

Now Offering Low-Cost Immigration Legal Services

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS

On March 26, 2021, our organization was approved by the U. S. Department of Justice (DOJ) as a Recognized Organization, authorizing us to practice immigration law through Accredited Representatives before the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

WHAT IS A RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION? It is a non-profit, federally tax-exempt, religious, charitable, social service, or similar organization that has been approved by the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) in the DOJ to practice immigration law through Accredited Representatives.

WHAT IS AN ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVE? A non-attorney staff member or volunteer who is working with a Recognized Organization and has been accredited by the DOJ as possessing the character and fitness, along with the knowledge and experience, needed to practice immigration law. The Accredited Representative must complete coursework and continuing education in immigration law and must have experience working on immigration cases under attorney supervision.

WHY ARE THESE SERVICES NEEDED? Legal advice on immigration can be expensive and hard to find. Until now, people living in the Georgetown area had to drive 30 minutes or more into Austin to get low-cost immigration legal services. Our main goals for providing these services are to:

- **PRESERVE FAMILY UNITY:** We can help families reunite or avoid separation due to immigration issues.
- **HELP PEOPLE MAKE A DECENT LIVING:** When people lack the documentation needed to work, they can struggle to support themselves and their families. Proper documentation and adjustment of status can make all the difference.
- **EMPOWER PEOPLE TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR LIVES:** Legal issues regarding immigration status can cause fear and anxiety, interfering with people's ability to live normally day-to-day and plan for their future. We can help people find solutions to resolve their concerns, whether it is obtaining legal permanent residency status, obtaining or renewing DACA, or acquiring citizenship.

WHO QUALIFIES FOR THESE SERVICES? We serve people whose household incomes are 250% or less of poverty level, based on U.S. Federal Poverty Guidelines. Our first priority is to serve people living in Georgetown and the surrounding area. However, if we have openings available, we will also help people living outside the immediate area.

WHAT DOES "LOW-COST" MEAN? Our standard fees are a fraction of those charged by private immigration attorneys, and our services are free for people with household incomes at 130% or less of poverty level. People whose income is under 200% of poverty level receive a 50% waiver, and no one is refused services for inability to pay. Clients do need to pay fees charged by the U. S. government--but, if a fee waiver is available, we can help people apply to have those fees waived too.

WHEN A PERSON CONTACTS US, WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? The first step is to schedule a consult with an Accredited Representative. We do not charge a fee for this session, and will use the time to develop a plan on how to meet client needs.

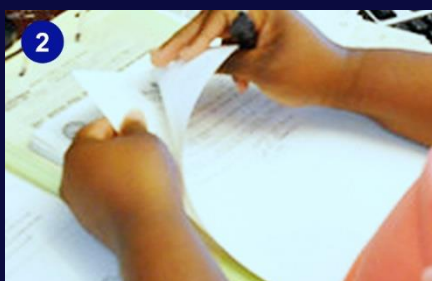
WHAT COMES NEXT?

After you request a consultation, we will get in touch to schedule an appointment. Here's what happens next:



1 Determine Eligibility & Develop a Plan

During your consultation, we will work with you to determine your eligibility for our services, identify U. S immigration benefits available to you, and develop a plan to meet your needs.



2 Sign Contract & Gather Documentation

If you decide to proceed, you will sign a contract and arrange for payment of any fees. We will then work with you to gather documentation needed for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) or Department of State (DOS).



3 File Application

After your application is complete, we will mail it to DHS or DOS, with a copy to you. We will keep you updated on progress, and, if additional information is requested, will work with you to submit it.