

The People First Agenda

The IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE RIGHTS team protects and defends the rights of immigrants and refugees through advancing pro-immigrant public policies and providing strategic legal representation.



OUR 2026 GOALS

Advocate for Immigrant Rights and Protection from Deportation and Detention:

- ▶ Host power of attorney clinics across the state in partnership with community groups, volunteer attorneys, and advocates.
- ▶ Coordinate legal services to support immigrant rights groups in response to immigration threats.
- ▶ Provide multilingual resources to immigrant communities on key policy updates and emergency preparedness practices.
- ▶ Amplify calls to action, social media posts, and media releases about federal immigration policy.
- ▶ Work to protect immigrants from harmful interactions with ICE and local law enforcement.
- ▶ Provide legal representation to protect clients from deportation to dangerous situations.

Defend Immigrant Access to Benefits

- ▶ Promote inclusion of immigrants in North Carolina benefit programs and work to increase access where possible.
- ▶ Advocate for policies that maintain immigrant access to Medicaid, schools, and related programs and services.
- ▶ Support improvement of language access in courts and government agencies.
- ▶ Educate the public on the impact of policy changes related to immigrant benefits.
- ▶ Advance health equity for immigrants and refugees in North Carolina.

Respond to new legislation and advocate for policies that positively impact immigrants

- ▶ Monitor and analyze proposed legislation and policies for potential effects on immigrant communities.
- ▶ Oppose harmful anti-immigrant bills and advocate for pro-immigrant policies.
- ▶ Educate the public and press about the effects of proposed and new legislation and policies.

IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE RIGHTS

Foster Access to Justice for Immigrants and Refugees in Civil Court

- ▶ Stand with immigrants in both civil court and immigration proceedings against the threat of retaliation.
- ▶ Protect immigrant workers from retaliation by abusive employers. Defend rights to home ownership in civil court, and represent immigrants and refugees facing evictions.
- ▶ Represent immigrant and migrant workers' rights, including wage and hour cases and employment discrimination.
- ▶ Protect immigrants from fraudulent transactions and housing discrimination.

OUR 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

Represented immigrants and refugees from over 15 countries, spanning Asia, Africa, the Americas, and the Caribbean

- Represented immigrants in deportation proceedings, refugees, victims of crimes and human trafficking, survivors of gender-based and sexual violence, individuals with disabilities, and special immigrant juveniles, such as a child in the custody of the Department of Social Services, who was finally able to file for lawful permanent residency.
- Represented asylum-seekers fleeing persecution based on their political opinions, gender, religion, or race, as well as victims of crimes or labor exploitation in the United States, such as:
 - a law enforcement officer from Central America who seeks to keep his family safe by remaining in the U.S., who was specifically targeted because of his successful volunteer work with at-risk youth.
 - an Afghan refugee family of four who were finally reunited after being forcibly separated by the Taliban regime.



Championed immigrant access to public benefits

- Educated communities, state and local government, and partners on public benefits for immigrants, organizing public events and trainings that impacted over 1500 people.
- Published updated flyers on immigrant access to nutritional and health benefits that received thousands of views online.

Equipped immigrant families with preparedness resources

- Responded to widespread targeting of our immigrant population by collaborating with immigrant-led and Latine groups throughout the state to host power of attorney clinics, reaching over 700 people.
- Jointly published the Immigrant Family Emergency Preparedness Toolkit in Spanish and English with El Pueblo and the ACLU of North Carolina, distributing more than a thousand hard copies to community members, with many more accessing the guide online.