



MIC
Massachusetts
Immigrant
Collaborative



When You Save One Life, You Save the World.

**Massachusetts Immigrant Collaborative
Year in Review 2025**



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Executive Director - Frank DeVito



Frank's Words

Dear friends,

"Whoever saves a single life is considered by scripture to have saved the whole world." This excerpt from the Jewish Talmud (Sanhedrin 37a) haunted me as I reflected upon the impact of ICE on our immigrant communities during the past year. As stories of the savage treatment of immigrants propagated in the media, I often wondered, where were we when this all happened? What did we actually do to support our sisters and brothers? When we looked into the eyes of our immigrant neighbor, did we see the suffering of the whole world?

As the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Immigrant Collaborative (MIC), I am inspired each day by the stories of our Partners who provide support, love, and compassion to our immigrant families. These are desperate times. Families rely upon our Partners for a range of services as they navigate myriad challenges.

The current crisis demands a new way of being in this world. When MIC began in March of 2020, we faced a biological threat, and immigrant serving organizations recognized that they could not operate independently. Making a true and lasting impact required intentional collaboration that resulted in expanding our collective capacity to address COVID-19.

In 2025 and today, the threat is existential. We are witnessing huge liabilities in our system and across sectors. A single issue is deeply connected to, and impacts others. For example, public school attendance in immigrant communities has plummeted because of fear. This has a generational impact on educated citizenry and the economic prospects of families.

We are also seeing liabilities in our political systems— the federal government has capitalized on every loophole in the law to terrorize immigrant families. The good news is that our Partners are not only providing desperately needed material and legal support, they are advocating on behalf of our families. The Brazilian Worker Center, Centro Presente, and the Immigrant Family Services Institute (IFSI) have sponsored and advocated for pro-immigrant legislation and policies to protect our families from the onslaught of legal injustice.

In the end, we will prevail. This is the power of MIC— we are relentless in ensuring that our immigrant neighbors enjoy a promising future. As you read this report, please consider making a donation— everything counts. When you save one life, you save the whole world.

In solidarity,

Frank DeVito
Executive Director





Our Origin Story

The Massachusetts Immigrant Collaborative (MIC) was founded in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic when immigrant families faced unprecedented challenges. What began as a crisis response has evolved into an exciting model for collaboration that addresses both immediate needs and long-term goals for immigrant communities throughout Massachusetts.

Our Mission

MIC is an engaged statewide partnership of 15 organizations supporting immigrant communities. Through shared resources and cross-agency learning, we work in solidarity to create thriving immigrant communities.

MIC expands our Partners' capacity and impact by sharing resources, knowledge, and facilitating collaboration. Through emergency assistance, workforce development, legal services, and advocacy, we support immigrants along the path to stability and economic mobility, together.

Our Vision

When immigrant communities thrive, our entire society prospers, becoming economically stronger, healthier and more resilient. Through shared funding, collaboration and care, MIC helps Partners deliver critical services that build stability and opportunity for immigrant families.



Our Strategic Priorities

MIC believes in a holistic approach to serving immigrant communities. Our model consists of 5 priorities:

Stabilization & Emergency Assistance

Providing immigrants and their families with access to shelter, food, and other basic needs so they can feel safe, welcome, and better able to handle the next steps in their journey.

Workforce Development & Worker's Rights

Supporting immigrants as they prepare for employment through job search and placement, job-specific training, digital literacy, ESOL classes, and training to assert their rights to fair workplace conditions.

Capacity-building Expanding our Partners' capacity to provide critical services through shared resources, collective learning and cross-agency collaboration on events and programs.

Legal Services Offering free, culturally-sensitive immigration legal consultations with the possibility of full representation, "know your rights" information and workshops, access to free immigration legal aid to keep families together in the event a guardian is detained or deported, and notario fraud prevention education.

Advocacy Joining our community partners to promote immigrants' rights, support local and state legislation, enforce existing protective laws such as labor and housing, shine a light on federal law enforcement abuses, and provide the public with accurate information about the positive impacts of immigrants on our communities.

Priorities by the Numbers

6791

families received hunger relief
and emergency cash assistance.



279

immigrant residents of
Boston served by the
economic mobility program.

815

families received free
immigration legal advice
and representation.



7+

state policies and
issues impacted by
MIC and partners.



Stories of Impact: Our Strategic Priorities in Action

We want you to know the faces behind the numbers and share these stories of what MIC's compassionate and caring community looks, sounds, and feels like.



Emergency Response in Desperate Times

In 2025, our emergency cash and food support was never more critical. With ICE activity surging, families in our community are facing sudden, devastating crises; a parent detained, income lost overnight, children left without a provider. Through our Partners, MIC provided emergency funds that have been a lifeline, helping separated families and others in urgent need find stability when it matters most.

The level of need is striking. In 2025 alone, our Partner network supported 6,791 families through direct cash assistance and hunger relief, including bulk food distributions, meals for immigrant youth, and grocery cards. These numbers represent real people navigating unimaginable circumstances, like the family below.



When an Afghan refugee father was followed and detained by ICE agents, his family of 12 was left in crisis overnight. With a mother who speaks little English, 10 children, and a lesser-known Afghan dialect as their first language, the family faced enormous barriers navigating an already challenging situation — relying on trusted advocates just to communicate their needs. An MIC Partner stepped in with \$2,000 to cover rent, food, and basic necessities, providing critical stability when the family needed it most.



Legal Support When It Matters Most

The MIC Legal Access Program provides a wide range of consultations, advice, and full legal representation through our four legal partners - Rian Immigrant Center, Agencia ALPHA, Immigrant Family Services Institute (IFSI), and Mabel Center.

Vulnerable immigrants are referred through a trusted pipeline: every legal client arrives through a Partner that has already built deep, culturally grounded community relationships. Clients come knowing they will receive competent, confidential legal help.

In 2025 over 800 families were served — all free of charge. Our team manages complex cases such as VAWA and U Visa cases protecting survivors of domestic violence and crime, and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status cases opening pathways for young immigrants.

The current political environment has made our work both more challenging and more urgent. Aggressive enforcement, the rollback of Temporary Protected Status, and pauses on asylum processing have created fear and uncertainty for thousands of Massachusetts residents, including many Haitian families.

The need for accessible, trustworthy legal support has never been greater. MIC remains committed to ensuring that every immigrant in our community, regardless of their circumstances, has access to the legal guidance they deserve, ensuring that people like Valentina know their options and can make informed, empowered decisions about their futures.

Orphaned young in Honduras and forced to flee escalating gang violence, “Valentina” came to the US seeking safety and reunification with her grandmother, where her school connected her to MIC just in time. Working with MIC and its legal partner, the Rian Immigrant Center, she secured Special Immigrant Juvenile Status through determined advocacy, her case approved just before a policy change that could have closed the door to SIJS based deferred action for her. Today, with legal protection and work authorization while she waits to become eligible for permanent residence, Valentina is pursuing a career in nursing, proof that MIC’s legal services can change the trajectory of a life.

Workforce Development that Leads to Economic Mobility

As part of its strategy to support immigrant populations, the City of Boston developed an economic mobility program and partnered with MIC to serve 279 immigrant residents of Boston. By providing a basic needs stipend, savings incentive and support to enroll in job training or English language instruction, the program supported participants along the path toward economic mobility and empowerment.

The two-year program ended in 2025 with our research partner Leah Zallman Center for Immigrant Health sharing results of the program's impact.

Housing security had increased by 35% and there was a 10% increase in confidence to pay expenses. 20% earned a new certification or degree and 46% continued to save after the completion of the program.

Participants reported that it was life saving. Said one participant, "When I was in the program, I was able to save some money. That's what [has helped] me today because with the money I saved, I was able to purchase my first car. Now I am able to use it to do Uber to help support my family."



Advocacy that Protects Immigrant Communities

Working alongside community partners, MIC fights for immigrants' rights; advocating for protective local and state legislation and enforcement of existing protective laws like labor and housing, shining a light on federal law enforcement abuses, and making sure the public understands the real, positive contributions immigrants make to our communities.

Together, MIC Partners and community networks share strategies and decide which issues need collective action. For example, this year MIC joined Massachusetts Advocates for Children (MAC) and Citizens for Juvenile Justice (CfJJ) to push for state legislation protecting immigrant children and youth.

The effort paid off. Led by MAC, the Protect Education Equity Bill is now law in Massachusetts, a landmark win for children across the state.

We also use our media connections to bring critical stories to light. When an ICE officer was caught on video breaking a New Bedford resident's car window with a pickaxe and detaining him during a case of mistaken identity, we helped bring the story to Public Radio, connecting our New Bedford-based Partner Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores' with the reporter. This puts a human face on the consequences of unchecked federal enforcement.





Building a Stronger MIC: Impact Driven Collaboration

With support from a Liberty Mutual Foundation Impact Driven Collaboration grant, MIC spent 2024–2025 asking ourselves a hard but important question: *How do we do this better?*

That meant taking an honest look at how we collaborate, what's working, and where we can grow - all in service of stronger protection and support for immigrant communities across Massachusetts.

We partnered with Leah Zallman Center for Immigrant Health Research and through interviews, surveys, and focus groups with our Partner organizations, they helped us measure how effectively MIC was supporting the organizations on the front lines and where our structure could be strengthened.

What we heard shaped our next steps. In July 2025, MIC became an independent nonprofit to be nimble in responding to the escalating challenges that immigrant families are facing. We are grateful to the Rian Immigrant Center (and later the Brazilian Worker Center) who served as our fiscal sponsors during our founding years.

MIC Sponsored Partner Events 2025

PARTNER ORGANIZATION	EVENT	LOCATION	MONTH
Boston International Newcomers Academy (BINcA)	Know Your Rights' & Family Preparedness Workshop	Boston	February
Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores (CCT)	Community Charla Mtg	New Bedford	February & Fall
Agencia ALPHA	ALPHA Annual Gala	Boston	March
Brazillian Worker Center Inc.	Building Justice Workers Assembly	Boston	March
Immigrant Family Services Institute (IFSI)	IFSI Annual Symposium	Boston	March
Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC)	MIC Annual Partners' Retreat/Pao Ctr.	Boston	March
Centro Presente	TPS Exhibit	Boston City Hall	June
Rian Immigrant Center	'Solas' Annual Gala	Boston	November

Why MIC?

Our Partners share why MIC is essential for them.

MIC provides consistent, reliable, and trustworthy support directly to families. They help us as an organization get the most up-to-date information about legal, policy, and general immigrant support.



MIC believes in the power of working together as a collective to empower families and ensure that immigrant communities' voices are heard.

MIC supports small grassroots, immigrant-led community organizations bringing Partners together to share best practices, strengthen working relationships, network with allies, and participate in shared programming like MIC's centralized legal program.

I feel blessed, and a little less burdened, to be a part of a collaborative that works with such dignity and kindness towards its member organizations and the people we serve. MIC helps me with some of the heavy lifting of resettling and keeping refugee and immigrant families stable.





Looking Ahead: Network Partnerships to Expand Impact

In June 2025, Governor Maura Healey brought together immigrant organization leaders from across Massachusetts for an urgent conversation: how do we respond to the intensifying threats facing immigrant communities? Our Executive Director, Frank DeVito, proposed that a collaborative approach was not only necessary but essential.

The pressure is real. Aggressive ICE enforcement and civil liberties violations are straining our legal, economic, education, and health systems all at once.

These systems don't operate in isolation, and neither can the organizations fighting to protect them. Immigrant communities across Massachusetts, especially those in underserved areas; need coordinated, regional support networks, not isolated efforts.

MIC is taking the lead. We are developing the "Network Partnership", the MIC model, expanded. This model brings together alliances of immigrant serving organizations from regions across the state, so that when one community is under pressure, the broader network can respond. Read about our Legal Access for immigrants in Western Mass, and an exciting example of the Network Partnership model.

Expanding Legal Access for Immigrants in Western Massachusetts

For immigrants in Berkshire County, finding qualified legal help has been a major challenge. That's about to change.

MIC is partnering with the Berkshire Alliance to Support the Immigrant Community (BASIC) to launch the Berkshire Social Services & Medical Legal Partnership (BSSMLP) — bringing vital legal services to Western Massachusetts.

Our team will take on the highest-stakes cases immigrants face: asylum claims, domestic violence protections, and legal status for vulnerable youth. Because legal help alone is rarely enough, BSSMLP wraps those services around coordinated medical and social support so clients get the full range of support they need. It's a comprehensive approach that hasn't existed in Berkshire County until now.





MIC

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Creating pathways to new beginnings.



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