

The Citywide Immigrant Legal Empowerment Collaborative (CILEC)

Mission and Vision Statement of CILEC

CILEC is a consortium of nonprofit legal services providers and community-based organizations that work together to protect and advance the rights of New York's low-income and immigrant communities through community organizing and lawyering. CILEC envisions an accessible path to legal status for New York City's immigrants, as well as economic stability, safe working conditions, and equitable treatment for New York's low-wage workers.

CILEC provides high-quality legal advice and representation on a wide range of immigration and employment issues, including—but not limited to—affirmative and defensive immigration applications/petitions, wage theft claims, employment discrimination, and civil trafficking. CILEC member organizations are committed to culturally sensitive case management and organizing immigrant communities around crucial issues.

CILEC empowers immigrant New Yorkers with knowledge of, and the tools to defend, their legal rights.

CILEC combats the limitations of the legal system by providing our community partners with direct legal services which increases the capacity of impacted individuals to lead community organizing campaigns.

CILEC seeks to empower and strengthen NYC's immigrant communities through this work, recognizing that immigrant communities are, and have always been, a vital and important part of our city and country.

CILEC's Legal Services Providers include:

1. Catholic Charities Community Service (CCCS)
2. Catholic Migration Services (CMS)
3. Make the Road New York (MRNY)
4. MinKwon Center for Community Action (MinKwon)
5. TakeRoot Justice (*formerly The Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center*)
6. The Urban Justice Center (UJC)

CILEC's Community-Based Organizations include:

1. African Communities Together (ACT)
2. Chinese Staff and Workers' Association (CSWA)
3. Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM)
4. Damayan Migrant Workers Association (Damayan)
5. National Mobilization against Sweatshops (NMASS)
6. New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE)
7. Worker's Justice Project (WJP)

Funding Sources: The Office of Civil Justice awarded CILEC baseline funding under the Immigrant Opportunities Initiative (IOI). CILEC also receives dedicated funding under the Low-Wage Worker Initiative to provide employment-related legal services to ensure NYC's low-wage, documented and undocumented workers realize economic justice.

For more information, please contact:

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