

# CHICAGO LEGAL PROTECTION FUND

## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

The Chicago Legal Protection Fund (LPF) is a citywide initiative supporting organizations that protect and empower immigrants in Chicago. The fund launched in January 2017 to advocate for the more than 180,000 immigrants and their families in Chicago following the 2016 presidential election.

In its eighth year, LPF continues to protect and strengthen the Chicago immigrant community through its collaborative model that links 11 community navigator organizations led by The Resurrection Project (TRP) with legal counsel and expertise from the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC).

Community Navigators and legal advocates have prevented hundreds of deportations, kept families together, connected the immigrant community to vital resources, facilitated personal and community growth through leadership development, and paved the way for many undocumented immigrants to adjust their status.



## THE PROFOUND IMPACT OF LPF

2017-2024

5,000

Cases opened

10,000

Free legal screenings

1,132

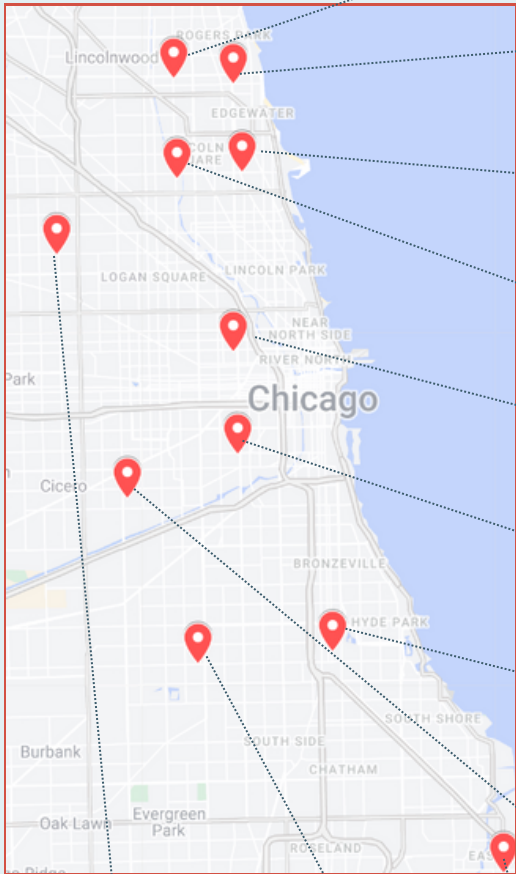
Community Navigators trained

338,273

Individuals informed of their rights and provided access to legal information

# COMMUNITY NAVIGATORS

## LPF Community Navigator Organizations



### Indo-American Center

6328 N California Ave.  
Chicago IL 60659

### Centro Romero

6216 N Clark St.  
Chicago IL 60660

### Haitian American Museum of Chicago (HAMOC)

4410 N Clark St  
Chicago, IL 60640

### HANA Center

4300 N California Ave.  
Chicago IL 60618

### Erie Neighborhood House

1347 W Erie St.  
Chicago, IL 60642

### The Resurrection Project

1805 S. Paulina Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60608

### United African Organization

6042 S Indiana Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60637

### Enlace Chicago

2759 S. Harding Avenue.  
Chicago, IL 60623

### Northwest Center

5233 W. Diversey Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60639

### Southwest Organizing Project

2558 W. 63rd St.  
Chicago, IL 60629

### Centro de Trabajadores Unidos

10638 S Ewing Ave.  
Chicago IL 60617



From January to August of 2024, LPF funded the recruitment and training of **266** Community Navigators. Navigators receive regular training and development opportunities and often grow into leaders through their work.

This year, Community Navigators reached **42,879** individuals through immigrant education presentations and accompaniments.

*“My family immigrated from Mexico. One of the things that we do as navigators is educate people on their rights as immigrants. I was able to learn about what a properly issued warrant looks like, the right to remain silent, things I never learned at school and my parents never talked to me about. As a navigator I educated others in my community, but was also able to take it back home to inform my family and help prepare us for any type of situation that could come up.”*




**Zulairam Toro, Community Navigator with Centro Romero**



# NATIONAL IMMIGRANT JUSTICE CENTER LEGAL SERVICES

For 40 years, the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) has provided expert immigration legal services to vulnerable immigrants. Since 2017 through the Legal Protection Fund, NIJC's dedicated staff of attorneys and experienced legal professionals have provided expert immigration legal representation to Chicago residents in over 5,000 cases, boasting a 97% success rate, and provided more than 10,000 legal screenings.

## NIJC'S TEAM OF EXPERIENCED IMMIGRATION LAW ATTORNEYS AND ADVOCATES:

-  Provide individualized, comprehensive legal assessments to help individuals and families understand their rights amidst the complexities of U.S. immigration law and make informed decisions about the legal pathways available
-  Prepare and apply for legal status based on comprehensive individualized legal assessments
-  Offer immigration legal representation to people who face unique barriers in the legal system, including representing Chicagoans before immigration court, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the State Department

## NIJC'S LEGAL EXPERTISE HELPS INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OBTAIN PERMANENT RESIDENCE

Daniel\* came to Chicago from Ethiopia on a student visa with hopes of finding his father. After the father and son reunited, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) initiated Daniel's deportation proceedings for overstaying his visa. NIJC represented Daniel and successfully terminated the government's efforts to deport him. When DHS appealed, NIJC represented Daniel to ensure that he could stay in Chicago with his father. His father had asked a non-attorney to help him secure a visa for Daniel to live with him in the U.S. Because he did not have access to legal advice, he failed to establish his parental relationship with his son in his application. NIJC took over Daniel's case to correct the error and represent him in becoming a permanent resident. Daniel is now secure in the knowledge that he and his father will remain together.

*\*Client's name has been changed to protect his privacy.*



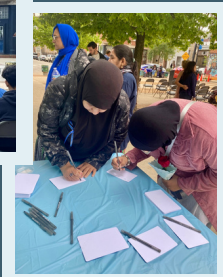
# DEVELOPING AND CELEBRATING OUR NETWORK

## SPRING COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR TRAINING

Every year, navigators receive ongoing training to strengthen their skills and develop as leaders. In March, more than 200 Chicago Community Navigators attended the Spring Community Navigator Training at Instituto del Progreso Latino.



## SECOND ANNUAL COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR DAY CELEBRATION



On May 10th, 2023, then Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot dedicated May 10th as Community Navigator Day in the City of Chicago to commemorate the impact that Community Navigators have had on the City of Chicago.

This year on Community Navigator Day, navigators from all 11 organizations came together to celebrate each other's work, vision for the future, and have fun.

## 2024 LPF SNAPSHOT

886

Community Presentations

42,227

Individuals Reached

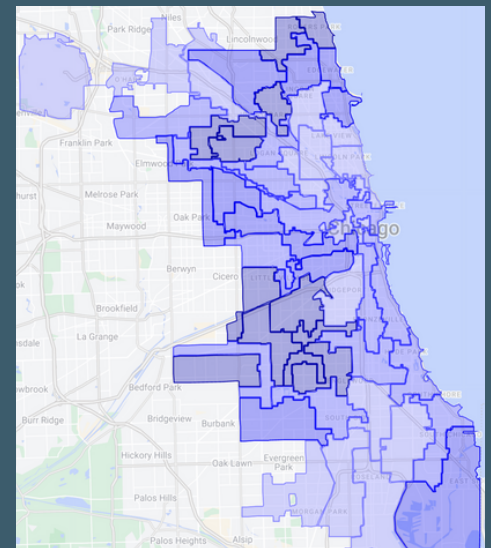
700

Legal Consultations

380

New Cases Opened

## LPF LEGAL SCREENINGS AND OPEN CASES\*



\*Darker shaded wards indicate more legal screenings