



2025 Impact Snapshot

2025 laid bare the fault lines of our nation’s immigration system. Sweeping executive actions, federal policies, and state laws have stripped thousands of their immigration status, narrowed legal pathways, and created an enforcement dragnet that has fueled widespread fear—and the largest detention system in modern history.

In the face of these extreme and ongoing threats, the American Immigration Council and our partners across the country have remained steadfast. Every day, we fight to ensure due process and accountability, advance an immigration system that works for everyone, and build a more welcoming nation from the ground up.

Here’s a snapshot of how our work is making a tangible difference for individuals, families, and communities.

230+

Immigration Cases
Placed with Pro Bono Attorneys

71%

Success Rate for Detained Clients

30,000+

Government Records on Family
Separation Analyzed

900+

State Legislative Bills
Tracked and Reported to
Partners and Stakeholders

20,000+

Media Mentions of the
Council’s Resources

5,000,000+

Visitors to Our Website

Keeping Families Together

Over 60,000 people are currently in immigration detention, facing removal from the United States. With no right to appointed counsel and an increasingly overwhelmed field of legal service providers, more than 68% of them fight removal without a lawyer, drastically reducing their chances of winning relief.

After more than two decades building a life in the United States, Mr. V was nearly torn from his family. A father of five U.S. citizen children, he was one of tens of thousands arrested this year under new enforcement actions. Taken hundreds of miles from his home to a remote detention center, he faced deportation and permanent separation from his American wife and children.

That's when the Council stepped in. Through our Immigration Justice Campaign, we matched his case with a volunteer attorney who fought tirelessly to stop his deportation. Despite fierce opposition from the government, the attorney proved that Mr. V met every requirement for relief—an exceedingly high bar for undocumented individuals with U.S. citizen dependents. The immigration judge agreed, and the government even waived its right to appeal.

Today, Mr. V is home with his family, with a green card in hand. His story is one of hundreds that show how the Council and our volunteers provide free, high-quality legal counsel that changes lives and keeps families together.

Protecting Immigrant Children

For years, unaccompanied children arriving in the U.S. faced a terrifying milestone: their 18th birthday. Instead of being released to sponsors ready to care for them, many were transferred directly into adult Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) jails, where they endured isolation, trauma, and the loss of critical support.

Together with our partners at the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC), the Council successfully challenged this practice years ago in *Garcia Ramirez v. ICE*, winning a 2021 injunction requiring ICE to consider less restrictive placements for youth aging out of shelter care.

But in October, ICE began implementing a policy that violated that court order and once again detained young people as they turned 18. We immediately filed an emergency motion to halt this practice. The court ruled in our favor, issuing a temporary restraining order and requiring ICE to release the 18-year-olds it had detained, rescind all related detention decisions, and disclose its internal policies for review.

This victory reinforces a simple but critical truth: immigrant youth—many fleeing violence or abandonment—deserve protection, not punishment. The Council will continue to hold our government accountable to ensure no young person is unlawfully detained again.



Building Community Ties

On the north side of Detroit, three historically African American neighborhoods have long faced challenges such as population loss and housing abandonment. In recent years, an influx of immigrants—many from Yemen and Bangladesh—has helped reverse that trend. Nearly half of residents are now foreign-born, contributing to lower crime rates, rising property values, and stronger local economies. Yet beneath these gains, social strains persisted.

“These are lively, vibrant neighborhoods full of people and activity; but we found a high presence of anti-Black bias among immigrant residents, and anti-immigrant bias among Black residents,” says Dr. Alaina Jackson, Managing Director of Global Detroit.

To bridge that divide, Global Detroit joined the Council’s Belonging Innovation Lab Fellowship, led by the Center for Inclusion & Belonging. The Fellowship supported 12 organizations nationwide with funding, technical support, and a collaborative learning network to strengthen social cohesion.

Through the Fellowship, Global Detroit launched its Social Cohesion Project, which brought immigrant and African American residents together to collaborate on community development. Over 40 meetings—each drawing a consistent, core group of participants—helped residents identify shared priorities and co-design neighborhood solutions.

Over time, participants developed deeper respect for each other’s traditions and languages. Together, they hosted resource fairs and a Community Learning Festival that drew more than 450 residents, businesses, and service providers.

“Narratively, we’ve seen that residents’ perceptions of people from different cultural, ethnic, or racial backgrounds has definitely improved,” Dr. Jackson says. “We’ve also seen more interactions across those lines, unprompted by us and well beyond the core project.”

Though the Fellowship has concluded, the group continues to meet and is working to transform an unused lot into a community garden—a lasting symbol of how the Council’s support can seed long-term connection and change. Dr. Jackson is partnering with the Council to share key learnings from this program in our forthcoming toolkit on community-rooted approaches to building welcoming and belonging.

