The mission of the Immigrant Legal Center (ILC) is to welcome immigrants into our communities by providing high-quality legal services, education, and advocacy.

**IMLP Deliverables:**

OneWorld Health Centers (OneWorld) and ILC entered into an innovative Immigrant-Focused Medical Legal Partnership (IMLP) in July 2017, in order to assist OneWorld patients by answering immigration-related questions, identifying potential forms of immigration relief and benefits, and providing direct legal assistance. As of date, ILC’s IMLP team has received 86 referrals from the Nebraska Immigration Legal Assistance Hotline (NILAH) for OneWorld patient cases within OneWorld case priorities, including cases for: survivors of family/domestic violence, human trafficking, and/or violent crime, as well as young adults eligible for DACA (see information re: DACA below).

ILC’s IMLP team provided 88 legal consultations to OneWorld patients and family members regarding eligibility for immigration relief, public benefits, and other health-harming legal issues identified.

Additionally, ILC’s IMLP team identified and agreed to provide extended legal representation to OneWorld patients in 61 cases. The legal cases include applying for various forms of immigration relief that patients/family members are eligible for; representing patients/family before the Omaha Immigration Court, Nebraska state courts, and Nebraska administrative agencies; as well as rights and safety planning assistance.
Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients are undocumented youth who were brought to the U.S. at a young age, have lived continually in the U.S. since 2007, have met educational requirements, and have no significant criminal history. They are sometimes termed "DREAMers" after legislation that has been proposed several times but never passed, known as the DREAM Act, that would provide a path to citizenship for these young people. Until the DREAM Act is passed, DACA provides a DACA recipient with temporary relief from the fear of deportation; work authorization; a social security number; and the ability to drive, attend school, and obtain professional licenses.

President Trump abruptly ended the DACA program on September 5, 2017. In response, advocacy groups across the country initiated litigation challenging the way the DACA program was terminated. Two federal courts have since ordered immigration officials to begin processing DACA renewal applications again. While the government has appealed these court orders, DACA renewal applications are to continue to be processed during the pendency of the appeal cases.

ILC’s IMLP team has processed over 21 DACA renewal applications for OneWorld patients since immigration officials were ordered to resume the processing of applications. In order to remove additional barriers, ILC was able to provide limited financial assistance to DACA renewal applicants that could not afford the $495 fee.

Before DACA, DREAMers were marginalized in ways that negatively impacted their health. ILC’s IMLP team is proud to partner with OneWorld to ensure DREAMers have access to legal assistance regarding DACA, and can focus on their health. As of date, six OneWorld DACA renewal applicants have received approval notices.

As described in more detail above, the immigration officials within United States Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS") have been ordered to continue processing DACA renewal applications again, even through President Trump terminated the DACA program last fall. It is uncertain how long DACA renewal applications will continue to be processed, and, as a result, ILC’s IMLP team has prioritized ensuring that all OneWorld patients who qualify to renew their DACA status have the opportunity to do so. Accordingly, ILC’s IMLP team has provided the necessary legal advice, extended representation, and in some situations, financial assistance, to OneWorld patients eligible to renew their DACA status.

Soon after USCIS began accepting DACA renewal applications in February 2018, ILC’s IMLP team assisted "Carla" submit an application to renew her DACA status. While assisting Carla with her DACA renewal and interviewing her about her immigration history, ILC’s IMLP team learned that her brother "Pedro" was also a OneWorld patient and DACA recipient who would now also qualify to renew his DACA status. Carla encouraged Pedro to contact Alex Araya, OneWorld’s IMLP navigator, and within two weeks, ILC’s IMLP team filed Pedro’s DACA renewal application. During Pedro’s DACA renewal consultation, he mentioned that his cousin, "Isabella," who is also an OneWorld patient, needed to renew her DACA status. In two weeks’ time, ILC’s IMLP team met with Isabella and was able to complete and file her DACA renewal paperwork. Because the family was not able to pay for all three DACA renewal application fees, ILC provided financial assistance to cover the costs of one DACA renewal application.

"Maria," the mother of Carla and Pedro, came to the consult with Isabella. She had some questions about her own immigration options as she is currently undocumented. One of her sons, she told ILC’s IMLP team, was a lawful permanent resident—what would he need to do to be able to help her? After interviewing Maria about her immigration history, ILC’s IMLP team determined that, although this is not an option, if her son naturalized and became a U.S. citizen, he would be able to file a family-based petition for her and an application to apply for her permanent residency all in one-step without the necessity of her leaving the U.S. to complete the process. Maria was overjoyed! Her son is currently in the process of gathering the information and documents in order for the IMLP team to begin his naturalization process. Once he is United States citizen, the IMLP team looks forward to helping Maria become a legal permanent resident.