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# Fund a Future Citizen

Building Futures, Strengthening Communities.



Sonoma County and Northwest California are dependent upon the hard work, dedication, and contributions of immigrants. From the vineyards that are key to our economy, to the farms that provide our food, and within **every business sector**, immigrant labor is the driving engine of our region. Yet, this vital element of our workforce faces daunting and overwhelming barriers in navigating the complex immigration system, securing stable housing, or simply ensuring immigrant families' safety with access to healthy nutrition and a good education.

For over 70 years, Catholic Charities of Northwest California (CCNWC, formerly Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa) has been a beacon of hope for immigrants seeking a legal path to U.S. citizenship. During the six-month period 7/1/24-12/31/24, CCNWC's immigration program provided 1,294 individuals with legal services such as DACA protection, naturalization, green cards and Victim of Crime visas.



# THE VITAL ROLE OF OUR IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY

Family-based immigration fosters family unity and social integration, all fundamental American values. When immigrants become citizens, they take a solemn oath of allegiance to the United States and the Constitution. Their impact on our country cannot be overstated.

Immigrants have changed the landscape of American business. They are highly entrepreneurial. In 2022, immigrants founded 55% of U.S. start-up companies, valued at more than \$1 billion, and created new businesses at twice the rate of native-born Americans. Companies established by immigrants foster jobs, spur innovation and grow our GDP.

According to an American Immigration Council analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data, immigrants who constitute 14.3% of the US population (48m) generate \$1.6 trillion in economic activity and more than \$579 billion in local, state, and federal taxes. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that the total economic impact of immigrants could reduce the Federal budget deficit by some \$897 billion over the next 10 years.

Providing a path to citizenship for legal but undocumented immigrants would unlock more than \$254 billion in spending power, generate nearly \$76 billion in taxes, and over a decade, boost the GDP by \$1.2 trillion.

Nationally, 48% of agricultural workers are immigrants, but this figure is much higher in northern California. A 2024 report from the University of California, Davis found that over 90% of hired farmworkers in California are foreign-born. Immigrants are the backbone of the economy in Sonoma County and Northern California.



# A PATH BLOCKED. A COMMUNITY IN CRISIS.

Since 2009, CCNWC has utilized a Federal grant of \$500,000 to enable legal permanent residents to navigate the rigorous process of becoming U.S. citizens. The path to citizenship is complex, confusing and lengthy. With this money, we've provided citizenship classes, exam preparation, and legal advice to 6,668 clients over the past 5 years.

However, in the beginning of 2025, this critical funding was cancelled by the current Federal administration, effectively blocking the legitimate path to citizenship for legal immigrants in our community. At the same time, directives from Washington and various interpretations of current law and procedures change on an almost daily basis. This is increasing the number of confused and frightened individuals who are now seeking our services. Demand for our assistance has never been higher. We now receive an additional 100 inquiries per day from legal permanent residents desperate for guidance and support.

## Key Takeaways

- **Funding Path Blocked**
- **Legal Pathways Stalled for Hundreds**
- **Staff Bandwidth at Capacity**

### THEN

(2009 - 2024)

**\$500,000 in  
Active Funding**



Full Citizenship Pipeline



1,509 Served in 6 Months

October 2024 - March 2025

### NOW

(2025)

**Grant  
Cancelled**



100+ Daily New Inquiries



Demand Up, Staff Capacity  
Limited



# THE COST OF EMPOWERMENT

Bridging this \$500,000 gap will allow us to maintain our current level of service. To meet the continued demand for citizenship support, these funds will help us serve an additional 358 individuals with the most pressing needs - providing legal assistance, administrative support, and access to accredited immigration representatives who can guide them through the process.

**The average cost to support an individual through the entire citizenship process is approximately \$1,400.** This includes legal fees, exam preparation, and individualized support.

Your gift will open the door to citizenship; creating stability, opportunity, and a sense of belonging. It doesn't just change one life - it strengthens families and builds a more inclusive future for us all.

## Cost Breakdown



\$760

USCIS Filing Fee



\$365 - \$605

Legal Service Fees

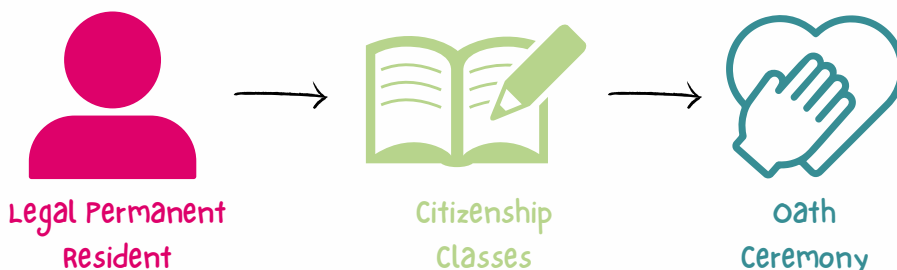


\$35

Citizenship Classes

## Targeted Goal

## Client Journey



# INVEST IN FUTURE CITIZENS

CCNWC is seeking \$500,000 to restore the funding needed to serve 358 legal permanent residents who are ready to begin their journey to U.S. citizenship. These are individuals we would have supported if not for the abrupt loss of federal funding - neighbors who now risk being left without the legal guidance and services they need to move forward.

A gift of \$1,400 provides an immigrant with legal guidance, exam preparation, and individualized support needed to successfully complete their citizenship journey. You don't have to give it all at once - a monthly gift of just \$117 can fund a future citizen over the course of a year.

Donors at this level will receive personalized updates from those they have helped.

By funding a future citizen, you are not only investing in a life changing event, you are strengthening our communities, protecting and improving the fortunes of families, supporting workforce development, and upholding the values of inclusion and opportunity that have defined our nation for nearly 250 years.

We cannot allow this arbitrary decision to withhold contracted funds to sever the lifeline for those striving to become fully sanctioned members of our community, or to derail the dreams of those who have worked tirelessly to build a better life in our country.

Together, we can keep the American dream alive and defend dignity and justice. Will you join us?



"Your contributions have a lasting impact. Because of Catholic Charities, my family's life changed profoundly. Now, I have the privilege to help others find the same hope and opportunity."

-Alejandra Torres, Catholic Charities of Northwest California





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Charities  
OF NORTHWEST CALIFORNIA