community](#)
- National Conference of State Legislators - [ARPA Fund Allocations - By State](#)
- Track ARPA Funding with the [Brookings ARPA Fund Track](#)
- Center for Migration Studies Data on Immigrant Populations at [state and local level](#)
- Number of Organizations [Recognized](#) to Provide Immigration Legal Services by DOJ to identify local legal services capacity