





# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR

As Project Citizenship begins its second decade, it's with pride that we share this Impact Report highlighting our accomplishments during 2024. At a time when the pathway to citizenship is becoming increasingly difficult, we look back with gratitude on what we were able to achieve with the support of our loyal volunteers, partners, sponsors, and donors.

Over the course of 2024, Project Citizenship assisted more than 1,000 clients in filing citizenship applications and provided guidance to thousands of others regarding their eligibility. Though we serve everyone, we focus on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged populations: in 2024, low-income clients represented more than 75% of cases, and those with disabilities 15%. Boston Citizenship Day, our largest citizenship workshop and a highlight each year, once again was a tremendous success. More than 350 pre-screened clients worked 1:1 with more than 200 volunteers and pro bono attorneys to complete the citizenship application. Clients represented 60 countries of origin and ranged in age from 18 to 90 years old. Especially gratifying was that more than half of clients had heard about the event from friends and family members, highlighting the strong trust we've built within immigrant communities.

We also held smaller citizenship workshops throughout the year in Boston, Brockton, Cambridge, Lawrence, Lowell, and Quincy, drawing on our partnerships with the region's most prestigious law firms and with community organizations whose deep ties in immigrant-rich communities ensure we reached those most in need of our services.

Our success in 2024 was only possible with the support of our dedicated staff, devoted community partners, loyal volunteers and Board, and generous donors. As immigrant rights increasingly come under threat in the coming months and years, including for lawful permanent residents who live, work, and pay taxes in the United States, Project Citizenship will not waver from its mission, and we will not give in to those who would close our country to lawful permanent residents seeking a better life for themselves and their families.

Thank you for standing with Project Citizenship and immigrants across MA. After reading this Impact Report, we hope you will join us in advancing this important work.



Gail Breslow Executive Director





Milton Manousaridis Board Chair





# **MISSION/VALUES**

Project Citizenship seeks to increase the naturalization rate in New England, with a focus on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged populations.

#### EXCELLENCE

We are dedicated to providing free, timely, high-quality legal services. We are responsive and efficient in helping immigrants to navigate the citizenship process, and constantly seek to improve our practices.

## INCLUSION

We treat clients of diverse backgrounds with compassion and respect. We prioritize our client's best interests every step of the way.

## DEMOCRACY

Project Citizenship promotes citizenship so that all naturalized citizens can participate in democracy and be civically engaged.

#### COLLABORATION

We engage community-based organizations, partners, and pro bono legal services to make Project Citizenship a community-driven, costeffective model is that is able to serve a vast number of immigrants.



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Saved Through

Application

Fee Waivers

\$576K





# IMPACT SNAPSHOT





Citizenship

Workshops

40

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Clients Successfully Naturalized





Prospective Applicants Screened For Citizenship Eligibility

1,831

**Project Citizenship** is a nonprofit that provides free, high quality legal services to permanent residents to help them become U.S citizens. Project Citizenship offers eligibility screenings, free workshops, application assistance, legal referrals and all materials needed to apply for U.S. citizenship.

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS

Numerous organizations play pivotal roles in achieving our mission through their distinctive contributions. These partners enhance our services, facilitate event planning, gather powerful narratives, and share valuable community resources. We appreciate these collaborators and proudly recognize their invaluable support!



#### Community Collaborators

- African Bridge Network
- African Community Economic
  Development of New England
- Agencia ALPHA
- Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center
- Brazilian American Center
- Brazilian Resource Center
- Brazilian Women's Group
- Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association
- Cape Verdean Association
- Children's Services of Roxbury
- Emmanuel College
- English for New Bostonians
- Immigrant Family Services Institute
- International Institute of New England
- JVS of Metro West
- Jewish Vocational Services of Boston
- La Alianza Hispana
- La Colaborativa
- Latino Support Network
- Latinx Community Center for Empowerment
- Lawrence CommunityWorks
- Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese
  Speakers
- Middlesex Community College
- MIRA Coalition
- Nigerian American Multiservice Center
- Notre Dame Education Center
- Quincy Asian Resources Inc.
- St. Mark Community Education Program
- Steps to Success
- The Literacy Center
- The Second Step

#### **Legal Providers**

- Boston Bar Association
- Boston College Civil Rights Clinic
- Boston University School of Law
- Immigrants' Rights and Human Trafficking Program
- Catholic Charities
- Central West Justice Center
- Greater Boston Legal Services
- Harvard Law School's Immigration and Refugee Advocacy Clinic
- Immigrant Legal Resource Center
- Metrowest Legal Services
- NALEO Educational Fund
- Northeast Justice Center
- PAIR Project
- Rian Immigrant Center
- The Right to Immigration Institute

#### **Government Collaborators**

- Attleboro Public Library
- Boston Public Schools
- Brockton Public Schools
- City of Brockton
- City of Boston's Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement
- Massachusetts Office for Refugees and
  Immigrants
- Quincy Public Library

#### **USCIS Fee Assistance**

- Boston Bullpen Project
- One Percent for America



# **CITIZENSHIP DAY**

Citizenship Day in Boston is our largest annual event where eligible immigrants receive assistance on their citizenship application. Since launching Boston Citizenship Day in 2014, more than 3,375 individuals have started on their citizenship journey through this event and we have completed over 1,450 fee waivers, providing financial support for low-income applicants. On average, we serve applicants from over 50 countries in the single day event. Thanks to the help of volunteer attorneys, law students, government partners, and community members we have been able to keep this tradition.

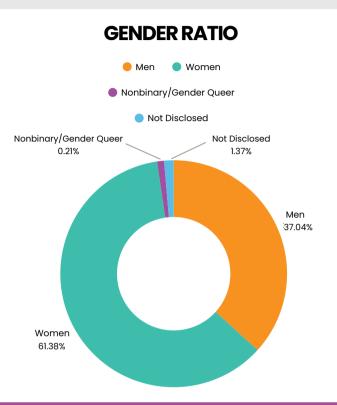


#### **2024 CITIZENSHIP DAY RESULTS:**

Applications Completed	376
Percentage of Clients Who Are Boston Residents	46%
Number of Countries Represented	60
Percentage of Applicants Applying Using Fee Waivers	68.6%
Applicants Eligible to Apply In Native or Preferred Language	78
Staff and Volunteers	300+

# **ABOUT OUR CLIENTS**

A comprehensive overview of the demographics and statistics related to our citizenship services.



- **76%** of our applicants were eligible to apply for citizenship with a fee waiver due to low income
- **\$576K was saved** on application fees through our assistance
- **1,033 applications** were submitted to USCIS

An estimated **200** of our clients' minor **children** will derive citizenship from **their parent's naturalization** 

## AGE RANGE OF CITIZENS SERVED





1,332 CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP APPOINTMENTS COMPLETED

- 452 CLIENTS SWORN IN AS U.S. CITIZENS
- 277 ELDERLY APPLICANTS WHO RECEIVED LANGUAGE EXEMPTIONS
- 151 APPLICANTS SUBMITTED N-648 MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS

# ))) APPLIED IN THESE LANGUAGES:

AMHARIC, ARABIC, BENGALI, CANTONESE, CAPE VERDEAN CREOLE, EDO, ENGLISH, FARSI, FRENCH, HAITIAN CREOLE, HINDI, KHMER, MANDARIN, NEPALI, PORTUGUESE, PUNJABI, SPANISH, SWAHILI, TIGIRINYA, UKRANIAN, URDU, VIETNAMESE, YORUBA, NON-VERBAL

## **TOP COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN**

- 1.Dominican Republic: 295
- 😐 2.Haiti: 230
- ۵
  - 3.El Salvador: 38
  - 4.Colombia: 36
  - 5.Cape Verde: 29
  - 6.Nigeria: 24
- ())
- 7.Guatemala: 23
- \*
- 8.Ethiopia: 22
- 9.Brazil: 21
- 🗧 10. Jamaica: 20

# **VOLUNTEER IMPACT**

**Project Citizenship annually enlists and trains 600+ volunteers** who engage in one-on-one sessions with clients, guiding them through the 14-page citizenship application.

Pro bono attorneys meticulously review each application to ensure accuracy and compliance. Our team then does a final review before submitting the application as the attorney of record. This structured oversight allows our organization to amplify our capacity to serve more clients with a lean staff while maintaining the integrity of the submission process.

Volunteers are the backbone of our organization, providing essential support up until the final review stage, which is conducted by Project Citizenship's legal team.

# Volunteers

667

10,462 Hours of Donated Time



# **Volunteer Collaborators**

# Schools

Boston College Law School Boston College PULSE Program for Service Learning Boston University Law School Boston University Harvard College IOP's Director's Internship Program Harvard Law School New England School of Law Northeastern Law School Suffolk University Law School University of Massachusetts Law School

#### Western New England University Law School

# Law Firms

Brown Rudnick Foley Hoag Fragomen Gesmer Updegrove LLP Goodwin Procter John Hancock Latham & Watkins LLP Morgan Lewis Morrison Foerster LLP Ropes & Gray LLP WilmerHale

## In-house Counsel

Bank of America Citizens Bank Eastern Bank JPMorgan Chase Bank Rockland Trust Sanofi Vertex Pharmaceuticals

# Additional Collaborators

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc Boston Bar Association

**Brockton Public Schools** 

Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association (CMAA)

City of Cambridge

Commonwealth Corps, MA Service Alliance

**Forest Foundation** 

Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)

Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA)

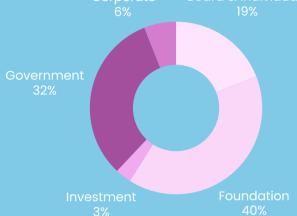
Rep. Clark's Office

Volunteer Lawyers Project

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



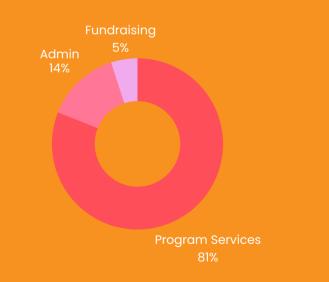
# REVENUE



Government	\$ 421,970
Foundation	\$ 528,824
Board & Individuals	\$ 259,965
Corporate	\$ 76,680
Investment	\$ 50,045
Total	\$ 1,337,484

# **EXPENSES**

Program services	\$ 1,191,531
Admin	\$ 200,151
Fundraising	\$ 79,806
Total	\$ 1,471,788





# SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our generous corporate, government, and foundation supporters. Their unwavering commitment makes it possible for us to carry out our mission and support hundreds of immigrants on the path to citizenship. Thank you for your partnership and belief in our work.

#### **CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS**

Affiliated Managers Group, Inc Anthem Group **Bank of America** Bank of the West Biogen **Brown Rudnick LLP CCR Wealth Management** Fidelity Charitable Catalyst Fund Foley Hoag **Goodwin Procter** Kirkland & Ellis LLP Latham & Watkins LLP Leader Bank Liberty Mutual **MFS Investment Management Morrison Foerster LLP Morgan Lewis PricewaterhouseCoopers** Red Hat **Ropes & Gray LLP** Seyfarth Shaw Sun Life Financial WilmerHale

#### **FOUNDATION SUPPORT**

Amy Ensign-Barstow Memorial Fund at the East Bay Community Foundation

Aubert J. Fay Charitable Fund **Boston Bar Foundation Brookline Community Foundation** Bushrod H. Campbell and Adah F. Hall Charity Fund Cambridge Community Foundation The Clowes Fund **Cummings Foundation Eastern Bank Foundation Ferrara Family Foundation** The Fish Family Foundation **Forest Foundation** The Granite Point Foundation **Greater Lowell Community Foundation** HarborOne Foundation **Klarman Family Foundation** Lincoln and Therese Filene Foundation Massachusetts Bar Foundation Mifflin Memorial Fund Nathaniel and Elizabeth Stevens Foundation One Percent for America The Rabbi Abraham Halbfinger and Charlesview

Charitable Fund at Charlesview, Inc.

The Rands Foundation Theodore Edson Parker Foundation Town Fair Tire Foundation Tufts Community Grants The Vertex Foundation World of Change

#### **GOVERNMENT SUPPORT**

City of Boston / Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants

#### **IN-KIND DONATIONS**

Costco DC Rentals Dunkin' Food Link



#### INDIVIDUAL DONORS: THANK YOU!

We are incredibly thankful for the generous individuals who support our work. Your donations have fueled our mission, enabling us to empower individuals on their path to citizenship. Thank you for making a lasting impact and fostering inclusive communities.

# **2024: NEW CITIZENS**

Congratulations to everyone who became a new citizen! Thank you for trusting Project Citizenship to support you on your journey.

























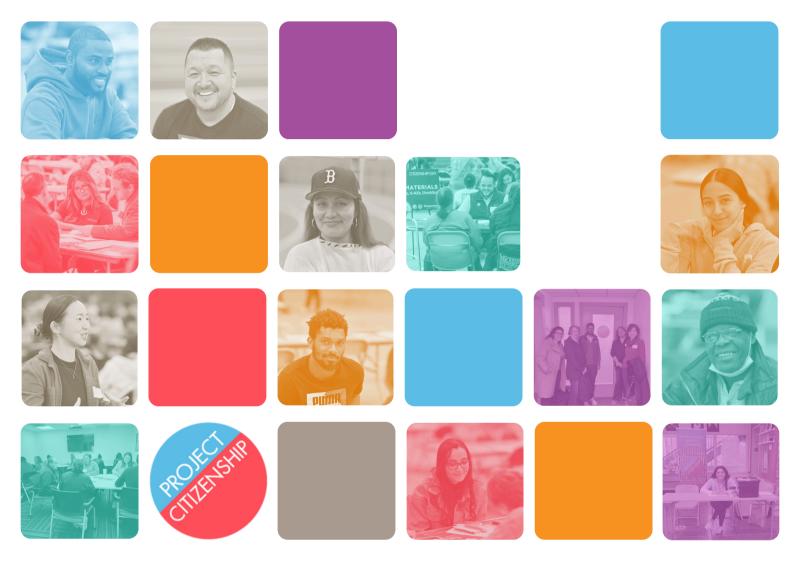






# THANK YOU

# for strengthening communities through the power of citizenship!



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- n Project Citizenship



Want to get involved?



Check our website to learn about ways you can help us achieve our mission to increase the naturalization rate!