

National Immigration Law Center

Annual

REPORT

2014



About NILC

Established in 1979, the National Immigration Law Center (NILC) is the primary national legal advocacy organization in the U.S. exclusively dedicated to defending and advancing the rights and opportunities of low-income immigrants and their families.

At NILC, we believe that all people who live in the United States—regardless of their race, gender, or immigration or economic status—should have equal opportunity to achieve their full human potential. Over the past 36 years, NILC has protected fundamental rights through landmark legal decisions and has advanced policies that promote equality, opportunity, and justice for all.

We use multiple, integrated strategies to advance NILC's mission: litigation, advocacy, and strategic communications. We also conduct trainings, publish educational materials, and provide legal counsel and strategic advice to educate a wide range of audiences about complex legal and policy matters that affect immigrants' lives.

And we have a long history of helping other advocacy groups connect with each other to develop joint strategies that address common concerns. This unique bridge-building capacity is among NILC's core strengths.

We tremendously value our partnership with NILC and its team of rock stars. NILC staff's expertise and understanding of the work is incredibly helpful and insightful.

We couldn't have made the great strides we have here in Colorado without NILC's support!

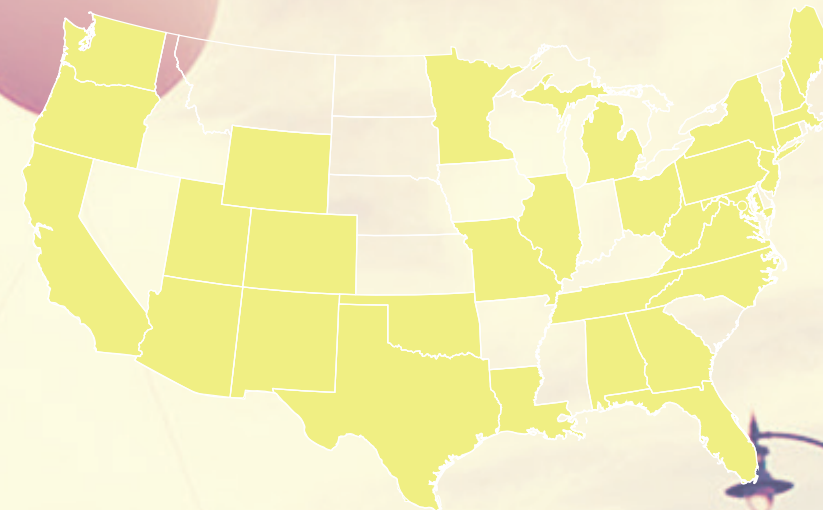
**—Julien Ross, Executive Director,
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition**



Our Commitment to Health Care

Here's a Glimpse into the Health Care Work We Did **2014**

Getting access to affordable, quality health care is a major concern for all of us. One of NILC's program priorities is to ensure that low-income immigrants are able to address health problems when they arise, so they can remain healthy. Despite political hurdles, NILC has helped advance policies that improve low-income immigrants' access to affordable health care and has raised awareness about other policies that jeopardize immigrants' ability to meet their health care needs. We have tried to make sure that the Affordable Care Act covers the greatest number of low-income immigrants as possible, to minimize the barriers that low-income immigrants face in seeking health care coverage, and to promote creative solutions for providing uninsured immigrants with basic, nonemergency health care services.



Responded to **1,026** questions about immigrant health care issues from people in **33** states across the country.

45

Conducted **45** trainings related to overcoming barriers to the ACA and safety-net programs for immigrants.



Educated **10,959** people on health care issues faced by low-income immigrants through NILC training presentations.



Saw an over **83%** increase in subscriptions to our Health Care Issues email list.

Trained **6,341** ACA assisters, enrollers, navigators, & call center staff during **8** trainings sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services.



Created **10** publications on immigrant access to health care. Top-viewed pages: Immigrants & the Affordable Care Act: 64,103 unique visitors; Health Care & DACA: 29,231 unique visitors; ACA & Mixed-Status Families: 5,635 unique visitors.

PROGRAM

Highlights

In 2014, our immigrant-led movement fought for—and won—the most sweeping policy changes our nation’s immigration system has seen in decades. The National Immigration Law Center supported all these advocacy efforts.

But we didn’t stop there. We also devoted our energies and legal know-how to making sure that policies to improve access to health care, driver’s licenses, and the right to remain with one’s family were being fully and fairly implemented.

Here are snapshots of some the work we accomplished in 2014.

Minimizing DACA Renewal Delays

June 15, 2014, marked exactly two years since the landmark Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) initiative was created. DACA has helped over 600,000 young people who grew up in the U.S. live without fearing deportation, pursue their educations, and get jobs to help provide for their families.

For two years now, NILC has worked with legal service partners to provide potential DACA beneficiaries with quality legal advice so they understand how to apply. And we’ve also notified federal officials charged with implementing DACA about challenges applicants have faced, sharing recommendations for how the government can improve the application process.

When the Department of Homeland Security published guidelines last summer about how DACA beneficiaries could renew their deportation deferrals and work authorization for another two-year period, thousands filed the required paperwork as instructed.

But even when they submitted their applications within the time frame recommended by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, many faced long waits while the agency reviewed their applications. These delays meant that some applicants risked having their work permits lapse, which could

have cost them their jobs.

This included young people like Judy.* After receiving DACA, she got a full-time job at a dental office, earning income to support herself and help her family pay the rent and other household bills. In danger of losing her job because her work permit was about to expire, she contacted USCIS to check the status of her DACA renewal application. She received a standard reply: her case was still under review.

Last year, NILC attorneys intervened in the cases of over 50 people like Judy. We documented the DACA renewal problems they were having, provided them with legal advice, and persuaded USCIS to try to speed up its review of applications filed on time so that people wouldn’t lose their jobs. We also recommended ways the agency could, from here on out, minimize these risks for DACA beneficiaries who submit their renewal applications by the deadline.

We remain committed to making sure that as many immigrant youths as possible realize their dreams in the only country they call home. This resolve fuels our ongoing DACA advocacy, education, and outreach.

*Not her real name.

Improving Access to Driver’s Licenses

For most people, a driver’s license is more than just permission to drive. Your license can help you prove that you are who you say you are. It can show that you are a resident of the state in which you live, work, and pay taxes. And having been issued a license means you are a trained and tested driver—which translates into increased road safety for everyone.

Most undocumented immigrants live in states that still prohibit them from being issued driver’s licenses, but this is beginning to change. After passage of its Safe and Responsible Driver Act (AB 60) in 2013, California geared up to become, beginning January 2, 2015, the tenth state to allow all eligible residents, regardless of

immigration status, to apply for permission to drive. This was a huge undertaking for the state, since it was clear that demand would be very high. Advocates and state officials knew that a bumpy rollout could discourage potential future applicants from coming forward to apply, which would undermine the success of this important law.

NILC staff and other California advocates met many times with state officials to offer feedback on proposed regulations and procedures for implementing the new law. On January 2, California was ready. Dire predictions of swamped offices and major backlogs were proven false, and tens of thousands of applications were processed in a timely way.

We didn’t stop there. Having heard credible reports that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents had gotten access to driver’s license information in other states to use in some of their enforcement actions, NILC staff filed a Freedom of Information Act request to learn more about how the federal government uses DMV databases to conduct immigration enforcement. This request, and subsequent litigation to force the government to hand over the requested documents, will allow us to understand if and how states might restrict the ways DMV databases may be used for immigration enforcement. Our goal is to ensure that most immigrants can apply for licenses without fear that the information they provide will end up in the hands of immigration authorities.

The fight to make it possible for all drivers to be tested, licensed, and insured isn’t over yet. We’re committed to improving access to licenses for all residents, no matter where they were born.

Defending Executive Actions on Immigration

On November 20, 2014, President Obama announced the biggest changes to immigration policy in more than a quarter century. These changes, once implemented, will allow millions of aspiring Americans to apply for the opportunity to contribute more fully to the communities and country they have made their home.

For more than a year before these changes were announced, NILC staff backed the immigrant-led efforts that finally resulted in this policy victory. And today we continue to fight to protect these wins, both in the courtroom and within immigrant communities across the country.

When the president and members of his policy team initially expressed uncertainty about making these policy changes, NILC staff encouraged them to listen to experts who argued that the changes would have both a sound legal basis and historical precedent. These legal scholars and experts made the persuasive case that aspiring Americans can and should be protected from deportation if they meet certain criteria.

When the president finally announced his immigration initiatives on November 20, they were immediately attacked by anti-immigrant policymakers, and NILC was called on to defend them. On December 2, Executive Director Marielena Hincapié mounted a forceful defense of the initiatives before the House of Representatives’ Judiciary Committee, answering sometimes hostile questions and responding to anti-immigrant attacks for more than two hours.

Marielena had a few special guests in the room with her during this important congressional hearing. They included Lupita, a 13-year-old U.S. citizen, her sister, and her mother, who should be eligible to apply for a work permit and protection from deportation once the president’s initiatives take effect.

Lupita’s family has been a pillar of their local community and economy. Although Lupita’s parents have been in the U.S. for many years, they are unable to contribute more fully due to their lack of immigration status. In order to thrive at school and elsewhere, Lupita and her younger sister need for their parents to live free from fear of deportation.

Whether by educating policymakers, writing court briefs, or supporting community organizers, we will not rest until children like Lupita are able to achieve their dreams of keeping their families together.

THANK YOU

We are deeply grateful to the following supporters who made our work & accomplishments in 2014 possible.* Thank you for your commitment to NILC's vision.

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- 21st Century ILGWU Heritage Fund
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- Los Angeles County Federation of Labor
- Los Dorados Cargo
- National Domestic Workers Alliance
- National Education Association
- National Health Law Program
- National Hispanic Media Coalition
- National Immigration Forum
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- National Lawyers Guild Labor & Employment Committee
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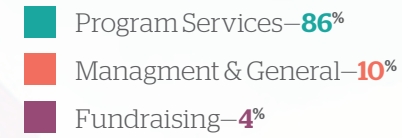
*Those recognized here contributed during NILC's 2013-14 fiscal year, which covers the period from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014.

Financial STATEMENT

Condensed statement of activity for the year ending June 30, 2014.

For complete audited financial statements, visit
www.nilc.org/financialinformation.html.

EXPENSE Breakdown



Total Revenue & Support	\$4,996,762
Grants - NILC*	4,142,542
Grants - United We Dream Network**	187,325
Contributions	341,640
Special Events	202,116
Litigation Settlement	101,672
Miscellaneous Income	302
Investment Income	15,843
Training and Conferences	5,322
Total Expenses	\$6,516,373
Program Services	5,636,502
Supporting Services	
- Management & General	643,869
- Fundraising	236,002
Change in Net Assets*	\$1,519,611
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	6,468,777
Net Assets - End of Year	\$4,949,166

"The immigrant community has a great advocate in the National Immigration Law Center. In this current political climate, we can count on their analysis to help us ensure that all families-regardless of where they were born-are treated fairly. NILC's keen understanding of the complex interplay between immigration, health care, tax, and labor law makes them a reliable resource."

—Senator Harry Reid

*Many of these grants are multi-year grants. The full amount of the funding from those grants was recorded as received during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, although a portion of those funds are temporarily restricted for work that NILC will carry out in subsequent fiscal years.

**In July 2010, NILC entered into an agreement with the United We Dream Network (UWD) to serve as the group's fiscal sponsor until it could obtain its own tax-exempt status as an independent, nonprofit organization. The grants NILC received on behalf of UWD are reflected separately from grants awarded in support of NILC's work.



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