UNIFIED FOR THE FUTURE

HOUSTON IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES COLLABORATIVE 2018 Impact Report
Our community amazes me, year after year, with its commitment to working together to improve the lives of immigrants and refugees in our region. In 2018, HILSC and our members continued to fight back against chaotic anti-immigrant policies and legal precedent. We didn’t just react to chaos, however, we created programs that provide immigrants with safety, security, and well-being in the long-run.

As a result of our community’s work, Houston is now home to a robust Immigrant Rights Hotline which serves as a single point of contact for families looking for legal services and information about rapidly changing policies; a Disaster Recovery Legal Corps that provides legal assistance for immigrants who were impacted by Hurricane Harvey; a pro bono Immigration Help Desk in our immigration court; and Deportation Defense Houston (DDH), which provides free representation to immigrants detained in Houston’s four detention centers. You can learn more about these innovative, creative projects throughout our report.

2018 was also a year of remarkable growth for the HILSC team, which grew from two to seven incredible women working on a wide array of systems-level initiatives. One defining experience for our team in 2018 was our visit to the Legacy Museum and The National Memorial for Peace & Justice in Montgomery, Alabama, facilitated by a generous funder. These institutions uplift the history of slavery and lynchings in order to illuminate how our past has led to mass incarceration and institutionalized racism. Our experiences in Montgomery helped us reframe our immigrant rights work within a racial justice framework.

Our team was incredibly moved by our time in Montgomery, which came at the end of another challenging year. We spent much of the spring fighting back against funding cuts to critical legal information programs, the summer fighting the pervasive narrative that families of asylum seekers are “invading” the United States, and the fall fighting proposed policy changes that would severely limit immigration options for the poor, sick and disabled. We also joined two coalitions advocating for city and county policy reforms that aim to decrease the incarceration and deportation of Houston’s immigrant communities. Joining these coalitions supports our goals to keep people out of the deportation pipeline, to keep families together, and to advance immigrant rights.

In some ways, 2018 was defined by the family separation crisis, which took an emotional toll on our entire community. I am the mother of two small children and it took me weeks to be able to even talk about it in a professional setting without crying. At the community dialogue we co-hosted with the Rothko Chapel in July, we got a sense of the outpouring of outrage and support from Houston’s community. It is critical to remember, however, that the policy of family separation is part of an intentional long-game to break down the avenues for legal immigration into the United States, which we see play out through executive orders, policy changes, rule-making, and court rulings. Limiting legal immigration, expanding detention, and carrying out deportations are all policies of family separation.

We cannot allow ourselves to get crushed by the whiplash of the crisis roller coaster, however. We need energy to fight for the future that we want, where immigrants have access to legal representation to secure full and productive lives in the United States, without fear of persecution, deportation or harassment. Our role is to facilitate collaboration and cooperation among legal and social services providers, advocacy organizations, and funders in order to improve the lives of immigrants in our region. We can only create the future that we want when we work together. I hope you will join us.

Onward,

Kate Vickery
Executive Director
What are HILSC’s key strategies?

- Providing funding for nonprofit immigration legal services, social services, and advocacy.
- Increasing the quality and quantity of high-quality, low-cost immigration legal services providers equipped to serve low-income immigrants.
- Incubating and collaboratively developing innovative, flexible and reactive solutions to systemic shortcomings in the provision of immigration legal services and to emerging, urgent issues that arise.
- Improving and streamlining immigrants’ access to legal and social services.
- Being a source of reliable and timely information about changing immigration policies and resources.

What are HILSC’s core values?

- Immigrant agency and justice
- Intentional collaboration
- Coordinated responsiveness to emerging issues
- Complete, balanced perspective on strategies
- Making systemic change
- Providing benefit to member organizations
- High-quality services
- Empowering and inclusive decision-making processes

BY THE NUMBERS

In the greater Houston region:

1,662,000 residents are foreign-born (25% of population)
506,000 residents are undocumented
21,000+ residents have Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
36,000 residents have DACA
30,000+ asylum-seekers
569,000 children with at least one non-citizen parent
14,333 arrests by ICE in 2018
15,899 deportations by ICE in 2018
55,000+ cases pending in Houston immigration court
4,114 immigrants detained at 4 Houston area ICE jails
9 unaccompanied migrant children’s shelters in Houston area

HILSC’s 2018 work:

$1,881,872 in grants awarded
947 people assisted by the Immigrant Rights Hotline
57 DACA renewal fees paid
868 attorneys and community members trained
30 public events, trainings, and presentations
7 free, collaborative legal workshops assisting 184 clients
3 public comments opposing changes to anti-immigrant policies
4 funder briefings
52 media mentions

2018 Financial Overview

Total Assets: $1,307,006
Total Liabilities: $554,033
Total Fund Balance (year end): $752,973

Income Statement

Total Revenue: $1,324,833
Total Expenses: $2,898,791*

*Expenses for 2018 outpaced revenue by approximately $1.5M because of grants received in 2017 that were distributed in 2018 and payable in 2019.
We incubate and collaboratively develop creative solutions to systemic shortcomings in the provision of immigration legal services, responding nimbly to rapidly changing national and state policies.

**Project: Deportation Defense Houston**

**Partners:** BakerRipley, YMCA International Services, Justice for Our Neighbors Houston, South Texas College of Law Houston, Innovation Law Lab, Southern Poverty Law Center’s Southeast Immigrant Freedom Initiative (SIFI)

**Funding Partners:** The Beacon Fund, Southern Poverty Law Center

**Summary:** A first of its kind program for our region, Deportation Defense Houston launched in July 2018, bringing together a cohort of four immigration legal services providers (YMCA International Services, BakerRipley, Justice for Our Neighbors Houston, and the South Texas College of Law Houston) to defend immigrants who are detained and facing deportation. Deportation Defense Houston takes an innovative and collaborative approach that includes public engagement, the Immigrant Rights Hotline, a new deportation defense legal clinic for law students, and advocacy. Deportation Defense Houston recognizes the huge harm deportation causes our community and values collective resistance—from education to advocacy to legal representation—to minimize the separation of families and the deportation of valued community members. DDH is committed to ensuring that access to this project is effective and responsive for detainees and their loved ones.

**Accomplishments in the first 6 months of DDH (July–December 2018)**

- Hired four attorneys and three legal assistants to launch the project
- Hired managing attorney to oversee the project and provide mentorship to project staff
- Provided representation (brief services through full representation) to 43 detained adults
- Won the right to stay in the United States for 6 clients
- Facilitated the release of 9 people from detention
- Worked with parents who had been separated from their children and succeeded in reuniting 3 families.

- Accepted referrals from community partners, such as: Baker Ripley’s neighborhood centers, La Unidad 11, Organización de Latina de Trans en Texas (OLTT), UndocuBlack, Texas Civil Rights Project, Physicians for Human Rights, and the Southern Poverty Law Center.
- Created a new removal defense clinic at South Texas College of Law Houston.
- Increased access to legal services through a simplified referral system in partnership with the Immigrant Rights Hotline.

In keeping with a core DDH value, the team practices self care during a rare break from representing detained immigrants.
DDH Client Stories

“Jeff” was born abroad and raised in the U.S. by his U.S. citizen father. Jeff’s father never ensured that his son, who was born out of wedlock, received U.S. citizenship. His father passed away and when Jeff tried to prove his relationship to a U.S. citizen, he no longer was able to show DNA evidence linking him to his father. Jeff was transferred to a Houston area detention center after serving a federal sentence. He was connected to a DDH attorney, who was able to obtain evidence that he was the son of a U.S. citizen—giving him derivative citizenship. Jeff’s deportation case was terminated, and he was released from detention as a U.S. citizen.

Kikio, a transgender woman, fled persecution in Central America based on her gender identity. After a long and difficult journey, she arrived in the U.S. only to be detained by immigration officials and transferred to a Houston-area detention center. Kikio was referred to the DDH project through the Immigrant Rights Hotline. Kikio spent nearly a year in detention, where she was harassed by other detained individuals and guards because of her gender identity; she also faced challenges regularly accessing her medical treatment. With the hard work and advocacy of the DDH Team as well as Kikio’s courage and resilience, Kikio won her asylum claim in October 2018. She now lives in Houston, where she is excited to begin a safe and secure life.

DDH client “Rosie” was wrongfully deported despite her pending case. Rosie, a longtime resident of Houston with several children, has multiple claims for relief. Rosie was also actively assisting Houston police in the investigation of two serious crimes. Her DDH attorney, with the assistance of a University of Houston professor, is fighting the wrongful removal. If ICE does not do the right thing, DDH will file litigation in federal district court to compel ICE to return Rosie to Houston.

Project: Disaster Recovery Legal Corps - Immigration Fellows

Partners: Tahirih Justice Center, Human Rights First, Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance

Funding Partners: Center For Disaster Philanthropy + Harvey Recovery for Immigrants Fund (pooled)

Summary: Equal Justice Works, the leading nonprofit organization committed to mobilizing the next generation of public interest attorneys, launched the Disaster Recovery Legal Corps in July 2018. The DRLC is made up of 21 lawyers delivering legal and recovery assistance to individuals affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. The Houston-based corps includes four (4) Immigration Fellows providing immigration legal services, housed at the YMCA International Services, Catholic Charities’ Cabrini Center, Tahirih Justice Center, and Human Rights First. Having immigration attorneys in the cohort means that immigrant clients have a safety net of civil legal aid that includes both immigration and non-immigration issues. The four fellows serve low-income immigrants who have been affected by Hurricane Harvey and who reside anywhere in the greater Houston region with a full spectrum of immigration legal services, including consultations, brief services, and full representation in affirmative petitions and removal defense. Gaining legal status is one of the best ways to help families recover and be better prepared for the next disaster.

Key Outcomes:

- May 2018–December 2018 the Fellows provided legal information to 234 individuals; delivered legal assistance in the form of brief advice or full-scope representation to 162 individuals; and closed 69 cases on behalf of their clients. A total of 179 immigrant households have benefited from these services.
We work to break down the systemic barriers that immigrants face when seeking social and legal services.

**Project: Harvey Systems Advocacy & the Humanitarian Action Plan**

**Participating Organizations:** Air Alliance Houston, The Alliance, The American Red Cross, BakerRipley, Boat People SOS, Bonding Against Adversity, Busy Bee Wellness Center, Catholic Charities, Chinese Community Center, City of Houston: Houston Health Department, City of Houston: Housing and Community Development Dept, City of Houston: Office of Emergency Management, City of Houston: Office of New Americans and Immigrant Communities, Daya, Epiphany Community Health Outreach Services (ECHOS), Fe y Justicia Worker Center, Greater Houston Community Foundation, Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Harris County Public Health, Houston Area Women’s Center, Houston In Motion, Houston Volunteer Lawyers, Human Rights First, Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston (IM), Immigrant residents of the Houston region, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), Las Americas Newcomer School, Living Hope Wheelchair Association, Lone Star Legal Aid, Memorial Assistance Ministries, The Aftermath Pop Up, Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES), Refugee Services of Texas, Tahirih Justice Center, Texas Organizing Project (TOP), Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid (TRLA), United Way of Greater Houston, United We Dream, University of Houston Law Center Immigration Clinic, West Street Recovery, YMCA International Services

**Funding Partners:** Center for Disaster Philanthropy, Houston Endowment, The Simmons Foundation, JPB Foundation, Walton Family Foundation, Kaiser Family Foundation, David & Lucile Packard Foundation, The Grove Foundation, Silicon Valley Communication Foundation

**Summary:** When Hurricane Harvey struck the gulf coast, HILSC stepped up for immigrants in response and recovery, and is now building systems for the next disaster. HILSC spent much of 2018 developing a set of recommendations—collectively called the Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP)—to guide coordinated emergency management planning for immigrants. The HAP—released in 2019—is based on interviews with over 80 people from more than 40 agencies—including undocumented immigrants, immigrant-serving and emergency management professionals, and decision makers on funding and policy. In addition to the HAP, we accomplished a number of other key outcomes, below.

**Key Outcomes:**

- **Social Services Advocacy:** HILSC began engaging in organizational advocacy and providing expertise to break down institutional barriers to serving immigrants.
- **Harvey Assistance for Immigrants:** HILSC raised and distributed $200,000 in direct cash assistance to undocumented and mixed-status families impacted by Harvey. See page 9
- **Disaster Recovery Legal Corps Immigration Fellows:** HILSC raised funding for four immigration legal fellows to join Equal Justice Works’ cohort of lawyers delivering legal assistance to people impacted by Harvey. See page 3
- **State Bar of Texas’ Legal Manual:** HILSC provided research for a new chapter dedicated to immigrant-specific issues in the Bar’s “Resource Materials for Responding to Legal Questions from Those Affected by Disasters.”
HILSC facilitates collaboration through working groups that share trends and advocate for improvements in each area of focus.

Access to Services Committee
The Access to Services committee supports collaboration among legal services providers and social services providers to address capacity issues, share information/resources, connecting for support, and lead HILSC’s Harvey Systems Projects. Made up of social work staff of HILSC members, the group designed and executed a Cultural Effectiveness training curriculum for more than 100 Harris Health staff in 2018. The group also created the Immigrant Accessibility Tool, which helps organizations identify ways that they can become more accessible to non-citizens.

Asylum Working Group
This group tackles emerging issues facing the asylum-seeking population in Houston by discussing trends in asylum decisions and legal strategies. In 2018, the working group hosted two legal trainings for more than 80 attorneys and assisted more than 60 families with pro se asylum applications.

Crime Victims Working Group
This working group was convened to help implement Welcoming Houston’s recommendations on health and safety. The group advocates for immigrant-friendly approaches to U-Visa certifications with local law enforcement agencies. The working group also discuss trends and educates the community about the availability of these types of immigration benefits. In 2018, the group worked with the Houston Police Department (HPD) to improve services for immigrant victims of crime, and co-sponsored a training with HPD Victim Services for 120 attorneys.

Community Outreach/Know Your Rights Working Group
This working group brings legal, advocacy and social services partners together to improve community outreach to immigrant communities. In 2018, the group began mapping outreach organizations’ geographic coverage areas and creating a system for referring requests for presentations to HILSC members. The working group is creating uniform outreach materials on topics like “know your rights” and public charge in order to increase the quality of information delivered to the community.

Notario Fraud Prevention
HILSC’s Notario Fraud Prevention Working Group convenes immigration and tax law experts, media, business, state and local government, advocates, and community supporters to educate affected communities about notario fraud, help victims file complaints or pursue legal action, and facilitate access to quality legal immigration services and tax assistance. In 2018, the group hosted CLE trainings and information sessions, and finalized a new attorney toolkit to help bring lawsuits against notarios and fraudulent tax providers. Find these tools at houstonimmigration.org/notariofraud.

For a list of partners involved in these groups, see pages 10–11.

Project: Immigrant Rights Hotline

Partners: ACLU of Texas, Boat People SOS, BakerRipley, Houston Volunteer Lawyers, United We Dream

Funding Partners: Delivering on the Dream (pooled local and national funding)

Summary: The Immigrant Rights Hotline was developed shortly after the chaos of the Travel Ban subsided and volunteer attorneys were looking for a way to continue to give assistance to immigrants impacted by the rapid policy changes coming out of Washington. The Hotline launched as an all volunteer project in February 2017, and, in March 2018, became a funded, staffed initiative facilitated by HILSC, operated by Boat People SOS, United We Dream, and BakerRipley. Hotline callers have questions about immigration detention, how to protect families from deportation and, most often, are looking for referrals to free and low-cost immigration legal services. In 2019, outreach efforts will be amplified, and the Hotline will pilot universal screening and referral tools to help streamline access to legal services.

Key 2018 Outcomes:
• The Hotline assisted 947 callers in 2018
• Re-launched the hotline with a public event at BakerRipley in March 2018. The event was broadcast by Hispanic media and livestreamed on Facebook.
• Hotline operator staff hired at BakerRipley, Boat People SOS, and United We Dream
• The hotline become the contract point for families with detained loved ones in the Houston region to seek services from Deportation Defense Houston (DDH). See page 2

Former State Senator (now US Representative), Sylvia Garcia, helps promote the Hotline from BakerRipley Gulfton Sharpstown campus.
The Collaborative educates the community with reliable and timely information about changing immigration policies and resources.

"We believe that it is fundamentally unjust for anyone living in the United States to face a judge without an attorney to help them navigate a complex legal system or to face deportation without ever being informed of their rights and options."

"I still believe that coming to America was the right decision for my family, but with every turn comes more difficulties from the government," Hana said of Jeff Session's decision in the Matter of A-B. "The frequent deprivation of humanitarian needs caused by the unjust asylum law of America has left sorrow and pain in my heart."

"We stand opposed to the detention of asylum seekers and call on Congress, the State of Texas, and the City of Houston to not only oppose family separation and family detention, but the detention of asylum seekers in general."

Migration Policy Institute Report: A Profile of Houston’s Diverse Immigrant Population in a Rapidly Changing Policy Landscape

The Collaborative commissioned this report from the Migration Policy Institute, a non-partisan immigration policy think tank. We believe that data is critical to making meaningful change, and this report outlines the current demographics of Houston’s diverse immigrant populations, as well as policy implications impacting asylum seekers, DACA recipients, and TPS holders. The report was released at a public event at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston on September 22, 2018.

“Houston is like a model case in the country to look at how national immigration policy changes are affecting immigrant and the cities (nationwide), because it has such a large population of foreign-born, it’s close to the border and has a new state law facilitating that the (local) police work with ICE,” Migration Policy Institute researcher and report co-author Randy Capps, “Report: Immigrant community in Houston region growing more diverse but facing challenges,” Houston Chronicle, September 29, 2018.
HILSC maintains a Listserv, weekly newsletter, events calendars, and website to keep members informed about upcoming events and trainings, changes in immigration law and policy, and to share resources. HILSC also provides our members, stakeholders, and greater community with opportunities to learn and take action together. A sample of our public events and advocacy towards this are below.

**June**

“Immigration and Family Separation Crisis: A Call to Understand, Connect and Act,” co-hosted with the Rothko Chapel. The event educated 200 community members on the family separation crisis.

**September**

“The Real Story: Future Outlook for Greater Houston Region Immigrants,” a public event introducing the HILSC-commissioned study on Houston’s immigrant communities. The event, held at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, reached over 100. See inset box for details on the report.

**September**

“Advocating for your Client: From Community Lawyering to Litigation” with the University of Houston Law Center’s Immigration Clinic. This Symposium discussed litigation strategies, changes to the law through appeals, and the ins and outs of Federal District Court.

**October**

HILSC issues statement opposing changes to proposed changes to “public charge” regulations, calls on community to submit public comments to oppose the rule.

**Oct—Nov**

HILSC’s Access to Services working group present cultural safety trainings to Harris Health front-line staff on best practices for working with immigrants and other vulnerable communities.

**December**

HILSC and United We Dream co-author an op-ed in the Houston Chronicle entitled “Harris County has a deportation problem.” HILSC and the Anti-Defamation League co-author an op-ed entitled “Jewish Values Compel us to Welcome Migrants.”

**“We know that this chilling effect is already taking place, as service providers report immigrant clients dropping out of programs and others failing to access benefits for which they are eligible out of completely legitimate fear and confusion. Ultimately, however, these regulations are a way to decrease legal immigration and limit pathways to legal status for low-income families and individuals.”**

**“Harris County must take responsibility for its role in criminalizing people of color, destabilizing communities and contributing to the deportation pipeline.”**

Kate Vickers (HILSC) and Damaris Gonzales (United We Dream), “Op-Ed: Harris County Has a Deportation Problem,” Houston Chronicle, December 12, 2018

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**MEDIA MENTIONS**

npr  HOUSTON CHRONICLE  COLORLINES  TX LAWYER  Rio Grande GUARDIAN

HOUSTON  THE NATIONAL  THE TEXAS TRIBUNE  Texas Monthly  Inside Philanthropy  PR Newswire

ABC13  HOU Public Media  The Dallas Morning News  SLATE  Univision

KPR  TELEMUNDO  PressReader  grist  observer
In 2018, the Collaborative issued **$1,881,872** in grants.

HILSC is unique because of our shared governance model that puts funders and service providers on equal footing in decision-making. In order to respond directly to the changing needs on the ground, the projects we fund are designed and implemented by our community of members and stakeholders; our Requests for Proposals are written in consultation with our members and stakeholders, and most of our grants are distributed using HILSC’s empowering and unique participatory grantmaking process. We also engage in robust funder education, working to grow the number of philanthropic institutions and individuals who support efforts to improve the lives of low-income immigrants in the region.

In September 2018, we hosted a two-day funder conference called “Empowering Houston’s Immigrant Families: How to Make a Philanthropic Impact.” The event was produced in partnership with Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR), The Simmons Foundation, Houston Endowment, and Greater Houston Community Foundation and educated 30 local and national funders about the unique needs of Houston’s immigrant communities, and the innovative solutions that organizations are bringing to meet those needs. The conference began with a tour of the Joe Corley ICE Detention Center in Conroe, where participants met and spoke with detained migrants, followed by an in-depth presentation about the Deportation Defense Houston project. Concurrent sessions included Health & Mental Health; Children & Family Well-Being; Disaster Response & Recovery; and Civic Engagement.

**What we fund:**
- Innovation and creativity
- Collaboration
- Systemic level work
- Gaps in existing services
- Equity & capacity building within small organizations

**How we fund:**
- By putting service providers in the front-seat of grant-making
- With a reasonable administrative burden
- With transparency of process for grantees
- With a reliable and empowering process

Local and national funders attended a two-day funder education summit in September. Deportation Defense Houston (DDH) team members from Justice For Our Neighbors Houston, Baker Ripley, YMCA International Services, South Texas College of Law Houston, and HILSC discuss the challenges and opportunities for providing holistic representation to detained immigrants.
Deportation Defense Houston

**Grantees:** BakerRipley, Justice For Our Neighbors, South Texas College of Law Houston, YMCA International Services

**Purpose:** These grants support each organization’s participation in the Deportation Defense Houston project, a holistic and wide angle legal representation program. *See page 2 for details.*

Immigrant Rights Hotline

**Grantees:** BakerRipley, United We Dream, Boat People SOS

**Purpose:** This collaborative grant supports bilingual hotline operators at the three organizations, as well as outreach and marketing of the hotline. *See page 5 for details.*

Disaster Recovery Legal Corps

**Grantee:** Equal Justice Works

**Purpose:** To support two-year immigration legal fellows as part of the Disaster Recovery Legal Corps at Tahirih, Human Rights First, Catholic Charities, and YMCA International Services. *See page 3 for details.*

Harvey Assistance for Immigrants Fund

**Grantees:** Al-Noor Society of Greater Houston

**Purpose:** To support undocumented and low-income clients who were impacted by Hurricane Harvey through rental assistance and other basic needs.

**Grantee:** Daya

**Purpose:** To provide trauma-informed, culturally competent services and financial assistance for short-term rental assistance, utilities, groceries, personal items, furniture, transportation, car repairs, gasoline, medical costs, childcare, and emergency hotel accommodation to immigrant survivors of domestic violence who were impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

**Grantee:** Fe y Justicia Worker Center

**Purpose:** To provide direct assistance, including housing, medical bills, food, personal items, transportation, mental health, or immigration legal services, to immigrant workers who were impacted by Harvey; and to support a resiliency and vicarious trauma training for staff and allies.

**Grantee:** Kids Need of Defense (KIND)

**Purpose:** To provide direct financial assistance for court costs/fees, mental health, transportation, and other basic needs to immigrant children who are in immigration proceedings and who were impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

**Grantee:** Living Hope Wheelchair Association

**Purpose:** To support immigrant clients impacted by Hurricane Harvey with direct assistance for housing and shelter repairs, rental assistance, medical needs, food, and transportation. Funding is also to be used to support mental health workshops in Spanish for staff, members and leaders.

**Grantee:** The Alliance

**Purpose:** To support The Alliance’s efforts to provide self care and secondary trauma support for staff working with Harvey-impacted immigrant clients.

**Grantee:** West Street Recovery

**Purpose:** To provide direct assistance to undocumented and mixed status households still recovering from Harvey and in need of building materials, safety equipment, contractors, and case management.

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“I was very, very moved, and deeply emotionally impacted by what I saw and experienced on the [detention center] tour. It is an oasis of despair.”

A Houston-based philanthropist who attended the September 2018 funder briefing (Empowering Houston’s Immigrant Families: How to Make a Philanthropic Impact) and ICE detention center tour
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<th>Notario Fraud WG</th>
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*KYR: Community Outreach & Know Your Rights Working Group (all working groups described on page 5)
†DDH: Deportation Defense Houston, see page 2
‡DRLC: Disaster Recovery Legal Corps, see page 3
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<th>Organization</th>
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**Funding Partners**

- Beacon IA
- Borealis Philanthropy
- Bright Funds Foundation
- Center For Disaster Philanthropy
- David & Lucile Packard Foundation
- Everett Family Fund
- Greater Houston Community Foundation
- The Grove Foundation
- Houston Endowment, Inc.
- JPB Foundation
- Kaiser Family Foundation
- Keating Family Foundation
- Marek Family Foundation
- New York Community Trust (Delivering on the Dream)
- The Simmons Foundation
- Southern Poverty Law Center
- United We Dream Network (DACA renewal fund)
- Walton Family Foundation

`Harvey Relief for Immigrants Fund`
Our work is fundamentally about partnerships and bringing together diverse groups of allies to support immigrants in the region. Here are a few collaborative highlights from 2018.

« Frances Valdez (representing United We Dream), Rosemary Vega (University of Houston Law Center), Andrea Guttin (HILSC), and Anne Chandler (Tahirih Justice Center) on a learning journey in Chicago (in January!), where they met with the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC), Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR), and the DePaul College of Law Legal Resources Project for Immigrant Service Providers to learn best practices for impact litigation and deportation defense.

« On March 14, 2018, United We Dream, Texas Organizing Project, HILSC, Mi Familia Vota, AFL-CIO, SEIU Texas, and Texas Civil Rights Project spoke out at City Hall about the 5th Circuit Court’s decision that allowed most of SB4—Texas’ version of a “show me your papers” law—to go into effect. Mayor Sylvester Turner commented that despite the ruling, Houston remains a “Welcoming City.”

« Members of Living Hope Wheelchair Association, Fe y Justicia Worker Center, Organización Latina de Trans en Tejas (OLTJ), La Unidad 11, and Antena Houston formed a “Collaborativa,” throughout 2017 and 2018, with support from a 2017 HILSC Grant. The groups organized, trained, and built intersectional leadership among diverse members.
Legal staff of BakerRipple, YMCA International Services, Justice For Our Neighbors Houston, Tahirih Justice Center, United We Dream, Cabrini Center (Catholic Charities), University of Houston Law Center, Human Rights First, ABA’s Children’s Immigration Law Academy, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), and South Texas College of Law Houston wrapping up a year-long collaboration to build capacity for impact litigation and deportation defense, supported by a Borealis Philanthropy grant.

Our hard-working HILSC staff—Andrea Gutin, Julie Pasch, Kate Vickery, Nasim Hoomanrad, Katy Atkiss, Gunjen Mittal, and Paola Guzman (left to right)—relaxed and celebrating at the HILSC holiday party in December. We are so grateful for the leadership and participation of all HILSC partners who worked so hard in 2018—thank you!
More than 1.6 million immigrants call the Houston region home and 63% of them are non-citizens; more than 500,000 Houstonians are undocumented. Despite their significant contributions to the state and local economy in Texas, immigrants, particularly those who are undocumented, face considerable challenges.

The mission of the Collaborative is to create a coordinated network of effective and efficient services to assist low-income immigrants access the information and legal representation that allows them to make choices in their own best interest.

For more information visit: www.houstonimmigration.org