

DECEMBER 2022

Empowering immigrants from *arrival* to *belonging*.

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends and Supporters,

At the American Immigration Council, this has been a year of tremendous change. We hit the ground running on day one with the announcement of our merger with New American Economy — and over the past 12 months, we've worked tirelessly to build a unified organization that can meet this moment in history. In making the uncommon decision to pursue this merger, we believed that our organization and our movement needed new tools, greater scale, and more organizing power to fight back against the anti-immigrant rhetoric and division that have stymied progress on this issue for too long. **One year later, we believe even more strongly that, together, we can achieve our vision of a more welcoming country where everyone can feel they belong.**

As we prepare to close out 2022, even with the enormous challenges ahead, we have so much to celebrate. I joined the American Immigration Council as its Executive Director last year and have had the privilege of working with many of the smartest, most talented, most mission-driven people I've ever met who -- in an incredibly challenging political environment -- are achieving seemingly unthinkable successes on behalf of immigrants, refugees, and the country. That includes helping thousands of Afghans resettle in the U.S. through our Immigration Justice Campaign, making it possible for thousands more Dreamers to attend college through our support of the successful passage of Proposition 308 in Arizona, breaking into the conservative media ecosystem with more than \$50 million in ads to promote belonging through our partnership with the Ad Council, and so much more -- all of which is laid out in detail in the pages of this report.

None of this work would be possible without you. Thank you for believing in our staff, our partners, our vision, and for being there with us at every step of this new journey.

We are grateful for your partnership and support of our work.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Robbins'. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeremy Robbins
Executive Director

2022 Highlights

- **Helping thousands of Afghans resettle in the U.S.** through our Immigration Justice Campaign, a network of thousands of pro bono lawyers, interpreters, and paralegals who are also helping free immigrants from unjust detention and represent many others in the most need.
- **Making it possible for thousands of Dreamers to attend college** in Arizona through our support for the successful passage of Proposition 308, which will make in-state tuition and financial aid available to college students in Arizona, regardless of their immigration status.
- **Breaking into the conservative media ecosystem with more than \$55 million in ads** to promote belonging through our partnership with the Ad Council.
- **Successfully stopping the jailing of unaccompanied minors when they turn 18** and making it possible for untold numbers of [immigrants whose files were locked in government caves](#) to become citizens, as just two examples of the more than two dozen major impact lawsuits we currently have pending against the government for unjust treatment of immigrants.



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POLITICS

Applicants for U.S. Citizenship Sue Government After Being Left in Limbo for Two Years

Delay is tied mostly to documents stored in an underground facility that closed during the pandemic



2022 Highlights *(continued)*

- **Building the infrastructure to help immigrants succeed** in the most conservative parts of the country through the local immigrant integration work we're leading in more than 120 communities across the country.
- **Engaging hundreds of companies, trade associations, and business leaders** in advocacy for immigration reform in states like Texas, where our Texans for Economic Growth coalition now boasts more than 125 members, including major brands like Pepsi, Uber, and the San Antonio Spurs.
- **Demonstrating the impact immigrants have in all 50 states,** every large metro area, all 435 congressional districts, and in every county across the United States through the dozens of major research reports and data interactives we produce each year.
- **Informing the public discourse,** with Council experts and resources featured in more than 900 news stories and published in 1,570 national and international outlets, including [The Los Angeles Times](#), [The Washington Post](#), [The Wall Street Journal](#), [The New York Times](#), [CNN](#), [Fortune Magazine](#), [Slate](#), [The Hill](#), [NPR](#), [Forbes](#), [TIME Magazine](#), [Newsweek](#), [The Chicago Tribune](#), and more.
- **Using art to drive narrative change** with the Brooklyn Arts Council and our inaugural cohort of New American Fellows, artists who are rethinking the way facts and figures can spark dialogue with the public and who are using different artistic media to bridge the gap between data and humanity.
- **Telling the stories of those impacted by our immigration system** – in their own words – by helping more than 700 people, including Dreamers, refugees, farmers, faith leaders, CEOs, asylees, college students, and more place op-eds in a variety of national and local media outlets across the country.

1.

Fighting for a Fairer, More Humane Immigration System

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Policy

Our Policy team continues to advocate and educate policymakers and the public on immigration policy issues.

Government Engagement

Border Policy

Our policy staff are regarded as subject matter experts, have testified before Congress, provided multiple briefings for Hill offices on a variety of immigration issues, and work extensively with the media to educate the public on immigration issues. On April 6, the Policy Team's Aaron Reichlin-Melnick appeared before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security to address the effect of Title 42 on border operations and management and provide recommendations on restoring asylum and orderly processing at the U.S. southern border. Aaron also appeared on webinar for Ideaspace to discuss the trends and policies that contribute to the growth in the backlog of pending cases in immigration court. As this backlog has increased by nearly 450 percent, Aaron discusses several steps the executive and legislative branches could take to improve the asylum adjudication system.

Case Management

Our team is advocating with both the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Congress for a case management model that promotes the government's legitimate objectives (to create an orderly and fair process that achieves high compliance rates) while minimizing the harm caused in a carceral model, by instead providing NGO case management and legal services for noncitizens in removal proceedings throughout their immigration case in destination cities. By connecting case management to the administration's interest in alternatives to detention, this will encourage the administration to begin to direct funding away from detention and surveillance and to invest in a more humane alternative that can still stand up to the challenges of this polarized political moment.

Refugee Resettlement

The American Immigration Council joined a team of nonprofits across the country to [write a letter](#) to the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) Director Robin Dunn Marcos on October 31, 2022, to express concern over the lack of appropriate language access services for minors in ORR care. The Council and other groups urged ORR to develop and implement language access guidelines for contractors working with immigrant youth to ensure minors understand and can meaningfully participate in their legal cases and the family reunification process.

DACA

In October, our team responded to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in *State of Texas v. USA*, in which the Fifth Circuit found the 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program to be illegal but sent the government's new DACA rule back to the trial court to determine whether it suffers from the same legal defects. While DACA will continue to temporarily remain in effect for renewals, the program is on tenuous ground as its legality is again tested before a Texas trial court hostile to immigrants. Our team continues to strongly advocate for Congress to pass a permanent solution for undocumented youth across the United States, including those who participate in the DACA initiative. It has been more than 10 years since the creation of DACA, which offered an opportunity for undocumented youth who meet strict criteria to apply for temporary protection from deportation.



Coalitions

In 2022, we combined our collective voices with other coalitions advocating for changes on a variety of issues including:

- [Coalition Urges DHS To Protect the Right to Abortion After Dobbs](#)
- [Coalition Asks Inspectors General to Review Implementation of Biden Executive Order Against Private Prisons](#)
- [Coalition Calls on Biden Administration to Create Afghan Parole Program](#)
- [Coalition Urges Biden Administration to Designate Temporary Protected Status to Ukraine](#)
- [Coalition Calls on Biden Administration to Rescind Rule that Would Bar Asylum Seekers Under the Pretenses of Public Health](#)
- [Letter to Secretary Mayorkas Urging Protections for Victims of San Antonio Tragedy](#)
- [Coalition Urges House Appropriators to Reject Title 42 Poison Pill Amendment](#)

Publications

This year, the Policy team authored 62 blogs on [Immigration Impact](#) and 18 new and updated publications, including 12 new fact sheets and a special report, as well as a written comment in the Congressional record, and 2 regulatory comments. For example, one exciting new [fact sheet](#) breaks down the detention oversight mechanisms that are currently in place within the Department of Homeland Security. Another [fact sheet](#) analyzed the large rise in encounters at the southern border. Our Policy Director, Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, has published multiple Op-Eds, including [an Op-Ed](#) with Slate on the [Supreme Court's decision in *Garland v. Gonzalez*](#), [an Op-Ed](#) another in the San

Antonio Express-News on the [tragic death of 53 migrants in Texas](#) and the roots of deterrence policy, and [an Op-Ed](#) with Slate on the Supreme Court's [refusal to block a judge's decision in Texas](#) that had vacated enforcement priorities within the Department of Homeland Security. Policy Counsel Rebekah Wolf [penned an op-ed](#) for the Boston Globe in response to governors' recent cruel stunts putting migrants on buses and flights to other states. She called for the federal government to support a nationwide system of wraparound services and case management for migrants to allow everyone to fully participate in their legal proceedings.

After a Harsh Supreme Court Decision on Immigrant Rights, Advocates and Lawyers Have Two Key Questions

BY AARON REICHLIN-MELNICK JUNE 14, 2022 • 2:15 PM

Litigation

Our legal team helped to successfully end the jailing of unaccompanied minors when they turn 18 and is making it possible for untold numbers of immigrants whose files were locked in government caves to become citizens.



*Immigration detention is **cruel, punitive, and unnecessary**. The government locks people up—often in remote facilities far from family and legal services providers—while erecting arbitrary barriers to accessing counsel. Immigrants in detention should not have to struggle to have private conversations with their lawyers.*

The stakes are too high.

Emma Winger
Senior Attorney

Impact Litigation

Stopping Arrests of Young People

Our victory in [Garcia Ramirez et al. v. ICE](#), brought to the Council by Legal Director Kate Melloy Goettel, challenged ICE's practice of arresting and detaining young people on their 18th birthdays, often placing them in handcuffs, and transporting them to ICE detention centers and jails instead of identifying sponsors, group homes, or other alternatives. The [injunction](#), issued in September 2021, has been extraordinarily impactful as ICE's required monthly data has revealed: As of October 2021, 99.8% of age-outs were released to a sponsor, a group home, or other alternative instead of into detention, increasing to 99.9% in 2022 -- and the impact of this lawsuit has only continued. This year, the Washington D.C. district court approved a settlement agreement, wherein the government agreed to dismiss its appeal and the permanent injunction became final. The Council will continue to monitor the progress of ICE's compliance with the settlement through review of monthly data from ICE through September 2026.

Fighting for Access to Counsel

The American Immigration Council and partners [filed a lawsuit](#) on behalf of five legal service providers: the Immigration Justice Campaign, Americans for Immigrant Justice, Immigration Services and Legal Advocacy, RAICES, and the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project. The case challenges the barriers to access to counsel at four detention centers—Krome Detention Center in Florida, Florence Correctional Center in Arizona, River Correctional Center in Louisiana, and Laredo Process Center in Texas. The lawsuit seeks to ensure that attorneys can have timely, confidential communication with their detained clients by phone, videoconferencing, and in person.

Uncovering the Truth About Family Separation

Our Legal team has continued to be involved in the intensive discovery and fact gathering in our family separation lawsuit, [CM v. United States](#). Our lawyers and *pro bono* partners have deposed key government officials to uncover details on the origins of the Trump Administration’s family separation policy. Our team has also fought to ensure Plaintiffs are treated humanely and fairly throughout the discovery process. While most discovery materials are confidential, several damaging documents were released in court filings, showing government officials instructing Border Patrol officers to send separated children to shelters for immigrant children at an “accelerated pace” to prevent reunification with their parents. These documents were highlighted in recent reporting from the [Washington Post](#) and [The Atlantic](#) with the public discussion on the Trump administration’s family separation policy being revisited by news networks like [NBC](#) and [ABC](#).

Protecting Asylum

In August, a court in San Diego confirmed our victory in [Al Otro Lado v. Mayorkas](#), declaring that Customs and Border Protection officers had violated the law when they systematically turned back asylum seekers at the southwest border, interfering with their right to seek asylum. Following this decision, the legal team is working with partners to notify class members residing outside the United States of their rights under the court’s order.



Addressing Delays in the Naturalization Process

Additionally, the Council filed a lawsuit challenging U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services’ (USCIS) unreasonable delays in processing naturalization applications that were filed in 2020, which has caused extreme delays for applicants attempting to become U.S. citizens. The lawsuit, [Carter, v. USCIS](#), garnered a large amount of media attention, including in [The Wall Street Journal](#), and resulted in quick movement by Defendants to schedule most of the original plaintiffs for citizenship interviews. We continue to put pressure on the agency to commit to prioritizing the naturalization application process for those who have been prejudiced by Defendants’ delay.

Legal Resources

Through our trainings and resources, team members have kept the legal community updated about federal court practice and Council efforts to advance due process, increase access to asylum, and challenge unlawful detention. Our trainings have involved responding to hundreds of requests for assistance from immigration attorneys prior to the April deadline for submitting claims under the Mendez Rojas settlement agreement. The Mendez Rojas litigation challenged the government's failure to adequately notify asylum seekers of the one-year filing deadline for asylum applications and its failure to provide a uniform mechanism that would give all asylum seekers the opportunity to timely file their applications.

The legal team also developed a FAQ resource to educate the legal community about the permanent injunction issued in [Garcia Ramirez v. Immigration and Customs Enforcement](#) (ICE) - a nationwide class action challenging the practice of transferring children who arrive in the United States without parents or legal guardians from the custody of HHS to ICE-contracted jails and prisons on their 18th birthday, without considering less restrictive placements. In 2022, we published several practice advisories, including [Administrative Closure Post-Castro-Tum](#), [The Basics of Motions to Reopen EOIR-Issued Removal Orders](#), [Delay Actions In The Asylum Context: Avoiding Dismissal And Proving The Case](#)

Legal team members also educated the legal community by participating in multiple webinars and continuing legal education seminars on federal court practice, habeas and mandamus litigation, border litigation, the Equal Access to Justice Act, and DHS' new rule on asylum procedures. Members of both the legal and policy teams collaborated to host 10 webinars and were guest speakers in 2 other webinars this year. Recently, we hosted the webinar, "Unpacking Immigration Cases Before the Supreme Court," that reached over 1,300 attendees. During the webinar our team discussed immigration decisions from the last Supreme Court term and previewed what to expect from the high court during the 2022-23 term with Professor Ahilan Arulanantham from the Center for Immigration Law and Policy at the UCLA School of Law.

Transparency

Our Transparency team plays a leading role in shedding light on immigration policies and information that are otherwise shielded from the public eye.

The Council's Transparency team continues to investigate how agencies carry out interior and border enforcement initiatives, how our immigration courts function, and trends in adjudications of immigration benefits. This year, we also have worked to uncover discriminatory treatment of Black immigrants in detention and in removal proceedings.

Investigations of the Treatment of Detained Black Immigrants

We [filed FOIA requests](#) to find out more about ICE's treatment of Haitian migrants detained at the Torrance County Detention Facility. The request asked the agency for records and data related to people detained at Torrance, including information about whether the agency granted detained individuals access to legal representatives and how ICE officers decided to release individuals on parole. When ICE did not respond to our request, we filed [suit](#).



Investigations of Immigration Courts

We launched an investigation of EOIR's practice of advancing hearings with limited notice to immigrants and their lawyers. Over the past two years, immigration attorneys have reported that EOIR is moving up the date of individual hearings to within just a couple of weeks with either little notice or often no notice at all to them or their clients. The Council and the Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition filed a [FOIA request](#) to find out about the number of cases that have been advanced in the past two years and how immigration judges decide whether to grant a request to delay hearings based on attorneys' scheduling conflicts or workload.

Investigations of Border and Interior Enforcement

Under the Trump administration, CBP initiated a secretive pilot program to replace highly trained asylum officers who screened asylum seekers through credible fear interviews with inexperienced Border Patrol agents. With our partners we filed a [FOIA lawsuit](#) when CBP failed to provide records. On March 11, 2022, a federal court announced a clear victory for government transparency: The court ordered the government to release the names of the Border Patrol agents who were involved in this program in addition to ordering CBP to conduct a more comprehensive search for relevant records.

In May, our team [uncovered additional documents](#) that describe the initial implementation of the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), also known as the Remain in Mexico program. The documents provide insight into the development of the program, including emails displaying a desire to implement the program at a "rapid pace" and to meet quotas for returns to Mexico, and emails providing early cost estimates for the program.

Our team also partnered with the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES), and several local organizations, to [file a FOIA request](#) for information about the agency's policies and procedures for accepting immigration bonds and securing the release of individuals in detention. The request specifies that ICE should make information publicly available on its website, such as its offices' hours of operation, accepted forms of payment, and procedures to follow when the agency cancels or revokes a bond.

We also recently [filed FOIA requests](#) to better understand policies related to parole guidance and incorrect addresses on CBP documents after migrants were flown to Martha's Vineyard. The request seeks 1) records related to CBP parole guidance and how the agency determines the mailing address to include in CBP-issued documents; 2) communication among CBP officers and Texas, Arizona, and Florida state and local officials related to buses and flights chartered to transport migrants; and 3) interagency communication between CBP and ICE related to parole guidance and mailing addresses.

Finally, we published "[A Guide to Obtaining Detention Records](#)." This guide provides an overview of the process for obtaining records about detained individuals. These records may include information about abusive treatment, difficulty accessing an attorney, and lack of medical care. These government records also may support a legal claim or complaint against the agency and can help advocates working for changes in the immigration detention system. This guide provides (1) a brief overview of FOIA requirements, (2) information about the types of records government agencies possess, (3) tips about how to request those records, and (4) an overview of what to expect after submitting the request.

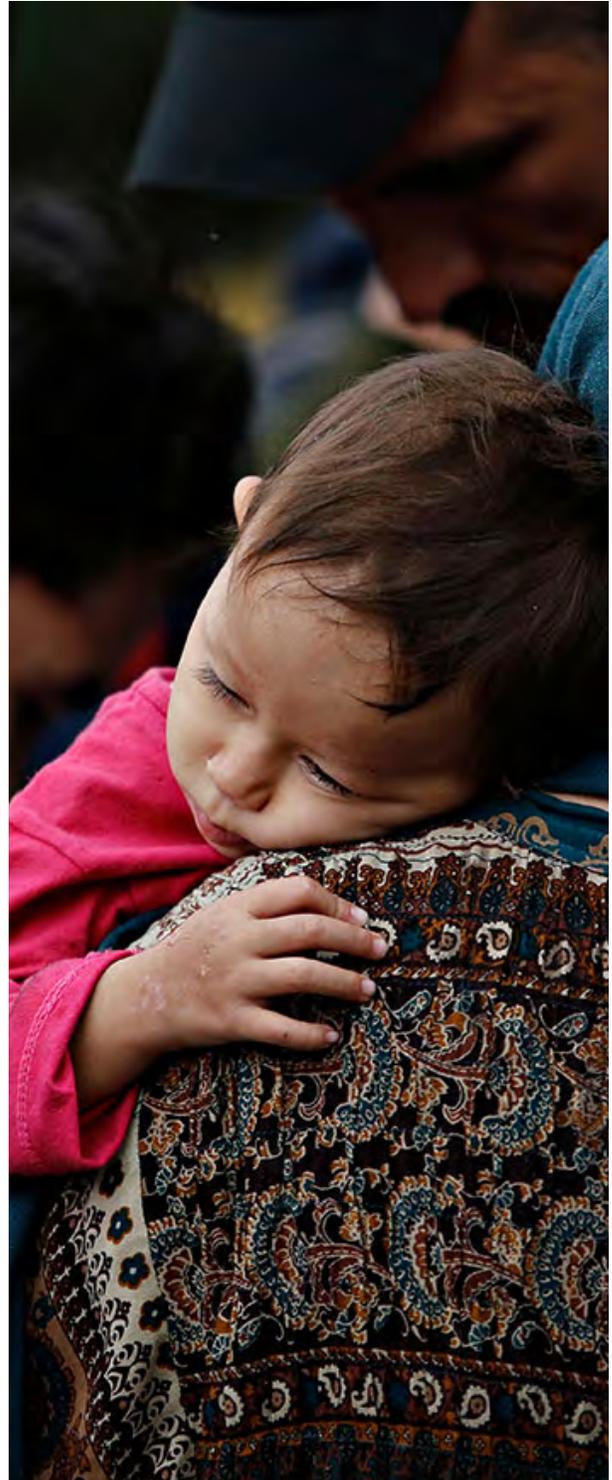
Investigation of the Process for Adjudicating Immigration Benefits

In partnership with the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP), we [filed a FOIA request](#) with USCIS seeking records, including guidance and data, about the agency's implementation of humanitarian parole and refugee processing for Afghan nationals. When the agency did not timely respond, we filed [suit](#). The requested records will provide critical insight on the significant delays Afghans face when applying for humanitarian parole and refugee processing and will assist advocates in helping Afghan nationals seeking safety.

Advocacy to Advance Transparency Reform at the Federal and State Level

We continue to advocate and litigate to advance transparency across federal immigration agencies and within state open records processes. In a case challenging a regulation that blocked access to records about individuals held in detention facilities where we appeared as [amicus](#), the Michigan Supreme Court found that Calhoun County improperly withheld records relating to the erroneous detention of a U.S. citizen by the County. The Court held that a federal regulation, such as the one raised by the County to block access to the records in question, cannot serve as the basis for barring disclosure of the records under Michigan's state FOIA.

Our team's advocacy efforts also helped prevent CBP from destroying crucial records about CBP's enforcement practices. We advocated against a CBP records destruction schedule by submitting [comments](#) to NARA with a large coalition of organizations. In response to the comments, NARA reversed course, announcing that records documenting serious incidents of abuse, sexual assault, death or serious injury, and deprivation of civil rights under the color of law would be permanently preserved.



Immigration Justice Campaign

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

Our Immigration Justice Campaign team has made incredible progress on the fight for due process and justice for immigrants facing deportation.

Network Impact and Advocacy

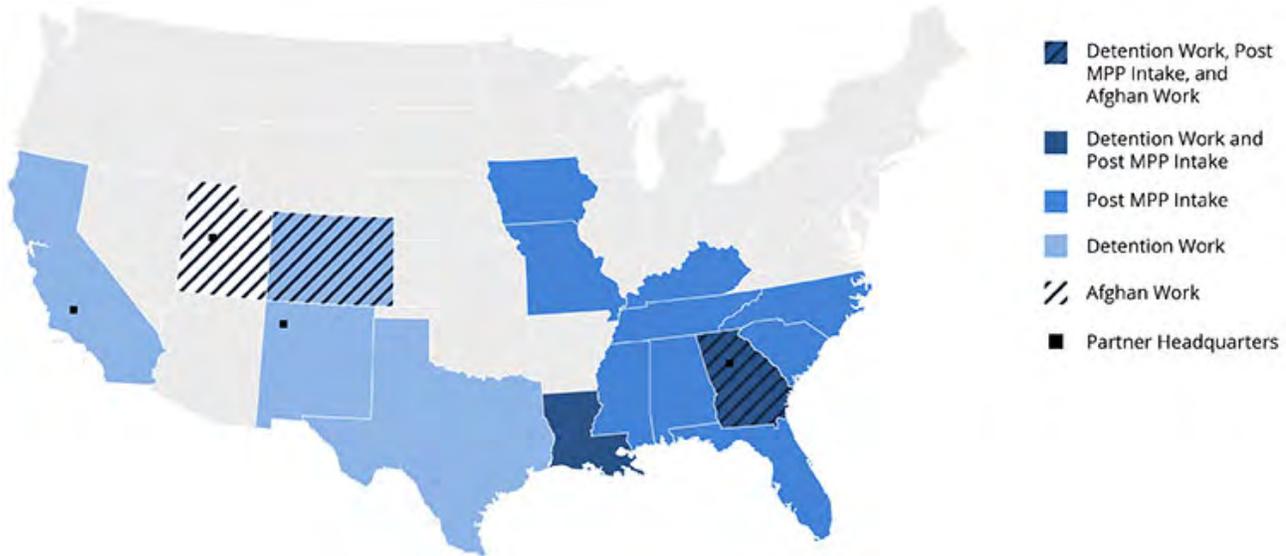
We have continued to grow our network of advocates and to deploy these advocates in creative ways – whether representing clients in court or advocating for policy change by raising their voices. Our network has grown to 19,645 attorneys, volunteers, and advocates. In 2022, we have placed 630 pro bono engagements, helped 427 migrants, and engaged 247 volunteers in casework.

Our pro bono attorneys and volunteers have supported clients from 31 countries that speak 19 languages.

In total, out of the 124 cases that have concluded this year, 75 have had successful outcomes, a 60.5% success rate. Our volunteers secured the release of 36 people from detention, won immigration relief for 12 people, and won 3 circuit court victories. We also had 70.6% of merits hearings result in a grant of asylum or other relief (compared to a national grant rate of 39.2% in the same time period), and 85.7% of bond hearings result in a bond grant (compared to a national grant rate of 32.7% in the same time period).

In partnership with the Council’s policy team, we activated our network to respond to ten Take Actions. 8,840 advocates sent 47,216 messages to policymakers during that timeframe; our advocates also supported a petition from our partners and shared social media posts on our behalf. Our team also mobilized our network to respond to the federal government’s request for comments on the practice of family separation. Our network produced 8,700 comments, totaling 27% of all public comments. Our advocates also spoke out through our Take Actions about [high COVID-19 rates](#) in detention centers, the importance of [ending Title 42](#), reducing [funding for ICE detention](#) and increasing funding for [alternatives to detention](#), and releasing immigrants from [unsafe detention centers](#) in New Mexico and the southeast.

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE CAMPAIGN AREAS OF WORK



Afghan Pro-Bono Collaborative

The Campaign has partnered with several nonprofits across the country to scale legal support for Afghan evacuees here in the U.S. Without a strategic intervention, there is a significant risk that thousands of Afghans will fail to secure permanent legal status, placing their future – and the success of the evacuation and resettlement effort – in jeopardy. While they were brought over during Operation Allies Welcome, they were issued humanitarian parole which only grants them temporary protection. The path to permanent residence here is much more complicated and underscores the critical role pro-bono legal representation has in our system.

Through this collaboration, we are working to ensure Afghan evacuees have representation to secure the long-term status they need to build stable lives here in the United States. The Campaign is playing a key role in the collaborative by surging its network to help secure legal support for Afghans, including those who risked their lives to help our troops overseas. By utilizing our pro-bono model,

we will coordinate legal representation for our new Afghan neighbors to obtain permanent status in the United States.

Post MPP Asylum Representation

We have leveraged our volunteer network to provide individualized telephonic legal orientations, legal intake, pro se plus, and full representation for individuals and families who were able to enter the United States during the initial wind down of MPP. With a focus on under-resourced areas of the country, we have placed 288 pro bono engagements for 225 people. We established new partnerships with local legal service providers in Tennessee, North/Central Florida, North Carolina, Central Texas, and southern California as well as a new national partnership with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Our team also [hosted a webinar](#) to give updates on the end of the Migrant Protection Protocols and tell volunteers how they can get involved to help people formerly subjected to MPP.

2.

Informing Policymakers and the Public Debate

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Communications and Storytelling

Our Communications team works to ensure that the public debate around immigration is grounded in facts and sound analysis.

Immigration Impact

In 2022 we published 123 blog posts to our nationally recognized blog [Immigration Impact](#), which has received 784,773 pageviews this year, a 75% increase from last year. We have also hosted 17 webinars in 2022 averaging 1,000 attendees per webinar.

Our experts, and resources, were featured in 900+ news stories (including opinion-editorials and feature pieces) published in 1,570 national and international outlets. These include: [Los Angeles Times](#), [The Washington Post](#), [The Wall Street Journal](#), [The New York Times](#), [Inside Philanthropy](#), [CNN](#), [Fortune Magazine](#), [Slate](#), [The Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#), [The Arizona Republic](#), [The Hill](#), [NPR](#), [Forbes](#), [TIME Magazine](#), [Newsweek](#), and [The Chicago Tribune](#).

We were thrilled to work with the Good Morning American Team in New York to highlight our [Creative Writing Contest](#) winner, 5th grader Elin Joy Seiler, on television.

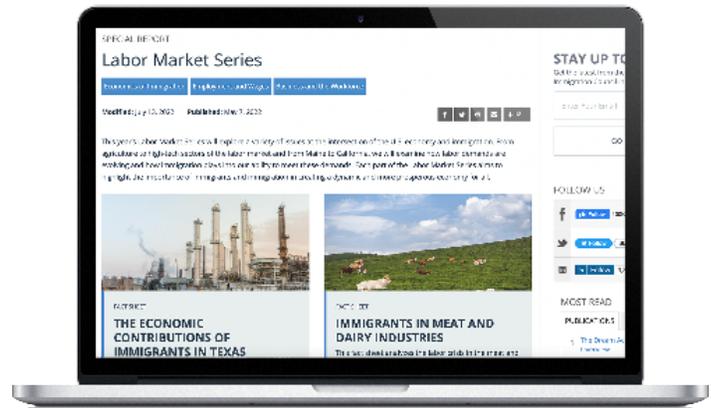
Storytelling

This year, our storytelling team has helped more than 120 people place op-eds in national and local media outlets across the country from a variety of sources on a wide range of topics, including 25 pieces on Afghan resettlement, 9 on the war in Ukraine, 12 on Title 42, 10 on documented dreamers, and many more. One such piece, [placed in Fortune Magazine](#) in April, came from the Republican Governor of Utah, Spencer Cox and included recommendations to other state leaders on how to manage refugee resettlement. In October, the team helped an Arizona Dreamer place a piece advocating for Prop 308 in the [Tucson Star](#). Prop 308, which provides in-state tuition for Dreamers, was successfully passed in the midterms. In November, the team worked helped the director of the Immigration Justice Campaign publish a piece in [Fox News](#), advocating for pragmatic and humane border policy.

Since the team's founding, it has helped more than 700 people place op-eds in outlets across the country.

Research

The Council’s new research team has begun to play a critical role in boosting the ability of multiple departments to employ sophisticated data analysis and data science techniques to elevate their work.



Strengthening Data Analysis Across Departments

- **Transparency:** Continue to validate the data our team received due to the Council’s FOIA request for data on Haitian detainees at the Torrance Detention Facility.
- **Legal:** Cleaning and producing insights from class member data received from *Al Otro Lado v. Mayorkas* on asylum seekers at the border.
- **Policy:** Producing quantitative analysis that responds to breaking policy developments, including the War in Ukraine.
- **Immigration Justice Campaign:** Refining the findings and research design of the Alternatives to Detention survey.
- **State and Local Initiatives:** Helping to build the proposal for funding a large mixed methods research project on the contributions and well-being of immigrants in Prince George’s County.
- **Arts and Culture:** Providing data to inform the work of this year’s cohort of New American Fellows.

In addition to these collaborative efforts, the team authored or produced 38 publications in 2022 consisting of 2 reports, 3 data interactives, 21 factsheets, and 12 blog posts. Additionally, the team launched their [Labor Market and Immigration Portal](#), a hub for data on labor shortages and immigrant contributions to the U.S. workforce. Included in these publications are a [new fact sheet](#) looking at growing demand for healthcare workers

in Texas, a [new fact sheet](#) looking at the changing demographics at the state level and how they would potentially impact the 2022 midterm elections, and a [special report](#) analyzing the changing demographics of the U.S. electorate ahead of the 2022 midterm elections.



Cultural Exchange

Our Exchange team continues to focus efforts on growing the program and increasing operational efficiencies to support that growth.

Earlier this year, the White House announced [a series of new initiatives](#) to open up new avenues for American businesses of all sizes to connect with talented researchers and other highly-skilled individuals in the STEM fields. Among these, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announced the "Early Career STEM Research Initiative" to match U.S. companies interested in hosting J-1 exchange visitors in STEM fields with program sponsors. The initiative also facilitates additional academic training for undergraduate and graduate students in STEM fields on the J-1 visa for up to 36 months.

In a collaboration between the Council's Cultural Exchange, Policy, Legal, Research, State & Local, and Communications teams, we undertook a significant effort to build awareness around these new initiatives among employers across the country. In June, in conjunction with the American Immigration Lawyers Association annual conference, [we launched an interactive microsite](#) and explainer series on the White House STEM Initiatives, including overviews of five different initiatives drafted by Council policy experts and reviewed by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, along with FAQs for each. The FAQs are interactive and sortable by audience (e.g., institution, employer, individual).

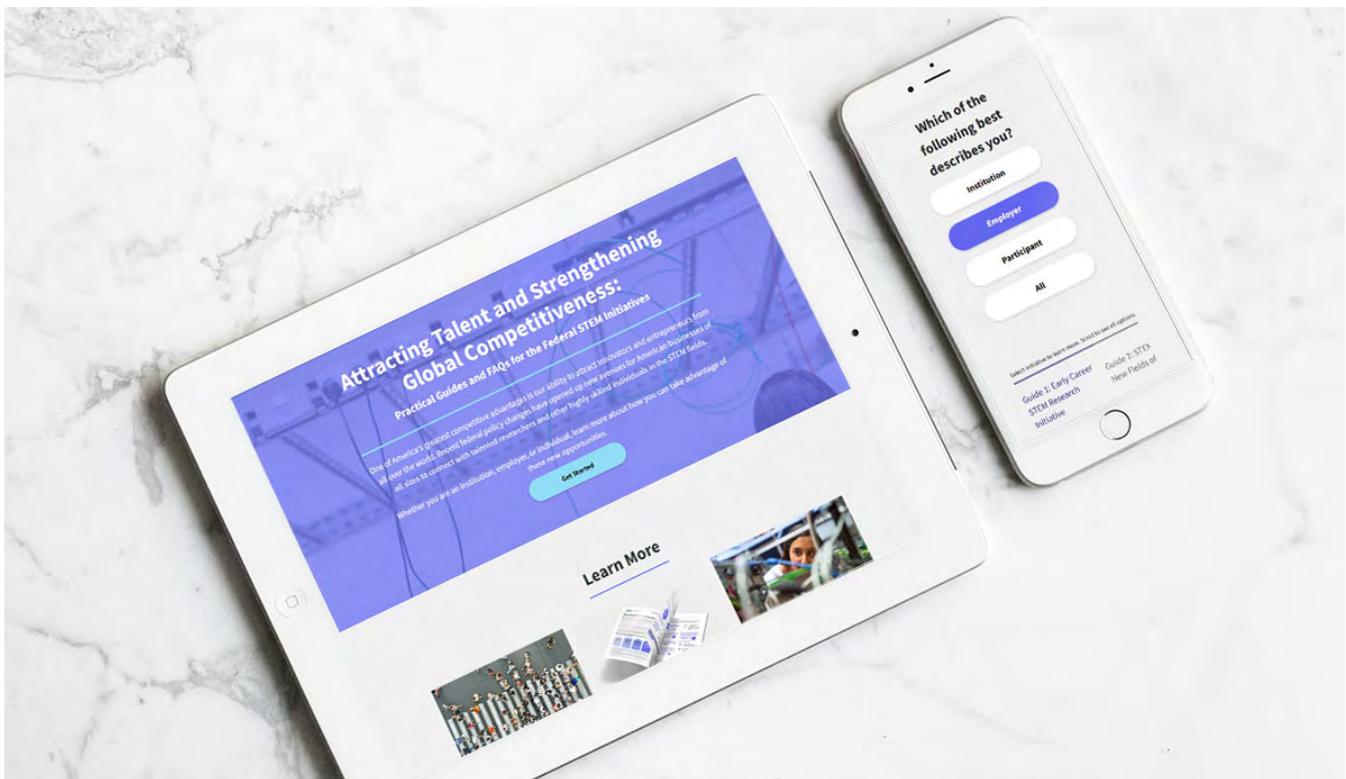


This spring, the Council hosted multiple roundtables to raise awareness of the STEM initiatives and provide a forum for addressing sponsor and employer questions and concerns. These roundtables have been attended by more than 100 business leaders including representatives from companies like Microsoft and Pepsi, chamber and industry associations like the Texas Association of Business and the Grand Rapids Area Chamber, and healthcare and education institutions like Ensign College and MaineHealth.

In April, the Council’s Cultural Exchange team hired Tania Carswell as our new Program Manager and J-1 program expert. With over 20 years of experience in the immigration field, Tania will be an integral part in helping us rebuild and rebrand our exchange program by developing and executing short and long-term strategies to expand existing programs and introduce new program initiatives. Tania’s outreach to her existing network of clients has already resulted in new J-1 applications from other host organizations and law firms.

To broaden exposure of the Council’s J-1 Visa Exchange Program, we participated in a panel discussion during the AILA Annual Conference on Immigration Law where we discussed topics geared at helping practitioners navigate the issues involved in representing individuals and companies in these international exchange programs.

Finally, the exchange program is currently on target to generate close to \$1 million in revenue by the end of this year which represents a 50% increase from 2021.



3.

Building a More Welcoming Country From the Ground Up

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State and Local Initiatives

Our State and Local team works with civic and local leaders nationwide to promote a more welcoming environment for newcomers.

State-Level Advocacy: Winning on Proposition 308 in Arizona

This year, the Council’s new state and local team advocated with partners for state-level policies that help foster an inclusive environment for immigrants and refugees. Together with the Research team, State & Local produced fact sheets examining policies such as in-state tuition and professional licensing and used this data in written testimony, letters of support, and to equip local advocates on the ground.

In Arizona, research on the economic benefit of expanding in-state tuition to Dreamers was used by local advocates in the successful campaign to pass Proposition 308, which will make in-state tuition and financial aid available to college students in Arizona, regardless of their immigration status. In Colorado, our original research was used to bolster business testimony in favor of reducing barriers for internationally trained healthcare professionals. And in New York, our data was used to support a bill that would establish a study on immigrant and refugee participation in adult education and the workforce.





Gateways for Growth: Expanding Our Reach to Even More Communities

This year, in partnership with Welcoming America, we [piloted](#) a new level of support through implementation technical assistance and seed grant funding for six communities in our fourth round of the [Gateways for Growth Challenge](#) (G4G): Columbus, Ohio; Gainesville, Fla.; Lancaster County, Neb.; Minneapolis, Minn.; Dodge City, Kan.; and St. Paul, Minn. Participant communities received coaching, individual technical assistance, cohort-wide calls, grant funding, and resource referrals to ensure successful implementation of their recently launched local immigrant integration

plans in a variety of manners, whether through the hiring of a welcoming coordinator, investing in language access initiatives, or building our entrepreneurial resources for immigrants and refugees.

On November 4, 2022, in partnership with Welcoming America, we launched the fifth round of the Gateways for Growth Challenge, supporting ten new communities through a combination of tailored research reports, technical assistance, and matching grant funding: Baltimore County, Maryland; Brockton, Mass; Fort Wayne, Ind; Lewiston and Auburn, Maine; Ottawa County, Mich; Pittsburgh, Penn; Salem, Mass; Santa Clara County, Cali; Santa Fe, New Mexico; and South Bend, Ind.



State Compacts and Business Coalitions: Mobilizing Major Companies and Trade Associations to Advocate for Immigrants

The Council’s business coalitions in Texas, Ohio, and Colorado have continued to grow and impact their states even further. We worked with all 3 coalitions to advocate for state and federal priorities like the Afghan Adjustment Act, COMPETES/USICA, DACA solutions, professional licensing reforms, etc. with Senators, Congressional Representatives, and state legislators.



IOWA COMPACT
on IMMIGRATION



COLORADO BUSINESS COALITION
for IMMIGRATION SOLUTIONS



FLORIDA COMPACT
on IMMIGRATION



MAINE COMPACT
on IMMIGRATION



MICHIGAN COMPACT
on IMMIGRATION



OHIO BUSINESS *for*
IMMIGRATION SOLUTIONS



TEXANS *for*
ECONOMIC GROWTH



UTAH COMPACT
on IMMIGRATION

Our [Texas coalition](#), Texans for Economic Growth (TEG), now consists of over 145 Texas businesses, chambers, and trade associations dedicated to recognizing and supporting the positive impact that immigrants have on the Texas economy. Notably, this summer, our Texas coalition has added two prominent members, Spurs Sports & Entertainment, which owns and operates the San Antonio Spurs, and PepsiCo.

Our [Colorado](#) coalition Colorado Business Coalition for Immigration Solutions (CBCIS), has grown to over 45 businesses, industries, and trade associations focused on the economic and business case for a modernized immigration system. This year, the coalition built on last year's legislative success to successfully advocate for bills that fund the new Office of New Americans, reduce barriers for International Medical Graduates, and support experiential learning and workforce development.

Our [Ohio](#) coalition, Ohio Business for Immigration Solutions (OBIS), has grown over 400% since it was formed in 2020 and now consists of over 95 Ohio businesses, trade associations, chambers of commerce, and economic development groups, adding several prominent members, from Wendy's and White Castle – both headquartered out of Ohio – to Amazon Web Services. They have met with the entire Ohio congressional delegation to emphasize that modernizing our immigration system is critically important for the growth of the state's economy.

Our coalitions have participated in various summits, presentations, and panels, including in the immigration panel at the [Texas Business Leadership Council \(TBLC\) Spring Meeting and Policy Summit](#) as well as the Texas Association of Business (TAB) Annual Policy Convening, the [Colorado Business Roundtable \(COBRT\)](#), May policy webinar, and the [Ohio Chamber of Commerce Small Business Council](#). The coalitions have also supported members with placing Op-Eds, including this [Op-Ed in the Houston Chronicle](#) on why small businesses are advocating for a permanent legal pathway for all Dreamers and [this Op-Ed in the Lima News](#) on the need for a modernized immigration system.

Our State Compacts are a vehicle to mobilize the business community for a public statement on the economic case for immigration reform and the principles they think should guide the debate around these policies at the state and federal level. Our team has mobilized more than 760 business and civic leaders over the past several years to increase our State Compacts to eight states, [Texas](#), [Ohio](#), [Maine](#), [Iowa](#), [Michigan](#), [Utah](#), [Florida](#), and [Colorado](#).



The State and Local team meeting with government partners at the White House



Office of New Americans (ONA) State Network: Bipartisan Leadership from 17 States

In 2022, the Office of New Americans (ONA) State Network membership grew from 13 to 17 Democrat and Republican-led states, adding North Carolina, Oregon, Utah, and Wisconsin, in partnership with WES Global Talent Bridge.

We helped facilitate numerous engagement opportunities with the Biden administration, including with senior officials from the White House, DHS, USCIS, and ORR, among other agencies. This engagement culminated in an all-day in-person convening in October hosted by the White House Intergovernmental Affairs team where the ONA State Network met with high-level officials across agencies to discuss opportunities for federal-state coordination on immigration policy.

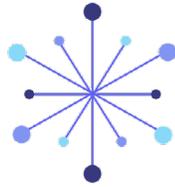
Our team also provided research and messaging for ONA governors and leaders, including California Governor Newsom citing Council data in two June press releases ahead of Los Angeles hosting the Summit of the Americas. We also worked closely with several governors in the network to issue letters and statements in support of the bipartisan Afghan Adjustment Act.

In April, we launched our [New Americans in Utah Report](#) in collaboration with the Economic Development Corporation of Utah (EDCUTah) Center for Economic Opportunity & Belonging, the same day that the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity (GoUtah), EDCUTah, the Salt Lake Chamber, and World Trade Center Utah launched their New Americans Task Force with dedicated working groups to help address some of the main barriers to inclusion and belonging — economic, social, educational, and beyond.

Finally, the ONA State Network held its first in-person convening since 2019 in Washington DC in October to share best practices and identify strategic network priorities for 2023. Next year we plan to institutionalize existing ONA offices and hope to add new states to the network.



2022 ONA State Network convening



GLOBAL TALENT CHAMBER NETWORK

Global Talent Chamber Network (GTCN): More than 60 Chambers Across the U.S.

Our [Global Talent Chamber Network](#) (GTCN) educates and empowers chambers through tailored research on immigrants' economic contributions, forums for peer-to-peer learning, briefings on the federal policy landscape, and advocacy opportunities on state and federal policy reform. In 2022, our team has grown the network to over 60 chambers representing 31 states.

We partnered with chambers of commerce across Ohio, Iowa, Nebraska, and Texas to launch 8 tailored economic reports and supported numerous chambers of commerce with messaging, fact sheets, and advocacy strategy for their congressional legislators during their DC fly-ins. Our team and coalition leaders also reached out and convened chambers and business leaders from red and purple states, including Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, and Utah on state and federal immigration priorities. We also developed three roundtables with the White House and Department of State for nearly 50 chambers of commerce and business leaders to better connect the business community with the J-1 Exchange Program.



Center for Inclusion and Belonging

Our Center for Inclusion and Belonging team uses research, training, campaigns, and a community of practice to build a more cohesive America where all people are welcomed and included.

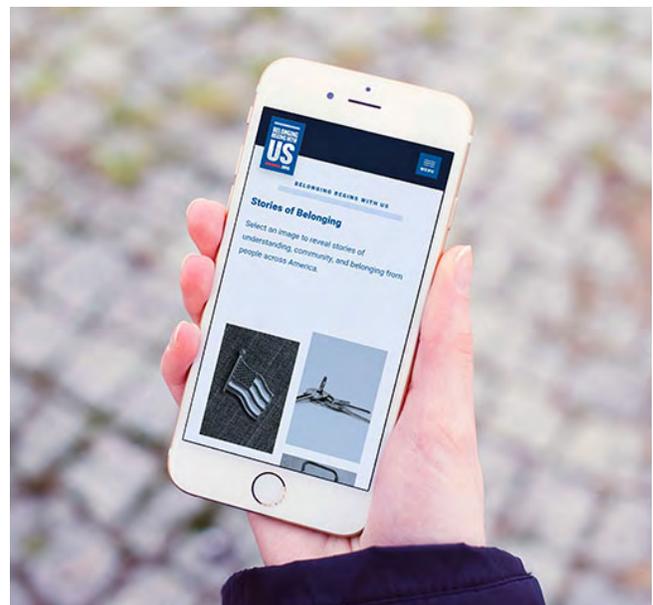
Belonging Begins With Us

Since the launch of our Ad Council campaign “Belonging Begins with US,” we’ve received over \$55 million in donated media support, largely within the conservative media ecosystem that reaches our key audiences. Our top-ten donating media partners include Walmart, NFL Network, Sling-TV, Ebay, IBM, truTV, and Fox News Channel.

Since its launch, the Belonging Begins with US campaign has received 12.6M video views across all platforms, with 10.4M from paid support and 2.2M from organic views. Additionally, our campaign’s microsite BelongingBeginsWithUs.org, has garnered 1.4-million sessions to date, from all 50-states, more than six times above our initial estimate of 150,000. According to our tracking survey data, one third of the U.S. target population is now aware of the campaign.

Belonging Barometer

After two-years of exploratory research and data-analysis, we will be publishing our Belonging Barometer in January 2023. This is a groundbreaking national research tool and study which analyzes how Americans experience belonging, lack of belonging, and unbelonging. The Council’s Center for Inclusion and Belonging, alongside our partner Over Zero, will launch the Belonging Barometer (+ an ecosystem engagement strategy) to reinforce the idea that belonging is central to our physical, social, and political well-being, and should be on the agenda for any stakeholder who cares about building national resilience and social cohesion.



Belonging Innovation Lab

After a competitive application process, our team has selected the 12 organizations that will take part in our Belonging Innovation Lab fellowship, which is well underway. We believe that these groups have the best potential of reaching the conflicted skeptic audiences in their communities, those Americans whom we most need to join our cause. Their projects are using social contact theory as a guiding programmatic principle ensure that bridgebuilding occurs between a diverse set of groups, including across racial and ethnic differences. Each fellow received a \$75,000 regrant from us and will learn from a distinguished group of faculty and mentors through the duration of the 18-month fellowship around topics such as programmatic design, measurement and evaluation, narrative change, and additional areas of interest. Participants in the Belonging Innovation Lab fellowship program include:

- **Oklahoma City, Oklahoma** - [Futbol Factory](#) - This local group bridges communities through soccer leagues, clinics and tournaments and want to work to optimize how they are bridging clear racial/ethnic lines through sports.
- **Detroit, Michigan** - [Global Detroit's Social Cohesion Project](#), advancing quality of life improvements via community councils in two neighborhoods, fostering cross-cultural and mutually beneficial relationships between long-term and immigrant residents and are bridging clear racial/ethnic lines in the process.
- **North Mankato, Minnesota** - [Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services' Tapestry Project](#) leads life skills workshops about topics like parenting, housing, safety, and health and entrepreneurship. They use these workshops to bridge clear racial/ethnic lines.
- **Brockton, Massachusetts** - [Mutual Aid Brockton](#), uses a mutual aid approach to solve community problems launched during the pandemic and is anxious to design its programs in ways that can bridge clear racial/ethnic lines while solving for other community needs.
- **Fayetteville, Arkansas** - [Ozark Literacy Council](#) using literacy center to host knitting, tea, and other hobby groups to bridge clear racial/ethnic lines.

- **Needham, Massachusetts** - [Needham Resilience Network](#), development of a transformative model for community that creates a table of multipliers, or a "network of networks." Which includes community leaders/liaisons who can speak to and from the major perspectives of all the community stakeholder groups (e.g., civic organizations, community initiatives, identity groups, health, business & faith communities, and Town bodies-in ex-officio status). Their goal is bridging a range of differences to meet the needs of the whole community.
- **Salem, Oregon** - [Willamette University](#) - development of a transformative curriculum to improve undergraduate students' abilities to engage in liberal arts discussion across a range of differences (first generation college vs. legacy, rural/urban and others) and to pass the tools on as trainers.

Farming/Agriculture Projects

- **Schenectady, NY** - [Schenectady Inner City Ministries](#) - Using community-based farming programs to bridge clear racial/ethnic lines.
- **Cleveland, Ohio** - [Global Cleveland's Bee Bridge Project](#) in 5 neighborhoods using beekeeping to bridge clear racial/ethnic lines.
- **Berea, Kentucky (rural)** - [Sustainable Berea](#) using community farming to build bridges across clear racial/ethnic lines.
- **Davenport, Iowa (rural)** - [Tapestry Farms](#) using community farming to build bridges across clear racial/ethnic lines
- **Denver, Colorado** - [Denver Urban Gardens](#) the largest state level urban garden initiative who want to build their bridging building muscles and implement in their programs.



New American Fellow Salomé Egas performing at the 2022 New American Fellows Showcase

Arts and Culture

Our Arts and Culture team uses art, comedy, design, fashion, film, food, and more to shape narratives on immigration and reach new audiences.

New American Fellows

In 2022, we convened our first cohort of artists whose goal is to use art to bridge the gap between data and humanity. Partnering with the Brooklyn Arts Council, we put out a call for artists of all disciplines to create work based on our [Map the Impact](#) data interactive. Our cohort of artists explored new ways of creating a dialogue between immigrants and US-born Americans on the topic of immigration. They drew inspiration from the research, rethinking the way the presentation of facts and figures can spark a dialogue with the audience.

On Citizenship Day, September 17, 2022, we hosted a final exhibition for the artists in Brooklyn, inviting key partners and members of the community to enjoy and explore the art. In 2023, we will begin to grow this program and implement our long-term vision of launching fellowships in immigrant gateway communities across the United States. We'll focus on places where we have existing networks, including Colorado, Utah, and Texas. Through our state and local policy work we've established ourselves within the business, faith, and political communities - contacts that can help us scale this program rapidly.

Pilot Programs

In 2022, our team convened Film and Literature clubs to build empathy through the language of art. These clubs sparked dialogue around issues of immigration and "otherness," helping us begin to build more empathy for one another by helping us experience the world from someone else's perspective.

Literature Club

The Literature Club provided a resource and book club to bring immigrant-focused literature to the forefront of the literary dialogue and the broader national consciousness. Our list of immigrant-focused and immigrant-written books cut across genres, including fiction, nonfiction, children's books, and cookbooks.

The Film Club

The Film Club curated a monthly rotation of films focused on immigrant filmmakers and subject matters related to the immigrant experience in America. After virtual screenings, we discussed the film with the director and a subject matter expert from our own team.



The Film Club hosted an exclusive screening of "The Courtroom," which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival this year. Afterwards we hosted a panel discussion with the director and lawyer featured in film. Waterwell's artistic director, Lee Sunday Evans, moderated a rich and lively discussion on immigration rights.

Thank You.

The current moment requires all of us to step up in new ways to fight for the future we envision — one where all people, regardless of their background or immigration status, can feel they belong. With the outcome of the midterm elections, crucial cases before the Supreme Court, and xenophobia and nativism on the rise, we must be clear-eyed about the challenges facing our movement. Your support and partnership enable us to not only respond — by holding the federal government accountable, informing the public and political discourse, and surging legal services support when and where it is most needed — but also to build a forward-looking strategy that is already laying the groundwork for victory.

Thank you for standing with us in our fight for an America that values fairness and justice for immigrants and advances a prosperous future for all.

We are grateful for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Robbins', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jeremy Robbins
Executive Director
American Immigration Council