

JSS IMMIGRATION SERVICES

Presentation to Dane County Health
and Human Needs Committee

July 2016

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- JSS Immigration Legal Services started in 2005
- In response to a high volume of phone calls from immigrants who needed assistance with their immigration legal cases
- JSS is the longest standing BIA Recognized organization in Dane County and Janice has been a BIA accredited representative for nearly 11 years. Janice resettled refugees for 15 years before becoming a BIA Accredited Representative = 25+ years of experience

Who Does This Program Serve?

- Low Income/No Income
- Victims of Crime
- Victims of Domestic Abuse
- Those who Struggle with Physical/Mental Disabilities
- Vulnerable Immigrants

JSS Provides Holistic Services

- ▣ Immigration Legal Services – Representation by Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) Accredited Representative
- ▣ Casework
 - Advocacy
 - Public Benefits
 - Emotional support
 - Subsidized Housing/Relocation
 - Senior Support
- ▣ Interpreter Services and Translation of Documents
- ▣ Volunteer Support
 - Tutoring
 - Drivers
 - Shopping
- ▣ Social/Recreational Programming to Reduce Isolation
- ▣ Referrals

2015 Numbers

- In 2015, 280 clients received services under this program
- 147 individuals attended workshops or presentations for a total of 427 people served
- JSS Staff sponsored or cosponsored 13 Workshops/Presentations
- 91 clients were approved for an immigration benefit

2016 Numbers

- As of June 30, 2016: 95 clients received services under this program
- 73 individuals attended workshops or presentations for a total of 168 people served
- JSS Staff sponsored or cosponsored 5 Workshops/Presentations

Always Learning!

In order to maintain BIA Accreditation, reps need to log 40 hours of courses/study per year. Accreditation needs to be renewed every 3 years.

Who Do We Serve?

Over the years, JSS staff have worked with clients from over 70 countries. In 2015, we served folks from 36 countries. In 2016, JSS served individuals from 30 countries (as of June 30, 2016).

2015 Countries:

Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, France, Gambia, Germany, Guinea, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kosovo, Laos, Latvia, Liberia, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Russia, S. Korea, Senegal, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Syria, Togo, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Zimbabwe

National Recognition/Accolades

- JSS was the very first Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC) affiliate in 2009. Over 70 agencies are now non-Catholic affiliate agencies.
- JSS Staff wrote a Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR) plan in 2013. Only 15 agencies were awarded nationally. The information from this plan was used in national CLINIC Trainings.
- In 2015, BIA Accredited Representative Janice Beers was one of 5 people on a national committee to review and edit CLINIC's provider toolkit. This work was recognized by CLINIC and is published on their website.
- Last week Committee for Immigration Reform Implementation (CIRI) released its 4 year DACA

CIRI National DACA Report



**DACA After *United States v. Texas*:
Recommendations for the President**

A DACA Client Represented by JSS is Highlighted In This Report:

“I remember approaching graduation and all I knew was I wanted to pursue a higher education. Realizing that many doors began to close due to my legal status, I felt like I had crashed into a wall and wouldn't be able to pursue my educational and career goals. DACA has helped me continue my educational ambitions. I have finished the nursing assistant program at Madison College and I am about to take the state exam in order to obtain my CNA Certificate. My future goals consist of getting an associate's degree as a medical laboratory technician and later on getting a bachelor's degree in pharmacology. No words can describe how joyful my heart feels to know that there is hope for people who experience the same circumstances that I have overcome.”

Story provided by Jewish Social Services, Madison, WI.

Thank you to Dane County for Supporting JSS Immigration Services Program

