



Funding Priorities

Mission

Begun in 2015, the Immigration Litigation Fund (ILF) is a national fund whose goal is to ensure that the nation's immigration enforcement system is fair, humane, and prioritizes the civil and human rights of those vulnerable to deportation or exclusion.

Grantmaking Focus & Values

ILF believes that impact litigation is an essential tool for creating public policy and driving social change on immigration issues. The Fund's grantmaking prioritizes impact litigation efforts that are connected to, and coordinated with, immigrant communities and organizations.

The fund supports litigation efforts focused on ensuring the rights of immigrants are protected and promoting greater fairness and accountability in the nation's immigration enforcement system. ILF supports impact litigation that addresses discriminatory, unlawful and overly punitive immigration enforcement policies and practices at any stage of the enforcement trajectory, from identification and apprehension, to detention, removal, or exclusion of immigrants.

ILF prioritizes funding to effective organizations, projects, and impact litigation efforts that:

- Demonstrate an ability to partner with local and state-based-, grassroots groups
- Show potential for systematic change including policy change; legal precedent, directly benefit on-going advocacy and organizing efforts; or contribute to shifting public narratives and discourse on immigration enforcement
- Work in regions with limited legal capacity
- Address issues facing under-represented communities particularly Black immigrants, Asian Pacific Islander (API) immigrants, Middle Eastern, Arab, and South Asian (MASA) immigrants, Lesbian, Gay, Bi, and Transgender (LGBT) immigrants, immigrants with disabilities, immigrant women, indigenous migrants, and immigrants with contact with the criminal justice system.

Funding Priorities

In 2019, ILF's funding will prioritize impact litigation that focuses on efforts to deport or exclude immigrants, migrants, and those seeking humanitarian protections.

ILF anticipates that litigation efforts initiated to defend the rights of immigrants vulnerable to enhanced deportation or exclusion efforts **may include, but are not limited to**, issues related to:

- Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE accountability)
- FOIA litigation
- Obstacles to adjust status, particularly for those from countries deemed hostile to the United States
- Intersections of immigration enforcement and national security
- Access to counsel
- Withholding of state or federal funding to cities, campuses, or other locations that fail to cooperate with deportation efforts
- Efforts to expand the use of expedited removal
- Deportation related to criminal convictions
- Immigration detention including conditions of confinement, bond, parole, sexual misconduct, family detention, detention of minors, family separation
- ICE raids including those in the workplace, homes, courthouses, or "sensitive locations" such as schools, hospitals, or houses of worship
- Use of state and local government databases to identify immigrants from deportation
- Failure to provide humanitarian protection to those fleeing persecution, violence, or disaster including those attempting to enter the country and those already residing in the United States
- Prosecution of those who refuse to cooperate with enforcement initiatives
- Criminal prosecutions for entry or re-entry

What the ILF Will Fund

The ILF provides time-limited, project support for funding needs related to:

- Impact litigation **including but not limited** to staff time, some organizational overhead (5%), travel, research, filing fees, interpreter and translation costs. Impact litigation must be focused on immigration enforcement issues;
- Convenings meant to advance coordination and strategy on an issue related to impact litigation efforts;
- Legal trainings and training materials on impact litigation related to immigration enforcement related issues;
- Organizing and communications efforts that are related to impact litigation efforts.

What the ILF Will NOT Fund

The goal of ILF is to provide grants for litigation-related costs that are connected to an urgent need or opportunity. The reason for this specific focus is that these costs, because they are urgent or new opportunities, are not included in requests for general operating support. Funders to the ILF provide direct general support to many public interest legal and immigration advocacy groups already and want this Fund to focus specifically on new and urgent needs. Given this focus, ILF will not fund:

- More than 5% of on-going organizational overhead expenses such as rent, employee benefits, and other operational expenses
- Law school clinics, university-based programs, or private attorneys

How and When can I Apply to the ILF?

We have completed the first round of grantmaking. If you are considering applying for the November 1st deadline, you must first speak with a Borealis staff person to discuss your project's compatibility with the ILF's funding priorities. To schedule a call, please contact the Borealis staff at ilf@borealisphilanthropy.org. You must schedule a call before October 25th. There will likely be another round of grants in 2020, please check the Borealis website for updates in early 2020.

Organizations who are encouraged to apply for funding, after a call with ILF staff, can submit an application through our grant portal.

What are the Steps that Should be Followed to Apply to the ILF?

Organizations interested in funding from the ILF should take the following steps:

- Read the ILF funding priorities;
- Read the [ILF FAQs](#);
- Contact Borealis staff to set up a call to review the project for which you are seeking funding (ilf@borealisphilanthropy.org);
- If ILF staff determine that the project fits within the ILF guidelines, the organization will be instructed to use the online grant portal to submit their application for funding.

Timeline and Process for Grantmaking Decisions

Proposals submitted between September 2nd and November 1st will be considered in the second round of funding. Applicants in this round will be notified about a whether or not their project was funded by November 15th and projects that are approved for funding will receive their grant awards by December 1st.

Before submitting a proposal and to ask questions about whether or not your project is eligible for ILF funding, please contact ILF staff at ILF@borealisphilanthropy.org to schedule a phone call to discuss your project.