

# ***OUR WORK IN 2021***

Hispanic/Latinx Quality of Life  
Resource Advisory Commission

02/22/2022



# WHO ARE WE?



Serving the Austin  
community for over 30  
years - since 1987



Originally known as the  
Political Asylum Project of  
Austin (PAPA)



501(C)(3) non-profit



Providing immigration  
legal services, advocacy,  
and education

# OUR LEGAL SERVICES...



## **Legal Representation**

- Survivors of crime & family violence
- Asylum
- DACA
- Family-based Immigration
- Deportation defense



## **Pro Se representation**

- Translations
- Legal orientation at detention centers & Immigration Court
- Coordination of pro bono representation



## **Outreach**

- Legal clinics & workshops
- Community education for immigrant community & service providers

**15,000+**

We empowered over 15,000 individuals with legal information and services in 2021 - in 23 counties and four federal detention centers

**\$800,000+**

Over \$800,000 worth of volunteer and pro bono attorney hours leveraged to assist our clients



Mrs. S lives in Austin with her husband and young daughter. Originally from Iraq, Mrs. S is a legal resident and petitioned for her husband's residency with American Gateways' help. During the application process, Mrs. S worked seven days a week to avoid seeking public benefits, fearful that receiving benefits would negatively affect her husband's pending case. Her husband, an electronic and electrical engineer by trade, was unable to legally work while his case was pending. American Gateways aided Mrs. S and her husband in navigating the restrictive Trump-era public charge rule; her husband was the first-named plaintiff in a lawsuit challenging the implementation of the rule. The new administration's reversal of the public charge rule created a path for Mrs. S and her family. Now, her husband has his legal permanent residency.

# ASYLUM CLINICS FOR AFGHAN EVACUEES



Central Texas anticipates welcoming over 1,000 Afghan evacuees in 2022, many whom will need legal support filing for asylum. In partnership with local non-profits, American Gateways will be offering free asylum clinics to Afghan families in 2022.

A past asylum clinic, pre-COVID





# TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS) CLINICS

In the fall 2021, we partnered with Casa Marianella to offer a Temporary Protected Status clinic for Haitians

# DACA CLINICS FOR DREAMers

We have been offering virtual DACA clinics for eligible applicants.



Our DACA renewal clinics pre-COVID.



# OUTREACH TO AUSTIN COMMUNITY

IN THE MIDST OF A PANDEMIC IN  
2021, AMERICAN GATEWAYS WAS  
ABLE TO...



## DURING OUR 2021 CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF AUSTIN...

- ❑ 40 new individuals received legal representation, including 18 in removal proceedings, most of whom are asylum-seekers
- ❑ We continued legal representation for 140 individuals, including 88 in removal proceedings

## EXAMPLES OF SUCSESSES IN 2021

- ❑ Asylum granted to a young Honduran man with autism
- ❑ Green cards granted to a Cameroonian mother and her two daughters, all asylees
- ❑ T-visas granted for a young girl and her derivative family members from Mexico. The young survivor testified at trial leading to the conviction of her perpetrators.



That it could just be taken away  
just by **one simple decision,**

Yesica has received legal representation from American Gateways since 2012  
for her DACA status.

***Thank you for your partnership!***