



ANNUAL REPORT 2015



NATIONAL
IMMIGRATION
LAW CENTER

ABOUT NILC

At NILC, we believe that all people who live in the U.S.—regardless of their race, gender, immigration and/or economic status—should have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. Over the years, we've been at the forefront of many of the country's greatest challenges when it comes to immigration issues, and we play a major leadership role in addressing the real-life impact of policies that affect the ability of low-income immigrants to prosper and thrive.

We use a core set of integrated strategies to advance our mission:

IMPACT LITIGATION

NILC engages in lawsuits that defend the fundamental and constitutional rights of all Americans, including low-income immigrants and their families, often in coordination with other local and national civil rights organizations. Our legal victories have secured vital due process rights for detained Salvadorans, challenged government regulations that would have resulted in millions of workers losing their jobs, and stopped unconstitutional state attempts to regulate immigration law that would have led to racial profiling.

POLICY ANALYSIS & ADVOCACY

As experts in the complex interplay between immigration law and public and private economic support programs, access to education, workers' rights, and other issues affecting low-income immigrant communities, NILC educates decision-makers on the impact their policy goals may have on this overlooked population. NILC fact sheets and briefing papers have long been used by policymakers interested in ensuring the future prosperity of their constituents. And our analyses have also helped inform innovative policy solutions to address immigrants' access to health care, workers' rights, immigration enforcement reforms, and legal status for immigrant youth.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

NILC plays an increasingly important role in shaping effective messaging and communications strategies on immigration issues. We have led groundbreaking research on messages to promote bold advocacy goals and give advocates, policymakers, and other key spokespeople the tools they need to speak persuasively about the important and positive role that low-income immigrants play in our society. Our communications efforts are deliberately integrated with our efforts to advance legal and policy victories, while also focused on shaping the public narrative on immigration issues for longer-lasting social change.

OTHER STRATEGIES

We also conduct trainings, publish educational materials, and provide legal counsel and strategic advice to support and strengthen other groups' advocacy work.



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Organizations listed for identification purposes only.

PATHS FORWARD

FIGHTING FOR THOSE LEFT IN THE COLD

No one deserves to be held in a cold, crowded cell for hours—or days—while being denied a bed, access to soap, showers, adequate meals and water, medical care, or even a lawyer. But these are the deplorable conditions at the immigration detention holding facilities in the Border Patrol's Tucson Sector that 75 former detainees described to NILC attorneys over the course of a yearlong investigation that began in 2014.

So in June 2015, we, along with the American Immigration Council, the ACLU of Arizona, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area, and Morrison & Foerster LLP, filed a class-action lawsuit challenging those horrific and abusive detention conditions.

In 75 sworn statements, current and former detainees consistently recounted being subjected to days of mistreatment, abuse, and neglect. They told of having only the floor or concrete benches to serve as "beds" and flimsy plastic blankets—the kind usually reserved for emergencies—as their only bedding. Some told us of being denied adequate medical treatment even when they suffered broken bones or, in the case of one woman, an injury sustained in a sexual assault she suffered during her journey.

Children traveling and detained with their mothers were not spared this ill treatment. Several detainees described their children crying through the night from hunger and cold. One mother reported that she did not receive clean diapers for her two-year-old for the duration of her 28 hours in detention. The woman's declaration reports that she was finally forced to remove her daughter's soiled diaper—with nowhere to dispose of it and no replacement available.

One of our main goals for this lawsuit, aside from winning an immediate end to these inhumane conditions, was to help make it possible for the affected men and women to tell their stories about Border Patrol

detention—to shine a bright light on their horrific experiences. Excerpts from the declarations they gave are available at <http://bit.ly/1WClwZm>.

P.S. In January 2016, we won an important victory in this lawsuit: A federal judge in Arizona allowed the case to go forward and granted it class-action status. The judge's order clears the way for us to interview more detainees and gather more evidence about their poor treatment, which we're eager to do in order to achieve justice for our courageous plaintiffs and all those who face similar situations.

BECAUSE EVERYONE NEEDS HEALTH CARE

Despite the promise implied by the Affordable Care Act's name, many immigrants still can't afford to see a doctor when they're sick or injured. Undocumented immigrants and young people who've been granted temporary authorization to live and work in the U.S. under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) are not eligible to sign up for affordable plans through the ACA insurance marketplace. And, to add insult to injury, many such people are told by ill-informed or unscrupulous tax preparers that they nevertheless must pay the tax penalty for not having the health care coverage they so desperately need.

These are the types of daily injustices faced by people who are struggling to make a decent living, take care of their families, and stay healthy. Much of our work in 2015 was focused on combating such injustices.

In early 2015, when we started hearing that immigrants barred from ACA-related benefits were being told they owed the ACA tax penalty, we initiated a big multilingual social media campaign to set the record straight and to educate immigrants, advocates, and tax preparers about the truth. And we didn't stop there. In typical NILC fashion, we tackled the issue in a multipronged way by simultaneously advocating that the Internal Revenue Service update its website to clarify the ACA tax penalty rules for immigrants and cohosting legal clinics and webinars to inform as many people as possible on the issue.

Ultimately, our goal is to make it possible for everyone in the U.S. to access quality, affordable health care coverage, no matter what their immigration status or income is.

So we also worked tirelessly during 2015 to help ensure that eligible immigrants can actually get affordable insurance through the ACA marketplace. We advocated for improvements to the federal ACA marketplace website and application process to make it easier for immigrant applicants to know what kind of documentation they need to submit and to make sure that the federal government processes their applications properly. Now fewer immigrant applicants are experiencing unjust delays in getting coverage or, worse, having their insurance unjustly terminated.

Finally, immigrants in California won a big victory in 2015 when the state enacted a law extending Medi-Cal coverage (the state's version of Medicaid) to 170,000 undocumented children. The new law will help ensure that all children in the nation's most populous state have access to health care. NILC health care policy staff analyzed the proposal and made policy recommendations, since NILC is on the steering committee for the Health4All campaign, which was instrumental in bringing about this enormous win.

Throughout 2015, NILC attorneys worked hard to coordinate efforts to defend the 2014 executive actions with a campaign that included legal, communications, and organizing strategies. We helped write and coordinate amicus briefs filed at every stage, from federal district court to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and now up to the Supreme Court, where we await a decision in *United States v. Texas*.

This fight for desperately needed relief for immigrant families has been very long and very hard, and it isn't over yet. We at NILC will not rest until children can go to school free of fears that their parents will be ripped away from them or until immigrant workers have the chance to come out of the shadows to work and contribute to their communities. We will always fight for comprehensive immigration reform and a true path to citizenship, but we know that until that happens DAPA and expanded DACA must be implemented to prevent the senseless separation of families.

NOT SITTING IDLY BY

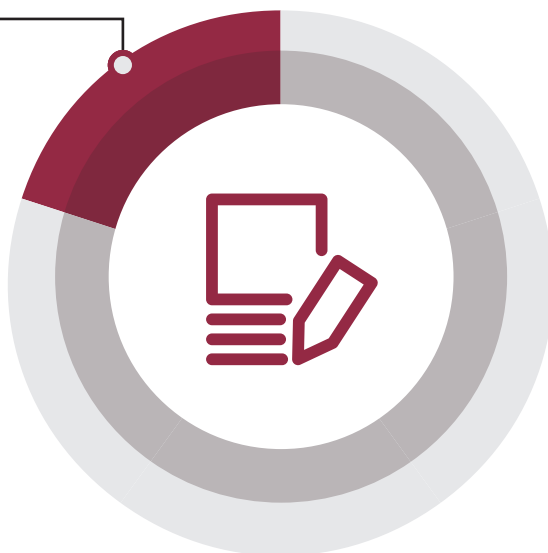
From the first day of 2015 to the last, President Obama's 2014 executive actions on immigration dominated the worlds of immigrants' rights advocacy groups, and NILC was no different. Though we started off the year with high hopes that we would be guiding millions of people through the DAPA (Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents) application process, we were prepared when in February Texas and 25 other states threw a wrench in the program with a lawsuit followed by a nationwide injunction ordered by a federal judge sympathetic to Texas' questionable arguments.

Though we were dealt an enormous blow, the situation speaks to the heart of NILC's work and strategy: hoping for the best, while preparing for the worst. We knew that anti-immigrant forces would do anything they could to stop implementation of DAPA and expanded DACA, and spent months helping families prepare to take advantage of these critical programs while simultaneously forming strategies to fight any forces that may try to stop it.



DEFENDING AND EDUCATING

About **1** in **5** of
all our requests
for technical
legal assistance in
2015
had something to do with
DACA or DAPA.



Helped
393
people one-on-one with questions

?

about either the original **2012**
DACA program or DAPA and
expanded DACA.



Educated
4,863
people
on **DAPA** and

8 expanded
DACA
through
webinars.



Provided
SPECIAL WEBINAR TRAINING
for the County of Los Angeles Public
Library System so they could help their
patrons with **DACA** applications and other
immigration topics.



Provided **54** on-site
trainings on **DACA**, **DAPA** and
expanded **DACA**.

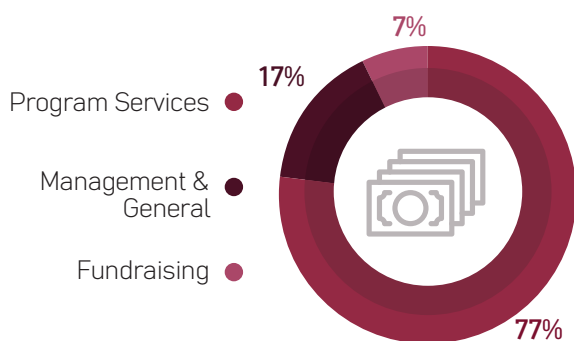
FINANCIAL STATEMENT SUMMARY

Condensed statement of activity for the year ending June 30, 2015.

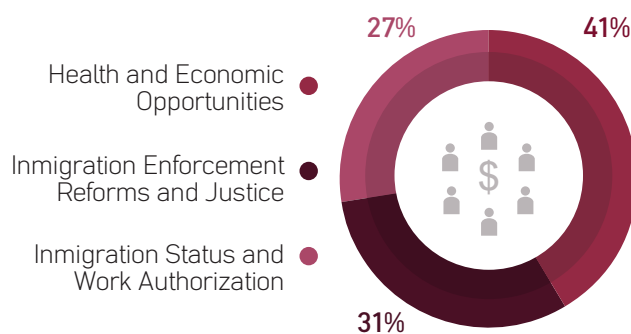
For complete audited financial statements, visit www.nilc.org/about-us/financial-information.html.

TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	\$5,167,646
Grants – NILC*	4,768,698
Contributions	155,595
Special Events	193,498
Litigation Settlement	18,743
Miscellaneous Income	7,637
Investment Income	6,200
Training and Conferences	17,275
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,608,264
Program Services	3,543,710
Supporting Services	
• Management and General	746,161
• Fundraising	321,393
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS*	\$559,382
Net Assets – Beginning of Year	4,949,166
NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR	\$5,508,548

EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



PROGRAM INVESTMENTS



**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, 2015, although a portion of those funds are temporarily restricted for work that NILC will carry out in subsequent fiscal years.*

DONOR PROFILE

We had the opportunity to talk with one of our committed supporters about why she contributes to NILC through her family foundation, and this is what she had to say:

As a family, we do social justice and human services work. But we started our family foundation to give to other organizations that we really respected and that we felt were advancing the values we share as a family. Our parents are immigrants and understand the privilege they've enjoyed in being able to immigrate to this country and then naturalize. So, as a family, immigrant justice is one of our core family values.

I have also had a personal relationship with NILC over the years through my work. I have a lot of confidence in the culture NILC facilitates as a public interest organization. Even though NILC does work that addresses big societal issues and has incredible lawyers, they are really down-to-earth. I appreciate this. And the rest of my family appreciates this because this is the example that our parents set for us.

The fight to advance immigrants' rights is always an uphill battle. U.S. history demonstrates this. But NILC is so resilient. They step in immediately when a threat emerges. From state anti-immigrant bills like SB 1070 in Arizona and HB 56 in Alabama, to years ago after Hurricane Katrina when immigrants faced forced labor issues, and now, with everything NILC is doing to support efforts to make DAPA and extended DACA a reality, I can rely on NILC for accurate information when an important issue on immigration arises. And I always know that, strategically, NILC is going to make the best choices.

NILC is an organization that has brilliant staff with a lot of integrity. That's why we can trust NILC to target the immigrants' rights issues that ought to be advanced.

—Kathleen Kim



The Kim family in 1976.

THANK YOU!

We are humbled by the generous support from the following groups and individuals.* Your contributions help make our work possible, and we are deeply grateful.

**Those recognized here contributed during NILC's 2014-15 fiscal year, which covers the period from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015.*

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Immigrant Legal Resource Center

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Service Employees International Union - California State Council
Service Employees International Union - Local 2015
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