

Los Angeles Justice Fund (LAJF) Core Program Statistics from the Year 2 Evaluation Report

This document provides information from LAJF's Year 2 Evaluation Report on cases represented through the first two years of the program's pilot period and the first quarter of its extension period—from November 27, 2017 through March 31, 2020—by 11 organizations providing direct representation to adults and children at risk of removal.¹

Overview of LAJF Direct Representation Cases

Total cases accepted: 548 / Total clients represented: 546

(Two individuals have two cases each, represented by different grantees in each case).

- Number of cases accepted per quarter:²
 - Year 1, Quarter 1 (November 2017- March 2018): 102
 - Year 1, Quarter 2 (April 2018 – June 2018): 79
 - Year 1, Quarter 3 (July 2018 – September 2018): 132
 - Year 1, Quarter 4 (October 2018 – December 2018): 70
 - Year 2, Quarter 5 (January 2019 – March 2019): 37
 - Year 2, Quarter 6 (April 2019- June 2019): 54
 - Year 2, Quarter 7 (July 2019 – September 2019): 50
 - Year 2, Quarter 8 (October 2019 – December 2019): 5
 - Year 3 (extension period), Quarter 9 (January 2020 – March 2020): 19
- Clients in removal proceedings: 433 (79%)
- Number of people initially detained: 149
 - Percent of clients who were initially detained and later released from custody as a result of LAJF representation, either on bond or at the conclusion of their case: 49%³
- Number of children represented: 181 (33%)
 - 112 people represented by LAJF were under the age of 18 at the time of intake.
 - An additional 69 clients were between 18 to 21 years old at the time of intake but were under the age of 18 when they arrived in the United States, and are potentially eligible for child-specific forms of relief. These individuals are therefore classified as a children's case (childhood arrivals, unaccompanied children (UC), or UC mentorship).
- Total immigration case decisions / court completions: 74
 - Portion of cases completed with successful outcomes allowing clients to remain in the United States: 46 out of 74 (62%)
 - 38 grants of relief, 7 case terminations, and 1 withholding of removal
 - Portion of unrepresented cases nationwide with successful outcomes: <5%
 - Portion of unrepresented completed cases at the Adelanto Immigration Court with successful outcomes: 3%

- Funding sources:
 - City of Los Angeles: 267 cases (49%)
 - Los Angeles County: 265 cases (48%)
 - Philanthropy: 16 cases (3%)
- LAJF infrastructure:
 - 41 funded staff (29 attorneys and 12 staff positions)
 - 48 non-funded staff (22 attorneys and 26 staff positions)
 - 25 pro-bono attorneys
 - 35 combined offices by LAJF grantees across Los Angeles

LAJF Client Demographics

Average time adult clients have lived in the United States: 14 years

- Percent of adult clients who have lived in the United States for more than 10 years: 55%
- Percent of adult clients who have lived in the United States for more than 20 years: 26%
- Total number of countries that clients migrated from: 33
 - Top five countries of origin: Guatemala (26%), El Salvador (25%), Mexico (23%), Honduras (16%), Cambodia (2%)
- Most common primary languages: Spanish (93%), English (16%), K'iche' (a Guatemalan indigenous language) (1%)
- Clients' gender: Male (57%), Female (38%), Gender Expansive (5%)⁴

Percent of clients with a vulnerability: 92 percent (82 percent of adults and all children)

- Most commonly identified vulnerability: Asylum seeker / fear-based protections (74% of all LAJF clients)
- Other commonly identified vulnerabilities:
 - Victimization (victim of crime, domestic / intimate partner violence, child abuse / neglect, or trafficking)
 - Disability / significant medical needs
 - Current / former unaccompanied children

Case Status and Outcomes

- Number of open cases: 449 (82%)
 - Subset of open cases with appeals pending following an initial case decision: 27 (6% of open cases)
- Number of closed cases: 97 (18%)
 - Cases closed as a result of immigration court completion: 74 (14% of all cases)
 - 38 grants of relief, 23 orders of removal, 7 cases terminated, 5 voluntary departures, 1 withholding of removal under the Convention against Torture
 - Cases closed due to attorney withdrawal or closed to the program: 23 (4% of all cases)⁵

Endnotes

¹ The cases counted here do not account for the totality of work funded by LAJF, including various grants to “capacity-building” organizations engaged in specialized work in support of but not directly providing legal representation.

² Some cases were added to the database retroactively once eligibility was confirmed. As a result, the counts here may not match those reported in quarterly reports, as there may have been a lag in the representation date being entered.

³ Among the 149 initially detained clients, five cases closed due to attorney withdrawal while the client was still detained, and are therefore excluded from the percent of clients released. Of the remaining 144 cases, 70 clients were released (49%).

⁴ Gender expansive refers to people who have “a wider, more flexible range of gender identity and/or expression than typically associated with the binary gender system,” including but not limited to those who identify as transgender. See Human Rights Campaign, “Supporting and Caring for our Gender Expansive Youth,” at https://assets2.hrc.org/files/assets/resources/Gender-expansive-youth-report-final.pdf?_ga=2.205997523.1744661183.1589525699-190860795.1589525699.

⁵ Eighteen clients’ cases closed due to attorney withdrawal. Attorneys may cease to represent clients by “withdrawing” representation for a variety of reasons, including a client being transferred or moving out of the LA-area, a client obtaining paid representation, a client terminating the representation, or determination that a client no longer meets eligibility criteria for some other reason. Additionally, five clients’ cases closed to the program, but their overall immigration case might still be open. For example, one client was represented by LAJF for a bond hearing, but not for the entire case. This case therefore closed to the program after the bond hearing, even though the overall immigration case may still be pending. Finally, legal service providers have not yet recorded case outcome information in the database for one case.