



Immigration Litigation Fund

Funding Priorities

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.

Grantmaking Focus & Values

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

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

ILF will prioritize funding to effective organizations and litigation efforts that:

- Demonstrate an ability to partner with local and state-based, grassroots groups.
- Show potential for systematic change, which could include: creating policy change or legal precedent, directly benefitting on-going advocacy and organizing efforts, or contributing to shifting public narratives and discourse on immigration enforcement.
- Work in regions with limited legal capacity.
- Address issues facing under-represented communities particularly Black, API, Muslim, Arab, and South Asian, and LGBT immigrants, immigrants with disabilities, immigrant women, and immigrants with contact with the criminal justice system.

Funding Priorities

ILF's funding will prioritize impact litigation projects focused on challenging immigration enforcement issues. The ILF will consider litigation projects that challenge immigration enforcement issues that include but are **not limited to**:

- COVID-19's impact on immigration enforcement;

- Customs and Border Protection accountability;
- FOIA litigation;
- Exclusions to entry based on religion, region, or other factors;
- Efforts that limit or restrict refugee admissions;
- Efforts to expand the use of expedited removal;
- Immigration detention including conditions of confinement;
- ICE raids in workplaces or other locations;
- Local and state law enforcement cooperation with ICE or Border Patrol;
- Use of state and local government databases to identify deportable immigrants;
- Prosecution for “illegal” entry or re-entry;
- Access to counsel;
- Withholding of state or federal funding to cities, campuses, or other locations that fail to cooperate with deportation efforts;
- Limits on asylum or other programs that provide protection from persecution, violence, torture, or disasters including but not limited to Withholding of Removal, CAT, and TPS; and
- Challenges to criminal convictions as grounds for deportation or removal.

What the ILF will fund

The ILF is currently providing support for funding needs related to:

- Impact litigation focused on immigration enforcement issues;
- Convenings meant to advance coordination and strategy on an issue related to impact litigation efforts;
- Organizing and communications efforts that are related to impact litigation efforts.

Both public interest legal groups and community-based organizations are encouraged to apply if they are engaged in current or proposed litigation efforts.

Historically the ILF has provided time-limited project support to impact litigation specific projects. Due to the current economic and health crisis related to COVID-19, ILF grants awarded will be general operating grants rather than project grants. Borealis asks that applicants to the ILF continue to request support for specific impact litigation projects focused on immigration enforcement issues but will provide grant dollars in the form of general operating support to allow organizations maximum flexibility to respond to changing and unforeseen needs and circumstances, that arise during the grant period.

For more information about ILF funding and how to apply, please see the [ILF's FAQ](#).

What the ILF will NOT fund

The ILF will not consider funding applications from law school clinics or private attorneys.

If you have questions not answered in document, please contact Borealis staff by emailing:
ILF@borealisphilanthropy.org