

MAYOR BOWSER'S IMMIGRANT JUSTICE LEGAL SERVICES GRANTS

In January, Mayor Bowser announced that the DC Government would provide up to \$500,000 to community-based organizations, law firms and partnerships serving the DC immigrant community. Several months later, the Mayor announced ten organizations that would receive the first round of Immigrant Justice Legal Services (IJLS) grant funding. Since receiving these funds in late April, the ten awardees have been making a big difference for District residents and their families. Recently, the Mayor made an additional \$500,000 available to continue the IJLS program in fiscal year 2018.

BY THE NUMBERS

- **12** Know Your Rights presentations, reaching **468** people
- **178** legal consultations
- **111** new cases, spanning a vast array of legal services – T visas, U visas, Special Immigrant Juvenile visas, asylum cases, and more
- **18** cases placed with pro bono attorneys
- **7** immigration law trainings for more than **100** attorneys, including one training specifically addressing LGBTQ asylum applicants.
- **200** Briya Public Charter School parents participated in immigrant rights and resources sessions
- **51** legal matters relating to accessing public benefits at Whitman-Walker

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Fostering Creative Partnerships:** Working to reach every part of the DC immigrant community through partnerships, like the DC Affordable Law Firm partnering with the Ethiopian Cultural Center.
- **Protecting DREAMers and Young People:** Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) was able to schedule – and win – an emergency hearing the day before a Honduran youth turned 18. As a result of this success, the youth is now headed toward permanent residency.
- **Continuing long-standing work:** IJLS has allowed Human Rights First to continue 30 asylum cases that were underway.
- **Supporting diverse array of services:** Through the Torture Abolition Survivor Support Coalition (TASSC), IJLS funds have allowed more people to receive services that include language classes, resume development, therapy, yoga, and other supports to address the trauma that clients have experienced.
- **Ensuring widespread awareness of programming:** Ayuda has cut three films that will be widely disseminated to provide crucial legal information to residents.