

HOW CAN I GET MY PAPERS? LESSONS FROM A DECADE OF ONLINE LEGAL INTAKES FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

IMMIGRANTS
RISING

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION

Released 12/2019

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

5 BACKGROUND

6 INTAKE ANALYSIS AND NARRATIVES

6 Demographics

10 Current and Former Receipt of Legal Assistance

14 Dream and TPS Populations

15 Interactions with the Criminal Justice System

16 Immigration History and Background

20 BEST PRACTICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

20 To Legal Service Providers

21 To Partner Organizations, Foundations, Employers, and Universities

21 To California Cities and Counties

21 To the California State Legislature

22 To the Congress of the United States

22 To the Next President of the United States

23 METHODOLOGY

27 ENDNOTES

29 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

29 ABOUT US

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

By analyzing ten years of legal intakes for almost 3,000 undocumented immigrants through the Immigrant Legal Intake Service (ILIS), this report presents new findings regarding barriers to immigration relief, an assessment of available relief, and informative demographic trends. For many, ILIS represents a lifeline to immigration remedies and the ability to stay and contribute to our nation. As one respondent put it, “[m]y husband and I have talked to numerous lawyers and no one has been able to give us any hope of legalizing my situation . . . I feel that I am at a red light that is never going to turn green.” This report seeks to demonstrate that undocumented immigrants have the opportunity to turn that light green. The report’s key findings include:

IMMIGRATION REMEDIES

- **Forty-eight percent** of all respondents were potentially eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), when initially screened.
- **Sixteen percent** of respondents indicated they did not apply for DACA because the administration rescinded DACA.
- Outside of DACA, respondents were potentially eligible for some sort of permanent relief, such as family sponsorship (**21 percent**), U nonimmigrant status (**seven percent**), or an employment visa (**five percent**).
- In terms of temporary protections, **46 percent** of respondents held DACA, while **nine percent** held Temporary Protected Status (TPS).
- A staggering **93 percent** of respondents would be eligible for relief if Congress were to pass the Dream Act or similar legislation, with **28 percent** being immediately eligible for lawful permanent status (LPR).
- Approximately **half of respondents** who submitted an intake through ILIS and subsequently completed another intake on a later date became eligible for additional forms of relief due to changed circumstances in the respondent’s life.

These rates of relief demonstrate that even in the absence of comprehensive immigration reform, immigration remedies do exist for undocumented immigrants. Like a health check-up, undocumented immigrants should engage in regular legal screenings, particularly as their circumstances change over time.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

- Nearly **one third (29 percent)** of respondents found the intake online, signifying the importance of search engines and online reach in identifying and screening undocumented immigrants for relief.
- The top four reasons for respondents completing ILIS were **cost (28 percent), accessibility (23 percent), confidentiality (19 percent), and quality (15 percent)**.
- Only **41 percent** of individuals previously received legal assistance.
- Of those that received previous legal assistance, **22 percent** were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the previous legal assistance received.
- **Nineteen percent** of respondents cited ILIS’s confidentiality as the primary reason for completing the intake, while **11 percent** cited anonymity.

These data demonstrate that there are significant barriers that prevent undocumented immigrants from accessing legal representation to secure immigration remedies, including cost, accessibility, and negative experiences with previous legal service providers. Trusted providers can play an important role in helping undocumented young people and their families overcome barriers; with these percentages demonstrating that the community considers ILIS a reputable service provider. As a respondent shared, “[t]his service is a potential life line and I am glad there is something like this available to those of us hounded by constant concern for our future at such a young age.”

EDUCATION

- **Eighty-nine percent** were between 16 and 34 years of age, **39 percent** of respondents 25 and older had a high school degree or higher, and **32 percent** had a bachelor’s or higher.
- The high school graduation rate for respondents is about ten% greater than the national average (**29 percent**).
- While **10 percent** of the national population had attained an associate’s degree as their highest degree, **16 percent** of respondents fall within this same category.
- **Thirty-two percent** of respondents 25 and older received a bachelor’s degree, compared to **22 percent** of the broader population.

The youth and educational achievement of respondents may directly contribute to the social capital of the undocumented immigrants who completed the survey; and lend itself to the identification and pursuit of immigration remedies. Social capital increases people’s access to information, resources, and support, all of which can lead to them being aware of and pursuing different immigration remedies, thus obtaining an education is an important way to increase social capital. These data also demonstrate that respondents tend to have higher rates of educational attainment than the broader, national population—indicating a strong commitment to education in spite of the barriers related to immigration status.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

- **Ninety-three percent of respondents** report having no misdemeanor convictions; and **99 percent** of respondents have no felony convictions.
- Upwards of half of the subset of respondents who had felony or misdemeanor convictions were still potentially eligible for some form of immigration relief, including family-based petitions, U nonimmigrant status, or asylum.

While there is no existing data to compare misdemeanor convictions, the felony conviction rate for respondents is **lower** than the national average.

IMMIGRATION HISTORY AND DEMOGRAPHICS

- **Fifty-three percent** of respondents initially entered without inspection (e.g. an entry without being detected, stopped, detained, or otherwise questioned by immigration officials) and resided in the United States for an average of **ten years**, with **91 percent** of respondents residing in the United States 10 or more years.
- **Sixty-four percent of respondents** were from Mexico, **57 percent** resided in California, **82 percent** were Hispanic or Latino, **10 percent** were married, and **9 percent** identified as LGBTQ.

BACKGROUND

Immigrants Rising provides resources and support for undocumented people to obtain an education, pursue careers, and build a brighter future for themselves and their families. In addition to assisting immigrant young people navigate state and federal educational systems, Immigrants Rising refers undocumented immigrants to attorneys and representatives, which then assist them in obtaining permanent status under our nation's immigration laws, regulations, and policies. Permanent protections, such as LPR status and eventual citizenship, are absolutely essential for people to access a plethora of local, state, and federal educational and career benefits due to a litany of laws that require immigration status or citizenship.

With this mission in mind, in October 2009, Immigrants Rising (then known as Educators for Fair Consideration) established their Immigration Legal Intake Service or ILIS, a free, anonymous, and personalized online service staffed by legal professionals and undocumented individuals to help immigrant young people understand their potential immigration options, benefits, and rights. Through ILIS, Immigrants Rising collected unique information regarding the access of immigrants (especially immigrant youth) to forms of relief under our nation's immigration laws. Since its inception, ILIS has collected an average of 30 responses per month. This report pulls from ILIS's intakes over the last ten years to build a perspective of the immigrant community, their demographics, and the struggles and the successes in navigating outdated immigration laws. The report analyzes data collected by ILIS between its inception in October of 2009 through April of 2019.

Data and statistics, while incredibly important to illustrate universal trends, are incomplete without the human narrative of those completing and benefiting from the intake. Consequently, the report also highlights the narratives of survey participants, including the immigration remedies identified for respondents. The report's authors collected the narratives of these survey participants in an ethical manner using informed consent and in accordance with Immigrants Rising's Storyteller Bill of Rights.¹ Of note, the self-selected individuals who complete ILIS tend to be better educated and younger than the overall undocumented immigrant population. This self-selection is important to be aware of when interpreting, publicizing, and utilizing the data for policy purposes.

INTAKE ANALYSIS AND NARRATIVES

DEMOGRAPHICS

I. Country of Origin

The vast majority of respondents (64%) are from Mexico, approximately ten percent more than the broader undocumented population.² The greater proportion of Mexican nationals likely reflects the larger Mexican population in California (where Immigrants Rising is based) of 68 percent.³ Respondents from El Salvador come in second, potentially reflecting the increased migration flows from the Northern Triangle countries in the last decade as a result of worsening violence and instability.⁴

Table A1.
Country of Origin

States	Respondents	Percentage
Mexico	1811	64%
El Salvador	128	5%
Guatemala	89	3%
South Korea	73	3%
Philippines	70	2%
Peru	51	2%
Brazil	39	1%
Honduras	36	1%
China	29	1%
Ecuador	27	1%
Other Countries	476	17%
Total	2829	100%

Source: ILIS 2009 - 2019

II. State of Residency

The bulk of respondents (57 percent) reside in California, with Texas (6 percent) and New York (6 percent) following distantly behind. It is important to note that as Immigrants Rising is primarily a California-based organization with contacts, relationships, and reach within the state. Consequently, it is unsurprising that there is an overrepresentation of California residents who have completed the survey. Nationally, only 27 percent of undocumented immigrants reside

in California, demonstrating the extent of the survey's overrepresentation.⁵

Table A2.
State of Residency

States	Respondents	Percentage
California	1482	57%
Texas	164	6%
New York	144	6%
Illinois	81	3%
Florida	71	3%
Arizona	54	2%
Georgia	46	2%
New Jersey	40	2%
North Carolina	40	2%
Washington	40	2%
Other States	426	16%
Total	2588	100%

Source: ILIS 2009 - 2019

III. Age

Respondents are younger compared to the broader undocumented immigrant population. MPI estimates that 26 percent of the undocumented population is aged 25 to 34 but that age group represents an astounding 59 percent of total respondents.⁶ Similarly, while 30 percent of respondents are 16 to 24, MPI estimates that only 15 percent of the broader undocumented population resides in this category.⁷ MPI estimates that approximately 52 percent of immigrants are 35 and over, while the intake reflects a much smaller ten percent for this group.⁸

This disparity is likely the result of several factors, including: (a) the self-selecting nature of the legal intake, e.g. younger, more integrated individuals are more likely to find and complete the online intake; (b) Immigrants Rising's position as an organization focused on undocumented immigrants in high school, college, and graduate education levels; and (c) likely the largest contributing cause, that, until 2016, the intake only allowed respondents who were 14 to 35 to complete a submission.

Table A3.
Age

	<i>States</i>	<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Under 16		25	1%
16 to 24		813	30%
25 to 34		1613	59%
35 to 44		269	10%
45 to 54		21	1%
55 and Over		4	0%
Total		2745	100%
Average		27	
Median		27	
Mode		25	

Source: ILIS 2009 - 2019

IV. Ethnicity

Hispanic and Latino individuals were similarly overrepresented in the intake. While MPI estimates that 67 percent of undocumented immigrants are from Mexico and Central America, the intake reflects a higher number of 82 percent.⁹ This overrepresentation is likely related to the higher percentage of Hispanic and Latino immigrants in California (where Immigrants Rising is based), which MPI estimates at a similar 82 percent.¹⁰ Non-Latinos, however, continue to discover and complete ILIS, particularly in light of Immigrants Rising’s relationship with non-Latino groups, including UndocuBlack and other AAPI undocumented organizations.

Table A4.
Ethnicity

	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Hispanic or Latino		729	82%
Asian/Pacific Islander		64	7%
Black or African American		61	7%
White		23	3%
Other		17	2%
Total		894	100%

Source: ILIS 2014 - 2019

*Question not asked until 2016

V. Marriage Status

While MPI estimates that 60 percent of undocumented immigrants are not married (either never married or divorced, separated, or widowed), that number is even higher for the intakes’ respondents—90 percent.¹¹ Again, this higher number is likely directly related to the relative youth of the total respondent population. Of note, Immigrants Rising utilized a respondent’s

Alejandro Garcia’s Story



I first arrived in the United States when I was five. My single mom brought us with her to reunite with our grandmother and aunts in San Francisco. I remember being in high school and thinking about college but knowing there were barriers to things like financial aid because of my undocumented status. In response, I began looking into legal remedies but could not find any options available to me. It wasn’t until years later, after I joined Immigrants Rising’s Legal Services Team, that I learned about Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and how I could have potentially benefited years earlier. Though I’m sad I wasn’t able to learn about my options sooner, I think it’s important for everyone to take the legal intake and learn what options are available to them. The intake is similar to a check-up from a doctor—you have nothing to lose and to be safe you get yourself checked out.



Watch Alejandro’s story:

marriage status (and whom a respondent was married to) to assess for various forms of relief, usually family-based sponsorship or VAWA eligibility. See the report’s discussion on forms of relief for more information.

Table A5.
Marriage Status

	<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
No	2436	90%
Yes	278	10%
Total	2714	100%

Source: ILIS 2014 - 2019

VI. LGBTQ Status

Approximately nine percent of respondents identified as LGBTQ, with another two percent declining to answer. This proportion is double that of the estimated 4.5 percent of the U.S. population that identifies as LGBTQ.¹² Potential causes for this overrepresentation include the fact that the immigrant youth movement (which is closely tied to Immigrants Rising and likely represents many of the individuals who completed this intake) has a healthy representation of queer and LGBTQ leaders.¹³ The higher number can also be a result of respondents being more comfortable disclosing their LGBTQ status through an anonymous, confidential survey as opposed to in Gallup's interview setting.¹⁴ Like the marriage question, Immigrants Rising utilized a respondent's response to the LGBTQ question to assess for potential forms of relief, including asylum, withholding of removal, and other humanitarian forms of relief.

Table A6.
LGBTQ Status

	<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
No	2574	90%
Yes	249	9%
Would Not Answer	49	2%
Total	2872	100%

Source: ILIS 2014 - 2019

VII. Highest Level of Education Completed

Compared to Broader Undocumented Population 25 and Older. Twenty five percent of the broader undocumented population's (25 and older) educational attainment is a High School Diploma or GED, while 39 percent of similarly aged respondents fall within this category.¹⁵ While 15 percent of the broader undocumented population obtained a bachelor's degree or higher, more than half of respondents (32 percent) obtained a bachelor's degree or higher. These data demonstrate that respondents have higher levels of educational attainment, compared to the broader undocumented population. This trend was apparent in many of the respondents' responses, such as, "I'm about to graduate in about a month from a very good school. I'm the first in my family to graduate from high school and pursue higher education."

Compared to the National Population 25 and Older.

The high school graduation rate for respondents 25 and older is about ten percent greater (39 percent) than the national average for people 25 and older (29 percent). While 10 percent of the national population

Julio Navarrete's Story



In 1992, I came to the United States for Christmas to visit my dad, who was already living in the United States. I entered without inspection and planned to stay only a few weeks, then return to Mexico. My parents decided that staying in the United States would be the best option for me to have better opportunities down the road, so I enrolled in elementary school and stayed without status. Years later when I graduated university, I felt very lost as to what options I had due to my undocumented status. In 2011, I submitted the legal intake form and learned of a potential remedy through political asylum because of my sexual orientation and past experiences in Mexico. Years before I had spoken to a lawyer and was told I had no legal options for relief, but getting a second opinion through the legal intake—an anonymous, confidential, and free service, was the best decision I could have made.



Watch Julio's story:

attained an associate's degree as their highest degree, 16 percent of respondents have an associate's as their highest degree.. Thirty-two percent of respondents received a bachelor's degree, compared to 22 percent of the broader population.¹⁶ Six percent of respondents received a Master's Degree compared to 10 percent for the broader population. Consequently, respondents, in regards to high school graduation rates, associate's degree, and bachelor's degree, have a higher rate of educational attainment than the national average.

Some respondents explicitly tied their lack of status to potential barriers to higher education, with one respondent stating "When I look at my friends leaving for college I feel very sad, not because they are leaving

me, but because I know that regardless of how hard I try to attend a university I will not be able to because of my status.” Other respondents cited their need to better integrate into our educational system as their reason for completing the intake with one respondent stating that “[t]he main reason I wish to get assistance is because I want to be able to complete my education.” Consequently, many high school respondents could or would have attended college if not for the immigration-related barriers they faced.

Of note, the legal intake not only offers legal assistance, but referrals and resources related to comprehensive benefits, including education access. As Alejandro Garcia shared, ILIS provides “information that’s relevant to you, whether that’s community or educational resources wherever you’re at in the country. [ILIS] provides information about scholarships, links to the Immigrants Rising website, and other resources that could help you in many more ways than just whether you qualify for any immigration option.”

**Table A7.
Educational Attainment**

<i>Level of Education</i>	<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
All Ages		
High School Degree or GED	381	43%
None	226	25%
Bachelor's Degree	147	16%
Associate's Degree	95	11%
Master's Degree	23	3%
Other	19	2%
Doctoral Degree	1	0%
Total	892	100%
High School or Higher	726	81%
Associate's or Higher	345	39%
Bachelor's or Higher	250	28%
25 and Older		
High School Degree or GED	146	39%
Bachelor's Degree	122	32%
Associate's Degree	59	16%
None	16	4%
Master's Degree	22	6%
Other	12	3%
Doctoral Degree	1	0%
Total	378	100%
High School or Higher	307	81%
Associate's or Higher	161	43%
Bachelor's or Higher	145	38%

Source: ILIS 2009 - 2019

Seung Eli Oh's Story



Learning about Employment- Based Visas

Following the crash of the Korean economy in 1998, my family came to the United States on a tourist visa with \$300 in combined savings. We eventually overstayed our visa because our family did not qualify for any form of immigration relief, even though my father submitted family petitions on my behalf. I benefited from the legal services that Immigrants Rising provided because they were pro bono. I was shocked and found out I was potentially eligible for a green card through an employment-based visa if I became a nurse, but I needed experience and a hospital to sponsor me.

DACA allowed me to work as a nurse, which in turn gave me the needed experience to eventually be sponsored by an employer and obtain a green card. I don't think I truly knew what my options were until I received that screening. And I would have never considered some of those impossible options—like an employment-based visa—without that screening. So you just never know what you can qualify for. I think people should get screening for immigration options because they don't really know what their options are. And I don't think I truly knew what my options were until I got that screening. The screening is what really helped in the whole process. If it wasn't for Immigrants Rising, I may not have known what my true options were.

For those completing the survey, it's important to provide as much information as possible to ensure that Immigrants Rising is able to provide relevant resources. Alejandro continues, “Dedicate the next 30 to 45 minutes to being as detailed as possible because the person on the other end is going to . . . see if there's anything available for you in immigration benefits and they're also going to try to paint a holistic picture about you and your interests.”

**Table A8.
Desired Industry**

	<i>Industry</i>	<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, and Waste Management Services		818	47%
Educational, Health, and Social Services		575	33%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodations, and Food Services		89	5%
Information and Communications		85	5%
Undecided		43	2%
Public Administration		33	2%
Other Services (except public administration)		29	2%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, and Rental and Leasing		24	1%
Unknown		20	1%
Retail Trade		17	1%
Construction		7	0%
Armed Forces		3	0%
Agriculture		3	0%
Transportation and Warehousing		2	0%
	Total	1748	100%

Source: ILIS 2009 - 2019

VIII. Desired Industry of Employment

The top two desired industries for respondents were Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, and Waste Management Services (47 percent) and Educational, Health and Social Services (33 percent). One respondent indicated that DACA was key to utilizing her engineering degree, stating “I graduated as an electrical engineer. Since obtaining DACA[,] I [have] been working in engineering jobs.” Others indicated their intention to give back to their communities, with one respondent stating “I would like to devote myself, my knowledge, and the education I will be receiving to a non-profit organization focusing on immigrant children.”

In many cases, a respondent’s personal history shapes their career aspirations. As Alejandro Garcia notes:

I'm interested in law because I'm undocumented and I feel that it's my responsibility to share information with others who could benefit from it. When I was younger, I didn't know about Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and wasn't able to benefit from it. But maybe now I can share that information with a high school kid that may be in a similar situation and can benefit from it.

Mapping out respondents’ desired industries are particularly important as some industries may offer an opportunity for employment-based sponsorship. Seung Eli Oh’s story illustrates this dynamic.

This case, and others like it, demonstrate the need to include and understand non-traditional forms of relief,

such as employment sponsorship, to fully encompass the universe of potential forms of relief. Importantly, this case illustrates that legal screeners should be diligent in outlining potential forms of relief that an individual may become eligible for in the future, even the distant future. Such screening and guidance is invaluable for undocumented immigrants to make decisions related to career, family, and other parts of life.

CURRENT AND FORMER RECEIPT OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE

I. Reason for Completing Intake

Cost represented one of the largest drivers for respondents completing the survey, with a little under a third (28 percent) completing the intake because it was free. As legal representation in the immigration sphere, especially for complicated cases, can run thousands of dollars, it makes sense that respondents would turn to a screening tool where they did not have to pay a consultation fee, retainer, or hourly rate. One respondent shared, “[a]s a DACAmented student, I really appreciate your services since it is too expensive for me to get face-to-face professional help.” In some cases, respondents may have heard or expect legal services to cost significant amounts of money and are unaware of low cost or pro bono options offered by non-profit organizations and immigration law clinics.

Other reasons for using the survey include quality at 15 percent (Immigrants Rising is a trusted community partner with legal experts); confidentiality at 19 percent (the intake repeatedly reassures respondents of the confidentiality of their information), and accessibility at 23 percent (the intake is online). As one respondent put it, “I just want to sa[y] thank you for this because it is confidential,” while another one stated “I trust in you my privacy.”

Eleven percent of respondents chose the survey because it was anonymous, signifying that confidentiality (e.g. the promise of not sharing information) for these individuals took a back seat to the knowledge that there was no possibility for them to be identified because the survey was anonymous. As one respondent put it, “[a]lthough I was giving out confidential information, I felt as if I was safe due to the fact that it was very discreet (i.e. I don’t need to give out my real name). It was very nice and made me feel at ease.” In terms of anonymity, the intake does not require respondents to provide identifying information to complete the intake and obtain their results.

Table B1.
Most Important Reason for Completing Intake

<i>Reason</i>	<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Cost: It's free	1677	28%
Accessibility: It's online	1352	23%
Confidentiality	1136	19%
Quality	900	15%
Anonymity	686	11%
Familiarity	245	4%
Total	5996	100%

Source: ILIS 2009 - 2019
*Respondents could select multiple options.

Other respondents shared their desperation as an underlying cause for completing the survey, “I don’t want to leave, but if there is absolutely nothing that I can do here—I have reached a point that I am considering migrating to another country I do not see any other option for me here, but I hope you can give me something to[o] work towards.” Again, this mindset illustrates the importance of legal service providers correctly outlining potential future relief, leading to individuals identifying a future goal to work towards, as opposed to simply leaving the country.

Finally, as part of the Immigrants Rising’s organizational fabric, many staff are currently or formerly undocumented. The existence of these individuals may serve to allay fears and build greater confidence in the legal intake among other undocumented immigrants

Krsna Avila’s Story



Getting My Green Card

My dad came to the United States in 1987, and my mom and I followed a year later. I was four months old at the time we crossed the border. At the age of 16, my parents were placed in deportation proceedings, which is when I found out that I was undocumented. Luckily, my parents secured lawful permanent resident status and avoided deportation, but I remained undocumented. My parents filed a petition for me as soon as they could, but I would have had to wait 20 to 25 years. I joined Immigrants Rising’s Legal Services Program after graduating college where I learned more about immigration law. Through the program, I learned that I could apply immediately to obtain my own green card. Nine months later, I was granted lawful permanent resident status. Immigrants Rising’s Legal Intake Service gave me a trusted space where for the first time I could disclose my undocumented status to attorneys who understood what it meant to be undocumented.

seeking to complete the intake. As one respondent put it, “Thank you so much for having this service, this makes me feel supported and cared for.”

The review of cases benefits both the intake’s respondents and the legal team at Immigrants Rising conducting the review. In many cases, review of novel legal fact patterns helps provide a form of continuing legal education for the Immigrants Rising legal team, assisting them in discerning potential relief in future, similar cases.

II. Referral

Nearly a third (29 percent) of respondents discovered the legal intake through the internet, while a fourth (24 percent) were referred to the intake directly by Immigrants Rising, including through its website and various in-person outreach. Finally, another fifth (21 percent) were referred to the intake by a teacher or

counselor, demonstrating a strong role and opportunity for educators to be a conduit to connect immigrant youth to legal services. One in ten respondents were referred by DreamActivist, an immigrant youth organization with strong ties in California and a strong online presence.¹⁷

Table B2.
Source of Referral

<i>Referral Source</i>	<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Web Search	731	29%
Immigrants Rising	621	24%
Teacher/Counselor	535	21%
Friend	423	17%
DreamActivist	244	10%
Total	2554	100%

Source: ILIS 2009 - 2019

*Respondents could select multiple options.

III. Previous Legal Assistance

Reasons for Not Seeking Legal Assistance. Only 41 percent of respondents previously received some type of legal assistance, though not all legal assistance (as the table demonstrates) involves a qualified immigration attorney. For those that previously did not receive legal assistance, money, once again, represented the biggest reason at 45 percent—reflecting the 28 percent of respondents who, as shared in Table B1, indicated that cost was the largest factor in turning to the survey. One respondent noted that they were “[g]lad [Immigrants Rising] offer[ed] this service given that there are many who cannot afford paying for legal services.”

One out of five respondents (21 percent) indicated that fear was the reason they had not sought legal assistance, likely signaling the need to better communicate the role that legal assistance plays in the immigration sphere and role in preventing—not facilitating—deportation. Finally, nearly a third (31 percent) of respondents indicated that a lack of information was the reason for not seeking assistance. As one respondent shared, “I am a senior in high school and I have been struggling to find programs that will help me the past 10 months and I barely came across this now.” These data indicate that there is still significant work that organizations like Immigrants Rising and others must engage in to identify and conduct outreach to vulnerable communities; and assist undocumented immigrants in identifying and securing pro or low bono legal representation.

Mitzia Martinez' Story



I arrived to the United States at the age of nine with my siblings and my parents, all of us seeking a better life. The first time I completed ILIS was in 2014; I learned I did not qualify for any legal remedies. However, in retrospect I realized I was not fully honest in my responses to the legal intake because I had not come to terms fully with the weight of my family’s domestic issues. The second time I completed an intake was in 2017 as a Legal Advocate Fellow. I learned of remedies for victims of violence, which is when I realized that although I was 21 and aged out of that particular form of relief, my brother and mom were still eligible. My mom and brother never had an immigration screening. It was through my participation in the Immigration Law Fellows program and learning about immigration options through trainings and analyzing cases that I was able to identify they might have an option and then get them screened.

We are currently in the process of finalizing their petitions. We hope my brother will graduate from college with a green card and that my mom will be able to travel safely to see my grandmother in Mexico after almost 10 years. As a DACA recipient, my own immigration status is still in question, but at least my mom and brother can both be free of the fear of living while undocumented. The intake service provides a way for folks who think they may qualify for a remedy to get clear answers about the process and steps required—instead of having to rely on community rumors or hearsay. If you are completely honest in your intake, it can be a holistic tool that allows you to obtain answers to your questions and alleviate your concerns.



Watch Mitzia's story:

Table B3.
Previous Receipt of Legal Assistance

	<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
No	1527	55%
Yes	1125	41%
Not Sure	103	4%
Total	2755	100%
No		
<i>Why Not?</i>		
Money	1013	45%
Lack of Information	709	31%
Fear	480	21%
No Need	50	2%
Other	21	1%
Total	2273	100%
Yes		
<i>Type of Legal Assistance Received</i>		
Private Immigration Attorney	747	60%
Immigration Consultant (Notario)	249	20%
Non-Profit Organization or Clinic	201	16%
Other	41	3%
Total	1238	100%
<i>Satisfied?</i>		
Neutral	306	35%
Satisfied	208	24%
Very Satisfied	170	19%
Dissatisfied	106	12%
Very Dissatisfied	86	10%
Total	876	100%

Source: ILIS 2009 - 2019

Types of Legal Assistance Obtained. For those that previously received legal assistance, 60 percent contracted a private immigration attorney, likely at significant cost. Startlingly, a higher percentage (20 percent) of respondents consulted an immigration consultant or notario, compared to a non-profit organization or clinic (16 percent). This is particularly concerning as notarios tend to be unlicensed practitioners of law without law degrees or accreditation and tend to generate large numbers of complaints due to abuse, exploitation, and fraud.¹⁸

Private immigration attorneys, non-profit organizations, clinics are generally qualified and accredited to represent individuals in immigration matters, while notarios are not.

Dean Santos' Story



I first arrived in the United States in 2003 to join my dad who had been here since 2000. My mom decided to move our family to this country because my younger sister had cerebral palsy and better care was available here. When my dad first arrived, he applied for an H-1B visa and the hope was to adjust the rest of the family from there, but that didn't happen. When I was 20 years old, I was arrested by immigration authorities and spent two weeks in detention in Florence, AZ. In attempts to bond me out of detention, my family hired a lawyer, who told me I had no options and would likely be deported. Upon release, I began researching options on my own and was referred to Immigrants Rising's Legal Intake Service, which later connected me with the Asian Law Caucus and other Asian Pacific Islander organizations. Through these organizations and services, I obtained a lawyer who agreed to take my case and try a new legal strategy called prosecutorial discretion and, in the summer of 2012, I received prosecutorial discretion and deferred action. When other legal service providers turned me away and gave me no options for relief, it was Immigrants Rising's Legal Intake Service that gave me the resources free of charge to find the legal help that I needed to save me from deportation.

Importantly, ILIS assists respondents in identifying legal assistance for these cases, providing referrals with a preliminary memorandum outlining a respondent's potential immigration relief. Dean Santos, a respondent whose story is showcased below, shares that ILIS "helped me find the lawyer that I needed, even when four other lawyers had said no to my case. That lawyer ultimately helped me stay in this country and live the life I live now."

Satisfaction with Legal Assistance. Approximately 43 percent of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied

with their previous legal assistance. As discussed previously, nearly one fifth of respondents indicated that the quality of the intake was their top reason for completing it, a population that may overlap with the 22 percent of respondents who were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the previous legal assistance received.

In one case, a respondent spelled out his dissatisfaction with their previous attorney, “[O]ur counsel received payment from us, [but] did not file appeal and brief therefore court dismissed our appeal and ordered deportation. . . . [W]e contacted another attorney in Michigan who filed a complaint against the other attorney . . . who refused to answer his phone and/or return our calls.” Another put it much more bluntly, “[W]e hired a lawyer [who] screwed up my parent[’s] case.” One respondent talked about the financial consequences of ineffective assistance, “My mom filed a case with an ‘Immigration Lawyer,’ but he never did anything and just robbed about \$5,000 from us. Our case was never presented to [i]mmigration nor did we ever see any progress.”

Changes in circumstances (e.g. becoming eligible for some form of relief) or a new willingness to disclose information about their immigration status (e.g. in response to the need to regularize one’s status in response to changing immigration policies) may drive respondents to seek legal assistance a subsequent time, regardless of their satisfaction with previous legal assistance.

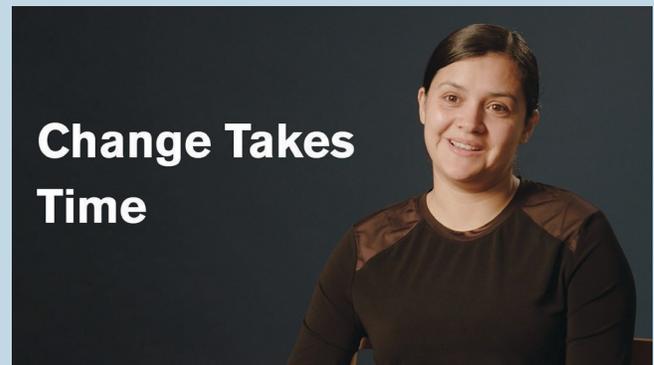
In some cases, respondents may have received erroneous or incomplete information from a previous immigration attorney, demonstrating ILIS’s value as a free, second legal opinion. Julio Navarrete shares:

I had spoken with an attorney a few years before . . . and I heard . . . that I had no options, there was no remedy for my immigration status. But when I learned about the legal intake form and that it was free and anonymous, I decided to do it because it’s always good to get a second opinion . . . I’m so happy that I did get a second opinion because I learned that I had a potential remedy through political asylum.

DREAM AND TPS POPULATIONS

DACA, due to its eligibility requirements, primarily provides relief to immigrant youth. Consequently, in 2015, ILIS incorporated additional DACA-related eligibility questions.

Alejandra Sanchez’s Story



I came to the United States without status in 1989 because my parents wanted a better life for me. In 2013, I decided to use ILIS and received a comprehensive summary of the potential legal forms of relief available for me. I learned that I could potentially obtain a green card through my siblings, which would take a very long time, but also through a future spouse. Eventually, I married my then-boyfriend and he was able to successfully submit a petition on my behalf. I always wanted to obtain permanent status—I saw it as a type of freedom that would allow me to pursue my career and attend and pay for law school. With my green card I was able to travel to Mexico to visit my grandfather, who had fallen extremely ill, and I was able to say goodbye to him, take care of him, and hold his hand and kiss him one last time. I am eternally grateful for DACA, but with permanent status I am thankful to not have the uncertainty of whether my DACA is approved every two years. I am grateful for ILIS because I could really tell that the people behind the service really cared about you as many of them are immigrants themselves. I think everyone should complete a legal intake and learn about their options.



Watch Alejandra’s story:

I. DACA and TPS

Almost half (46 percent) of respondents currently held DACA when they completed the intake, while only one in ten (nine percent) held TPS, likely because grants for TPS tend to skew towards older immigrants from countries other than Mexico.¹⁹ Additionally, ILIS did not permit TPS recipients to complete the intake until 2016.

**Table C1.
DACA & TPS**

	<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
DACA		
No	483	54%
Yes	416	46%
Total	899	100%
TPS		
No	382	91%
Yes	38	9%
Total	420	100%

Source: ILIS 2014 - 2019

II. Reasons Respondents Did Not Apply for DACA

The top reason (42 percent) respondents did not apply for DACA is that they did not think they were eligible, likely indicating that respondents may have suspected or known they did not satisfy the threshold criteria for DACA (e.g. date of entry or age); or may have not currently satisfied educational criteria (such as being in school or graduating from high school), criteria that, before DACA's rescission, could be remedied.²⁰ Indeed, before rescission, MPI estimated that 1.3 million individuals were eligible for DACA immediately and another 356,000 could be eligible if they satisfied the educational requirements and another 66,000 due to 'aging into' DACA.²¹ Almost one fifth (16 percent) of respondents indicated that they simply did not apply in time before DACA was rescinded. Again, the issue of cost arises, with 13 percent of respondents indicating that they did not apply because it was expensive or risky.

Of the respondents who raised eligibility concerns as their reason for not applying for DACA, only one had a felony conviction, while 13 had misdemeanor convictions. A single felony disqualifies an individual from DACA, likely leading that respondent to believe that they are not eligible because of their criminal history. While the intake does not collect information regarding the type of misdemeanor conviction, it is plausible that some or all of the 13 respondents believed they were potentially ineligible for DACA because of their misdemeanor conviction. Regardless, the lack of extensive criminal histories within the subcategories of respondents who had concerns regarding their eligibility for DACA strongly suggests that eligibility concerns stemmed from other, non-criminal justice related issues, including criteria such as age of entry, date of entry, and education requirements.

**Table C2.
Reasons Respondents Did Not Apply for DACA**

	<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Eligibility Concerns	201	42%
Too Late/Program Rescinded	78	16%
Didn't Know What DACA Was	78	16%
Expensive, Risky, or Similar	65	13%
Other	37	8%
Better Immigration Option	16	3%
Did Not Want DACA	8	2%
Total	483	100%

Source: ILIS 2014 - 2019

III. Eligibility for Dream Legislation

The Dream and Promise Act and Dream Act of 2019 represent the 116th Congress' efforts to pass legislation that would offer conditional permanent resident (CPR) status, followed by LPR status and citizenship to undocumented immigrant youth.²² By looking at a respondent's date of entry, residency, and educational background, we calculate that an astounding 93 percent of respondents would be eligible for either legislation (the bills have identical initial eligibility criteria). These 93 percent would all be eligible for the bills' initial CPR status, which allows individuals a period of time to complete other educational, employment, or military requirements and obtain LPR status. However, 28 percent of all respondents, would be immediately eligible for LPR status because they already satisfy the bills' educational requirements.

**Table C3.
Eligible for Relief Under Dream Legislation**

	<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Eligible for CPR	1343	93%
Immediately Eligible for LPR	403	28%
Not Eligible	105	7%
Total	1448	100%

Source: ILIS 2009 - 2019

INTERACTIONS WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

The below data represent one of the first quantifications of undocumented immigrants and interactions with the criminal justice system in the context of felony and misdemeanor convictions. As such, it represents a key data point that policymakers can utilize to better assess the impact of criminal bars in any legislation related to immigration relief.

I. Misdemeanor Convictions

Seven percent of respondents indicated they had one or more misdemeanor conviction. A comparison with the national rate of misdemeanors is difficult because there is no centralized method to track misdemeanor convictions across all fifty states.²³ Under the Dream and Promise Act and Dream Act of 2019, individuals would be disqualified from relief if they had more three or more misdemeanors (and those misdemeanors must meet certain requirements).

If we assume that this percentage of misdemeanor convictions is similar for individuals eligible for relief under dream legislation, then seven percent represents the upper limit of individuals who could potentially be disqualified under misdemeanor bar. Though in practice, the actual percentage disqualified would likely be significantly lower due to the “three or more” misdemeanor requirement, expungement provisions in both bills, incarceration requirement in the Dream Act of 2019, waiver provisions in the Dream and Promise Act, and other exceptions to the misdemeanor bars.

As stated above, as there is no standard mechanism to track national misdemeanor rates, we cannot compare the rate of misdemeanors for respondents to the broader population.²⁴ If the comparison rate for felony is similar (see below), however, then it is likely that respondents have a drastically lower rate of misdemeanor convictions compared to the national average. In recognition of the need for post-conviction rehabilitation resources for this population, Immigrants Rising is developing a resource to assist undocumented immigrants in identifying post-conviction relief.

Table D1.
One or More Misdemeanor Conviction

	<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
No	1922	93%
Yes	139	7%
Total	2061	100%

Source: ILIS 2009 - 2019

II. Felony Convictions

Less than one percent of respondents indicated they had been convicted of at least one felony. Approximately eight percent of the nation's overall population has one or more felony convictions, indicating that the rate which respondents have felony convictions (one percent) is substantially lower than the national average.²⁵ Assuming one percent of the respondents who were eligible for relief under various dream legislation had at least one felony conviction, then one percent represents

the percentage of individuals who would be disqualified under the legislations' felony bar.

Table D2.
One or More Felony Conviction

	<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
No	2048	99%
Yes	23	1%
Total	2071	100%

Source: ILIS 2009 - 2019

IMMIGRATION HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

I. Method of Entry

A majority (53 percent) of respondents indicated that they entered without inspection, while the rest of respondents entered in some other manner. While 36 percent of respondents indicated they entered with a visa or parole, due to the rare use of parole compared to visas, it is likely that almost all of these individuals entered with a visa (the intake did not differentiate between entry with a visa or parole). One respondent acutely recognized the impact of his method of entry on potential relief, stating “I have an extreme fear of Mexico and my own personal safety. I know my options are limited as an entry without inspection.”

Pew, in a 2006 research piece, estimated that approximately 45 percent of undocumented immigrants entered without inspection.²⁶ The overrepresentation of individuals who entered without inspection (53 percent) may be due in part to the overrepresentation of respondents from California, which shares a land border with Mexico (e.g. migrants entering California can do so by crossing the border, while migrants entering non-border states may need to do so through air or sea travel, which generally require a visa or authorization).

Table E1.
Method of Initial Entry

	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Entry Without Inspection		725	53%
Visa or Parole		494	36%
Not Sure		87	6%
Other Person's Documents		71	5%
Visa Waiver Program		37	3%
LPR		4	0%
Total		1377	100%

Source: ILIS 2014 - 2019

II. Length of Residency

Compared to the broader undocumented population, the intake’s respondents have longer periods of residency in the United States. For example, while 38 percent of the undocumented population have nine years of residency or less, only ten percent of the intakes respondents do.²⁷ Moreover, nearly half (47 percent) of respondents have 20 or more years of residency, compared to one-fifth (21) percent of the broader undocumented population.²⁸ This overrepresentation demonstrates that many new arrivals, particularly those reflecting the increased migration flows from Central America in the past few years, are not likely completing the legal intake.

Table E2.
Years of Residency

<i>States</i>	<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Less than 5	105	4%
5 to 9	145	6%
10 to 14	384	15%
15 to 19	737	29%
20 or more	1193	47%
Total	2564	100%
Average	19	

Source: ILIS 2009 - 2019

III. Potential Immigration Relief

Immigrants in the United States may be eligible for forms of temporary or permanent immigration relief, including relief that spans from ‘temporary, without a roadmap to citizenship’ (e.g. DACA) to ‘more permanent relief that may one day lead to citizenship’ (e.g. a family-based petition).²⁹

In terms of DACA, nearly half (48 percent) of respondents were eligible for DACA; this included individuals who currently held DACA and those who would be eligible under the guidelines for initial DACA requests. Importantly, Immigrants Rising encourages all undocumented immigrants, even those who currently hold or could be eligible for DACA, to complete an intake as they may be eligible for other, more permanent forms of relief. Twenty-one percent of respondents were potentially eligible for family-based preference sponsorship and seven percent were eligible for U nonimmigrant status. The family preference eligibility is higher than the estimated national average, between 15 and 20 percent of undocumented immigrants estimated to have a better, more permanent form of relief available (e.g. a non-DACA form of relief that provides LPR

status and potentially citizenship).³⁰ This percentage is higher than the national average for a variety of possible reasons, including:

- A willingness among respondents to disclose information through the intake that they would otherwise not disclose (e.g. due to the survey’s anonymity and confidentiality);
- The young age and high education attainment of most respondents often lends itself to higher rates of immigration relief;
- Long-term residence of respondents often leads to more relationship development with U.S. citizens (e.g. marriage);
- Respondents who held DACA may have traveled with advance parole, which enables them to apply for family-based sponsorship when a qualifying family member exists; and
- Immigrants Rising’s adoption of a “screen in” model, in which the organization seeks to identify a large cohort to screen.

Of note, this percentage is also higher because while the ILIS identified potential forms of immigration relief, that initial identification does not guarantee that a respondent would be able to obtain relief. For example, in the U Nonimmigrant Status context, respondents who indicated they were survivors of a crime may be deemed as potentially U eligible, but subsequent consultation with an attorney and analysis of their case may yield to an updated conclusion that they are in fact not eligible. Immigrants Rising will conduct future research and scholarship to see how potential eligibility for relief intersected with actually obtaining that relief.

For many, obtaining relief was critical to avoiding uncertainty, harm, and even death in their countries of birth. One respondent indicated that family members who remained in her country of birth referred to it as a “dumping ground for bodies.” Another did not want to subject her U.S. citizen daughter to “financial difficulties and crime.” And yet another cited the targeting of his family by the Nicaraguan government as members of their family had protested the government. Another plainly stated that, in their country of birth, there was “nothing there” for them. One cited the fear of state-sanctioned murder and organ harvesting, “My origin country doesn’t allow Falun Gong, I might be put in jail, and even get organ harvested because of my religion.”

The intake still has value for the eight percent of respondents that completed but had no immigration

relief identified. As Alejandro Garcia shared, “Just because there’s nothing available now, that doesn’t make you any less of a person It doesn’t define you . . . , You’re still a person This is a good opportunity for you to own the fact that you are undocumented and the fact that you’re still trying to make a change one way or another.”

Table E3.
Potential Immigration Relief

	<i>Relief Respondents</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
DACA	1902	48%
Family-Based Petition	812	21%
No Relief Identified	301	8%
U Nonimmigrant Status	282	7%
Employment-Based Petition	216	5%
Asylum	170	4%
Diversity Lottery	113	3%
Special Immigrant Juvenile Status	89	2%
Violence Against Women Act	17	0%
T Nonimmigrant Status	16	0%
Temporary Protected Status	11	0%
Cancellation of Removal	6	0%
Total	3935	100%
<hr/>		
Permanent (Non-DACA) Relief	1732	44%

Source: ILIS 2009 - 2019

*Respondents could be eligible for multiple forms of relief.

IV. Changes in Eligibility for Relief Over Time

In a handful of cases, respondents completed the intake multiple times over several months or years, aligning with Immigrants Rising’s promotion of the intake as a part of a regular legal check-up. As Alejandro Garcia, one of the respondents who provided their story for this report, pointed out, “You just never know what remedies are out there. Getting the immigration screening opens you up to a possibility of a remedy that you may not even think is possible. It’s kind of like a checkup with a doctor.” While the sample size is too small to make any quantitative conclusions, we have included a table of observations regarding how respondents’ eligibility for relief changed across intakes.

Collectively, respondents became eligible for a new form of relief in 26 cases, mostly family-based petitions, DACA, and U nonimmigrant status. In the family context, this was likely due to the establishment of a new familial relationship, e.g. a recent marriage to a U.S. citizen spouse who could newly sponsor the respondent. In the context of DACA, many individuals did not satisfy DACA’s initial educational requirements but did so in a

Lilly Campos’ Story



My dad arrived in the United States in 1994, and a year later the rest of my family and I joined him. The first time I looked into any legal aid was in high school when a mentor encouraged my dad and I to visit an immigration lawyer. Unfortunately, the lawyer told us we weren’t eligible for any form of relief. I was frustrated and didn’t research other forms of relief until ten years later when I joined Immigrants Rising’s Dream Summer Scholarship program with the UCLA Labor Center. I had just finished college and was unsure of my future or what kinds of opportunities were available to me due to my status. Through the program, I was placed at the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo, which gave me access to many examples of different kinds of immigration cases as well as the opportunity to work closely with an immigration attorney I trusted. There, I learned about and started the U nonimmigrant status process with the guidance of my attorney, eventually receiving U nonimmigrant status.

subsequent intake. Finally, the changes in eligibility for U nonimmigrant status derived from respondents being survivors of a serious crime.

In many cases, respondents later became ineligible for relief options for which Immigrants Rising previously identified them as potentially eligible. Subsequent ineligibility in the family category likely portends divorces or deaths of qualifying family members. In the DACA context, new ineligibility stemmed from the completion of the intake after DACA had ended; though in a couple of cases, respondents became ineligible for DACA because they no longer met the educational requirement (e.g. they had left school and not completed their high school education). While the sample size in Table E4 is small, these data demonstrate the importance for undocumented immigrants to regularly conduct an assessment of their eligibility for more permanent forms of relief.

Table E4.
Changes in Eligibility for Relief Between Intakes

<i>Change</i>	<i>Respondents</i>
Became Eligible	26
Became Ineligible	22
No Change	20
Total Cases*	54

<i>Relief</i>	<i>Became Eligible</i>	<i>Became Ineligible</i>
Asylum	2	0
Cancellation	1	0
DACA	5	7
Employment	3	2
Family	10	8
U Nonimmigrant	4	2
Diversity	0	0
Total	25	19

Source: ILIS 2009 - 2019

*Respondents could become eligible and/or ineligible for multiple forms of relief.

V. Criminal History and Eligibility for Relief

Under our immigration system, interactions with the criminal justice system (e.g. arrests and convictions) often reduce the universe of immigration relief for an undocumented immigrant, though not always. The report analyzed a subset of respondents who had criminal justice histories and the impact on potential immigration relief. Among 141 respondents who had one or more misdemeanor convictions, ILIS identified 83 forms of relief for these respondents (including family-based petitions, TPS, T nonimmigrant status, U nonimmigrant status, VAWA, SIJS, employer-based petitions, asylum, and diversity lottery). For 23 respondents who had felony convictions, ILIS identified 14 different forms of relief. Of note, one respondent could have been eligible for multiple forms of relief for both of these categories. Generally, however, this eligibility translates to an average of one out of every two respondents with criminal convictions being potentially eligible for relief. Importantly, some of these respondents may ultimately be ineligible for relief due to inadmissibility related to their criminal convictions or other collateral conduct. The potential eligibility for relief regardless of criminal convictions demonstrates the need for legal service providers to represent all immigrants regardless of their criminal background.

BEST PRACTICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

TO LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

I. Implement Comprehensive and Recurring Legal Screenings

Legal service providers should ensure that their legal screenings include screening for all forms of relief, not just DACA, family-based and humanitarian-based options. Legal service providers (nonprofit and for-profit) should also become generally familiar with nonimmigrant and employment-based immigrant visa options becoming increasingly accessible to a generation of undocumented young people who have had access to higher education and job opportunities. Moreover, screenings should occur on a regular basis to reflect changes in life circumstances that may affect eligibility for relief. These screenings should also prioritize informing people of how life experiences can impact eligibility (e.g. U nonimmigrant status, asylum, VAWA, SIJS, employment-based petitions, etc.).

II. Expand Screening for Employment-Based Remedies

Historically, nonprofit legal service providers may have been focused on remedies impacting low-income undocumented immigrants. However, through education, entrepreneurship, and support in the U.S., many such families have created opportunities to potentially exit poverty without being able to afford a private attorney. Nonprofit legal service providers should expand legal screening capabilities to identify employment-based remedies for immigrant professionals who may be eligible for relief (e.g. especially those with DACA or TPS and who have not accrued unlawful presence or have not worked unlawfully for whom it could be easier to complete “consular processing” without requiring the additional expense and uncertainty of waivers for things like unlawful presence, etc.).

III. Screen High School Students for Age-Dependent Forms of Relief

Legal service providers should conduct screenings with high school students and other young immigrants to

identify and secure relief before individuals age-out (e.g. such as SIJS); and proactively engage with institutions (educational, social services, youth empowerment, or otherwise) that engage with younger immigrants.

IV. Build Trust, Promote Transparency, and Conduct Screenings Thoughtfully

Legal service providers should work to address the community’s lack of trust in providers to promote the access of legal services. This work should include understanding and learning about negative experiences with previous service providers; a transparent and reasonable framework regarding costs; and an understanding, cautious, and methodical approach to inquiring about sensitive information that a client may not feel immediately comfortable disclosing.

Service providers that have undocumented staff and communicate a genuine concern for respondents are in a particularly powerful position to build trust. As Alejandra Sanchez shared, “the people behind the screening really do care about you and really do care about trying to find an option for you. The reason why we care so much about the people using the intake is because we ourselves are or have been undocumented.”

V. Connect and Integrate Holistic Services with Legal Screenings

Legal service providers should build relationships and, when feasible, integrate holistic services—such as mental health services—into screenings. These holistic services are essential to enabling undocumented immigrants to recognize, acknowledge, and speak about the traumas that may form a foundation for corresponding immigration relief. This relationship should involve cross education between mental health providers and legal service providers, so the former can recognize potential referrals and the latter can better understand the importance of mental health and where undocumented immigrants can seek help. Legal service providers should work with other trusted individuals (e.g. educators, counselors, therapists) to obtain

referrals and issue referrals for current and potential clients.

TO PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS, FOUNDATIONS, EMPLOYERS, AND UNIVERSITIES

I. Support the Expansion of ILIS to Additional States

While ILIS is an online intake that anyone can access regardless of their state of residency, the report demonstrates that there is significant overrepresentation of respondents from California. Partner organizations and foundations should explore strategies to expand the reach of ILIS (or the underlying goals of the survey) by publicizing ILIS through local, non-California networks; and providing on-the-ground support to expand the reach of the intake.

II. Implement and Utilize Similar Online Intakes

Partners should utilize ILIS as a template for the implementation of similar online intakes within other service providers and in other states and jurisdictions. Immigrant legal service providers should implement similar, online intakes to improve internal screening and consultation practices; and electronically retain this information for future immigration petitions. Similarly, partner organizations should consider creating their own online intakes for their own cities, counties, and states, particularly those organizations outside of Immigrants Rising geographical and organizational reach.

The online nature of ILIS also provides greater flexibility and efficacy in conducting successful legal screenings. Julio Navarrete, a respondent whose story is shared in this report, noted that:

Having access to a service that is anonymous, confidential and free, really gave me the freedom to share a lot of information. Sometimes when you're face to face with an attorney, you may only have a 10 [to] 15 minute consultation and you don't have a lot of time to share everything. But using the legal intake form, you can take your time and you can share more information that would help you figure out whether there is a potential remedy or not.

III. Support Immigrant Employees Seeking to Obtain Relief

Employers have a vested interest in the continued presence and security of their employees. Employers

should thus consider supporting, in part or in full, the legal expenses of their employees, particularly those seeking a non-employment based immigration status (as many employers already support employees seeking an employment-based status through their current employment) that will allow them to continue to contribute to an employers' business and financial stability. Beyond financial assistance, employers can consider implementing other benefits to support in regularization of status, such as sharing intake and screening services with employees, providing flexible schedules for consultation and immigration appointments, implementing non-discrimination policies in the workplace.

TO CALIFORNIA CITIES AND COUNTIES

I. Provide Legal Representation to Undocumented Residents

Cities and counties in California should follow the model of over two dozen local jurisdictions, including many in California, who enacted universal representation programs that provide legal representation in immigration court to undocumented immigrants. As this report demonstrates, cost represents a significant barrier for undocumented immigrants to obtain legal representation; and universal representation programs would ensure that undocumented immigrants eligible for relief have the best opportunity to apply for and secure that relief. Cities and counties should ensure that they are conducting outreach to younger undocumented immigrants, who may have time-limited forms of relief based on age, such as SIJS.

TO THE CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE

I. Dedicate Funding to Online Legal Intake Screening Programs

Under the current administration, California has stepped up to provide legal funding to assist Californians battling deportation. The legislature should ensure that this and future funding is also eligible to support legal intakes similar to ILIS (e.g. support the underlying staff that conducts the analysis and recommendations based on collected information), allowing the funding to be a force multiplier by allowing organizations like Immigrants Rising to efficiently identify and refer undocumented immigrants to qualified legal service providers.

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

I. Provide Permanent Relief to the Undocumented Immigrant Population

Congress must, at long last, enact legislation that establishes a roadmap to citizenship for the nation's eleven million undocumented immigrants, including those who arrived as minors. Immigration reform must include a Dream title that provides expedited relief to immigrants brought to the United States as children. Importantly, Congress should strive to disqualify as few undocumented immigrants as possible from any form of relief through onerous criminal background requirements. When implementing criminal bars, Congress should always include applicable waivers to allow adjudicators to consider applications on a case by case basis based on the individualized circumstances (and rehabilitation) of an applicant. Finally, Congress should ensure that this reform addresses and rescinds the various administrative and procedural barriers for immigrants seeking to regularize their status (e.g. the three, ten, and permanent bars, requirement of an admission for adjustment, and similar).

II. Enact a Universal Right to Counsel

Congress must follow the leadership of the state and local jurisdictions who implemented universal representation programs for their undocumented immigrant residents. Specifically, Congress must establish a universal right to counsel for all noncitizen immigrants (including both undocumented immigrants, LPRs, and other noncitizens) in deportation proceedings. As the report demonstrates, many undocumented immigrants potentially have forms of relief available to them, but without an attorney to help them navigate our nation's increasingly complicated civil immigration system, they risk deportation without obtaining that relief.

TO THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

I. Resume Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

Future administrations must restart DACA and undo the current administration's rescission. As stated previously, a large number of respondents currently hold or were eligible for DACA, meaning that the intake's respondents would disproportionately benefit

from the resumption of DACA. DACA provides an opportunity for undocumented immigrants to achieve a sense of security, develop economic self-sufficiency, and continue to grow their educational attainment. Additionally, future administrations should enable DACA recipients to utilize advance parole to travel abroad and facilitate adjustment of status or consular processing for those who travel with advance parole and are otherwise eligible for these processes.

METHODOLOGY

Using Stata, a data analysis software, we merged all responses into a single, master spreadsheet. Where possible, we cleaned up data to obtain what we believed was the respondents' intention (e.g. correcting typographical errors). When we could not reasonably interpret or understand a respondents' response, we struck the individualized data point. There have been four versions of ILIS with subsequent versions refining, updating, adding, or striking questions. These versions include surveys administered on the following dates:

- October 2009 through April 2014
- April 2014 through September 2014
- September 2014 through June 2016
- July 2016 through April 2019

Consequently, different tables have a different number of total respondents. The different number of respondents also stems from respondents' decision not to complete certain questions or the aforementioned striking of data when it was unusable.

Respondents could potentially complete ILIS multiple times over a period of time. To delete duplicate completions and avoid double counting, we struck duplicate entries identified through the use of the same email address, keeping the most recent entry for a respondent. However, for the qualitative analysis comparing relief between intakes, we examined and analyzed all entries for the same respondents. Respondent quotations and narratives were edited for length and clarity.

A1. Country of Origin

Table A1. Country of Origin tabulated the top ten responses to the question to the intake's "Country of Origin/Country of Birth" question and grouped all remaining countries under "Other Countries." For respondents who submitted "Korea" as their country of origin, we assumed their country of origin was South Korea. We also assigned the correct country when incorrect entries were provided by respondents (e.g. when a respondent provided the capital or a subdivision or region within a country, we changed the response to reflect the actual country). While 55 respondents indicated that their country of birth was the United States, this was most likely an error in completion of the

survey (e.g. an individual likely believed this question was asking for country of residence, not birth). We struck these "United States" responses from this table.

A2. State of Residency

Table A2. State of Residency tabulated the top ten responses to the intake's "State of Residence" question and grouped all remaining states (including Washington, D.C.) under "Other States."

A3. Age

Table A3. Age tabulated four different age ranges (and the average, median, and mode) in response to intake's "Date of Birth" question. Ages are rounded up or down to the closest year. Importantly, the report calculates age based on date of birth and thus the age in this chart reflects respondents age when the data were pulled (Summer of 2019) instead of when they actually completed the intake.

A4. Ethnicity

Table A4. Ethnicity tabulated all responses to the intake's "Ethnicity origin (or Race)" question. Question was included in survey as of September 2014. For this table, we did not consider the five respondents who indicated they were "Native American or American Indian" as such status would provide them U.S. citizenship and likely an erroneous respondent submission.

A5. Marriage Status

Table A5. Marriage Status tabulates responses to the intake's "Are you legally married?" question.

A6. LGTBQ Status

Table A6. LGTBQ Status tabulates responses to the intake's "Do you identify as a member of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) community?" question.

A7. Educational Attainment

Table A7. Educational Attainment tabulates all responses to the intake's "Please select the HIGHEST degree that you have obtained" question. For the "25 or Older" segment of the table, we only considered respondents who were 25 and older. Iterations of the survey asked about high school and GED completion

both as independent and combined questions, so the table combines all responses for these two categories under “High School Diploma or GED.”

A8. Desired Industry

Table A8. Desired Industry tabulates all responses to the intake’s “What type of career do you intend to pursue?” question. As respondents could write in any response, we categorized responses by placing them in Census-defined industries. We did not include any industries that had no submissions.

B1. Most Important Reason for Intake Completion

Table B1. Most Important Reason for Completing Intake tabulated all responses to the intake’s “What is the most important reason you chose to use this Immigration Legal Intake Service?” question. This question was added in the most recent iteration of the survey.

B2. Source of Referral

Table B2. Source of Referral tabulated all responses to the intake’s “How did you find out about this Immigration Legal Intake Service?” question. ILIS allowed respondents to select multiple options so respondents may be represented across multiple entries. We selected the top five most common sources of referral and determined how many times respondents indicated each option. We excluded all other referral sources (as there were a large number of options and custom responses) as the remaining sources were de minimis in nature.

B3. Previous Receipt of Legal Assistance

B3. Previous Receipt of Legal Assistance tabulated all responses to the intake’s “Have you (or someone else in your family) ever received professional legal assistance?” question, which in previous iterations of the survey was framed as “professional legal assistance.” For certain categories, respondents could select multiple options so respondents may be represented across multiple entries under the reasons a respondent did not seek legal assistance and the type of legal assistance received. Previous versions of the survey collected satisfaction responses on a one to five scale, this scale was converted to the five-option version of the most recent survey, which uses “Satisfied,” “Neutral,” etc.

C1. DACA & TPS

Table C1. DACA & TPS tabulates how many respondents: (a) currently or previously held TPS (“Have you ever had or currently have Temporary

Protected Status (TPS)?”); and (b) have ever applied for DACA (“Have you ever applied for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)?”. For the latter, the table reflects how many respondents ever applied for DACA and not whether they were ultimately approved or their current DACA status.

C2. Reasons Respondents Did Not Apply for DACA

Table C2. Reasons Respondents Did Not Apply for DACA tabulates the responses to the intake’s “Why didn’t you apply to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program?” question. Different versions of the survey worded the response options for this question differently. Those differing options were standardized (e.g. eligibility related concerns were all grouped together, even if worded slightly differently).

C3. Eligible for Relief Under Dream Legislation

Table C3. Eligible for Relief Under Dream Legislation tabulates how many respondents would be eligible for the various stages of relief under the Dream and Promise Act of 2019 and the Dream Act of 2019. Both of these bills would provide CPR status to immigrant youth who: (a) entered the United States before the age of 18; (b) resided in the United States for at least four years; and (c) have a high school degree or higher. Under the educational track, immigrant students who obtain an associate degree or higher are able to convert their CPR status to LPR status (or, for those that already satisfy the requirements, immediately obtain LPR status). For this table, we identified all respondents who submitted information regarding date of entry, residency, and education and labeling those that met the requirements of these pieces of legislation as “Eligible for CPR.” “Immediately Eligible for LPR” represents the subset of “Eligible for CPR” respondents who already satisfy the bills’ education requirements by having an associate degree or higher and would immediately be able to obtain LPR status.

D1. One or More Misdemeanor Conviction

Table D1. One or More Misdemeanor Conviction tabulates responses to the “Have you ever been convicted of a felony?” question. The intake defines a misdemeanor as “a federal, state or local criminal offense where a person could be sentenced to between 6 and 365 days or less of imprisonment, even if they got a shorter sentence, or the sentence was suspended by a judge.”

D2. One or More Felony Conviction

Table D2. One or More Felony Conviction tabulates responses to the “Have you ever been convicted of a felony?” question. The intake defines a felony as “a federal, state or local criminal offense where a person could be sentenced to 366 days or more of imprisonment, even if you received a shorter sentence, or the sentence was suspended by a judge.”

E1. Method of Initial Entry

Table E1. Method of Initial Entry tabulates responses to the intake’s “What was your method of entry when you first entered the U.S?” question. “Entry Without Inspection” includes those who selected “No visa, no parole, no inspection, no permission, no papers (i.e. illegally).” “Visa or Parole” includes respondents who selected “With my own visa (or with parole)” or who indicated a specific visa type in previous iterations of the survey. “Not Sure” includes respondents who selected “Not sure.” “Other Person’s Documents” includes respondents who selected “Used someone else’s visa or passport or other identity document.” “Visa Waiver Program” includes respondents who selected “On the Visa Waiver Program and my valid passport.” “LPR” includes respondents who indicated they entered with LPR status. This question allowed respondents to submit custom responses. When possible, custom responses were categorized into one of the designated categories.

E2. Years of Residency

Table E2. Years of Residency tabulates length of residency (e.g. years living in the United States) based on the intake’s “Date of first entry into the U.S.” question. Importantly, “residency” has a specific meaning in our nation’s immigration laws, which may exclude those who entered, left, and re-entered. For the purposes of this table, we define “residency” as the number of years since a respondent initially entered the United States.

E3. Potential Immigration Relief

Table E3. Potential Immigration Relief Identified tabulates the potential forms of immigration relief that legal screeners at Immigrants Rising identified for respondents. To identify forms of relief, screeners analyzed a respondent’s answers to a variety of intake questions, including questions related to method of entry, date of entry, recent entries, marital status, immigration status of family members (and relation to those family members), surviving serious crimes, previous or potential persecution and torture, and

more. Respondents did not self-select themselves for the forms of relief they were eligible for, rather, screeners closely examined respondents’ responses to broader questions and then conducted a legal analysis as to whether a respondent’s immigration history potentially made them eligible for a form of relief. This relief was then communicated by Immigrants Rising to respondents in a memorandum. In some cases, screeners identified multiple forms of relief for a single respondent.

“Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals” refers to prosecutorial discretion and employment authorization for certain immigrant youth established by the Obama administration. DACA does not provide a direct pathway to LPR status but individuals who have qualifying family relationships or other options for permanent relief may transition from DACA to LPR status.

“Family-Based Petition” refers to sponsorship through the family-based preference system by certain U.S. citizen and LPR family members (including spouses). This status provides an immediate pathway to LPR status.

“No Relief Identified” indicates that screeners did not identify any potential relief for a respondent, but a respondent’s classification under this category does not guarantee they are not potentially eligible for some sort of relief either currently (e.g. if a respondent provided incomplete or incorrect information) or in the future.

“U Nonimmigrant Status” is a non-immigrant status provided to survivors of serious crimes who cooperate with law enforcement authorities. This status provides a future pathway to LPR status.

“Employment-Based Petition” refers to sponsorship through our nation’s employment-based preference system, including H1-B visas. This status provides a future pathway to LPR status.

“Asylum” refers to asylum status, granted to respondents who are likely to be persecuted based on their membership in a particular social group. This status provides a future pathway to LPR status.

“Diversity Lottery” refers to the Diversity Visa lottery, which grants LPR status to a set number of immigrants from countries with low levels of migration, particularly benefiting black immigrants. This status provides a future pathway to LPR status.

“Special Immigrant Juvenile Status” refers to a special immigrant visa provided to minors who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned by at least one

parent. This status provides a future pathway to LPR status.

“Violence Against Women Act” refers to immigration status obtained as a result of being a survivor of domestic violence perpetrated by a U.S. citizen or LPR spouse. This status provides an immediate pathway to LPR status.

“T Nonimmigrant Status” refers to immigration status obtained as a result of being a survivor of severe human trafficking. This status provides a future pathway to LPR status.

“Temporary Protected Status” refers to an immigration status that provides employment authorization and protection from deportation for nationals from countries designated for TPS because the Secretary of DHS determined it was unsafe to return nationals to that country due to extraordinary and temporary circumstances.

“Cancellation of Removal” refers to the ability of an immigration judge to terminate removal proceedings for an undocumented immigrant with long-term residency in the United States and whose removal would cause exceptional and extremely unusual hardship to qualifying U.S. citizen family members.³¹ This form of relief provides an immediate pathway to LPR status. This category refers to non-LPR cancellation of removal as there is an LPR form of cancellation of removal.

E4. Changes in Eligibility for Relief Between Intakes

Table E4. Changes in Eligibility for Relief Between Intakes tabulates the forms of relief that respondents became eligible or ineligible for across multiple intakes. While duplicate intakes were removed (as discussed in the duplicate entries section of this methodology), we nevertheless compared duplicate entries by comparing relief identified by Immigrants Rising across entries and how that relief expanded or contracted. Importantly, a single case could have experienced multiple changes in eligibility and ineligibility for multiple forms of relief, so there are a greater number of changes in eligibility than number of cases analyzed.

ENDNOTES

¹ Immigrants Rising, Storytellers Bill of Rights, <https://immigrantsrising.org/story-telling/bill-of-rights/>.

² Profile of the Unauthorized Population: United States, 2012-2016, Migration Policy Institute, available at <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/unauthorized-immigrant-population/state/US> [hereinafter “MPI Unauthorized Population”]

³ Profile of the Unauthorized Population: California, 2012-2016, Migration Policy Institute, available at <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/unauthorized-immigrant-population/state/CA> [hereinafter “MPI Unauthorized California Population”].

⁴ Allison O’Connor, Jeanne Batalova, and Jessica Bolter, Central American Immigrants in the United States, Migration Policy Institute, Aug. 2019, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/central-american-immigrants-united-states>.

⁵ MPI Unauthorized California Population, supra note 3; and compare to MPI Unauthorized Population, supra note 2.

⁶ Id.

⁷ MPI Unauthorized Population, supra note 2.

⁸ Id.

⁹ Id.

¹⁰ MPI Unauthorized California Population, supra note 3.

¹¹ MPI Unauthorized Population, supra note 2.

¹² Frank Newport, In U.S., Estimate of LGBT Population Rises to 4.5%, GALLUP NEWS, May 22, 2018, <https://news.gallup.com/poll/234863/estimate-lgbt-population-rises.aspx>.

¹³ United We Dream, LGBTQ Justice, available at <https://unitedwedream.org/our-work/lgbtq-justice/>; Yibing Yang, Students Who are Undocumented and Identify as Queer, Center for Mental Health in Schools at UCLA, <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/lgbtq.pdf> (“Next time someone asks how the contemporary immigrant rights movement came about, tell them that queer undocumented youth built it.”).

¹⁴ Frank Newport, In U.S., Estimate of LGBT Population Rises to 4.5%, GALLUP NEWS, May 22, 2018, <https://news.gallup.com/poll/234863/estimate-lgbt-population-rises.aspx>. (“The latest estimate is based on

over 340,000 interviews conducted as part of Gallup’s daily tracking in 2017. U.S. Adults Identifying as LGBT, 2012-2017 Do you, personally, identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender? . . . Gallup’s LGBT estimates are based on those respondents who say “yes” when asked, “Do you, personally, identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender?”).

¹⁵ MPI Unauthorized Population, supra note 2.

¹⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. Educational Attainment, (2018), <https://www.census.gov/topics/education/educational-attainment.html> (“Table 2. Educational Attainment of the Population 25 Years and Over, by Selected Characteristics: 2018”). ¹⁷ DreamActivist, available at <https://dreamactivist.org/>.

¹⁸ Fight Notario Fraud Project, Fight Notario Fraud, American Bar Association, available at https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_interest/immigration/projects_initiatives/fight-notario-fraud/; Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., Unauthorized Practice of Immigration Law, available at <https://cliniclegal.org/notario>.

¹⁹ Robert Warren and Donald Kerwin, A Statistical and Demographic Profile of the U.S. Temporary Protected Status Populations from El Salvador, Honduras and Haiti, Center for Migration Studies, 2017, <https://cmsny.org/publications/jmhs-tps-elsalvador-honduras-haiti/>.

²⁰ In September of 2017, the Trump administration announced that it would rescind DACA, adjudicating outstanding renewal requests and denying all future initial and renewal requests. This rescission was ultimately partially enjoined by several district courts and is currently in front of the Supreme Court of the United States. Memorandum from Elaine C. Duke, Acting Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security to James W. McCament, Acting Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services et al. on Rescission of the June 15, 2012 Memorandum Entitled “Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children” (Sept. 5, 2017), available at <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2017/09/05/memorandum-rescission-daca>; Status of Current DACA Litigation, National Immigration Law Center, June 7, 2019, <https://www.nilc.org/issues/daca/status-current-daca-litigation/>.

²¹ Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Data

Tools, Migration Policy Institute, 2018, available at <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca-profiles>.

²² American Dream and Promise Act of 2019, H.R.6 116th Cong. (2019); Dream Act of 2019, S.874 116th Cong. (2019).

²³ Megan Stevenson and Sandra Mayson, The Scale of Misdemeanor Justice, BOSTON UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW, June 2018, <https://www.bu.edu/bulawreview/files/2018/06/STEVENSON-MAYSON.pdf>.

²⁴ Id.

²⁵ Alan Flurry, Study estimates U.S. population with felony convictions, UGNT, Oct. 1, 2017, <https://news.uga.edu/total-us-population-with-felony-convictions/>.

²⁶ 5 Modes of Entry for the Unauthorized Migrant Population, Pew Research Center Hispanic Trends, May 22, 2006, <http://www.pewhispanic.org/2006/05/22/modes-of-entry-for-the-unauthorized-migrant-population/> (“As much as 45% of the total unauthorized migrant population entered the country with visas that allowed them to visit or reside in the U.S. for a limited amount of time.”).

²⁷ MPI Unauthorized Population, supra note 2.

²⁸ Id.

²⁹ Patrick Taurel, Practice Advisory, Screening Potential DACA Requestors For Other Forms of Relief, American Immigration Council, Sept. 5, 2017, available at <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/practice-advisory/screening-potential-daca-requestors-other-forms-relief>.

³⁰ Donald Kerwin et al., The DACA Era and the Continuous Legalization Work of the US Immigrant-Serving Community, Center for Migration Studies, Feb. 2017, <https://cmsny.org/publications/legalization-report/> (“[T]here is already widespread engagement by the immigrant-serving sector with the large share of US undocumented residents (likely in the 15-20 percent range) who are eligible to pursue a permanent immigration benefit or relief.”).

³¹ INA § 240A(b), 8 U.S.C. § 1229b(b) (West 2019).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The report's editors and co-authors are Katharine Gin, Iliana Perez, and Alejandra Guillen.

Jose Magaña-Salgado of [Masa Group](#) co-authored the report, with assistance from Katherine Montañez-Montes.

The Immigration Legal Intake Service (ILIS) has been made possible with generous support from many long-time funders, including the Grove Foundation, Hawkins Strauss Fund at Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Heising Simons Foundation, Leslie Family Foundation, Arthur and Toni Rembe Rock, and Someland Foundation.

Thank you to the pioneering immigration attorneys—David Bennion, Dan Berger, and Mark Silverman—who helped build the tool and believed in the power of undocumented youth to identify and pursue their own remedies.

Our sincere gratitude to our Immigrants Rising Legal Services staff who powered and continuously improved ILIS: Krsna Avila, Francisco Gonzalez, Marilia Zellner, Denia Perez, Tommy Statkiewicz, and Jesus Flores Rodriguez.

Special thanks to the Immigration Law Fellows (previously called Legal Advocates), who spent countless hours analyzing cases and putting tremendous thought and care into responding to each and every submitted intake: Mohammad Abdollahi, Karla Alarcon, Daniela Amador, Juliana Batista, Ramon Becerra Alcantar, Maryfer Bernal, Paloma Bustos, Armando Catalan, Beleza Chan, Harry Chan Lee, Yongbin Chang, Jazmin Chavez, Nayeli Cruz, David Cruz Ramirez, Sarait Escorza, Larissa Espada, Catherine Eusebio, Engels Garcia, Alejandro Garcia, Karla Gomez-Pelayo, Sarah Guerrero, Blanca Hernandez, Cindy Ku, Prerna Lal, Estell Lee, So Young (Susan) Lee, Laura Lopez, Carolina Lopez, Marisol Lopez (Rubio), Janet Lopez Galindo, Carla Lopez Perez, Susan Lucas, Sandra Magallon, Angelica Maldonado, Angelica Mantilla, Karla Marquez, Mitzia Martinez, Yoshi Mendez, William Mendoza, Gabriela Monico, Gissela Moya, Zulma Alejandra Munoz, Jake Myung, Gabrielle Parris, Dilan Pedraza, Juliet Peña, Irving Pineda, Laith Rodriguez, Denize Sanchez, Alejandra Sanchez-Ezidro, Jazmin Segura, Alex Vargas, Diana Vergara. Thank you to those who agreed to be interviewed and shared their stories for this report: Krsna Avila, Lilly Campos, Alejandro Garcia, Mitzia Martinez, Julio Navarrete, Seung Eli Oh, Alejandra Sanchez-Ezidro, and Dean Santos.

Finally, we are indebted to the thousands of undocumented immigrants who used ILIS. Thank you for entrusting us with sensitive information about yourselves and your family members, so that we could learn about immigration options for all undocumented young people.

ABOUT US

Founded in 2006, Immigrants Rising transforms individuals and fuels broader changes. With resources and support, undocumented young people are able to get an education, pursue careers, and build a brighter future for themselves and their community. For more information, visit immigrantsrising.org

For inquiries regarding this resource, please contact Alejandra Guillén, Deputy Director, at alejandra@immigrantsrising.org.