

OUR WORK IN 2022

Joint Inclusion Committee
01/25/2023



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

In 2022, our staff provided full representation to over 1300 individuals

Yesica came to the United States when she was 4 years old. American Gateways helped Yesica apply for her initial DACA application when the policy came into action in 2012, and continues with renewals to this day. During the Trump administration, Yesica feared for the uncertainty around DACA. She said, “It puts everything into perspective. That just by one simple decision, somebody decides it's not a program they want to keep.”

The DACA program continues to hang in the balance. American Gateways remains committed to advocating for DREAMers and providing them legal services they need.

Amadou and Aissatou, a married couple from the West African nation of Guinea, fled the country in 2017 to escape death threats for Amadou's role in the opposition party, the Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea. Two months before he left Guinea, Amadou said he was attacked by armed soldiers who beat him and threatened to kill him. When he went to the police, he was turned away and told no one would protect him. He and his wife fled to find safety. American Gateways represented both in their asylum claim. After 5 years, they were finally granted asylum in the US.





My sister says, "you got a package."
It's like a red envelope and I feel a small card inside.

15,000+

We empowered over 15,000 individuals with legal information and services in 2022 - in 23 counties and four federal detention centers

\$600,000+

Over \$600,000 worth of volunteer and pro bono attorney hours leveraged to assist our clients

A photograph showing two men sitting at a desk in an office. The man on the left is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt, a black baseball cap, and a blue surgical mask. He is looking at a laptop screen. The man on the right is wearing a purple polo shirt and is also looking at the laptop. On the desk, there is a laptop, a water bottle, and some papers. A sign on the wall behind them says "SYNDROME DATA".

ASYLUM CLINICS FOR AFGHAN EVACUEES

- Central Texas welcomed thousands of Afghan evacuees in 2022, many whom needed legal support filing for asylum.
- We offered asylum legal clinics for Afghan evacuees and will continue to offer asylum representation and services in 2023 through our staff and with the help of our pro bono volunteers.

Afghan asylum clinic on 2/19/22

Siawash worked providing IT services to US forces in Afghanistan. He was evacuated in August of 2022 and resettled here in Austin. We assisted him in applying for asylum through one of our legal clinics and he is now awaiting a decision on his case.

His story can be read here -

<https://www.austinchronicle.com/news/2023-01-06/one-afghan-familys-journey-to-safety-in-texas/>



OUTREACH TO AUSTIN COMMUNITY

In 2022

American Gateways



Empowered
15,000 +
individuals



with legal information in detention
centers, Immigration Court and in our
communities



Provided training to 1,000 +
members of the community
and service providers



DURING OUR 2022 CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF AUSTIN...

- ❑ 45 new individuals received legal representation, including 27 in removal proceedings, most of whom are asylum-seekers
- ❑ We continued legal representation for 175 individuals, including 118 in removal proceedings

EXAMPLES OF SUCSESSES IN 2022

- ❑ Green card granted to Mexican national who is raising five children alone and had been abused by her U.S.-citizen husband
- ❑ Asylum granted to Anglophone Cameroonian who was tortured by security forces after peacefully protesting the government
- ❑ Temporary Protected Status plus work and travel authorization granted to Ukrainian national who was in the U.S. on a tourist visa when her country was invaded
- ❑ Temporary Protected Status granted to Venezuelan and Haitian nationals who are both in removal proceedings and therefore vulnerable to deportation
- ❑ Legal permanent residency granted to a crime victim from China

Thank you for your partnership!