



CAMBRIDGE LEGAL DEFENSE FUND FOR IMMIGRANTS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Overview

Cambridge has a long history of embracing immigrants and refugees seeking opportunity, freedom, and safety. Over 30 years ago, Cambridge declared itself a Sanctuary City, demonstrating its strong commitment to protecting its immigrant population. Immigrants have played a vital role in our city's development and history, contributing much to the cultural, civic, and economic vibrancy of our community. However, shifting federal policies and a growing anti-immigrant sentiment have generated significant fear and anxiety among members of our immigrant communities. Many immigrant families, children, and workers in our community are caught up in a humanitarian crisis that could tear families apart, deport DREAMers from the home they know, and force asylum seekers to return to the countries where they fled persecution and abuse.

Data from Pew Research indicates that in 2014, there were 210,000 undocumented residents in Massachusetts, of which over 180,000 are in the Boston-Cambridge-Newton metropolitan statistical area (MSA). While it is difficult to ascertain city specific data, proxy data for Cambridge shows 27% of the population is foreign born and 40% of children have at least one foreign born parent. Cambridge is a sanctuary city and includes many undocumented students, workers, and residents.

About the Cambridge Legal Defense Fund

The Cambridge Legal Defense Fund (The Fund) is a civic response to the humanitarian crisis facing our immigrant communities and a reaffirmation of our city's commitment to protecting the rights of our immigrant friends and neighbors. The Fund is the product of a joint effort between the Cambridge Community Foundation (CCF) and the Mayor's Office. Officially launched in March 2018 by Mayor Marc McGovern, the Cambridge Legal Defense Fund seeks to support local non-profit legal service providers who represent low-income immigrants at risk of deportation.

As an expression of the core values of our city, the Cambridge Legal Defense Fund is part of a broader grassroots initiative that has relied primarily on a peer-to-peer fundraising model, while seeking to engage local residents through a series of community-wide educational programming events focused on raising awareness of the current immigration crisis. As a grassroots effort, the Cambridge Legal Defense Fund sends a clear message that Cambridge cares deeply about and will continue to affirm the dignity, humanity, and rights of our immigrant community.

Currently, only 37% of all immigrants and 14% of detained immigrants go to court accompanied with a lawyer. Deportation proceedings are considered civil matters, so lawyers are not provided by the court. Those with legal representation have a five times higher chance of achieving a favorable outcome.



The Fund was seeded with an initial \$50,000 grant from the Cambridge Community Foundation and additional funds have been raised through generous contributions from 250 concerned residents and local institutions and businesses. It is housed at and administered by the Cambridge Community Foundation. The CCF will coordinate a process to review proposals and distribute grants to nonprofit agencies and legal services providers in line with the priorities and eligibility requirements outlined in the Request For Proposals (RFP). An oversight committee chaired by members of the CCF Board of Directors and comprised of a wide range of immigration experts, donors, and community advocates, will inform the grant selection process. Grant decisions will be voted on by the CCF Board of Directors, a body of community, civic, business and institutional leaders responsible for setting the strategic direction and agenda for the Foundation.

Fund Priorities

The Cambridge Legal Defense Fund will primarily support the capacity of legal service providers to increase legal representation and deportation defense for Cambridge low-income immigrants (residents, workers, and students) currently facing or threatened with deportation proceedings. Funding can also support underserved Boston Inner Core** communities surrounding Cambridge (*see list below*) that have significant immigrant populations.

The Fund's emphasis is on cases involving young adults previously protected by Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), asylum seekers, unaccompanied minors/juveniles, and other highly vulnerable persons including victims of trafficking, sexual, and/or domestic violence. The use of funds is to be prioritized as follows:

- **Priority 1: Immediate Deportation Defense:** Legal representation for low-income immigrants who are on a fast-track for removal on an Order of Supervision/GPS with ICE, and those detained by ICE that need to file motions to reopen or petition for a stay of removal with ICE.
- **Priority 2: Immediate Deportation Defense:** Legal representation for low-income immigrants facing a serious risk of removal, including immigrants recently arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or issued Notices to Appear (NTA) for a removal hearing, immigrants released or denied release following an ICE arrest, and immigrants with outstanding removal orders who are likely to be detained under current ICE enforcement priorities and now need to file motions to reopen their closed proceedings in order to avoid deportation.
- **Priority 3: Protecting Against Threat of Future Deportation:** Legal representation for low-income immigrants not currently arrested, detained, or issued an NTA, or who do not have existing removal orders, but who are most vulnerable within the 2017 ICE enforcement priorities and who are eligible for any kind of relief or legal status that, if granted, would avoid deportation in the future.



*****Please note:** This funding cannot be used to provide legal defense for immigrants with criminal records for serious offenses such as Part 1 crimes: murder and nonnegligent homicide, rape (legacy & revised), robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, larceny-theft, and arson.

Applicant Eligibility

The Cambridge Legal Defense Fund invites proposals from legal service providers and immigrant support organizations with 501(c)3 status or those that apply through a 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor, based in Massachusetts, that meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Organizations serving immigrant individuals and families who are at risk of deportation, with a priority for those who live, work, or go to school in Cambridge, as well as those living in surrounding under-served Inner-Core Boston** communities (*See list of communities below*).
- Demonstrated knowledge and proven track-record of serving the Cambridge-based immigrant community, particularly those facing deportation proceedings. Eligible organizations must have the capacity to serve those who live, work or study in Cambridge, but do not have to be based in Cambridge.
- Capacity to provide services to affected immigrants in the Fund's geographic priority areas.
- Partnerships with local community-based organizations familiar with or connected to affected populations is a plus.
- Strong data collection, measurement, and reporting abilities, as the CCF will require tracking and evaluation of the impact of the Fund over the course of the grant period. We are seeking to understand how many people were helped; in what priority area (*see Fund Priorities*) and category of immigration status; what were the outcomes of the representation (time taken, results etc.); as well as narratives/stories that illustrate what you learned and have implications for – individuals/families, organizations, and the system.

****NOTE: Inner Core Boston communities include the following:**

Cambridge, Somerville, Medford, Malden, Melrose, Saugus, Revere, Chelsea, Winthrop, Arlington, Belmont, Waltham, Watertown, Newton, Boston, Brookline, Quincy

Application Deadline

The application deadline is 5:00PM, September 13, 2018. Applications can be submitted via e-mail to cldfi@cambridgecf.org or via mail to:

Cambridge Legal Defense Fund for Immigrants
c/o Cambridge Community Foundation
99 Bishop Allen Drive
Cambridge, MA 02139



Required Materials

The proposal must include the following components to be considered for funding:

1. Online Proposal Summary Sheet
2. A statement of agency goals including organization's track record and impact in providing legal services to relevant populations (please limit to 1 page)
3. Summary of the specific intervention for which funds are being requested (please limit to 5 pages)
 - Please describe the population you intend to serve including any relevant data, your approach to providing legal support
 - Your network of connections and/or capacity to reach the focus population
 - Goals, activities, expected outcomes, number of people you will serve through this grant
 - A listing of core staff/partners and their roles in the proposed intervention
 - Your capacity to collect, track and report data. How will you measure the program's success?
4. IRS determination letter
5. Most recent audit
6. A project budget for which funds are being requested
7. An agency budget for the current year
8. A list of the organization's current Board of Directors
9. A list of other prospective funding sources

Award Information and Schedule of Activities

- Estimated number of grants: 3-5 grant awards
- Grant size: Up to \$50,000 per grant award
- Schedule of activities:
 - RFP released: August 14, 2018
 - Grant application deadline: 5:00 PM; September 13, 2018
 - Grant decisions: On or before September 30, 2018
 - Grant period: October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019

For questions please contact Gwyn Gallagher, CCF Director of Grantmaking & Operations at: ggallagher@CambridgeCF.org; 617 576-9966.