



YEAR IN REVIEW 2024

March 2025



2025 MIC Retreat

Highlights

- **MIC Legal Partners:** Hundreds of immigrants receive vital legal support and advocacy.
- **Economic Mobility:** 200+ households benefit from cash grants and skill-building programs.
- **Emergency Relief:** 2,788 immigrants receive hunger relief and assistance in 2024.

Dear friend,

I cannot believe that four months ago I joined the MIC family. My first day was the day after the election – fear and uncertainty dominated as our partners and immigrant families anticipated the worst. Unfortunately, their fears have come true. Our immigrant families fear ICE; even in churches, temples, synagogues, and schools; because federal guidance regarding protections in these sanctuary locations have been rescinded. The 2023 Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation of Venezuela was terminated. The Haiti TPS extension and redesignation, pending a possible court injunction, could expire on August 3, 2025 instead of February 2, 2026. Immigrant families are struggling financially because they are afraid of going to work, terrified of potential ICE raids.

The challenges are immense but MIC is positioned to rise to these challenges. MIC was formed in the crucible of a biological and existential crisis– COVID 19. Leaders from across the Commonwealth made a bold pledge to form an unbreakable partnership to support immigrant families through emergency financial assistance, legal aid, workforce development programs, and advocacy for workers' rights.

In many ways, our immigrant families are still facing an existential threat and the virus is not biological but political– a hostile ideological virus that polarizes communities and targets immigrant families as “the problem” or “the enemy.”

Fortunately, as you review this newsletter, you will see powerful and viable solutions to this crisis. Our partners are engaged in heroic efforts to provide financial relief, intensive legal support, and workforce development programs that lead to economic mobility.

Friends, more than ever we are grateful that you have joined us in this movement to provide humanity where dehumanization dominates, compassion to those who are suffering, and love to those who have been alienated. Every effort counts. In the present and in the future, our children are judging us, wondering if we will live up to the ideals of this country and our spiritual traditions. The choice is ours.

Love always,

Frank DeVito
Executive Director
Massachusetts Immigrant Collaborative



2024 BY THE NUMBERS

654

LEGAL ADVICE &
CONSULTATIONS PROVIDED

348

FULL REPRESENTATION
CASES OPEN FOR
VULNERABLE IMMIGRANTS

210

INDIVIDUALS ENROLLED IN
ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

10

IMMIGRANT INDIVIDUALS
ENROLLED IN WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

230

FAMILIES SAVED \$100 IN
HOUSEHOLD SAVINGS
ACCOUNTS EACH MONTH

2593

FAMILIES SAVED \$100 IN
HOUSEHOLD SAVINGS
ACCOUNTS EACH MONTH

56

PEOPLE OFFERED
GROCERY CARDS

139

FAMILIES PROVIDED
CASH ASSISTANCE

MIC & OUR LEGAL PARTNERS MAKE AN IMPACT IN 2024

In 2024, MIC and our four legal partners made a profound difference in the lives of immigrants, with each legal partner providing critical consultation and representation in their area of expertise to our 15 partners' community members.

Agencia ALPHA assisted individuals filing immigration applications, including naturalization cases and green card applications, and Violence Against Women Act self-petitions for immigrant survivors. Their work ensures that indigent immigrants have access to essential legal aid. IFSI focused their legal support on vulnerable children and newcomers. Like many of our partners, they also provide wraparound services like housing stabilization and trauma counseling, reinforcing their one-stop-shop support model. Together, ALPHA and IFSI provided legal aid to nearly 300 people.

Focusing on complex cases, **Rian** provided legal representation to vulnerable children, survivors, and victims of crimes, standing by clients through their long immigration journeys. Similarly, **Mabel Center** supported those applying for asylum and representing a number of families through the demanding asylum process, including work permit applications and immigration court representation. Their clients are primarily LGBTQ+ individuals and single-mother families seeking safety and stability. Combined they provided legal support to 70 families.

Together, MIC and its legal partners are transforming lives by offering hope, legal advocacy, and essential support to those in need.

FABIOLA'S STORY

"Fabiola", a young immigrant and highschool student shares how MIC's Centralized Immigration Legal Services has opened new doors for her. Fabiola has been working with Attorney Rachel Benedict from MIC legal

partner Rian Immigrant Center. "I feel like it for sure will help me, because when you grow up, you go to college, then you gotta work. I feel like the stuff she's helping me with, it's going to help me. It's beneficial for [both] me and my family. If you don't have a lawyer, then ... nothing else can help you stay in this country.

Fabiola's words illustrate how legal services provide much more than paperwork—they offer opportunities, hope, and a pathway to a better future.

Fabiola's advice to other young immigrants: "When you come from a whole different country, you gotta learn a whole different language [and more]. If you really focus on what you gotta do, and you really put your mind on your stuff... you're going to learn as fast as you can. But, if you don't, it's gonna be hard for you."

ECONOMIC MOBILITY AND THE IMPACT OF BASIC ASSISTANCE

In 2023, the City of Boston in partnership with MIC launched an initiative to explore how to best meet the basic needs of immigrant community members who were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This pilot program for Boston households is designed to test new ideas to inform policy in the future. For one year, the Immigrant Economic Recovery Initiative (IERI) is supporting randomly selected, low-income immigrant households in Boston by providing monthly unconditional cash grants of \$600, as well as, opportunities to participate in English language and skill building programs, and savings-based incentives resulting in the opportunity to earn an extra \$300 each month.

With the program drawing to a close in April of 2025, we are pleased to have supported over 200 families and individuals.

In order to gain an understanding of how this program has impacted people's lives, the City has engaged a research team from the Leah Zallman Center for Immigrant Health Research (LZC). LZC is conducting surveys and in-depth interviews with people who are in the program and along with the City, MIC looks forward to the results.



EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR THOSE IN NEED

Since our founding in 2020, the Collaborative has raised funding from generous and caring donors, and through its partners, provided food and emergency assistance to families. In 2024 MIC partner organizations provided hunger relief and emergency cash assistance to 2,788 immigrants throughout Massachusetts, so they could pay utilities, buy food, and obtain shelter and avoid eviction. At its annual retreat held on February 28 2025, partners reaffirmed their commitment to providing relief to their communities.

Ms. Silva is one of many members of our community who the Collaborative and its partners supported in 2024 thanks to our donors. Ms. Silva worked as a nanny in the U.S. under abusive conditions, receiving no salary for years, only room and board. Though she loved the children she helped raise, she felt trapped and exhausted. But after connecting with MIC partner Brazilian Worker Center (BWC) she had hope for change. With BWC help and assistance escaped. Using emergency support from the Mass Immigrant Collaborative, BWC provided Ms. Silva with housing assistance and a fresh start. Though her journey to recovery continues, she has taken a crucial step toward freedom and reclaiming her dignity.



Collaboration at the 2025 MIC Retreat

THE POWER OF COLLABORATION

An important way in which MIC supports its partners is by co-sponsoring their community events and workshops that support immigrant rights and advocacy. Recently, MIC partnered with BINcA to host a **Know Your Rights and Family Preparation Workshop**, providing legal guidance and consultations for families, which inspired other public schools to hold similar events. MIC also co-sponsored **Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores' Asamblea**, presenting Know Your Rights information and recognizing allies who had helped immigrant workers apply for temporary work authorization. Additionally, MIC supported **Centro Presente** by participating in an **International Women's Day** demonstration at the Massachusetts State House to advocate for immigrant women's rights.

INCREASING COLLABORATION FOR THE FUTURE

The Collaborative brings together 15 partner organizations and MIC's staff to share knowledge, build capacity, and support immigrants through referrals and centralized functions. Our work is guided by values of equity and transparency, fostering community trust. In the coming year, we will support each other and our vulnerable immigrant constituents, together.

An approach to advancing our mission through organizational development has been ignited and funded by an 'Impact Driven Collaboration' grant awarded to MIC by the Liberty Mutual Foundation. We are excited to strengthen our structure and impact in response to political and emergency challenges. Since November we have been formalizing policies centered on partner membership guidelines; and deepening services and solidarity by co-sponsorship of our partners' events. In addition, we are defining ways to increase impact on our immigrant communities by amplifying immigrant voices through partners' aligned messaging. This process is timely given an oppressive national political climate in which immigrant workers are mischaracterized, maligned and targeted for removal.



You can learn more about our partners by visiting their websites.

[Agencia ALPHA](#)

[Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center](#)

[Boston International Newcomers Academy](#)

[Brazilian Worker Center](#)

[Caribbean Youth Club](#)

[Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores](#)

[Centro Presente](#)

[Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative](#)

[ICNA Relief](#)

[Immigrant Family Services Institute](#)

[MetroWest Workers Center: Casa](#)

[New North Citizen Council](#)

[Pioneer Valley Workers Center](#)

[Rian Immigrant Center](#)

[Sociedad Latina](#)