

Vision

- HILSC envisions a region that respects and advances the rights of all immigrants, refugees, and migrants.

Mission

- We advocate for immigrant inclusion, equity, and justice by uniting and strengthening diverse allies, developing holistic immigration legal services, and supporting creative initiatives through principled, values-based collaboration.

Core Values

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

Key Strategies

Providing funding to advance HILSC's mission.

- Distribute funding using an empowering and transparent participatory grant-making process
- Bring national and local funders into HILSC's pooled and aligned grant-making strategy.
- Develop leadership within the Houston funding community on immigration issues.
- Prioritize projects that are innovative, collaborative, and systems-level; focus on gaps in existing services; and build capacity within small organizations.

Increasing the quality and quantity of high-quality, low-cost immigration legal services providers equipped to serve low-income immigrants.

- Facilitate collaboration and trust-building among legal services providers (large and small), social services providers, advocacy organizations, and membership-based organizations.
- Provide capacity building through trainings, best practices resources, information, and mentorship.
- Mentor and support organizations wishing to become legal services providers through DOJ Recognition & Accreditation.
- Build relationships within the pro bono legal community and help service providers connect with pro bono volunteers.
- Discuss emerging issues and strategize potential actions towards improving capacity to meet immigrants' legal needs.

Key Strategies Cont.

Improving and streamlining immigrants' access to holistic legal and social services.

- Discuss emerging issues and strategize potential actions towards improving capacity to meet immigrants' holistic needs.
- Maintain and continue to expand the capacity of the Immigrant Rights Hotline.
- Reduce immigration fraud and educate community about immigration fraud and notario scams.
- Advocate and educate public and non-profit social services providers about how to break down barriers for immigrants without legal status.
- Ensure that immigrant serving organizations have access to tools that improve their ability to make high quality referrals to legal and social services.

Being a source of reliable and timely information about changing immigration policies and resources.

- Strengthen the ability of individual Collaborative members to communicate strategically through trainings and communication tools/data.
- Educate the public, funders, and policy-makers about important issues affecting immigrants in the Houston region.
- Scan the national, state and local landscape for policies that impact HILSC stakeholders and community members; communicate summary information strategically.
- Provide easy conduits (hotline, website, social media) for immigrants in the region to get accurate, up to date information.
- Maintain quality data about capacity, unmet needs, system failures and impact of the non-profit legal services in the Houston region for fundraising and advocacy efforts

Rules of Engagement

- Active and engaged working groups develop strategies on systemic and emerging issues.
- Executive Director is empowered to make decisions.
- Executive Committee evaluates the long and short-term goals and community plan.
- Executive Committee membership has structure and rules ensuring that new voices are included from a wide variety of organizations.
- Membership process for legal services providers is robust and ensures that HILSC members are high-quality organizations with adequate legal supervision.
- The Collaborative as an entity is responsive to member organization needs, but also pushes individuals and organizations out of their comfort zones when appropriate and meaningful.
- The Collaborative should support the promotion of individual members does not "steal the spotlight," but enhance the reputation of all member organizations.
- When making a strong policy statement, the Collaborative will ensure that it is not "speaking for" every member and will create opportunities for individual members to sign on to statements when appropriate.