



CAMBRIDGE Community Foundation

Cambridge Legal Defense Fund for Immigrants Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When was the Cambridge Defense Fund for Immigrants formed:

The Cambridge Defense Fund for Immigrants was officially established on Monday, March 5 when it was launched publicly with Cambridge Mayor Marc C. McGovern and the Cambridge Community Foundation.

Q: Who are the current funders of the Greater Boston Immigrant Defense Fund?

The fund was seeded with a \$50,000 grant from the Cambridge Community Foundation and additional funds are being raised through contributions from concerned residents, business, institutions of Cambridge and beyond.

Q: What is the role of the City of Cambridge in the fund?

This fund is a civic response to the issue of immigrants facing deportation. It is not affiliated with the City of Cambridge.

Threats of cutbacks to federal funding have made it difficult for cities to respond to this important need. This humanitarian issue threatens to tear families apart, deport DREAMers from the only home they have ever known, and expose asylum seekers and victims of trafficking, sexual and physical abuse to the threats they faced in their home countries.

Q: For how long will the Cambridge Defense Fund for Immigrants operate?

The fund lifecycle depends on the amount of funds raised. We have an initial fundraising goal of \$500,000 by early summer.

Q: When do you hope to reach the goal of \$500,000?

We're hoping that we can reach a substantial portion of our goal by early summer 2018.

Q: When will the funds become available to non-profits seeking support on behalf of immigrants in threat of deportation?

The issue is urgent and capacity limited. Our intention is to put the money to work at the earliest possible moment, with a goal of June 2018 — Immigrant Heritage Month.

Q: Who will be eligible to receive funding?

Nonprofit legal services providers with 501 ©(3) status, based in Massachusetts that meet the following eligibility criteria may apply:

- Organizations serving immigrant individuals and families who are at risk of deportation, with a priority for those who live and work in Cambridge
- Demonstrated knowledge of the Cambridge-based immigrant community, including people facing deportation.
- Proven track-record and the capacity to provide services to immigrants that live or work in Cambridge, and immigrants in surrounding under-served Greater Boston communities

Q: What exactly is the geographic area for funding?

Our first-priority is to serve families and workers from Cambridge, and secondarily to serve adjacent underserved communities in the Greater Boston area.

Q: Can individuals tap these funds?

No, the fund will be made available to nonprofits that provide legal services to individuals.

Q: Will immigrants with criminal records have access to these funds?

No. This fund is intended to protect those residents who are law-abiding contributors to the community who are threatened by current policies, including:

- young adults previously protected by Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
- immigrants who are asylum seekers, including unaccompanied minors and juveniles or other vulnerable people including victims of trafficking, sexual and/or domestic violence
- children left behind