Defying COVID pandemic, HILSC showed up and persevered

- Convened Funders to redouble investments to support immigrants
- Gathered faith leaders, non-profit service providers, rapid responders and government sector to develop a Houston Welcoming Table to support migrants coming to Houston
- Incubated public-private partnership to expand and sustain immigration legal resources to support individuals in immigration proceedings
- Launched 40 days of wellness to soothe pandemic anguish and to develop a practice of self-care in HILSC network.
- Fortified mental health clinician network to support the quest for immigration relief by immigrants impacted by trauma
- Allied with immigrant disaster justice advocates to push for holistic strategies in disaster management and planning
HILSC's Approach

- CONVENE
- LAUNCH
- INCUBATE
Through working groups, HILSC brings together partners working on common issues to share insights, identify challenges, develop consensus on programmatic & advocacy strategies.

Codesigns with and regrants to partners to launch innovative collaborative programs to fill gaps in service and urgent needs.

Assembles resources from public and private sectors to create programs to address identified needs; creates leadership opportunities for collaborative partners.

CONVENE

LAUNCH

INCUBATE
CONVENE

HILSC BRINGS TOGETHER ENTITIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO WORK WITH IMMIGRANTS IN GREATER HOUSTON THROUGH QUARTERLY MEETINGS, WORKING GROUPS, IN PERSON AND VIRTUALLY, TO IDENTIFY TRENDS, BRAINSTORM STRATEGIES, TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER, AND TO CELEBRATE SUCCESSES
This funder briefing series highlighted the pressing work to support the immigrant community in meeting the humanitarian and legal services needs. It is a critical period for funders to invest in immigration work to sustain organizations serving immigrants on the ground.
Immigration Frame on Houston

Houston is the most diverse city in the country with the fastest growing immigrant population. This introductory session centered Houston as the place where federal immigration policies have the most acute impact on the community.

This session opened the Funder Briefing series by positioning the immigration agenda under the young Biden Administration in which we explored possibilities of immigration reform and what that would mean for Metro-Houston. HILSC staff also shared the journey of building HILSC’s first program in 2017 – the Immigrant Rights Hotline - that serves as a central point of entry for immigrants seeking immigration information and referrals for legal and social services.

Disaster Justice

Disasters encompass natural and man-made disruptions to normal conditions. They have been constant and recurring in Greater Houston. Disaster recovery has often focused on episodic and time-limited efforts without addressing the underlying conditions aggravated by disasters. This session re-oriented funders to invest in long-term disaster planning that included a deeper systemic analysis through multiple lenses that are trauma informed, equitable, and invested in resiliency for all.

Public-private Partnership

In 2020, Harris County committed $2.5 Million to provide free legal representation for County residents detained in Houston-area ICE detention facilities, and victims of crime.

Public funding that aims to keep families together will be strengthened when private philanthropy participates. This session highlights the critical role that private philanthropy can play in addressing gaps, such as residency restrictions, expanding holistic services, as well as giving incentive to governments to continue its funding of immigration legal services.
INCUBATE

HILSC INCUBATES FINANCIAL RESOURCES, POLITICAL SUPPORT, AND LEADERS TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT CONDUCIVE TO LAUNCHING INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS EMERGING NEEDS AND TO ADVANCE IMMIGRANT JUSTICE
Incubated in the early 2020 aimed to thaw the chilling effects of the 2019 Public Charge rule that threatens to bar individuals from seeking lawful permanent status for having received certain federal benefits

HILSC brings together four sectors: advocacy and organizing, benefits enrollment, healthcare, and legal services to create a “no wrong door” multidisciplinary network to improve immigrants’ access to healthcare

Together, they created community outreach and education videos to explain benefit eligibility, how to find a doctor, debunking myths and encourage immigrants to deepen civic engagement
Following the momentum created by Harris County’s appropriation of $2.5M to launch ILSF and SSIL, HILSC contracts with the County to lay the foundation for the launch of the project.

We assisted the County with the Request for Proposal and evaluation guidelines, and crafting program manual, intake procedures and case acceptance guidelines.

ILSF was launched on December 15, 2021, SSIL was launched a month later.
LAUNCH

LEVERAGING EXPERTISE AND RESOURCES OF PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS, HILSC LAUNCHES COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS THAT MULTIPLY THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IN MEETING EMERGING NEEDS, ADDRESSING GAPS IN SERVICE, AND REACHING THE GOAL OF IMMIGRANT JUSTICE.
Building a Resilient and Enduring Immigrant Justice Network

40 (Fri)Days of Wellness

Leveraging tools for virtual convening, HILSC launched 40 Days of Wellness to reconnect the network stressed and frayed by the Pandemic.

We wrapped up 40 Fridays in 2021 with yoga and stretching via Zoom, Reiki, arts and crafts, creative writing, floral arrangement, museum visits, drum circle, network over coffee, and virtual team-building games.
HELPING CLIENTS EXPLAIN THE UNEXPLANANBLE

FORENSIC EVALUATIONS HELP IMMIGRANTS EXPLAIN THE IMPACTS OF TRAUMA ON MEMORY CONSOLIDATION AND RECALL
Launched Immigrant Disaster Equity Working Group to promote best practice in equitable and inclusive disaster management:

Recognizing disasters aggravate existing racial and income disparity,

Incorporate community-based organizations and affected individuals in interfacing with public and private sectors in emergency and disaster management

Striving toward making one whole is the goal of equitable disaster management that includes planning, preparation, mitigation and recovery

IMMIGRANT DISASTER EQUITY CENTERING EQUITY IN IMMIGRANT DISASTER MANAGEMENT
Streamline the search for information and referrals through Houston's Immigrant Resource Hotline.

- Free & low-cost immigration legal referrals
- Referrals to immigrant-friendly social services
- Info and resources on disaster and recovery
- Immigration law and policy updates
- Know Your Rights!

1-833-468-4664
HILSC in numbers

- LEVERS
- PEOPLE
- PROGRAM
- FINANCIALS
40 (Fri)Days of Wellness brought together 109 individuals over 40 Friday afternoons to engage in self-care activities ranging from yoga, Reiki to arts & craft, creative writing to various virtual and in-person team-building activities to decompress and refuel.

Connect for Healthcare tapped the talents of the 9 organizations to create 8 outreach and education videos to explain how to find a doctor, who can enroll in Harris Health, why advocacy is important, and debunk the myths of immigrant eligibility for benefits and consequences of benefits usage.

Forensic Evaluations Program completed the first round of mentorship program that upgraded the skills of 5 mental health clinicians. In 2021, HILSC paired clinicians in 37 cases to conduct mental health evaluations to explain to immigration judges and immigration officers the adverse impacts of trauma on immigrants’ ability to competently testify in their cases. We supported the clinicians’ work with $19,750 in stipends on 34 completed evaluations.
Deportation Defense Houston completed 4 years of representing detained immigrant adults. DDH conducted intake on 92 victims of human trafficking, provided consultation to 134 immigrants detained by ICE, and represented 101 people, and helped secure release and relief in 62% of the cases, more than 3 times the average for this region.

Immigrant Resource Hotlines answered 1,550 calls in 2021, a 40% increase compared to 2020:

- 92% calls regarding immigration (22% concerned detained immigrants, 8% from asylum-seekers, 7% from individuals in removal proceeding)
- 3% sought civil legal services referrals
HILSC made 28 grants to 21 organizations for a total of $745,178 to carry out these projects.

- Deportation Defense Houston
- Self-care
- Immigrant Resource Hotline
- Harvey Recovery
- Disaster Financial Assistance
- Connect for Healthcare

REGRANTS
Executive Committee

- Lubabah Abdullah, Tahirih Justice Center
- Francisco (Pancho) Argüelles & Tomas Aguilar, Living Hope Wheelchair Association
- Jill Campbell, BakerRipley
- Dalia Castillo-Granados, ABA-CILA (Chair)
- Amanda Cloud, Simmons Foundation
- Terry Cody, Catholic Charities – Galveston-Houston
- Paola Copeland, Memorial Assistance Ministries
- Jade Flores & Maria Hernández, La Unidad11
- Meghna Goswami, Houston Endowment
- Aimee Maldonado, South Texas College of Law Houston
- Pamela Nickell, Young Center
- Ola Osaze, Black LGBTQ+ Migrant Project (BLMP)
- Laura Perez-Boston, Worker Defense Project
- Carolina Rodríguez-Neufeld, KIND
- Gislaine Williams, The Alliance
Board of Directors

Mike Pawson, Secretary
Rebecca Hove, President
Andrea Mayes, Director
Dalia Castillo-Granados, Director
Amanda Cloud, Director
Steve Maislin, Vice President
Zenobia Lai, Director
THE LEVERS

Access to Services Working Group
Asylum Working Group
Crime Victim Working Group
Family-Based Working Group
Detention Working Group
Impact Litigation Working Group
Quarterly Convening
**The Levers**

- **Asylum**
  - The Asylum working group tackles emerging issues facing the asylum-seeking population in Houston. The asylum working group convenes quarterly to discuss trends in asylum cases, legal updates, and strategies.

- **Crime Victims**
  - The Crime Victims Working Group (CVWG) meets monthly to increase access to justice for immigrant survivors of crime. The CVWG engages with local law enforcement and advocates for better policies for survivors who are eligible for U Visas. CVWG also provides trainings for judges, prosecutors, law enforcement, and attorneys.

- **Detention**
  - The detention working group brings together attorneys from Deportation Defense Houston, AILA, and HILSC member organizations to discuss trends in immigration detention, legal updates, as well as strategies to reduce detention. The group meets quarterly.

- **Family-Based**
  - This group of attorneys, legal assistants, and social services staff discusses trends and issues with family-based petitions and other affirmative petitions before USCIS. The working group convenes quarterly to discuss legal updates and strategies.

- **Impact Litigation**
  - This Working Group came out of the Think.Space vision developed in 2017 to bring together immigrant rights litigators to explore and develop advocacy and impact litigation strategies to bring about systemic changes to protect immigrant rights.

- **A2S**
  - Access to services working group includes social workers, navigators, advocates, and organizers who work directly with immigrant clients to navigate social services systems. A2S is first and foremost a support community for non-legal professionals. The support takes the form of informal case consultation, collective problem solving, and discussion on updates in state and local policy that affect how immigrant communities, particularly undocumented individuals, fully access services such as healthcare, schools, and housing in Houston. The group also advocates for immigrant clients seeking services at organizations that are not immigrant-friendly.

- **Quarterly Convening**
  - The Access to Services working group, including social workers, navigators, advocates, and organizers, convenes quarterly to discuss legal updates and strategies.

- **Impact Litigation**
  - This Working Group came out of the Think.Space vision developed in 2017 to bring together immigrant rights litigators to explore and develop advocacy and impact litigation strategies to bring about systemic changes to protect immigrant rights.
Access to Services working group includes social workers, navigators, advocates, and organizers who work directly with immigrant clients to navigate social services systems. A2S is first and foremost a support community to non-legal professionals. The support takes the form of informal case consultation, collective problem solving, and discussion on updates in state and local policy that affect how immigrant communities, particularly undocumented individuals, fully access services such as healthcare, schools, and housing in Houston. The group also advocates for immigrant clients seeking services at organizations that are not immigrant-friendly.

Asylum
The Asylum working group tackles emerging issues facing the asylum-seeking population in Houston. The asylum working group convenes quarterly to discuss trends in asylum.
Access to Services working group includes social workers, navigators, advocates, and organizers who work directly with immigrant clients to navigate social services systems. A2S is first and foremost a support community to non-legal professionals. The support takes the form of informal case consultation, collective problem solving, and discussion on updates in state and local policy that affect how immigrant communities, particularly undocumented individuals, fully access services such as healthcare, schools, and housing in Houston. The group also advocates for immigrant clients seeking services at organizations that are not immigrant-friendly.

**Asylum**

The Asylum working group tackles emerging issues facing the asylum-seeking population in Houston. The asylum working group convenes quarterly to discuss trends in asylum cases, legal updates, and strategies.
Crime Victims

The Crime Victims Working Group (CVWG) meets monthly to increase access to justice for immigrant survivors of crime. The CVWG engages with local law enforcement and advocates for better policies for survivors who are eligible for U Visas. CVWG also provides trainings for judges, prosecutors, law enforcement, and attorneys.

Family-Based

This group of attorneys, legal assistants, and social services staff discusses trends and issues with family-based petitions and other affirmative petitions before USCIS. The working group convenes quarterly to discuss legal updates and strategies.
Crime Victims

The Crime Victims Working Group (CVWG) meets monthly to increase access to justice for immigrant survivors of crime. The CVWG engages with local law enforcement and advocates for better policies for survivors who are eligible for U Visas. CVWG also provides trainings for judges, prosecutors, law enforcement, and attorneys.

Family-Based

This group of attorneys, legal assistants, and social services staff discusses trends and issues with family-based petitions and other affirmative petitions before USCIS. The working group convenes quarterly to discuss legal updates and strategies.

Detention

The detention working group brings together attorneys from Deportation Defense Houston, AILA, and HILSC member organizations to discuss trends in immigration detention, legal updates, as well as strategies to reduce detention. The group meets quarterly.
Family-Based

This group of attorneys, legal assistants, and social services staff discusses trends and issues with family-based petitions and other affirmative petitions before USCIS. The working group convenes quarterly to discuss legal updates and strategies to protect immigrant rights.

Detention

The detention working group brings together attorneys from Deportation Defense Houston, AILA, and HILSC member organizations to discuss trends in immigration detention, legal updates, as well as strategies to reduce detention. The group meets quarterly.

Quarterly Convening
Access to Services working group includes social workers, navigators, advocates, and organizers who work directly with immigrant clients to navigate social services systems. A2S is first and foremost a support community to non-legal professionals. The support takes the form of informal case consultation, collective problem solving, and discussion on updates in state and local policy that affect how immigrant communities, particularly undocumented individuals, fully access services such as healthcare, schools, and housing in Houston. The group also advocates for immigrant clients seeking services at organizations that are not immigrant-friendly.

Impact Litigation

This Working Group came out of the Think.Space vision developed in 2017 to bring together immigrant rights litigators to explore and develop advocacy and impact litigation strategies to bring about systemic changes to protect immigrant rights.
Access to Services working group includes social workers, navigators, advocates, and organizers who work directly with immigrant clients to navigate social services systems. A2S is first and foremost a support community to non-legal professionals. The support takes the form of informal case consultation, collective problem solving, and discussion on updates in state and local policy that affect how immigrant communities, particularly undocumented individuals, fully access services such as healthcare, schools, and housing in Houston. The group also advocates for immigrant clients seeking services at organizations that are not immigrant-friendly.

The Asylum working group tackles emerging issues facing the asylum-seeking population in Houston. The asylum working group convenes quarterly to discuss trends in asylum cases, legal updates, and policy. 

Impact Litigation

This Working Group came out of the Think.Space vision developed in 2017 to bring together immigrant rights litigators to explore and develop advocacy and impact litigation strategies to bring about systemic changes.
Access to Services working group includes social workers, navigators, advocates, and organizers who work directly with immigrant clients to navigate social services systems. A2S is first and foremost a support community to non-legal professionals. The support takes the form of informal case consultation, collective problem solving, and discussion on updates in state and local policy that affect how immigrant communities, particularly undocumented individuals, fully access services such as healthcare, schools, and housing in Houston. The group also advocates for immigrant clients seeking services at organizations that are not immigrant-friendly.

Asylum

The Asylum working group tackles emerging issues facing the asylum-seeking population in Houston. The asylum working group convenes quarterly to discuss trends in asylum.
THE LEVERS

Impact Litigation Working Group
Detention Working Group
Family-Based Working Group
Quarterly Convening
Access to Services Working Group
Asylum Working Group
Crime Victim Working Group
### FINANCIALS

#### Income Statement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>$3,199,305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>$1,710,741</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Balance Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
<td>$2,605,392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td>$18,805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td>$2,586,587</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FY2021 Contribution by Programs Areas

- **Access to Services**: $1,528,665 (36%)
- **Legal Services**: $860,070 (20%)
- **Communications**: $321,840 (7%)
- **Advocacy**: $607,440 (14%)
- **G&A**: $964,493 (23%)
FY2021 Expenses by Program Areas

- **Advocacy**: $495,925.00 (29%)
- **G&A**: $273,425 (16%)
- **Legal Services**: $461,761 (27%)
- **Access to Services**: $376,922 (22%)
- **Communications**: $71,471 (4%)
- **Fundraising**: $31,124 (2%)