



m.i.c.a.PROJECT
Migrant & Immigrant Community Action

The Migrant & Immigrant Community Action (MICA) Project

Who We Are:

A community organization committed to working with low-income immigrants to **overcome barriers to justice**. The MICA Project utilizes **legal services**, **organizing**, **advocacy**, and **education** to promote the voice and **human dignity** of immigrant communities.

Vision

We live in a safe and welcoming community for immigrants, demonstrating a shared understanding of the dignity and worth of all people.





History



The MICA Project was founded in 2011 by law students Nicole Cortés and Jessica Mayo and began operations in 2012. Through their work in the nonprofit immigration field, they observed surplus need for low-cost immigration legal services.

They saw a need in the community that was not being met, and the lack of access to immigration legal services in the area led to open their own non-profit.

Since the organization's founding, the MICA Project has worked with hundreds of individuals and families in the St. Louis and Illinois region.

Our Growth

From those two young graduates in 2012, to a current staff of 16, the MICA Project has seen tremendous growth.

2022 was the perfect example of that growth - MICA received funding to expand its legal programming in rural Illinois, to oversee the provision of legal services for Afghan parolees in eastern Missouri, and to expand the Children's Immigrant Advocacy Project.



10 Years in Review





Central America: 386 North Africa: 16

South America: 40

Afghanistan: 238

Mexico: 210

Asia: 13

- 1198 cases from...
- ...47 countries
- 49 deportations avoided
- 21 clinics with...
- ...267 participants
- 240 obtained permanent status or work authorization
- 1,000+ connections to resources
- 800+ volunteers and supporters

2022 Year in Review



What types of
legal cases
do we take?

Affirmative Asylum

Defensive Asylum

U-Visas

T-Visas

VAWA (Violence Against Women Act)

DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)

SIJ (Special Immigrant Juveniles)

Adjustment of Status

- Residency, Citizenship, Family Petition, Consular Processing

Pro se Clinics

- Asylum & Work Permits

Client Support Services Department

Supporting and equipping clients as they navigate complex systems in the St. Louis region through case management, advocacy, and other support services

Our services include: interpretation, accompaniment, access to community resources, and emotional support, referrals to partner agencies

Most Common Services:

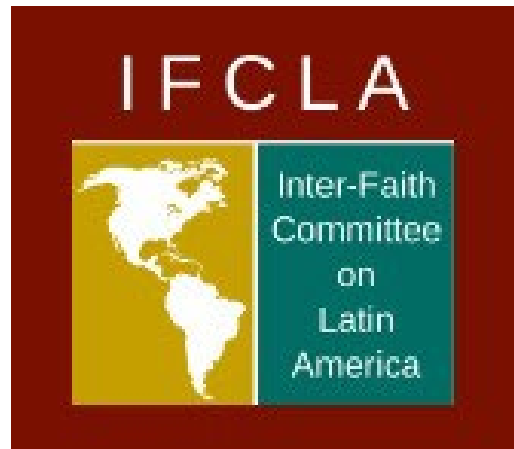
- *Public benefits applications*
- *Hospital financial assistance applications*
- *Obtaining ID*
- *Connecting with community resources (mental health, food)*
- *Accompaniment*
- *Writing legal affidavits*
- *Interpretation of forensic exams*



Our department's goals

- Support clients throughout the duration of the legal case
 - Inform clients about existing community resources
 - Equip clients to navigate complex systems in St. Louis independently by the time their case is closed
-

We also work with community partners such as:



Client's Story:

Helen

Most of MICA's clients have a difficult journey to the United States. But once they get here, the challenges continue. The legal system is treacherous and there are no public defenders - even for children.

Helen entered the United States as an Unaccompanied Minor and reunited with her family in rural Illinois. She had to travel hours to get to the MICA offices because no other services existed near her home.

In order to attend her asylum interview, Helen and her MICA Project attorney traveled hours to Chicago and up 30 stories to the asylum office. There, with her attorney by her side, she bravely shared the traumatic experiences from which she fled. Helen was granted protection and permission to stay in the United States. We look forward to walking with her on the next steps of her journey.



Questions?

MICA Project Intake Line:
314-995-6995 extension #2

Our intake line is ordinarily open the
first Monday of each month

Contact Info:

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