



KEEPING IMMIGRANT FAMILIES TOGETHER IS AT THE HEART OF OUR WORK

Annual Report FY 2019-2020



**Immigration Institute
of the Bay Area**

Serving immigrants and refugees since 1918



IIBA Staff Retreat, 2019

Your support helps change lives. Thank you.

MISSION

IIBA's mission is to help immigrants, refugees, and their families join and contribute to the community. IIBA provides high-quality immigration legal services, education, and civic engagement opportunities.

VISION

We envision diverse communities where immigrants are valued, contributing members with full access to justice and economic opportunity.

On the cover: This year, with the help of IIBA's legal team, Bridget was reunited with her children after seven years of separation. To hear more about Bridget and her family's story, scan the QR code on the back of this report.

DEAR FRIENDS,

The words of Maya Angelou never seemed more fitting: “I can be changed by what happens to me. But I refuse to be reduced by it.”

The Immigration Institute of the Bay Area was founded in 1918, the year of the great pandemic. One hundred and three years later, IIBA remains a pillar in the communities we serve, with a team as committed today as our founders surely were in 1918. We take comfort in that.

Through a year marked by gut-wrenching loss and inhumane immigration policies, by shelter-in-place orders, devastating wildfires, and racial reckoning, the IIBA team has met extraordinary challenges with creative resilience, reinventing our service delivery models to meet our clients’ ever-changing needs.

Since we have sheltered in place, our services have been virtual but the impact has been real. IIBA has completed over 800 DACA renewal applications, covered the cost of the DACA renewals for over 800 clients at a savings of over \$400,000 for our clients, outreached to 10,500 individuals to encourage participation in the census, provided over 3,000 legal consultations, partnered with law firms to provide 25 virtual immigration workshops, and assisted hundreds more with applications for citizenship, family petitions, humanitarian visas, and deportation defense.

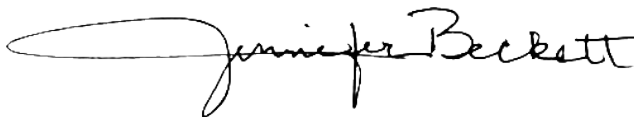
We have been changed, but not reduced.

If anything, bolstered by the unwavering dedication of family, friends, and community members like you, we have become stronger. On behalf of the Board and staff of IIBA, thank you for standing alongside us during a time of profound upheaval and uncertainty. This annual report highlights the work you have enabled us to do: helping some amazing people build a more secure future in this country.

Today IIBA stands strong on the foundation of our past, looking forward to brighter days ahead, working all the while to create a more just, more equitable, and more inclusive world.



Ellen Dumesnil
Executive Director



Jennifer Beckett
Board President

**“ IIBA
HELPED
ME TO SEE
A FUTURE
FOR
MYSELF.”**

—IIBA client

FISCAL YEAR 2019 – 2020

YOUR SUPPORT ALLOWED IIBA STAFF TO HELP THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE

**“IIBA IS LIKE A
SWISS ARMY KNIFE
FOR PEOPLE WHO
NEED ADVICE,
GUIDANCE, AND
ADVOCACY.”**

—Rich Kelley, donor



1,500

individuals petitioned for
U.S. citizenship.



PHOTO: ELISABETH FALL

Over 1,000

young immigrants
renewed DACA.



Nearly 200

volunteers donated 3,055
hours to IIBA.

100

asylum seekers and
refugees filed for legal
protection in the
United States.

4,500

immigration legal
consultations conducted.

200

victims of domestic
violence and violent
crime filed for legal
protection.

**“IIBA has a strong
reputation as a service
provider with the
ability to pivot and do
new things. They are
trusted, a resource,
and a part of the
ecosystem.”**

—Patti D’Angelo Juachon,
Program Director,
Environment and
Legal Services, Marin
Community Foundation

**“I appreciate the fact
that IIBA has opened
offices in places
where there is little
infrastructure. That
risk-taking—not just
staying in urban core
areas—sets them
apart.”**

—Navin Moul, Program
Executive, Zellerbach
Family Foundation

550

individuals petitioned to reunite with their families.

Over 350

immigrants renewed their green cards and work permits, allowing them to continue providing for their families and building their futures in the United States.



**“IIBA GAVE ME
A SENSE OF
BELONGING IN
THE U.S.”**

—IIBA client

**IIBA'S
DEPORTATION
DEFENSE
SERVICES HELP
FAMILIES**

The statistics:

Immigrants with access to legal counsel are **five times more likely to win** their deportation defense cases.

Yet in immigration court, **individuals do not have a right to legal counsel if they cannot afford it.**

According to the American Immigration Council, **only 37 percent of immigrants are able to obtain legal representation** in their deportation defense cases.

Our response:

In 2019, IIBA launched our Deportation Defense Program to defend immigrants placed into removal proceedings who cannot afford legal representation. Since then, **IIBA has hired five additional attorneys who are representing 117 individuals** in deportation cases.

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER ON A PATH TO CITIZENSHIP

Mariana was nine years old when she and her mother, Gabriela, immigrated to the United States from Mexico in search of security and opportunity.

With IIBA's help, they became permanent residents five years ago. Now this dynamic duo has submitted their applications for citizenship.

Both women say IIBA's legal services changed their lives drastically, enabling Gabriela to secure employment as a Spanish teacher at a local school, and clearing the path for Mariana to continue her education.

"Being able to apply to college, having the chance to apply for scholarships, and getting a driver's license," Mariana says, "all of those things were a big deal for me."

Mariana has made the most of these opportunities, graduating from UC Santa Cruz in 2018, with a double major in Psychology and Sociology. She landed a dream job at a wilderness therapy program in Hawaii, but she's not done yet. Next year, Mariana will begin a graduate program in clinical social work.



With the help of IIBA's legal team, Mariana and Gabriela are finally free to feel safe in the country they call home.

Mother and daughter look forward to the opportunities citizenship will bring. Because this country has given her family so much, Gabriela wants to give back to the United States as a citizen.

Both Mariana and Gabriela are counting down the days until they can call themselves United States citizens.

"For me, it can't come soon enough," Mariana said. "There are so many feelings wrapped around it. It's relieving, it's exciting, it's overwhelming. On the flip side, it's also frustrating how much we've had to go through to get here. But I am so excited and so grateful to be at this stage in the process."



With her degree in psychology and sociology, Mariana landed a dream job at a wilderness therapy program in Hawaii.

"I'M SO EXCITED AND SO GRATEFUL TO BE AT THIS STAGE."

—Mariana

“I AM IN CHARGE OF MY OWN DESTINY.”

“Heart of IIBA” is a celebration of our clients, staff, and volunteers. We are proud to introduce you to some of the incredible people who embody the diversity, inclusivity, and vibrancy that make up the heart of the Bay Area and IIBA’s work. Meet Sugi, whose journey began in Rwanda.

How has IIBA been a part of your story?

“My parents decided to send me to Ethiopia when I was eight, to protect me from the genocide against the Tutsi that was starting in Rwanda. I completed my secondary education in Ethiopia, then moved to France where I obtained my bachelor’s and master’s degrees. I then won the United States diversity visa lottery



“If I work hard and dream big, I can get where I want to be.”

and was able to immigrate to the United States. At IIBA, I received help renewing my green card, and I was very well supported. I received accurate information on my rights and my path forward. IIBA’s support gave me the opportunity to apply for decent jobs, allowing me to participate in this country and to be grounded and build a community. I cannot stop expressing how IIBA is very important for immigrants like me who know the trauma of renewing a visa.

“I came to the United States because of opportunity and the ability to make your own choices in America. I am in charge of my own destiny. If I work hard and dream big, I can get where I want to be. I am looking forward to becoming a United States citizen because I will be able to vote. Especially during these last few months, I’ve had a sense of anxiety because I couldn’t give my voice by voting. It’s one of my greatest dreams.

“IIBA is my security. I am at peace to know that I have an institute that is going to help me go through the process of becoming a United States citizen, with dignity. I am really grateful I got to be introduced to IIBA because the work IIBA does for immigrants can only make us all better.”



“THE WORK IIBA DOES FOR IMMIGRANTS CAN ONLY MAKE US ALL BETTER.”

—Sugi

What is something you are hopeful for?

“I hope that one day, we will live in a United States with more unity. I am a Black woman, with an accent, who lives by herself. Now more than ever, I have to be more mindful and careful about my own safety, and I hope I can participate in helping improve safety for minorities. I also hope to teach people about my culture. I am a Rwandan woman, and I want to help make America what it is, a multicultural nation. I hope through sharing my culture and knowledge I can encourage others to become more open minded, like how I became when I first immigrated to the United States.”

Read more stories at iibayarea.org/immigrant-voices.

“EVERYTHING I KNOW AND EVERYTHING I LOVE IS IN THIS COUNTRY.”

—Jon

A BRIGHTER, MORE SECURE FUTURE

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) changed the trajectory of Jon's life.

Born in Mexico, he has called the United States home since he was eight years old. Yet because of his legal status, Jon never thought college would be an option for him. That changed when DACA was announced in 2012. After Jon secured DACA status, he could obtain a driver's license, work authorization, and protection from deportation.

However, with renewal required every two years at a cost of \$495 per renewal, maintaining DACA became a heavy burden. Jon learned how IIBA could help lift that burden when he attended IIBA's free legal clinic at Diablo Valley College.

“This was just after the Trump Administration rescinded DACA, in September 2017. I was months away from graduating college, months away from my work authorization card expiring, months away from beginning my career, and at that time, I was really low on money.” Jon did not know how he would manage to file his renewal. “I remember I was in the library one day, studying for final exams, and IIBA called me and told me IIBA had funds to cover my renewal cost. I didn't need to worry about the money. It couldn't have come at a better time.”

When Jon had first applied for DACA in 2012, he faced the complicated, stressful application process without legal counsel. This time around, he felt relieved that IIBA's legal team had his back.

“Having access to legal counsel is something I am extremely grateful for and something I think everyone should have.”

Eventually Jon reached a milestone that once seemed a distant dream: he graduated from Sacramento State University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Today he works as a mechanical engineer for an aviation company in the Bay Area.

Jon and his wife Yesenia, whom he met when they were teenagers in their church youth group, married in 2017. Yesenia, a U.S. citizen, is now in the process of petitioning for Jon's permanent residency with the help of IIBA's legal team.

“IIBA has provided us with a path forward,” Jon says. For Jon and Yesenia, the future is bright.



Jon and his wife Yesenia, whom he met when they were teenagers in their church youth group, married in 2017. Yesenia, a U.S. citizen, is now in the process of petitioning for Jon's permanent residency with the help of IIBA's legal team.

GIVING BACK TO HIS COMMUNITY, THANKS TO DACA



Octavio, an IIBA DACA client and professional U.S. soccer player, started a local nonprofit to help disadvantaged youth in the East Bay.

“I was under a year old when I came here from Mexico. When I got older, I started realizing I couldn’t do a lot of things just because of the fact that I wasn’t born here.”

The United States is the only home Octavio has ever known. Like any teenager, he had dreams—to attend college, to become a professional soccer player. But his legal status stood in his way. Then DACA changed Octavio’s life.

Announced by President Obama in 2012, the program protected Octavio from deportation and allowed him to obtain a driver’s license, a

social security number, and work authorization. “Once I got DACA, I felt relief. I could now do small things like getting an ID or driver’s license, something I wasn’t allowed to do before.”

Since then, IIBA has helped Octavio complete his DACA renewal paperwork and pay the \$495 government fee every two years.

Meanwhile, Octavio focused on pursuing his goals. He attended Chico State University, studying exercise physiology and graduating with a bachelor’s degree, then he signed his first professional soccer contract with Sacramento Republic.

But Octavio did not stop at realizing his own dreams. He wanted to help other young people do the same. This past March, Octavio founded the nonprofit East Bay Futbol Club, which helps empower and support disadvantaged youth in the Bay Area.

“I started East Bay FC as my way of giving back to the community,” Octavio said. “I know a lot of kids are going through the same thing I went through growing up. Most kids here don’t think about college, similar to me as a kid, and I want to help get them prepared for that next step.”

DACA IMPACT

DACA has allowed **750,000 young people** to attend college, embark on careers, purchase homes, raise families, and live without the fear of deportation.

IIBA partnered with GoFundMe to **raise over \$160,000 from more than 4,000 individual donors**. Thanks to the generosity of these donors, IIBA was able to cover the \$495 government fee to renew the DACA Status of **over 300 Dreamers**.

In total, **IIBA covered the cost of the DACA fee for nearly 950 individuals** in 2020, a savings of \$470,000 for our clients.

IIBA'S PRO BONO PARTNERS SUPPORT OUR IMMIGRANT NEIGHBORS

"It's very encouraging to be working with folks who've worked so hard and risked so much for naturalization. If you're looking for an hour of uplifting hope in your work week, this is a way to find it."

—Tim Harris, IIBA pro bono volunteer; Managing Partner at Morrison & Foerster LLP

"IIBA's clinics are run so well. They have the process down pat, and that's why we go back to them every year."

—Hanh Vo, Vice President, Head of Commercial Legal, LinkedIn

"THERE IS NOTHING MORE GRATIFYING THAN BEING SEEN AND BEING RESPECTED"

—IIBA client

IIBA and LinkedIn Creating Economic Opportunities for Immigrants in Our Communities

Since 2017, LinkedIn's Pro Bono Team has helped people achieve their dreams of U.S. citizenship, by hosting IIBA's naturalization workshops on LinkedIn's Campus and by providing pro bono support for the workshops. LinkedIn's Pro Bono Team has also worked with IIBA's legal team to make sure young immigrants can successfully renew their DACA status, granting them work authorization and protection from deportation.

Hanh Vo, Vice President of Commercial Legal at LinkedIn and the co-founder of LinkedIn's Pro Bono Team, says, "LinkedIn's vision is to create economic opportunity for every member of the workforce, so IIBA's DACA and naturalization workshops were a natural fit for LinkedIn's Pro Bono Program."

Hanh, herself an immigrant, says many members of the LinkedIn Pro Bono Team are immigrants, too.

This year, with community safety in mind, IIBA converted our in-person workshops to remote workshops using Zoom. Since then, **LinkedIn's Pro Bono Team has supported two virtual DACA renewal workshops and one citizenship workshop, helping 30 individuals renew their DACA status and 20 eligible green card holders apply for U.S. citizenship.**

Abby Haregewoin, a Business System Analyst at LinkedIn, grew up in Ethiopia and moved to the United States at the age of seven. As a member of the LinkedIn Pro Bono

Team, she says IIBA's work is close to her heart:

"I support IIBA because it's the right thing to do. If you are in a position to help, you should help others. We don't choose where we're born or the circumstances we have to deal with, so if you are able to make it here, and you need help, I'm glad there are organizations like IIBA to help."



Hanh Vo (center), Vice President of Commercial Legal at LinkedIn, and Abby Haregewoin (top), Business System Analyst at LinkedIn, are members of LinkedIn's Pro Bono Team

A Special Thank You to IIBA's Pro Bono Partners

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Fiscal Year 2019 - 2020

ASSETS

FY 19-20

Investments	\$ 2,734,284
Cash and Equivalents	1,565,432
Accounts Receivable, net	794,992
Prepaid Expenses	83,413
Deposits	32,220
Total Assets	\$ 5,210,341

LIABILITIES

Accrued Vacation	\$ 186,091
Fiscal Sponsorships	168,195
Accounts Payable	112,293
Accrued Payroll	40,812
Total Liabilities	\$ 507,391

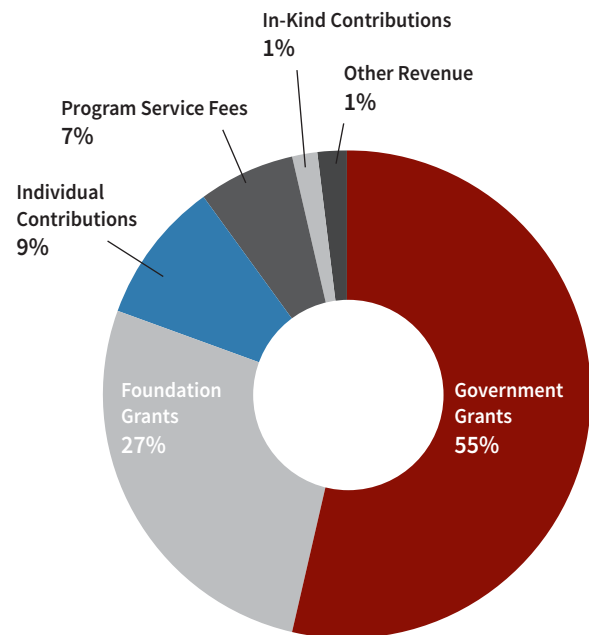
REVENUE

Government Grants	\$ 3,450,545
Foundation Grants	1,734,908
Individual Contributions	588,689
Program Service Fees	408,611
In-Kind Contributions	66,121
Other Revenue	85,962
Total Revenue	\$ 6,334,836

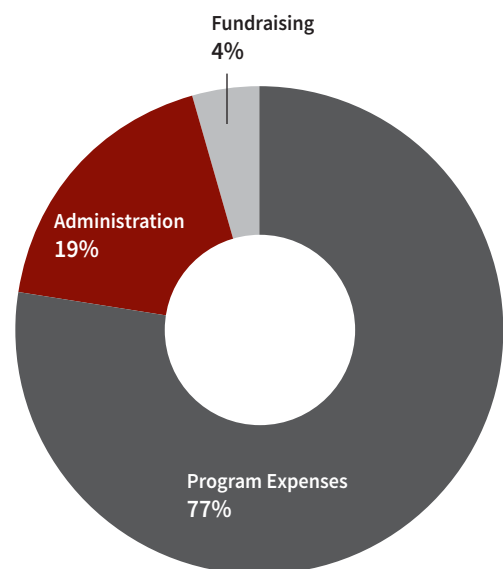
EXPENSES

Program Expenses	\$ 3,874,699
Administration	925,208
Fundraising	212,753
Total Expenses	\$ 5,012,660

Increase in Net Assets **\$ 1,322,176**



REVENUE



EXPENSES

CORPORATE DONORS

\$25,000 +

Turley Wine Cellars

\$24,999 - \$10,000

Anonymous

\$9,999 - \$5,000

Morrison & Foerster Foundation
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\$4,999 - \$2,500

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Ropes & Gray LLP
Sonoma Forge
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Up to \$999

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Duckhorn Portfolio for
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*Ask your employer to match your
donations or volunteer hours!*

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and Aging Services

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