

Department Name	Immigration Assistance Center
Account(s)	1173

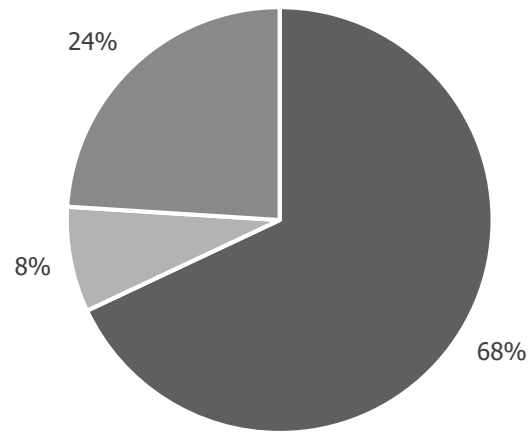
Department Function
<p>The Immigration Assistance Center operates within Region 3 of the Indigent Legal Services Network, encompassing 14 North Eastern New York counties. This office is charged with ensuring attorneys in Region 3 who are assigned to represent a noncitizen client in a criminal court or family court proceeding will have access to the training, advice, and support needed to assist their client in making informed choices regarding any adverse immigration consequences that may arise in compliance with the requirements established in Padilla. In addition, this office will assist Judges, prosecutors, and other law enforcement agencies so that all parties are aware of the potential immigration consequences.</p> <p>This office also facilitates periodic needs assessments of providers to determine each county's ability to provide competent legal advice, access to immigration expertise, training, cultural support, and language services. It will also organize and develop Continuing Legal Education (CLE) programs to address any need.</p> <p>This office will assist indigent legal service providers within Region #3 to develop best practices and effective attorney protocol (i.e., screening and intake procedures) to ensure that each provider has an immigration service plan that provides a systematic approach to representing noncitizen clients and remains compliant with Padilla.</p>

Current Year Highlights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocated for access to legal representation of migrants. • Identified regional resources for the Department of Social Services and the Bureau of Refugee Services. • Assisted several hundred individuals from more than 100 different countries. • Conducted multiple training sessions and appearances at community and legal forums. • Aided the defense of valid constitutional claims to vacate prior criminal convictions, preventing the noncitizen's removal from the United States. • Identified victims of crime such as human trafficking and connected these individuals to services, and assisted them with navigating the pathway to lawful status. • Provided judicial training and training for court-mandated attorneys throughout Region 3. • Connected migrants with immigration resources.

Next Year Projects
<p>-This Office will continue working closely with other indigent legal service providers, bar associations and nonprofit organizations to develop and coordinate regional attorney and judicial trainings and resource materials which address the intersections among criminal, family and immigration law.</p> <p>-This office will continue to improve the legal representation of indigent noncitizens by providing expert legal advice and defense strategies to court-mandated attorneys in assisting their noncitizen clients in making informed choices regarding any adverse immigration consequences which may arise from a family law and/or criminal court proceeding.</p> <p>-This Office will continue to collaborate with the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services (ILS) and the other five (5) Regional Immigration Assistance Centers to analyze regional trends, collect data, and identify attorney best practices that should be considered for possible replication throughout the State.</p> <p>-This Office will continue to develop a community outreach plan which informs attorneys and noncitizens of the services that it is able to provide while remaining consistent with the constant evolution of immigration policy nationwide.</p> <p>-This Office will continue to assist in the representation of several individuals who have valid constitutional claims to vacate prior criminal convictions which would otherwise lead to the noncitizen's removal from the United States.</p> <p>-This Office will continue to be identify victims of human trafficking in addition to victims of crime and connect these individuals to services which assist in providing housing and vocational skills while also helping them navigate the pathway to lawful status.</p> <p>-This Office will provide assistance to court-mandated attorneys whose clients may be targeted by impending ICE raids. More specifically, we assist attorneys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify strategies and arguments for ensuring fair access to the court for those clients in ICE custody; - Ensure continued communication with clients while they are in ICE custody; - Identify if the client will have a hearing and/or be assigned an attorney in Immigration Court; and - Access resources to ensure the best outcome for the client in criminal and immigration proceedings. <p>-This office will also provide an immigration hotline number for those other individuals who may also be targeted by the ICE but are not represented by court-mandated attorneys.</p> <p>-Finally, this Office will continue to provide assistance to Albany County residents with immigration questions/needs, for example, noncitizens who are considering filing affirmative applications with the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) by developing a pro bono network that specializes in immigration law and encompasses auxiliary service providers.</p>

Link to Website	www.albanycounty.com/Immigration
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Albany County Office of Immigration Assistance
Case Type Statistics for 2024



■ Criminal Court Cases ■ Family Court Cases ■ Other cases