



IMPACT ACROSS GENERATIONS

2023 Annual Report



**Immigration Institute
of the Bay Area**

Serving immigrants and refugees since 1918



The Immigration Institute of the Bay Area's all-staff retreat was held in Oakland in October of 2023. The IIBA staff has expanded to nearly 75.



Mission

The Immigration Institute of the Bay Area (IIBA) helps immigrants, refugees, and their families join and contribute to the community. IIBA provides high-quality, affordable 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.

Dear Friends,

Many years ago, a loyal donor made a personal visit to our main IIBA office, back when we were still on Mission Street in San Francisco.

Raj brought his college-bound son along with him and shared the story of how IIBA made an impact on their lives. It was 1974 when Raj at 18 years old immigrated from India to the United States on a student visa. One day, he was notified that a complication with his visa was jeopardizing his legal status to live and study in the United States.

Fearing deportation, he called everywhere. No one returned his call. He felt helpless.

Then someone suggested he contact IIBA. Our agency was able to walk him through the steps that ultimately allowed him to secure a solution.

“It was the first time anyone showed that they cared about me,” he said, handing over a check. **“It’s because of IIBA that my son now has the opportunity to attend medical school.”** This was the first time he had shared his story with his son and it was a poignant reminder of how even the seemingly smallest of actions can have a lasting impact.

As you read through the pages of this annual report, you’ll see similar success stories of how access to IIBA’s services changes the trajectory of families for generations.

As we inch closer toward a presidential election, it could be tempting to feel powerless and overwhelmed by a political tsunami of anti-immigration rhetoric inevitably heading our way.

But are we truly powerless? Of course not.

There’s a reason why IIBA has been around for more than 100 years. Because together we are powerful. Together, with your support, we will continue to fulfill the IIBA mission long into the future.

***There’s a reason
why IIBA has been
around for more
than 100 years.
Because together
we are powerful.***



Ellen Dumesnil

Ellen Dumesnil
Executive Director



Satyen Popat

Satyen Popat
Board President

P.S. Raj’s visit to our office was in 2015. His son has since graduated from medical school and is now in his third year of residency. Raj continues to support the work of IIBA. We are forever grateful for this concrete reminder of how the smallest of actions can contribute to a future that is much more hopeful than we, at times, can imagine.

Measuring IIBA's Impact in 2023

BY THE NUMBERS

In 2023, IIBA provided more than

5,646 legal consultations
and reached **9,973** immigrants.

Every immigration case is unique. IIBA's team supports clients facing diverse legal needs, including citizenship petitions, DACA applications and renewals, family reunification, humanitarian services, and removal defense. In the past year IIBA helped:

917

young immigrants renew
their DACA status

41

asylum seekers file for legal
protection and residency

249

individuals obtain
permanent residency through
family reunification

600+

people obtain legal representation
in other immigration cases

37

individuals in their
removal defense case

169

individuals renew their
permanent residency

243

individuals apply for humanitarian
relief, including **218** survivors
of violence and crime

167

individuals petition to reunite
with their families

100

individuals file for
Temporary Protected Status

716

permanent residents
apply for
U.S. citizenship

CLIENT SATISFACTION

IIBA's top priority is to deliver client-centric, culturally responsive legal services of the highest quality. We are in constant conversation with the communities we work with to find ways to better serve them. Client satisfaction is one of our most valuable metrics.

98%

client
satisfaction rate

97%

would recommend
IIBA to family or friends

What clients said about IIBA in 2023

"I feel more secure in this country now that I have my residency. I will always be thankful for all the help and resources I got from IIBA."



"IIBA helped make a process that I'd been putting off for years (because it was difficult to proceed by myself) manageable. They answered my questions and provided support. I am now finally a citizen of the place I consider home!"

"The help I've received from IIBA has helped me reunite with my family and create a path towards citizenship."

"I am now a citizen of the USA thanks to IIBA! I believe it changed my life for the best and I am so grateful for all they do for all of us immigrants coming from all over the world to get better life opportunities. Thank you!"

Source: 2023 IIBA Client Survey (n=307).

Office Highlights

IIBA opened our doors as the International Institute of San Francisco in 1918, emerging in response to the refugee crisis on the heels of World War I. Today, IIBA is the largest nonprofit provider of immigration legal services in Northern California, with offices in San Francisco, Oakland, Redwood City, Brentwood, Fremont, Napa, and Petaluma. IIBA has grown to nearly 75 staff members who work daily to advance immigrant rights and help immigrants gain greater security.

Napa

In 2023, IIBA provided nearly 1,000 legal consultations and exceeded 700 immigration cases for clients in the Napa community—many from the Ukraine. In collaboration with local partners, the IIBA Napa office organized nearly a dozen in-person citizenship workshops in 2023.



Petaluma

The Petaluma IIBA office received a grant to partner with the Center for Domestic Peace to increase access to justice for survivors of domestic violence in nearby Marin County and continue serving Sonoma County. We also had a staff member become DOJ-accredited.

Oakland

We continue to be a leading service provider for victims of domestic violence and other crimes needing to secure legal status. We renewed our collaboration with the Alameda County District Attorney's Office/Family Justice Center to provide immigration legal consultations to their clients at their facility in Oakland.

Redwood City

The RWC office has been strongly advocating for increased county funding for removal defense, meeting with county officials and collaborating with eight other organizations to submit a proposal. The RWC office also made a major push to benefit from the DNAF bonus legal assistance funding, filing 41 naturalization applications in the last three days of December.

San Francisco

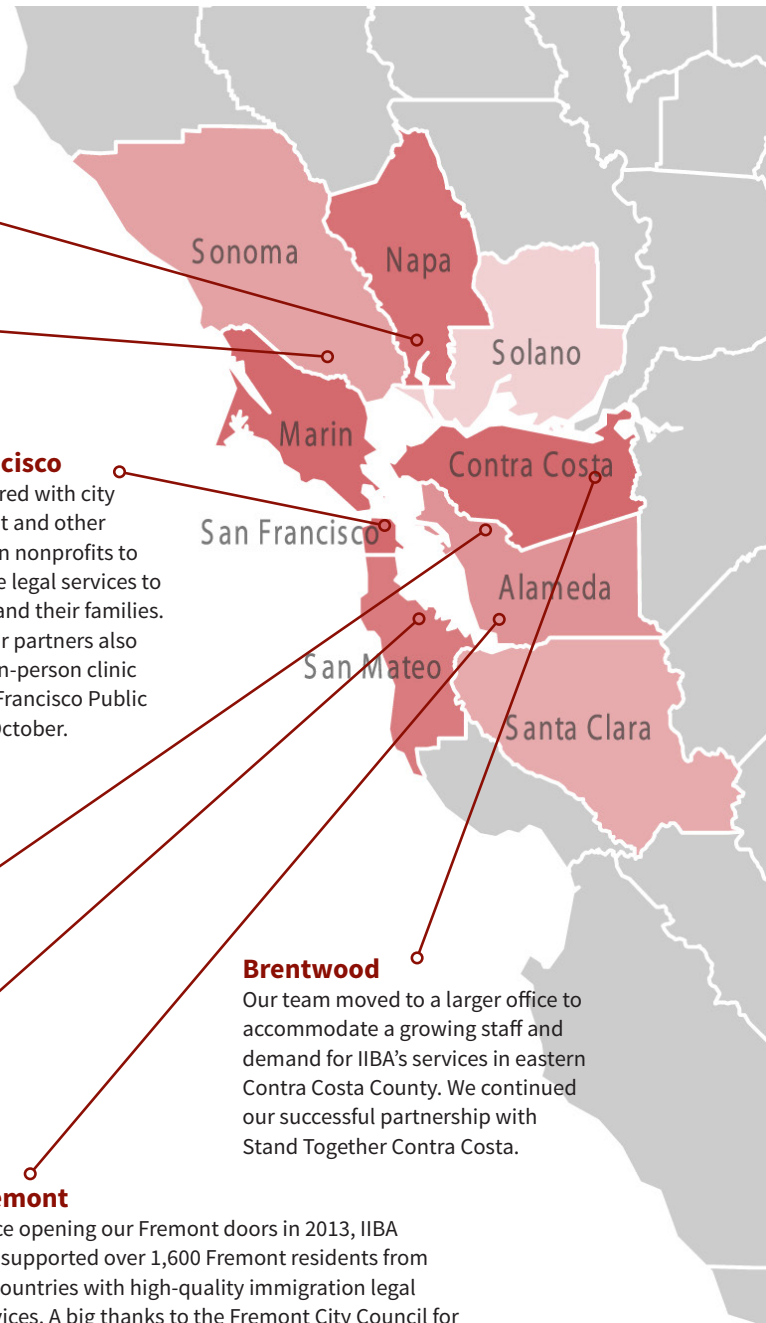
IIBA partnered with city government and other immigration nonprofits to provide free legal services to DREAMers and their families. IIBA and our partners also hosted an in-person clinic at the San Francisco Public Library in October.

Brentwood

Our team moved to a larger office to accommodate a growing staff and demand for IIBA's services in eastern Contra Costa County. We continued our successful partnership with Stand Together Contra Costa.

Fremont

Since opening our Fremont doors in 2013, IIBA has supported over 1,600 Fremont residents from 70 countries with high-quality immigration legal services. A big thanks to the Fremont City Council for recognizing this milestone and IIBA's commitment to serving residents of southern Alameda County.



Removing Financial Barriers



Even when immigrants obtain affordable legal services, steep application fees often remain a significant barrier to changing their immigration status. In 2023, the cost of filing a naturalization application with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services was \$725; the fee for applying for DACA was \$495 and must be renewed at the same cost every two years. These filing fees are expected only to increase in coming years. To ensure that these costs do not stand in the way of our clients fulfilling their goals in this country, IIBA offers filing fee assistance to eligible clients applying for naturalization or DACA, thanks to a partnership with California Department of Social Services.

In 2023, IIBA administered:

574 checks

to cover naturalization application fees, saving a total of

\$413,915

for aspiring citizens.

1,641 checks

to cover DACA application fees, saving a total of

\$812,295

for DACA recipients.



Since the inception of the program in 2021, this collaboration has saved immigrants a total of **\$2.2 million.**

Thank you to our mission-aligned partners!

Asian Law Alliance
Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach
Canal Alliance
Centro Legal de la Raza
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto
East Bay Community Law Center

East Bay Sanctuary Covenant
Jewish Family & Community Services of the East Bay
La Raza Centro Legal
Legal Services for Children
Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network
UpValley Family Centers of Napa County

Centering Immigrant Experiences



DREAMSF FELLOW SPOTLIGHT CHRISTINE AGUADO

IIBA partners with the City and County of San Francisco to provide mentorship and support to immigrant students and aspiring professionals through the DreamSF Fellowship program. We were fortunate enough to have been matched with UC Davis alumna Christine Aguado, who is committed to giving voice to immigrant communities through her work in social media and storytelling.

“I’m so grateful to be part of this program because it has given me the skills to thrive in any professional setting and keep advocating for immigrant rights.” —Christine Aguado

With a strong interest in increasing the representation of immigrant stories in the media, Christine has been gaining valuable skills and experience while serving as IIBA’s Communications Fellow. Christine is working towards a career in communications and advocacy for immigrant communities.

Fostering Civic Engagement

In California, there are approximately 1.6 million permanent residents who are eligible to naturalize. Unfortunately, the complex legal process, high application fees, and mandatory civics and English tests have deterred many immigrants from taking the steps to become U.S. citizens.

To address these barriers, IIBA offers not only legal services and fee assistance but also free group classes and one-on-one interview practice. **Ninety-eight percent of our students who apply for citizenship pass.**

In 2023, **58 volunteers supported 243 students in preparing for their naturalization interviews and tests, totaling more than 525 hours of in-person and online programming.**



“Our citizenship students are the most self-motivated learners I have ever encountered. They have a variety of educational experience, from college graduates to people who had to start working from a young age. But what unites them is the drive to learn the English, history, and civics knowledge necessary to pass the interview. That dedication to reaching citizenship is amazing.”

—Glen Olson, IIBA Program Manager for Citizenship Education & Civic Engagement. Glen leads citizenship classes to prepare clients for naturalization interviews.



Getting Out the Vote

Ahead of the March 2024 primary, IIBA reached 1,230 former clients and recently naturalized citizens to assist them with voter registration and education. We hosted four ballot parties and voter information sessions, both online and in-person, and trained 37 volunteers, including high school and college students, and other immigrant and bilingual youth and adults to be outreach ambassadors in support of voter outreach and registration. This work is supported in part through a grant from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. IIBA will continue reaching out to potential voters via text, phone, and voter education forums before the November 2024 general election.

1,230

former clients and recently naturalized citizens assisted with voter registration

4

ballot parties and info sessions

37

volunteers trained to do voter outreach



Uplifting Immigrant Voices

JACQUELINE'S STORY



Jacqueline was born in Mexico and came to the United States when she was eight years old. Today she is one of more than half a million people protected by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which gives her temporary permission to live and work in the country she's known most of her life. Her own experiences as an immigrant have led her to a career serving others with undocumented status in the community. Until recently she served as the coordinator of City DREAM, a resource center for undocumented students at City College of San Francisco (CCSF), where she connected students to services such as academic counseling, financial aid, and, thanks to a partnership with IIBA, free legal services.

"Trust is key for legal services for the immigrant community," says Jacqueline. She believes IIBA has earned that trust by steadfastly supporting and advocating for so many in the CCSF community. Whenever her students

had questions about their immigration options, she encouraged them to meet with the IIBA team.

"I think students are very scared to talk about their immigration status. We're taught that the quieter you are, the safer you are. But **talking to a legal service is as important as going to the doctor.** Laws are always changing, there are new programs, new opportunities, so I try to promote IIBA as much as I can."

Having an ally like IIBA is particularly important for immigrants concerned with their long-term stability in the U.S. While DACA has opened many doors for community members like Jacqueline, the future of the program is uncertain.

"Even though I have DACA, I still consider myself undocumented because my status could be taken at any point. It's not a stable status," Jacqueline says. Knowing this, she advised her students to consult with IIBA to determine if they were eligible for more secure forms of relief, such as permanent residency or citizenship.

Reaching Immigrants in Higher Education

IIBA partners with the **Higher Education Legal Services Project** to provide **free** immigration legal services and case support for students, staff, and faculty at 5 community colleges around the Bay Area.

Since the start of the Higher Education Legal Services Project in 2019, IIBA has delivered 2,158 legal services, from comprehensive screenings to asylum applications, including 655 legal services in 2023.

That's \$32,600 saved for California community college students in 2023.

A special thank you to IIBA's Community College partners!

City College of San Francisco
College of San Mateo
Diablo Valley College
Foothill College
Los Medanos College

As a CCSF staff member, Jacqueline also qualified for assistance from IIBA and became a client herself. She worked with IIBA to renew her DACA status every two years and to apply for advance parole, special permission for DACA recipients to leave and reenter the country.

"I hadn't gone back to Mexico for over 20 years, so this was the only way I could go back and visit my family. It was a big deal for me." It took Jacqueline nearly two years to receive advance parole approval, but IIBA was with her every step of the way, from the initial meeting to discuss her options to double-checking that she had all the documents she needed to return to the U.S. after her trip.

"If I had a question about my family members or someone I know heard something on the news, I would first go to IIBA because I trust them," Jacqueline says. "So it's not just me but a whole community that's also benefiting from IIBA."

Journey to Citizenship

SAYDA AND JESSICA'S STORY

At IIBA, we know the courage, resilience and fortitude it takes to leave one's homeland for an uncertain future. The embodiment of that spirit can clearly be seen in the story of Sayda and Jessica—a mother and daughter—who came to IIBA over a decade ago, when they had nowhere else to turn.

"My mother was a victim of domestic violence," explains Jessica. "No wife, no child—no one person should ever be put through that kind of abuse. I wanted to make sure that my kids would never have to experience that level of violence and trauma in their childhood."

Becky Bogyo, a Senior DOJ Accredited Representative in the IIBA Redwood City Office had reviewed paperwork which showed that Sayda might qualify for a U visa for crime victims.

"I was very surprised when I received a call from Becky telling me that I had the opportunity to fix my legal status and I couldn't believe it," says Sayda, who is from Guerrero, Mexico. "So I told my daughter, 'Let's go, IIBA called me.' But I didn't know what to think. When we arrived at the appointment and we started to fill out paperwork it gave me hope to be legal here in the United States."

After consulting with them, Bogyo determined that Sayda could in fact qualify for the U visa and that her daughter Jessica had her own case and she could also include her husband. IIBA was able to help the whole family.

The process from getting a work permit to becoming a resident to becoming a citizen took over 10 years. From navigating paperwork to understanding legal intricacies, Bogyo empowered Sayda and Jessica every step of the way.

"It's a huge life changer," says Bogyo, "because they've lived for so long in the shadows without being able to just be free and be themselves and live in peace."



Sayda (left) and her daughter Jessica (right) worked with IIBA for more than 10 years on their journey to become U.S. citizens.

Sayda was able to find a job with benefits and fair pay—something she never took for granted. Jessica was able to get a driver's license, which gave her more employment options, leading to stability for her growing family. Her oldest child is now on track to be the first in their family to attend college—demonstrating the impact IIBA has on families across generations. Jessica says she can't even imagine what her life would be like if they hadn't made a call to IIBA.

"We were with them as their kids went from preschool through college," says Bogyo. "And now, with citizenship, it's like they've graduated from immigration. You're here now. You made it."

"Working with IIBA is an amazing experience," says Jessica. "I'm always telling everyone about IIBA's services, and how IIBA helped me and my mom and my husband and everybody in my circle of family. Thanks to IIBA, our entire community grows and improves."

To watch Sayda and Jessica's Journey to Citizenship video, visit IIBA's YouTube channel at youtube.com/@iiba1918.



Reunited After 16 Years

When Rubiciela's daughter, Libni, became sick as a baby, Rubiciela struggled to pay for medical treatment. She made the difficult decision to leave her family behind in Mexico to seek economic opportunities in the U.S. After years of hard work and sacrifice, Rubiciela obtained a U visa with IIBA's support, giving her a pathway to legal permanent residency. After 16 years of separation, Libni was able to join her mother in the U.S. and has recently become a mother herself. All three generations now live together in San Francisco.

Libni recently received her own U visa work permit. Now she can work lawfully in the U.S. while she waits for her chance to apply for a green card (with IIBA's assistance).

Pro Bono Program



“It’s amazing to jump into a pro bono project with just an hour of fantastic training and feel like you’ve done

something beneficial. I look forward to participating in future IIBA programs.”

—Siobhan, Pro Bono Volunteer and Partner at Goodwin Procter



“I want to become a U.S. citizen because it’s a blessing in itself and provides a sense of security.

I won’t have to

worry about my family and I will have more work opportunities. I am grateful to IIBA. Your team has assisted a lot of people, and I greatly appreciate the work that the volunteers do to navigate this confusing process.”

—Carlos, Pro Bono Clinic Participant

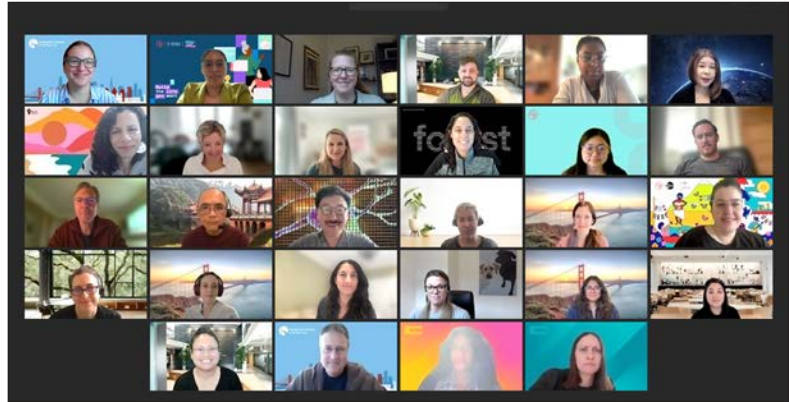


“Arriving in the U.S. at age 5, I have always felt like an American.

Taking the next steps to becoming a citizen felt like a

natural thing to do. I am excited to enjoy all the rights of being a U.S. citizen, especially the power to vote.”

—Andrea, Pro Bono Clinic Participant



Pro Bono Program Director Valentina Ozbek (top left) leading one of IIBA’s virtual citizenship clinics held each month.

IIBA has expanded our network of pro bono attorneys to meet the growing demand for high-quality, individualized legal assistance.

In 2023, we partnered with law firms and corporations to host **28 virtual immigration clinics**, training nearly **500 attorneys who donated their time and expertise to 450 clients** to help them apply for citizenship or renew their DACA status. The Pro Bono Program provides 100% remote service, ensuring clients are able to conveniently and safely access the legal support they need, no matter where they are.

Thank you, Pro Bono partners!

American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)
Autodesk
Box
Cisco
Clorox
Cooley
Crowell & Moring LLP
CZI
Davis Wright Tremaine (DWT)
DLA Piper
Fenwick
Fragomen
Goodwin Procter
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Kilpatrick Townsend
Kirkland & Ellis

Latham & Watkins
LinkedIn
Morgan Lewis
Morrison & Foerster
Reed Smith
Ropes & Gray
SurveyMonkey
(FKA Mmentive)
Tafapolsky & Smith LLP
Willkie Farr & Gallagher
Zoox

Law Schools

Berkeley Law
UC Davis Law
UC Law SF

Mobilizing a Community of Volunteers

SPOTLIGHT ON IIBA'S CITIZENSHIP CLASS VOLUNTEERS

IIBA Advisory Committees

As part of our commitment to centering immigrant voices in our advocacy efforts, IIBA formed an Advisory Committee of 11 former clients and community leaders to guide and inform the organization's strategic direction.

The committee met four times throughout 2023 and advised IIBA on matters related to programs as well as bigger-picture perspectives on our strategic direction.

IIBA has since created the Napa Advisory Committee and recruited 10 members. This committee supports the Community Roots of Napa Initiative.



"IIBA's work empowers immigrants to understand their rights and voice in their new community. That is a mission I am committed to."

—Omar Rincon, IIBA Advisory Committee member and District Representative for the Office of CA State Senator Scott Weiner



Desmond, first-year student at Stanford Law School

"IIBA's mission immediately resonated with me. My grandmother is a lawful permanent resident from Mexico, and my mother's entire family immigrated to this country. IIBA has been one of the hallmarks of my law school experience."



Veronica, junior at Burlingame High School

"I was looking for a way to help new immigrants in my community, and the IIBA mission resonated with me. We formed bonds and I feel honored to have played a part in helping them reach this milestone in their lives."



Danny, Deputy District Attorney of Alameda County

"As an immigrant myself, I remember the difficulties in seeking services and the anxiety of taking the citizenship exam. I wanted to help because I understood how much it meant to have support. It is the goal and a great joy of everyone at IIBA to see a student succeed and become a citizen."



José, technology executive

"I became a U.S. citizen a couple years ago and the immigration process can be extremely daunting. It makes me very proud when newly minted citizens come back to talk about their experience. It encourages those still preparing with a positive example and evidence that their hard work will pay off."



Josephine, attorney

"I strongly believe in the importance of access to legal services for immigrants navigating the naturalization process. This is a complex, and at times lonely, process. It is inspiring to witness the dedication and motivation of both the students and the volunteer team."



Phuong with her husband Alex and daughter Haley

"When my younger daughter said 2024 is an important year for voters and that she isn't old enough to vote, we decided to all help students prepare for the citizenship tests. Volunteering for IIBA is truly my favorite thing to do during the week."

Financial Report

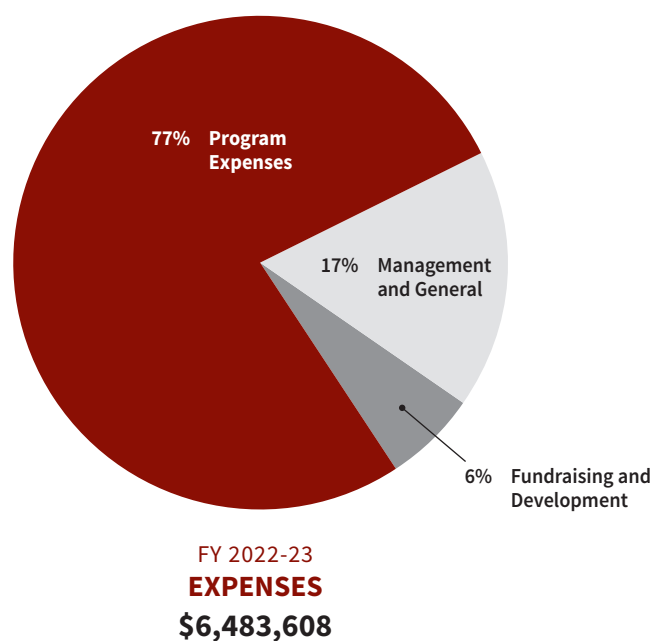
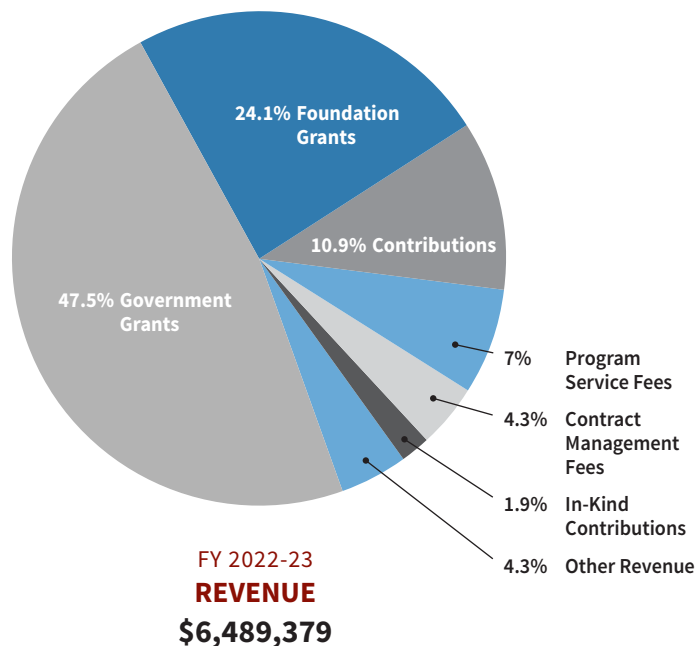
Fiscal Year 2022-23

ASSETS	FY 22-23
Investments	\$ 4,351,407
Cash and Equivalents	1,091,062
Deposits and Others	2,060,825
Accounts Receivable, net	1,513,450
Prepaid Expenses	182,485
Total Assets	\$ 9,199,229

LIABILITIES	
Accrued Vacation	\$ 233,724
Fiscal Sponsorships	479,419
Accounts Payable	84,009
Accrued Payroll	93,535
Other Current Liabilities	2,013,279
Total Liabilities	\$ 2,903,966

REVENUE	
Government Grants	\$ 3,085,042
Foundation Grants	1,563,117
Contributions	704,426
Program Service Fees	456,921
Contract Management Fees	276,588
In-Kind Contributions	123,261
Other Revenue	280,024
Total Revenue	\$ 6,489,379

EXPENSES	
Program Expenses	\$ 4,989,476
Management and General	1,094,426
Fundraising and Development	399,706
Total Expenses	\$ 6,483,608
Increase in Net Assets	\$ 5,771



IIBA Supporters

Calendar Year 2023

We are grateful for the generous support of government agencies, foundations, law firms, companies, and individual donors who make our work possible.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

California Department of Education
California Department of Social Services
City of Hayward
City of Oakley
City of Redwood City
City of San Francisco
County of Alameda
County of Contra Costa
County of Napa
County of San Mateo
Department of Homeland Security

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Barlow Research Associates Inc
Congregational Church of San Mateo
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One Justice
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The Giving Block
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Fain Family Foundation
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Firedoll Foundation
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Give Lively Foundation Inc.

Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Morgan Stanley Gift Fund
Napa Valley Community Fund
Napa Valley Vintners
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The Grove Foundation
The Morrison & Foerster Foundation
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The San Francisco Foundation
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Three Graces Foundation
Van Loben Sels Foundation
YWCA Foundation
Zellerbach Foundation

And a huge thank you to the 690 individual donors who have helped us sustain and grow our legal services!

Our work wouldn't be possible without each and every one of you. Thank you for supporting immigrant communities and IIBA.



IIBA is a registered 501(c)(3)
Tax ID 94-1156554
IIBA meets the platinum transparency standards of GuideStar.org.



IIBA meets all 20 of the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance accountability standards.



“Supporting IIBA is an investment in the future of our communities. It ensures a fair chance for newcomers, protects families, and strengthens our nation by creating a more diverse workforce for the future.”

—Agnieszka and Wilson Purves



7th Annual Comedy Night

In 2023, IIBA held our 7th Annual Comedy Night for Immigrant Rights at the Presidio Theatre. Hosted by Bassem Youssef (the Jon Stewart of the Arab World) and featuring Netflix comic star Sheng Wang (pictured above), the event was a tremendous success in raising funds for low-cost immigration services.

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San Francisco, CA 94105

Oakland Office

Established 1919

510-451-2846
oakland@iibayarea.org
476 3rd Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Redwood City Office

Established 1974

650-780-7530
redwoodcity@iibayarea.org
600 Allerton Street, Suite 101
Redwood City, CA 94063

Brentwood Office

Established 2012

925-237-8581
brentwood@iibayarea.org
121 Sand Creek Road, Suite B
Brentwood, CA 94513

Napa Office

Established 2013

707-266-1568
napainfo@iibayarea.org
P.O. Box 759
Napa, CA 94559

Fremont Office

Established 2013

510-894-3639
fremont@iibayarea.org
39055 Hastings Street, Suite 202
Fremont, CA 94538

Petaluma Office

Established 2017

707-932-7000
petaluma@iibayarea.org
5401 Old Redwood Hwy, Suite 104
Petaluma, CA 94954



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