

# UNITY OVER CHAOS



HOUSTON IMMIGRATION  
LEGAL SERVICES COLLABORATIVE

# By the Numbers

## KEY STATS FOR THE GREATER HOUSTON REGION

**1,400,000** residents  
are foreign-born (25% of population)

**500,000** residents  
are undocumented

**20,000+** residents  
have Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

**38,500** residents  
are DACA recipients

**70,000** residents arrived  
as refugees

**13,565** ICE arrests in 2017

**10%** of all immigrants detained  
in the U.S. are within 75 miles of  
Downtown Houston

The statistics reported here were aggregated from multiple sources. A complete list of sources can be found on [Page 13](#).

## KEY STATS MEASURING THE IMPACT OF HILSC PROJECTS

**\$692,000** in grants  
amount awarded

**500+** attorneys  
volunteered pro bono hours

**500+** attorneys  
and community members trained

**5,000** calls placed  
to the Immigrant Rights Hotline

**880** individual asylum seekers  
assisted

**55** DACA scholarships paid

# By the Dollars

## 2017 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

**\$2,380,041**  
TOTAL ASSETS

**\$51,111**  
TOTAL LIABILITIES

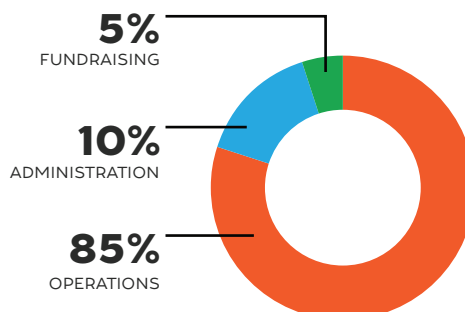
**\$2,326,930**  
TOTAL FUND BALANCE (YEAR END)

## INCOME STATEMENT

**\$3,218,684\***  
TOTAL REVENUE

**\$1,083,813**  
TOTAL EXPENSES

## EXPENDITURES BY FUNCTION



\* Revenues for 2017 outpaced budgeted revenue by approximately \$2,000,000. The unanticipated revenue can be found in our Harvey Assistance for Immigrants and Refugees Fund ([see page 7](#)) and from a \$1,000,000 grant to support the Deportation Defense Houston project ([see page 4](#)).



## As we look back, it is abundantly clear that our unified response to the chaos of 2017 made a huge difference in our community.



"Thank goodness we created the Collaborative, because we really needed it in 2017." So remarked an Executive Committee member during our December discussion about what the Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative had accomplished in 2017. As the sticky-notes went up on the wall - DACA scholarships, launching a hotline, Harvey response, asylum workshops, coordinating pro bono attorney volunteers, deportation defense capacity building, notario fraud prevention, grant-making, and more - the room got quiet. As a community, we weathered a whiplash year that brought wave after wave of disasters requiring creative and coordinated responses.

The year opened with the Trump administration issuing three executive orders on immigration that immediately threw the country - and the greater Houston region - into confusion. Overnight, every undocumented immigrant became a target for deportation while refugees and travelers from majority-Muslim countries found themselves harassed and sometimes barred from entering the U.S. at airports because of the so-called "Travel Ban." Three months later, the Texas legislature passed the anti-immigrant "SB4," a law that prevents local law enforcement departments (including campus police) from limiting cooperation with federal immigration officers. Despite the stated intent that SB4 is an attempt to crack down on so-called "sanctuary cities," SB4's effect has been to sow mistrust of police in immigrant communities and embolden individual officers already inclined to racially profile people of color.

We were still catching our collective breath from these legislative impacts as Hurricane Harvey came barreling down the Texas coast in late August, drowning much of the greater Houston area under 50 inches of rain. Harvey was the greatest natural disaster in our region's history and while it impacted rich and poor alike, low-income immigrant communities face the greatest uphill climb towards recovery. Thousands of Houstonians were still living in emergency shelters when the

### WHAT ARE HILSC'S CORE VALUES?

- ◇ Intentional collaboration
- ◇ Coordinated responsiveness to emerging issues
- ◇ Complete, balanced perspective on strategies
- ◇ Immigrant agency and justice
- ◇ Empowering grant-making process

## WHAT ARE HILSC'S KEY STRATEGIES?

- ◇ Increasing the quality and quantity of immigration legal services.
- ◇ Incubating and collaboratively developing creative solutions to systemic shortcomings in the provision of immigration legal services.
- ◇ Improving and streamlining immigrants' access to existing legal and social services.
- ◇ Being a source of reliable and timely information about changing immigration policies and resources.
- ◇ Providing funding for nonprofit immigration services providers.

Trump administration announced the end of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which shields nearly 40,000 young Houstonians from deportation and grants them work-permits. The announcement came with a heartless 30-day window for certain individuals to renew their status and come up with the \$495 fee, even as mold grew on the walls of flooded homes. Before the end of 2017, the Trump administration had gone further, announcing the termination of the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) programs for El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Sudan, which will may result in the deportation of over 20,000 immigrants from the greater Houston region, many of whom have lived here for decades.

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**“The silver-lining of the 2017 crises was that the urgency forced us to create some systems that we had always known were needed.”**

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All of these changes sit atop the existing baseline of needs for immigration services in our region. We estimate that immigration legal services providers are meeting about 20% of the need for free and low-cost legal services. For individuals facing deportation, the gap between supply and demand for high-quality legal representation is particularly wide. Houston has three immigration detention centers within 75 miles of downtown, with a total bed capacity of 3,114 - nearly 10% of all detained immigrants in the United States. In 2017, officially 45% of non-detained immigrants and only 25% of detained immigrants had legal representation when arguing their case before a judge. These are deceptively high percentages, however, because of how the federal government measures representation; local experts estimate that the real representation rate for detained immigrants is

closer to 10%. Changes in enforcement patterns have created additional challenges. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrests grew 30% nationally in 2017, with more than 13,500 arrests in the Houston area; these numbers are expected to grow under the current administration.

It is easy to be overwhelmed by the complexity of the potential solutions to these multi-faceted problems. And while 2017 was unlike anything that our community of immigration experts had witnessed before, the coming years are not going to get any easier.

I am unbelievably proud of our communities' responses to the challenges of 2017. We have created new systems that are responsive not only to the current needs, but are also forward looking. The foundation that HILSC put into place over the first three years of its existence provided the backbone - and trust - we needed to be able to work together to respond to last year's crises.

The Collaborative exists to create opportunities for our community of stakeholders - nonprofits, funders, universities, city government, schools, and businesses - to work together towards promoting justice and equity for immigrants in our region.

Throughout this 2017 Impact Report, you will find examples of our efforts towards this end.

IN COLLABORATION



KATE VICKERY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES STRATEGY AND CAPACITY BUILDING

We incubate and collaboratively develop creative solutions to systemic shortcomings in the provision of immigration legal services, responding nimbly to rapidly changing national and state policies.



Collaborative members attend day-long training to learn how to integrate advocacy into their legal and social services programs, February 21, 2017.



### FEATURED PROJECT

## Responding to the Trump Administration



This year ushered in many sweeping policy changes, causing fear and confusion in Houston's immigrant communities. In addition to their regular caseloads, HILSC partners responded to the Travel Ban, the end of DACA, and mounting concerns among their clients that it was no longer safe to live in Houston due to ICE enforcement actions. Immigration legal service providers needed a unified response.

HILSC stepped in at a time of need to become the hub for attorneys volunteering at the airport after the travel ban, for organizing and implementing community family preparedness workshops, launching the Immigrant Rights Hotline ([see page 6 for details](#)), and promoting and coordinating DACA workshops. At the same time, we kept the community up to date on the latest changes through weekly newsletters and our website.

### FUTURE GOALS

Continue to build relationships to be able to respond effectively to ongoing policy changes, particularly through engaging schools and social services providers who want to protect immigrant members.

### KEY 2017 OUTCOMES

#### TRAVEL BAN

- Coordinated more than 400 pro bono attorney shifts over two weeks at Bush Intercontinental Airport; facilitated trainings for pro bono attorneys; created volunteer manual for airport attorneys.
- Launched the Immigrant Rights Hotline, providing a source of trusted information to immigrants on the Travel Ban and other emerging issues ([see page 6 for more](#)).

#### THE END OF DACA

- HILSC members provided assistance to more than 500 DACA applicants through workshops or direct representation between September 5 and October 5, 2017.
- Provided a funding to cover DACA renewal fees to 55 applicants (another 100 scholarships were provided by United We Dream directly).

#### COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PREPAREDNESS

- Coordinated three "family and safety preparedness workshops" to help more than 50 mixed-status families ensure the safety and care of children in case of deportation.

#### IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

All HILSC member organizations played a role in responding to the Trump Administration.

#### FUNDING PARTNERS

An anonymous foundation and individual donors supported scholarships to help Houstonians renew their DACA status.

#### IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

BakerRipley  
YMCA International Services  
Tahirih Justice Center  
Kids in Need of Defense  
Human Rights First  
Catholic Charities' Cabrini  
Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance  
Justice for Our Neighbors - Houston  
South Texas College of Law Houston  
United We Dream  
Innovation Law Lab  
University of Houston Law Center

#### FUNDING PARTNERS

Beacon Ventures  
a philanthropic partner of The Beacon Fund



## Deportation Defense Houston

Developed by HILSC's Detention Working Group, "Deportation Defense Houston" is a brand new project, funded in December 2017 that brings together a cohort of four immigration legal services providers (YMCA International Services, BakerRipley, Justice for Our Neighbors-Houston, and the South Texas College of Law Houston) to defend immigrants who are detained while their removal proceedings are pending. Deportation Defense Houston will shift the culture of the nonprofit immigration legal services community by focusing on detained representation through an innovative and collaborative approach that includes public engagement, the Immigrant Rights Hotline, **(See page 6)** a new deportation defense legal clinic, and impact litigation.

#### FUTURE GOALS

- Provide direct representation to detained adults.
- Build a pipeline for removal defense expertise in the Houston region through a new removal defense clinic and growing the number of nonprofits taking on this important work.
- Improve access to legal services through a simplified referral system in partnership with the Immigrant Rights Hotline.
- Advocate for a just immigration system by monitoring trends and conditions for possible federal litigation and increasing public understanding between the intersection between immigration enforcement and the criminal justice system.
- Collaboratively collect data to help build support for a publicly-funded legal defense fund for immigrants, as is being established in cities across the country.

To learn more, visit us at:

[www.houstonimmigration.org/deportation-defense-houston](http://www.houstonimmigration.org/deportation-defense-houston)

As a result of the unprecedented interest in providing pro bono legal services for immigrants in 2017, HILSC established a "Get Involved" page on its website and sends weekly e-blasts to consolidate volunteer opportunities at partner organizations.

HILSC coordinated free CLE trainings throughout the year on a variety of topics, reaching more than 400 attorneys.

HILSC Legal Director, Andrea Guttin, spoke about the impacts of SB4 on immigrant communities as part of Tu Voz es Poder, a Latino Town Hall hosted by Univision and Houston Public Media, July 21, 2017.





## PROJECT

# Impact Litigation Capacity Building

Launched in August 2017, the Borealis Litigation Project aims to build a culture of aggressive defensive litigation among HILSC legal services provider partners, and to encourage advocates and attorneys to report systemic problems to local and national impact litigation partners. This project also funds a shared mentor attorney housed at the University of Houston Law Center's Immigration Clinic who provides mentorship for organizations who need assistance with appeals or federal litigation. The project began with a learning phase, in which HILSC partners conducted site visits to organizations around the country that have strong programs for both direct representation and impact litigation, such as the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project and National Immigrant Justice Center.

### FUTURE GOALS

Bringing partners together to develop systems in Houston to report issues to litigators and better educate immigration attorneys on defensive federal litigation, establishing lasting relationships with federal impact litigators, and continued sharing information and ideas with national partners.



## PROJECT

# Pro Se Asylum Assistance Project

Born out of HILSC's Asylum Working Group, the Pro Se Asylum Assistance Project seeks to improve access to legal services for asylum-seeking Central American families in removal proceeding in Houston. More than 80% of these families seeking asylum in the U.S. do not have legal representation when facing an immigration system skewed against respondents. This project is a unique model with a goal to serve a large number of asylum seekers with high quality services through a model of unbundled services. The project includes weekly in-court consultations, brief legal services, pro se workshops with pro bono attorneys and volunteer interpreters. All of these are meant to provide as much help as possible to those who cannot obtain free legal representation and to increase pro bono volunteer interest in taking on full representation so that more asylum seekers can be represented.

### FUTURE GOALS

Continue to provide creative, responsive services to asylum seekers, fully integrating the work into Houston's larger deportation defense strategies.

## KEY 2017 OUTCOMES

- Team building and leadership development.
- Early conclusions from peer-to-peer learning trips reveal that having a holistic approach towards direct representation, advocacy, and impact litigation is a best practice to advance immigrant rights.
- Mentor attorney is helping with appeals.

### IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

University of Houston Law Center  
BakerRipley  
ABA Children's Immigration Law Academy  
Catholic Charities' Cabrini Center  
Justice For Our Neighbors - Houston  
South Texas College of Law Houston  
YMCA International Services  
United We Dream  
Kids in Need of Defense  
Tahirih Justice Center  
Human Rights First

### FUNDING PARTNERS

Borealis Philanthropy

## KEY 2017 OUTCOMES

- The 10 full-day asylum workshops were staffed by more than 150 volunteer attorneys, 75% of whom were interacting with asylum seekers for the first time.
- Assisted 79 families with asylum applications, benefiting approximately 230 family members.
- Provided more than 650 individuals with "unbundled" services through weekly in-court assistance, which has become an integral access point for immigration legal services in Houston, relied on by immigration judges and the wider community of service providers.

### IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

Tahirih Justice Center  
Human Rights First

### FUNDING PARTNERS

Anonymous

### SPECIAL THANKS

To these workshop hosts and volunteers:  
Texas Annual Conference  
United Methodist Church  
(First UMC Pasadena, St. Paul's UMC, CrossRoads UMC, First UM Humble, Bellaire UMC)  
Marathon Oil  
Sidley Austin LLP  
South Texas College of Law Houston  
Vinson & Elkins LLP  
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP





## IMPROVING ACCESS TO IMMIGRATION SERVICES

We work to break down the systemic barriers immigrants face when seeking social and legal services.



Edgar Saldivar, Senior Staff Attorney with the ACLU of Texas, answers the first call on the Immigrant Rights Hotline, launched on February 22, 2017.

### KEY 2017 OUTCOMES

- The Hotline received 5,057 calls in 2017, with a peak of 742 calls in a single day in February, and a spike the week after Governor Abbott signed SB4 into law, causing massive confusion and fear in the immigrant community.
- The Hotline was supported by more than 100 volunteer attorneys, who donated more than 500 hours.

### FUNDING PARTNERS

The Hotline was an unfunded project in 2017.

### IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

ACLU of Texas  
Vinson & Elkins LLP  
Tahiri Justice Center  
Houston Volunteer Lawyers  
United We Dream  
BakerRipley  
100 volunteer attorneys

### SPECIAL THANKS

To these law firms that provided special support to the Hotline in 2017: Latham & Watkins LLP, King & Spaulding LLP, and Vinson & Elkins LLP.



### FEATURED PROJECT

## Immigrant Rights Hotline

The Immigrant Rights Hotline was developed shortly after the chaos of the Travel Ban subsided and volunteer attorneys were looking for a way to continue to give assistance to immigrants impacted by the rapid policy changes coming out of Washington.

The Hotline launched in February 2017, and has continued to be a single point of contact for immigrants seeking information about changing immigration laws and policies, and a place to learn of the rights that all immigrants have - regardless of who is president. Hotline callers have questions about immigration detention, how to protect families from deportation and, most often, are looking for referrals to free and low-cost immigration legal services.



### FUTURE GOALS

In 2018, the Hotline will become more firmly established within legal services organizations through permanent staff at BakerRipley, Boat People SOS, and United We Dream. Outreach efforts will be amplified, and the Hotline will pilot universal screening and referral tools to help streamline access to legal services. The Hotline will also become a tool for immigrant rights organizing and movement building.

To learn more about the hotline, visit us at:

[www.houstonimmigration.org/hotline](http://www.houstonimmigration.org/hotline)



## Harvey Relief for Immigrants

The US and the greater Houston region is home to more than 500,000 undocumented individuals with temporary DACA or TPS status, most of whom were ineligible for FEMA disaster relief after Hurricane Harvey. Even undocumented individuals who could apply through a U.S. citizen child were hesitant to do so because of fear that requesting federal disaster assistance would make them a target for deportation. The current anti-immigrant political climate nationally and in Texas makes recovery from Harvey even more complicated for non-citizens. In the immediate aftermath of Harvey, the HILSC listserv became a communication tool for organizations assisting immigrant survivors. HILSC quickly convened our partners to discuss what immigration experts could do to provide benefit to Harvey survivors, where it quickly became apparent that there were huge gaps in knowledge about the intersection between immigration status and disaster relief. HILSC created a Harvey FAQ to share information with organizations on the ground, and also shared this information through the Immigrant Rights Hotline and at Univision phone banks. With the help of Houston Volunteer Lawyers, we deployed immigration attorneys to the two largest emergency shelters – George R. Brown Convention Center & NRG Center – to give consultations. We also established a pooled fund for donors looking for a way to get assistance to immigrants, regardless of status.

### FUTURE GOALS

HILSC's Harvey Assistance for Immigrants Fund takes the long-view of disaster recovery. The fund will be used throughout 2018 for direct assistance for clients who are ineligible for other forms of relief; legal services related to disaster relief and immigration; creating a more responsive referral system that better addresses the needs of immigrants seeking services; educating and advocating service providers whose intake procedures create barriers for immigrants; and creating a "humanitarian action plan" to help Houston be better prepared for future natural disasters with regards to immigrants.

### KEY 2017 OUTCOMES

- HILSC listserv used as a key communication tool in the immediate Harvey aftermath.
- Deployed volunteer attorneys to emergency shelters to answer questions from immigrant Harvey survivors.
- Raised \$790,000 for the Harvey Assistance for Immigrants Fund.
- Partnered with Dickinson Law Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic at Penn State University on an extensive research project on barriers to public benefits (federal, state, and disaster-specific) for immigrants of various legal statuses.

### IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

All HILSC member organizations played a role in Harvey relief for immigrants.

### FUNDING PARTNERS

Walton Family Foundation  
Kaiser Family Foundation  
David & Lucile Packard Foundation  
The Grove Foundation  
JPB Foundation  
The Simmons Foundation  
Houston Endowment  
and many individual donors



Volunteer immigration attorneys staffed an information table at the NRG Center to give advice to immigrant survivors with concerns about disaster recovery.  
Photo credit: Stella M. Chávez/KERA News.

## KEY 2017 OUTCOMES

- Developed a plan of action for the Harvey Relief for Immigrants fund, focusing on addressing systemic issues facing immigrants seeking social services both during and after disasters.

### IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

Tahirih Justice Center  
RAICES  
Catholic Charities' Cabrini Center  
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights  
Daya  
Kids in Need of Defense  
University of Houston School of Social Work  
Individual clinicians

### FUNDING PARTNERS

Harvey Relief Fund (pooled)



## PROJECT

# Access to Services Committee & Mental Health

The Access to Services Committee is a new working group, formed in late 2017, that brings together social workers and case managers. The committee works to identify systemic issues facing immigrant clients who are seeking various social services in the greater Houston region, including health care, transportation, housing, and education. As social workers that work closely with immigration attorneys, committee members have particular expertise in the intersection of mental health and immigration legal services. The committee spent much of its time in 2017 working on the technical assistance projects to be funded out of HILSC's Harvey Assistance for Immigrants Fund. The committee is also focusing on how to promote self-care within their own organizations.

### FUTURE GOALS

The committee will be working on the Harvey Systems Project throughout 2018 (**see page 7**). The committee will also be working on a plan for increasing capacity for forensic mental health evaluations to support asylum seekers.

## KEY 2017 OUTCOMES

- Created webpage with educational materials, including information about how to report immigration fraud.
- Published and distributed more than 2,500 educational pamphlets.
- Implemented communications strategy, including interviews with the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Univision, and Telemundo.
- Partners brought lawsuits against six notarios and fraudulent tax preparers.

### IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

American Immigration Lawyers Association  
BakerRipley  
Catholic Charities' Cabrini Center  
Consumer Protection Division  
- Texas Attorney General  
Harris County District Attorney's Office  
Hispanic Issues Section of the Texas Bar  
Houston Volunteer Lawyers  
Lone Star Legal Aid  
Memorial Assistance Ministries  
Mexican Consulate  
South Texas College of Law Houston  
Texas Organizing Project  
University of Houston College of Law  
United We Dream  
Private attorneys and businesses



## PROJECT

# Notario Fraud Prevention

HILSC's Notario Fraud Prevention Working Group convenes immigration and tax law experts, media, business, state and local government, advocates, and community supporters to educate affected communities about notario fraud, help victims file complaints or pursue legal action, and facilitate access to quality legal immigration services and tax assistance.

### FUTURE GOALS

Finalizing a new attorney toolkit and hosting CLEs to encourage more lawyers to bring litigation against notarios; streamlining referrals for individuals defrauded by notarios through the Immigrant Rights Hotline (**see page 6**).

To learn more visit us at:

[www.houstonimmigration.org/notariofraud](http://www.houstonimmigration.org/notariofraud)



## COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The Collaborative educates the community with reliable and timely information about changing immigration policies and resources.



More than 250 people attended the "Undocumented City" seminar on September 13, 2017 at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston.

## Key Activities

- Co-hosted "Mobilizing Coherent Community Responses to Changing Immigration Policies" conference with the Center for Migration Studies, June 7-9, 2017 at South Texas College of Law Houston. The conference examined "whole of community" responses to protecting immigrants and offered models and best practices for moving forward amidst numerous challenges.
- HILSC's Legal Director presented Know Your Rights presentations and "train the trainers" events at various locations throughout Houston, reaching more than 500 individuals.
- Hosted the Migration Policy Institute for a briefing on their latest research about the impacts of the Trump Administration's executive orders on immigration.
- Hosted a free, day-long advocacy training for non-profits organizations new to advocacy work, featuring Alliance for Justice and a panel of diverse advocacy experts.
- Co-hosted "Undocumented City" with the Kinder Institute of Urban Research to highlight the ways that immigration policy impacts Houston locally, including Harvey recovery, urban planning, and community building.
- Houston Community College & ABC13's Immigration Town Hall featured HILSC members as experts on DACA and changing immigration policies.

### WELCOMING HOUSTON



HILSC and BakerRipley were co-leaders of the Mayor's Welcoming Houston Task Force, which produced a report with 50 recommendations for how Houston could be more welcoming to immigrants. The recommendations were presented to Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner on January 20, 2017.

### HOUSTON COALITION AGAINST HATE

HILSC is an active member of the emerging Houston Coalition Against Hate, a network of community-based organizations in Houston that have come together to collectively address incidents of bias, hate, discrimination, and violence against Houstonians because of their religion, race/ethnicity, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, and immigration status. The Coalition is a result of a Welcoming Houston recommendation.

To learn more visit:

[bit.ly/welcominghouston](http://bit.ly/welcominghouston)



## GRANT-MAKING

The Collaborative provides support to member organizations through strategic grants that support services to low-income immigrants.



Collaborative members discussed community outreach strategy at the end of the year meeting and celebration, hosted by The Houstonian Hotel on December 7, 2017.

## Grant-Making

In 2017, the Collaborative issued \$692,000 in grants.

HILSC is unique in that it is both a grant-seeker and a grant-maker with an annual goal to re-grant approximately 75% of all incoming funding. Some of our 2017 grants were part of specific projects with named partners like the Pro Se Asylum Assistance Project or Impact Litigation Capacity Building (see page 5), but the majority of our 2017 grants were distributed using HILSC's empowering and unique process that puts service providers in the front seat of decision-making.

In addition to our direct grant-making, the Collaborative hosted two 2017 convenings to educate funders about the need for broad based support for immigration services.

Our 2016 Delivering on the Dream initiative included \$426,000 of grants to six collaborative projects (13 grantees), focusing on legal services as well as education and outreach. Key takeaway: partnerships between immigrant rights organizers and legal services providers are paramount to success. As a result of the year 2016 grants:

Number of community outreach and education events

**507**

Number of participants at outreach events or engaged via outreach activities

**21,498**

Number of eligibility screenings (for DACA and all other forms of relief)

**2,968**

Number of new legal volunteers engaged

**486**

Number of DACA applications completed

**1,323**

Number of applications completed for other forms of immigration relief

**226**

Number of new lay (non-legal, community) volunteers trained

**280**

Number of new immigrant-serving staff hired

**17**



## Deportation Defense

**Grantee:** YMCA International Services

**Purpose:** Operations funding to support a new attorney for direct representation of detained immigrants facing deportation and a new social worker to support both detained and non-detained clients.

## Innovation

**Grantees:** Fe y Justicia Worker Center, La Unidad 11, Living Hope Wheelchair Association, Organización Latina de Trans en Texas, Antena Houston

**Purpose:** This collaborative project includes Know Your Rights community outreach, grassroots organizing, advocacy, deportation defense, language justice organizing and mental health.

## Mental Health

**Grantee:** Daya

**Purpose:** This project takes a holistic approach to the intersection of immigration challenges and domestic violence in the South Asian community by delivering innovative mental health services, strengthening a network of partner immigration attorneys, and energizing the community through education and advocacy opportunities.

## Impact Litigation

**Grantees:** Catholic Charities, Tahirih Justice Center, University of Houston Law Center, and YMCA International Services

**Purpose:** A project to convene attorneys of Houston-area immigration nonprofit organizations and law school clinical professors to bring progressive change in immigration through training, discussion, identifying systemic issues and litigating high impact cases.

## Advocacy Collaborative

**Grantees:** United We Dream, Mi Familia Vota, and Texas Organizing Project

**Purpose:** Support for an advocacy project to educate policymakers, voters, and the broader public about the harmful impact of immigration enforcement, with a special focus on SB4. The partners will advocate for protective policies that could be implemented by the city of Houston (and other civic institutions) to mitigate the harm from these policies. The project entails a mix of policy advocacy and communications; non-partisan voter work; and skills- and issues-trainings that build the organizing and advocacy capacity of community members and ally groups.

The 2017 "Delivering on the Dream" Request for Proposals named seven priority areas: deportation defense, coordinated access to pro bono legal services, "know your rights" community outreach, mental health, advocacy, impact litigation, and innovation.

All projects help mitigate against anti-immigrant national and state policies implemented in 2017 that had devastating effects on immigrant communities in the Greater Houston region.

HILSC awarded \$385,000 of grants to 13 organizations, seven of which were first-time grantees. See the list of those grants on the previous page.



# Leadership and Members

The Collaborative exists because of these amazing individuals and organizations.

We are our members and stakeholders.

## LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERS



### 2017 STAFF

**Kate Vickery**  
Executive Director

**Andrea Guttin**  
Legal Director

### 2017 Executive Committee

**Anne Chandler**  
Executive Director  
Tahirih Justice Center, Houston Branch (2017 Chair)

**Dalia Castillo-Granados**  
Director  
ABA's Children's Immigration Law Academy (CILA)

**Amanda Cloud**  
President & CEO  
The Simmons Foundation

**Meghna Goswami**  
Program Officer  
Houston Endowment

**Rachna Khare**  
Executive Director  
Daya

**Frances Valdez**  
United We Dream (2018 Chair-Elect)

**Joy Green**  
Staff Attorney  
Justice For Our Neighbors-Houston

**Zenobia Lai**  
Legal Director  
Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance  
Catholic Charities

**Vinh Ho**  
Director of the Immigration Initiative  
Managing Attorney for the Civil Practice Clinics  
South Texas College of Law Houston

**Mariana Sanchez**  
Chief Operating Officer  
Bonding Against Adversity

**Elizabeth "Chiqui" Sanchez Kennedy**  
Director of Immigration Legal Services  
YMCA International Services

**Elizabeth Tran**  
Legal Services Manager  
Boat People SOS

**Rosemary Vega**  
Staff Attorney  
University of Houston Law Center Immigration Clinic

**Michelle Tremillo**  
Executive Director and Co-Founder  
Texas Organizing Project

**Jill Campbell**  
Managing Immigration Attorney  
BakerRipley (formerly Neighborhood Centers Inc)

### Additional members of the Executive Committee during 2017:

**Kathy Kraiza**  
Executive Director  
Justice For our Neighbors - Houston

**Wafa Abdin**  
Former VP of Immigration and Refugee Services  
Catholic Charities

**Geoffrey Hoffman**  
Director of the Immigration Clinic  
University of Houston Law Center

**Brian Schaeffer**  
Former Director of Immigration Legal Services  
YMCA International Services

**Alex Triantaphyllis**  
Director of Immigration and Economic Opportunity  
BakerRipley (formerly Neighborhood Centers Inc)

**Oscar Hernandez**  
Former Community Organizer  
United We Dream - Houston

### 2017 Board of Directors

**Anne Chandler**  
Executive Director  
Tahirih Justice Center, Houston Branch

**Kate Vickery**  
Executive Director  
Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative

**Amanda Cloud**  
President & CEO  
The Simmons Foundation

**Stephen D. Maislin (Vice-president)**  
President and CEO  
Greater Houston Community Foundation

**Renee Wizig-Barrios (President)**  
Senior Vice-President and Chief Philanthropy Officer  
Greater Houston Community Foundation

**Mike Pawson (Secretary)**  
Chief Financial Officer  
Greater Houston Community Foundation

**Rebecca Hove (Treasurer)**  
Director of Strategic Philanthropy  
Greater Houston Community Foundation

### A special thank you to two of HILSC's long-time leaders who left the Executive Committee in 2017

**Wafa Abdin**, the former VP of Immigration and Refugee Services at Catholic Charities, served immigrants and refugees in various roles at Catholic Charities over a 16-year career, dramatically increasing the capacity of the organization. Wafa served as Catholic Charities' representative on HILSC's Executive Committees from 2014 through 2017, when she became Executive Director of Houston Volunteer Lawyers. **Brian Schaeffer** is the former Director of Immigration Legal Services at the YMCA International Services and a founding member of the Collaborative who served on the Executive Committee from 2014 through most of 2017. The Collaborative is incredibly grateful for their commitment & leadership.

### Immigration Legal Services Providers

African Law Center  
Bonding Against Adversity  
BakerRipley  
Boat People SOS - Houston  
Cabrini Center for Immigration Legal Assistance (Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston)  
Chinese Community Center  
Human Rights First

Justice for Our Neighbors-Houston  
Kids Need of Defense (KIND)  
Memorial Assistance Ministries  
OCA-Greater Houston  
Ser y Hacer Program, The Children's Center  
South Texas College of Law Houston  
Texas Center for Community Services  
Tahirih Justice Center  
University of Houston Law Center, Immigration Clinic

### Immigration Service Providers & Stakeholders

ABA Children's Immigration Law Academy  
ACLU of Texas  
American Immigration Lawyers Association  
Alliance for Multicultural Community Services  
Antena Houston  
Casa Juan Diego  
City of Houston's Office of New Americans and Immigrant Communities  
Consumer Protection Division - Texas Attorney General  
Daya  
Epiphany Community Health Outreach Services (ECHOS)  
Ethiopian Community Organization in Houston  
Fe y Justicia Worker Center  
Fort Bend for All  
Harris County District Attorney's Office  
Hispanic Issues Section of the Texas Bar  
HGI Counseling Center  
Houston Public Libraries  
Houston Volunteer Lawyers  
Houston Independent School District and Las Americas Newcomer School  
Interfaith Ministries  
Gulf Coast Leadership Council - The Metropolitan Organization (TMO)  
La Unidad 11  
Living Hope Wheelchair Association  
Lone Star Legal Aid  
Mexican Consulate  
Mi Familia Vota  
NALEO Education Fund  
National Immigration Forum  
Organizacion Latina de Trans in Texas  
Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES)  
Refugee Services of Texas  
Somali Bantu Community of Greater Houston  
Texas Organizing Project  
United We Dream - Houston  
University of Houston School of Social Work  
University of Texas Medical Branch  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights

### Stand Out Pro Bono Law Firm Partners

Latham & Watkins LLP  
King & Spaulding LLP  
Vinson & Elkins LLP  
Baker Botts LLP

### Funding Partners

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The Simmons Foundation  
Scott Wizig Family Fund

### Harvey Relief for Immigrants Fund\*

Walton Family Foundation  
Kaiser Family Foundation  
David & Lucile Packard Foundation  
The Grove Foundation  
JPB Foundation  
The Simmons Foundation  
Houston Endowment  
Steven "Shea" Serrano "FOH Army Fund"

\* A special thank you to the hundreds of individual donors from around the country who contributed to our Harvey Relief Fund.

### Data Sources

Pew Research Center, "20 metro areas are home to six-in-ten unauthorized immigrants in U.S." and "Key facts about unauthorized immigrants enrolled in DACA"

Immigration and Customs Enforcement, "Fiscal Year 2017 ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Report"

Center for Migration Studies, "A Statistical and Demographic Profile of the US Temporary Protected Status Populations from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti"

Migration Policy Institute, "A Profile of Immigrants in Houston, the Nation's Most Diverse Metropolitan Area"

We look forward to working with you to continue to move our community forward in 2018 and beyond.

[info@houstonimmigration.org](mailto:info@houstonimmigration.org)  
[www.houstonimmigration.org](http://www.houstonimmigration.org)



## OUR MISSION

More than 1.4 million immigrants and 70,000 refugees call the Houston region home and 63% of them are non-citizens; more than 500,000 Houstonians are undocumented. Despite their significant contributions to the state and local economy in Texas, immigrants, particularly those who are undocumented, face considerable challenges.

The mission of the Collaborative is to create a coordinated network of effective and efficient services to assist low-income immigrants access the information and legal representation that allows them to make choices in their own best interest.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:**

**[www.houstonimmigration.org](http://www.houstonimmigration.org)**

**HOUSTON IMMIGRATION**  
LEGAL SERVICES COLLABORATIVE

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