

## **Appendix 6: Increasing Access to Legal Assistance for Vermont's Immigrants**

### **Goal**

Despite the dire consequences of most deportations, people in removal proceedings do not have the right to a lawyer at government expense. The primary goal of this effort is to help vulnerable Vermont immigrants secure representation in high-stakes removal proceedings.

### **Project Activities**

Increase capacity to provide representation for low-income non-citizens facing removal proceedings. Collaborate with other service providers in Vermont who serve this same population, such as the Defender General's Office, the Association of Africans Living in Vermont, Migrant Justice, and the ACLU. Staff will screen all litigants for low-income eligibility and eligibility for humanitarian relief, and will track outcomes for the purposes of reporting and assessing the effectiveness of the program.

### **Project Budget**

The partnership is seeking an annual appropriation of \$1500,000. This funding would increase the number of immigrants the project can serve by providing funding for more attorney time and for case-related expenses, such as the cost of traveling to Boston Immigration Court, hiring experts, and securing professional interpretation services when needed.

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