

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

Immigrant
Legal Services
Center

ANNUAL REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
IMMIGRANT LEGAL SERVICES CENTER

ucimm.law.ucdavis.edu

FISCAL YEAR:
2022 - 2023



OUR MISSION



We believe that immigration status should not be a barrier to higher education and opportunities for a better future.

Our mission is to advance equity and success in higher education by providing free, high-quality immigration legal representation, outreach, and education to undocumented and immigrant UC students and their immediate family members, as well as mixed-status families, at nine¹ University of California campuses.

OVERVIEW: A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

During my first year as Executive Director of the University of California Immigrant Legal Services Center (“UCIMM” or “Center”), I have felt nothing short of grateful for the warm welcome I received from staff, clients, students, and partners inside and outside of the UC system, and it is a privilege to share about our team’s work and accomplishments during the past year.

At UCIMM, we believe that immigration status should not be a barrier to higher education or career opportunities. Achieving this requires overcoming great challenges, but we have always risen to the occasion. This Spring, an estimated 14,000 undocumented students graduated from California High Schools², and last year, an estimated three to four thousand undocumented students formed part of the University of California system. Each year our students and their families beat the odds, they make it to college in spite of financial and structural barriers—they dare to dream big, seeing a future where they and their families will continue to enrich, innovate, and contribute to our communities...and they do.

We are inspired by our students and their families, and we work to mirror their tenacity and resolve in our work as legal advocates. We are fortunate to have a stellar team of experienced immigration attorneys and staff that work every day to respond to the immigration legal needs of our students and their families.

Our work in the past year shows the breadth of what UCIMM is able to accomplish, from complex legal victories for UC students and affiliated families seeking safety in the United States or those seeking avenues to fulfill academic and career opportunities through advance parole³, to strategic initiatives to expand opportunities for undocumented and immigrant students.

We will remember this year, for the many ways in which our team continued to respond to the changing immigration needs of our students and their families, as fewer undocumented students have access to the protections and benefits of DACA, and those who are DACA recipients

find themselves in a holding pattern due to ongoing litigation that will determine the future of DACA.

Never deterred, and always ready to respond to these challenges, our team assisted a record number of students in applying for and obtaining advance parole. We innovated our consultation model to screen for employment-based immigration visa options, and partnered with pro bono attorneys to assist nearly fifty UC employees who are DACA recipients.

Looking forward to the new academic and fiscal year, we are excited that we will begin FY23-24 with support from UC Merced and UC Santa Cruz, as we transition from law school graduate fellows serving their campuses to staff attorneys. Our goal in the upcoming year, will be to take a close look at internal structures and systems after nearly a decade since our founding, to ensure our staff have the support and infrastructure necessary to continue to serve our students, as we encounter greater uncertainty and complex legal challenges.



To all of our funders and partners, thank you for helping fortify UCIMM's ability to work with our students and families to ensure that all of our students, regardless of immigration status, thrive.

Onward!
Aidin Castillo Mazantini



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OUR TEAM

Our legal team remains at 18 staff members, and is comprised of the Executive Director, two Managing Attorneys, one Supervising Attorney, eight Staff Attorneys (one of whom holds an additional role as Director of Strategic Initiatives), two Paralegals, a Program Associate, an Office Manager, a Legal Secretary, and a Legal Assistant.

During the past year, we welcomed attorneys Elda Rosales, Gina Pech-Sanchez, and Ritu Goswamy, who joined our team to fill positions at three UC campuses. All three bring a wealth of immigration law knowledge and experience representing immigrant youth and families.



ELDA S. ROSALES
(SHE/HER) STAFF ATTORNEY SERVING UC IRVINE

Elda's passion for Immigration Law is fueled by her own experiences growing up in a mixed status family. Prior to joining UCIMM, Elda served as a Staff Attorney at the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) providing free immigration legal services to students within the California State University system and Community Colleges.

GINA PECH-SANCHEZ
(SHE/HER) STAFF ATTORNEY SERVING UCLA

As the daughter of Belizean immigrants, her passion for advocating for the immigrant community started at a young age. Prior to joining the Center, she worked on a variety of different immigration cases including removal defense, family-based petitions, U-Visas, VAWA's, SIJS, and Naturalizations at a private immigration firm.



RITU GOSWAMY
(THEY/THEM) STAFF ATTORNEY SERVING UC SANTA CRUZ

Prior to joining the Center, Ritu worked as a child welfare worker in Oakland, and as an attorney with the Legal Aid Society – Employment Law Center (now Legal Aid at Work) and Legal Advocates for Children & Youth (part of the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley). Ritu then ran their own private immigration law practice for 15 years and is also a leadership and wellness coach and published author. Ritu is a second-generation immigrant, and proficient in Spanish and Hindi.



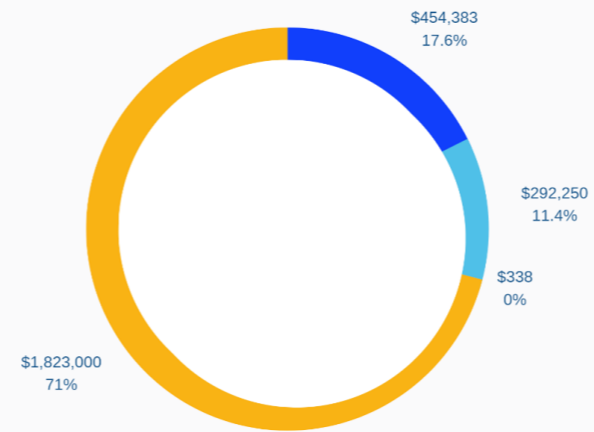
FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

In FY22-23 our revenue totaled \$2,569,971.⁴ While funding from the State of California comprised the largest share of our revenue, campus contributions continue to be vital to ensuring that our Center can provide services to students and families. These funds allow us to leverage other revenue to invest in building a strong infrastructure, including providing administrative support needed for the increasingly complex and robust legal services our Center offers.

During the past year, UCLA, UC San Diego, UC Riverside, UC Irvine, and UC Davis all supported our Center with partial or full-funding for an on-site attorney at their respective campus. We are deeply grateful to our campus partners for a shared vision of removing immigration status as a barrier to students' success in higher education. Their support remains vital to sustaining our program.

UC IMM FY22-23 REVENUE

- CALIFORNIA STATE BUDGET
- UC CAMPUSES
- CDSS-IMMIGRATION SERVICES CONTRACT
- DONATIONS

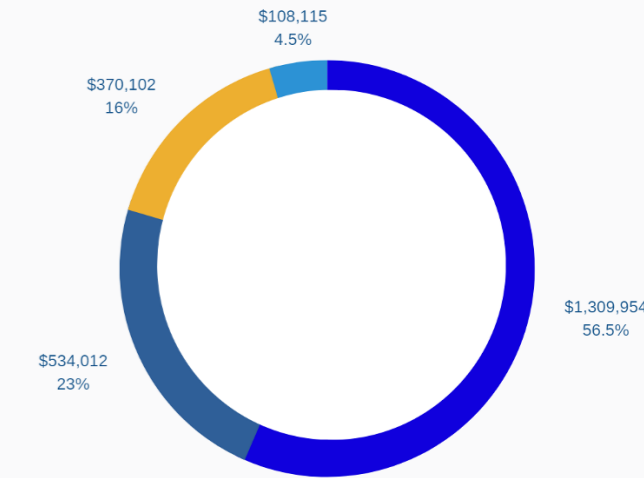


FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

Our expenses for FY 22-23 totaled \$2,318,005. Compensation expenses, which includes both salaries and benefits, accounted for the largest share of our expenses, at \$1,839,788 or 79.54% of our total expenses. Operating expenses remained similar to FY21-22, comprising 4.5 % of our expenses. An overhead of \$370,102, noted here as indirect costs, was paid to UC Davis School of Law, which serves as our Center's headquarters and housed nine of our Center's staff.

UC IMM FY22-23 EXPENSES

- INDIRECT COSTS
- STAFF SALARIES
- STAFF BENEFITS
- OPERATING EXPENSES

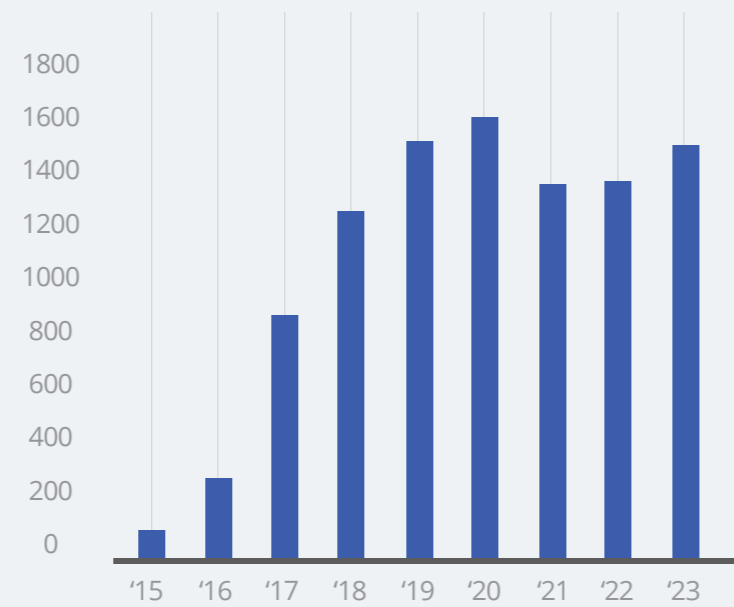


IMPACT - KEY DATA POINTS & TRENDS

As in recent years, the majority of our matters (i.e., cases) opened in FY 2023 include DACA, advance parole (AP), Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), and general immigration screenings.⁵ This year, we opened 1,433 total matters, and responded to 480 inquiries in addition to those matters.⁶ These totals show an increase over last year, despite the UC system's decrease in undocumented student enrollment.⁷

FY	TOTAL NUMBER OF MATTER OPENED
2015	54
2016	269
2017	852
2018	1206
2019	1495
2020	1538
2021	1275
2022	1276
2023	1433

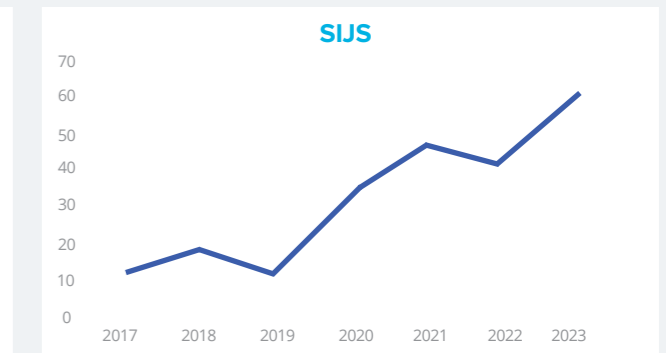
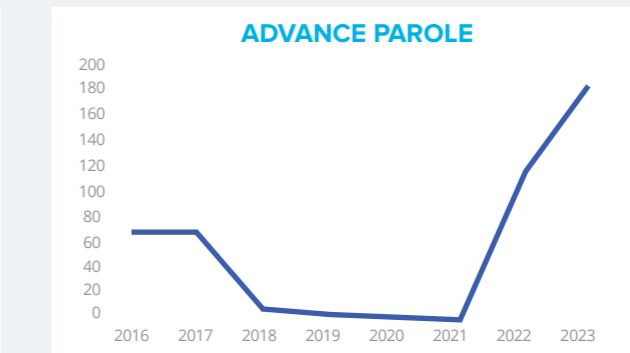
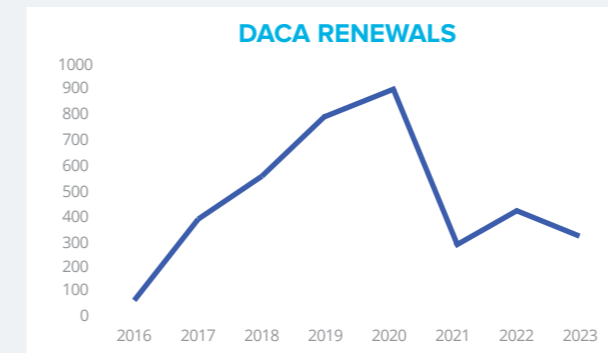
OF MATTERS



DACA RENEWALS, ADVANCE PAROLE, AND SIJS MATTERS

As noted in recent years,⁸ DACA renewals continue to comprise a substantial part of UCIMM's casework but at much lower numbers due to the fact that the vast majority of today's undergraduate students never had access to DACA. Advance parole applications continue to increase as students with DACA take advantage of their ability to travel abroad while the opportunity still exists.⁹ This year, we opened the most SIJS matters in Center history. Last fiscal year we had identified SIJS as an underutilized pathway to employment authorization and lawful permanent residency (LPR), and launched a campaign to increase awareness among undocumented students and the greater UC community. We are seeing positive results of the SIJS Awareness Campaign.¹⁰

FY	DACA REN	AP	SIJS
2016	79	69	0
2017	334	68	13
2018	625	7	23
2019	784	4	12
2020	909	3	35
2021	300	0	48
2022	440	113	43
2023	315	183	62



About not being able to obtain DACA, a UCSD 1st year Computing Graduate Student says,

“ it forced me to rethink my post-graduation plans: despite receiving offers of employment from a number of FAANG companies, I was unable to take them. It prevents me from doing things as simple as building credit or banking with certain institutions, which requires an SSN...It has made me quite concerned with figuring out how to support my family with e.g. medical bills as income generation is extremely limited without DACA. ”

A UCLA 3rd year psychology student says that not having DACA

“ has not only caused me to stress about the future, but also re-think about the hard work I have already done. Although I know it is necessary to keep pushing forward, it is sometimes hard to do that especially when it seems like everything is up against you. Not having DACA directly impacts the career I want to pursue in the future by preventing me to volunteer at the local hospitals near my house. Due to my status, accumulating clinical hours for the preparation of applying to med school is very difficult. ”

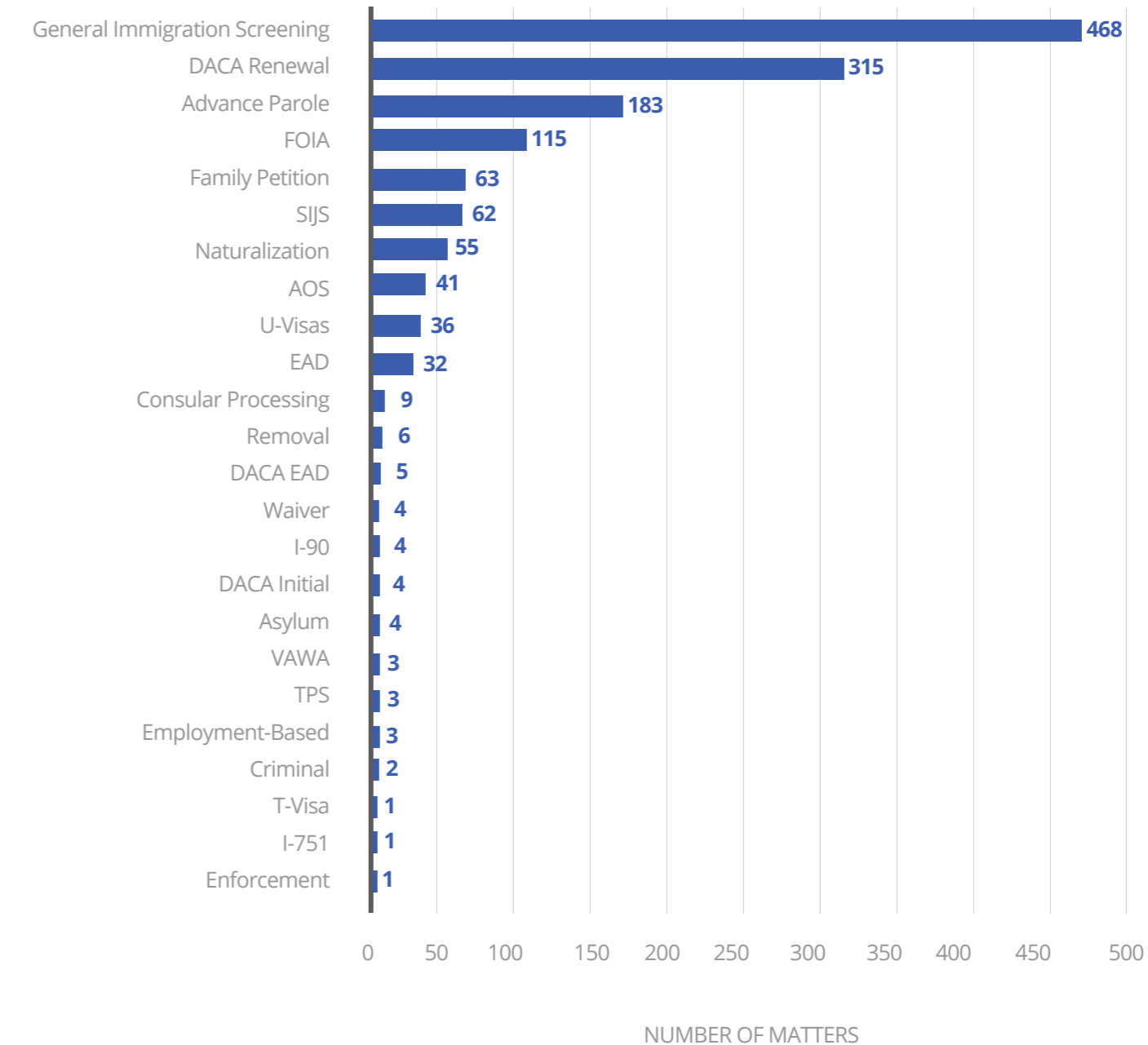


All MATTER TYPES

In addition to the above matter types—DACA, AP, and SIJS, our other most common matter types continue to include general immigration screenings,¹¹ Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests,¹² family petitions, adjustment of status, and U visa.¹³ This year, we saw an increase in naturalization matters as a result of our participation in a UCD School of Law community workshop.¹⁴ Overall, however, there is relative consistency among matter type percentages when compared to last year's data.¹⁵

MATTER TYPES	TOTAL #	TOTAL %
GENERAL IMMIGRATION SCREENING	468	33%
DACA RENEWAL	315	22%
ADVANCE PAROLE	183	13%
FOIA	115	8%
FAMILY PETITION	63	4%
SIJS	62	4%
NATURALIZATION	55	4%
AOS	41	3%
U-VISAS	36	3%
EAD	32	2%
CONSULAR PROCESSING	9	1%
REMOVAL	6	0%
DACA EAD	5	0%
WAIVER	4	0%
I-90	4	0%
DACA INITIAL	4	0%
ASYLUM	4	0%
VAWA	3	0%
TPS	3	0%
EMPLOYMENT-BASED	3	0%
CRIMINAL	2	0%
T-VISA	1	0%
I-751	1	0%
ENFORCEMENT	1	0%

TYPES OF MATTERS, FICAL YEAR 2023



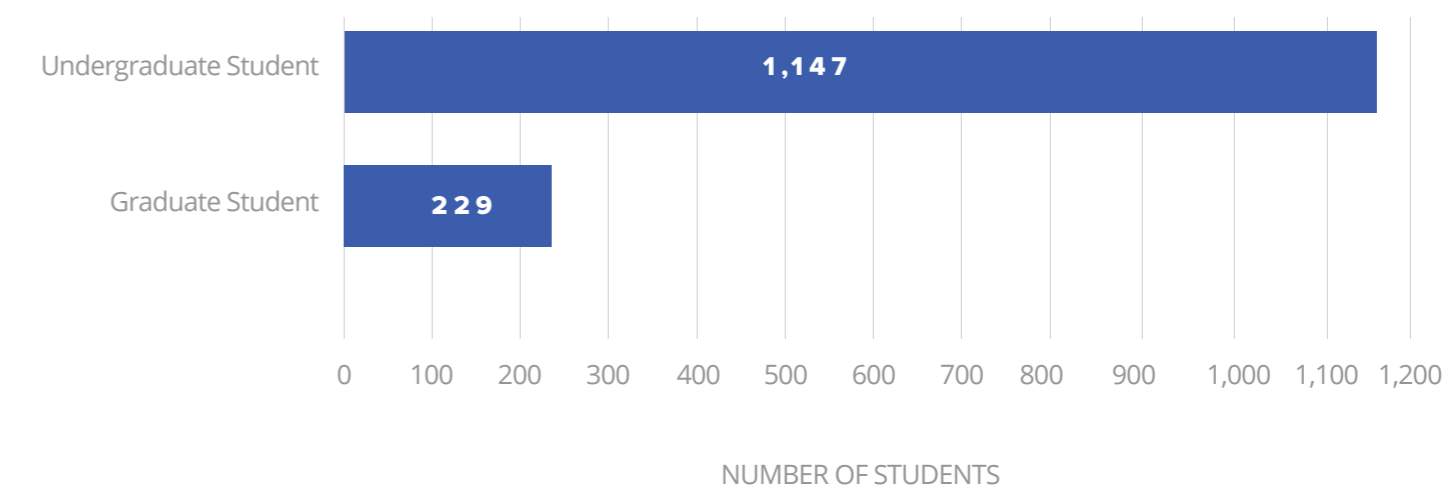
UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE STUDENTS SERVED

This year, the number of graduate students served continues to rise; this correlates to the greater number of DACA advance parole opportunities available to graduate students who have DACA.



UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE STUDENTS SERVED. FICAL YEAR 2023

STUDENT STATUS	TOTAL #	TOTAL %
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT	1,147	83.4%
GRADUATE STUDENT	229	16.6%

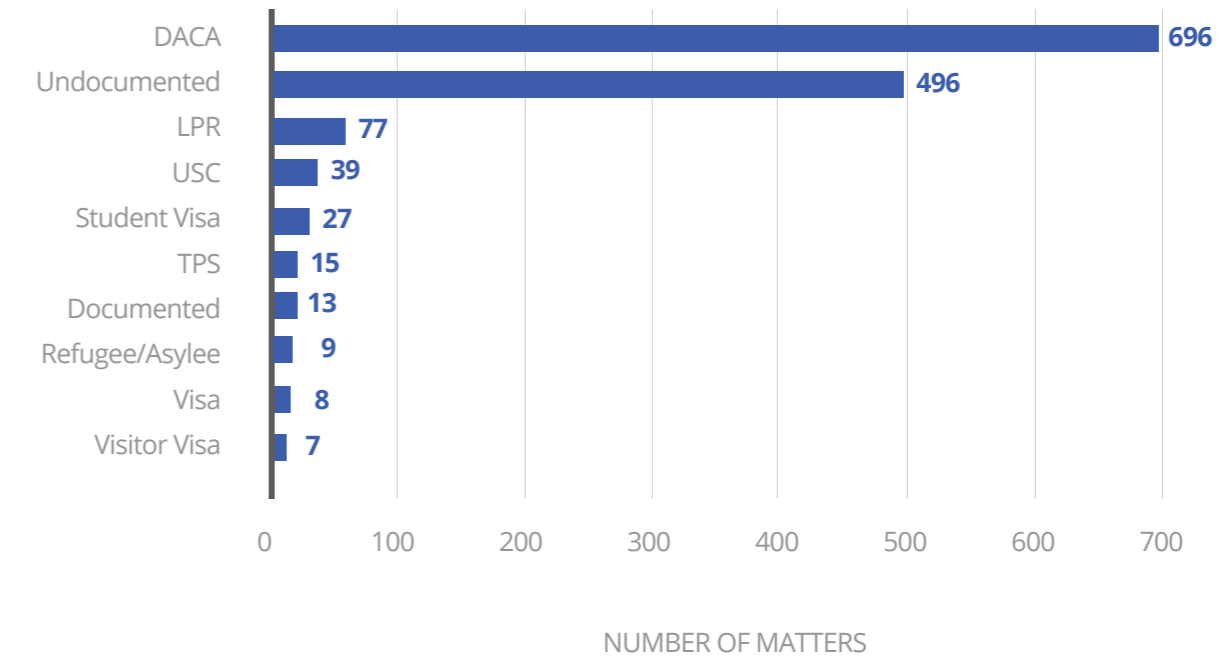


IMMIGRATION STATUS

Unsurprisingly, the number of clients with DACA has declined by 5% from last year. Aside from this, the immigration status of our clients remains similar to last year.¹⁶

IMMIGRATION STATUS	TOTAL #	TOTAL %
DACA	696	50%
Undocumented	496	36%
LPR	77	6%
USC	39	3%
Student Visa	27	2%
TPS	15	1%
Documented	13	1%
Refugee/Asylee	9	1%
Visa	8	1%
Visitor Visa	7	1%

IMMIGRATION STATUS, FICAL YEAR 2023

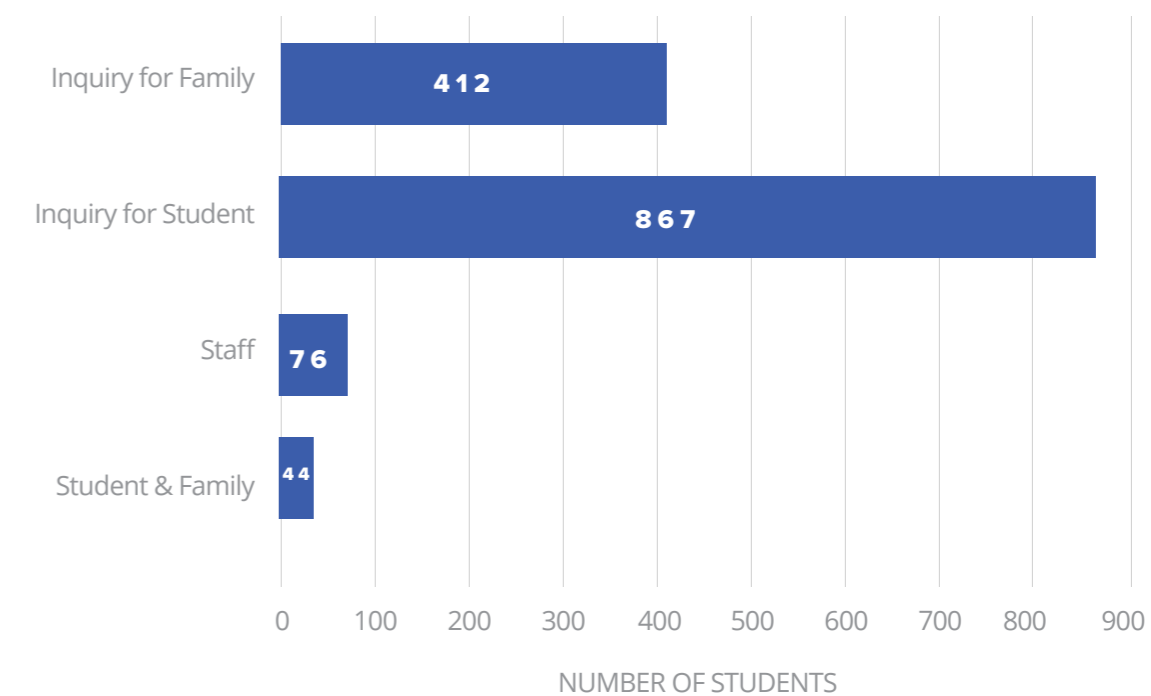


STUDENTS, FAMILY MEMBERS, & STAFF



INQUIRY TYPE	TOTAL #	TOTAL %
INQUIRY FOR FAMILY	412	29.4%
INQUIRY FOR STUDENT	867	62.0%
STAFF	76	5.4%
STUDENT & FAMILY	44	3.1%

INQUIRY TYPE, FICAL YEAR 2023



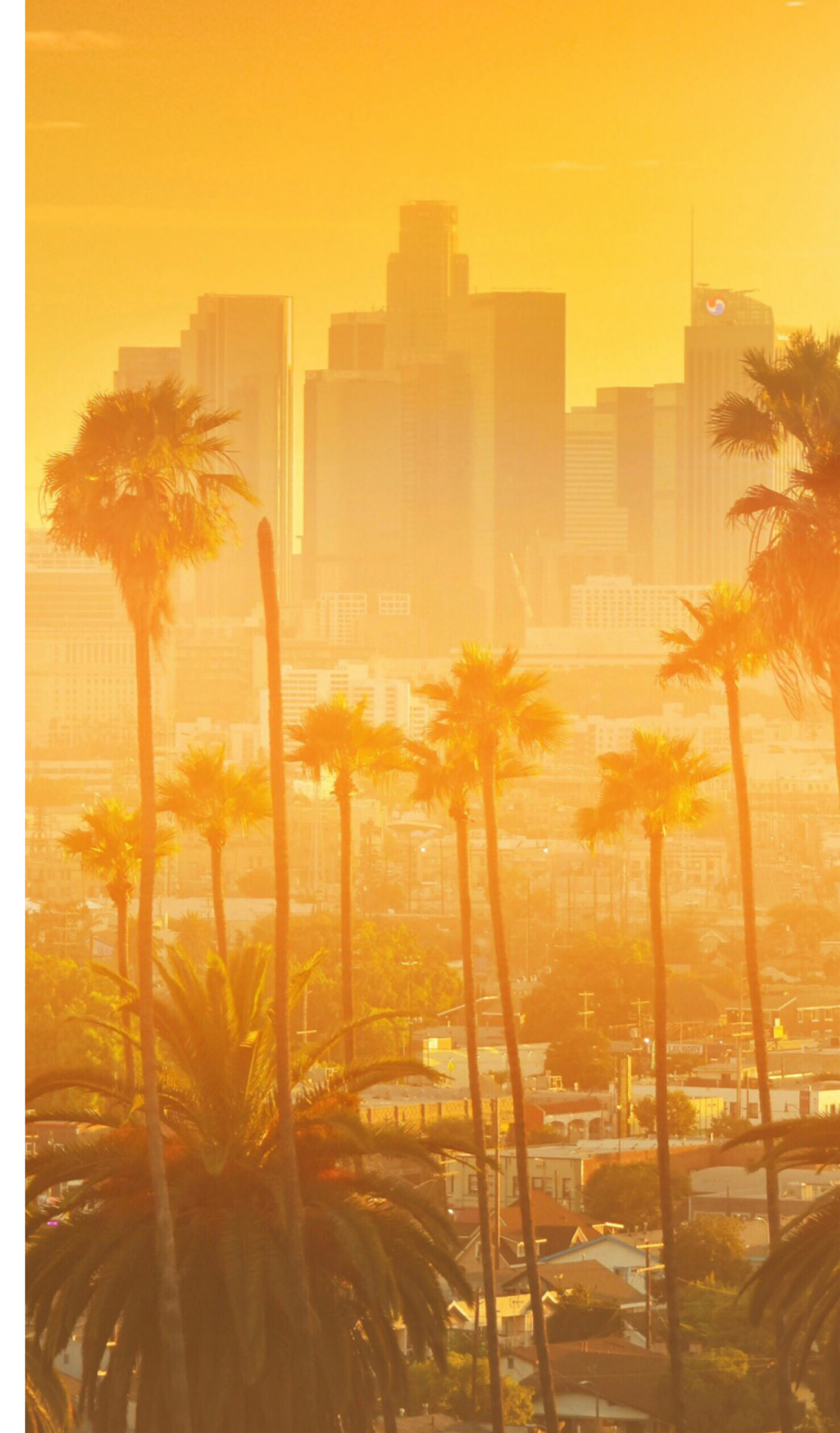
DEMOGRAPHICS

As in previous years, the majority of our clients consider their permanent residence to be in Los Angeles, Riverside, Orange, and San Diego Counties. The majority of our clients' countries of origin continue to be Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, United States, South Korea, China, the Philippines, and Peru.



CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF RESIDENCE, FICAL YEAR 2023

COUNTY OF RESIDENCE	NO.	%	COUNTY OF RESIDENCE	NO.	%
.NOT CA	42	3%	SAN BERNARDINO	82	5.9%
ALAMEDA	25	1.8%	SAN DIEGO	104	7.4%
CONTRA COSTA	25	1.8%	SAN FRANCISCO	17	1.2%
FRESNO	14	1%	SAN JOAQUIN	11	0.8%
GLENN	2	0.1%	SAN LUIS OBISPO	1	0.1%
IMPERIAL	1	0.1%	SAN MATEO	18	1.3%
KERN	24	1.7%	SANTA BARBARA	42	3.0%
KINGS	1	0.1%	SANTA CLARA	37	2.6%
LOS ANGELES	458	32.5%	SANTA CRUZ	17	1.2%
MADERA	2	0.1%	SHASTA	1	0.1%
MARIN	3	0.2%	SOLANO	7	0.5%
MERCED	23	1.6%	SONOMA	6	0.4%
MONTEREY	15	1.1%	STANISLAUS	9	0.6%
ORANGE	123	8.8%	TEHAMA	6	0.4%
PLACER	2	0.1%	TULARE	3	0.2%
RIVERSIDE	150	10.7%	VENTURA	15	1.1%
SACRAMENTO	51	3.6%	YOLO	61	4.4%



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, FICAL YEAR 2023

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	NO.	%	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	NO.	%	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	NO.	%
AFGHANISTAN	3	0.2%	GREECE	1	0.1%	PAKISTAN	1	0.1%
ARGENTINA	12	0.8%	GUATEMALA	47	7.4%	PERU	23	1.6%
BANGLADESH	3	0.2%	HONDURAS	13	1.2%	PHILIPPINES	24	1.7%
BELIZE	6	0.4%	HUNGARY	1	0.1%	RUSIA	2	0.1%
BOLIVIA	2	0.1%	INDIA	8	0.6%	SERBIA	2	0.1%
BRAZIL	11	0.8%	INDONESIA	3	0.2%	SOUTH KOREA	28	2.0%
BURMA/MYANMAR	2	0.1%	IRAN	8	0.6%	SPAIN	3	0.2%
CANADA	9	0.6%	ITALY	2	0.1%	SYRIA	5	0.4
CHILE	5	0.4%	JAPAN	3	0.2%	TAIWAN	1	0.1%
CHINA	25	1.8%	KUWAIT	1	0.1%	THAILAND	1	0.1%
COLOMBIA	4	0.3%	MEXICO	1,019	71.7%	TURKEY	1	0.1%
DEMOCRATIC REP. OF CONGO	2	0.1%	MONGOLIA	2	0.1%	TURKMENISTAN	1	0.1%
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1	0.1%	MOROCCO	2	0.1%	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	1	0.1%
ECUADOR	6	0.4%	NEPAL	2	0.1%	UNITED KINGDOM	3	0.2%
EGYPT	2	0.1%	NETHERLANDS	1	0.1%	UNITED STATES	29	2.0%
EL SALVADOR	65	4.6%	NICARAGUA	1	0.1%	VENEZUELA	6	0.4%
ETHIOPIA	4	0.3%	NIGERIA	7	0.5%	VIETNAM	1	0.1%
GERMANY	1	0.1%	NORWAY	4	0.3%	ZAMBIA	1	0.1%



STORIES OF OUR COMMUNITIES

SISTERS SUCCESSFULLY REUNITED THROUGH HUMANITARIAN PAROLE

Since the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021, thousands of families have been forcibly displaced or separated. Many fled to find safety elsewhere after the Taliban regained power in Afghanistan. Earlier this year, our team had the opportunity to assist sisters from Afghanistan, one of whom is a UC student, to successfully reunite.

The UC student sought our assistance because she feared for her older sister's life in Afghanistan when the Taliban again took power in 2021. They were each other's only surviving immediate family members. In the 1990s, the Taliban had bombed their home and killed their parents and siblings, a tragedy the student herself survived. Now having taken over Afghanistan a second time, the Taliban instituted oppressive conditions for Afghan nationals, especially for women, and its supporters followed a culture of forced marriages and honor killings. The student's sister fled to Pakistan, but there she suffered atrocities and many of the same dangers to her safety and her life.

Our team had the opportunity to help her reach the U.S. using a special application called humanitarian parole, which is not officially a visa category but a solution for urgent humanitarian situations. The application process was a long and difficult 18-month journey. Legally, we faced the challenge of long delays at the federal agency (USCIS) responsible for processing these applications, with an adjudication rate estimated at a mere 5 percent between 2020 and 2022, and an approval rate at under 1 percent. But the applicant's greater and more immediate struggle was to stay alive and safe, find housing, survive physical and emotional abuse, and live to pursue her application and travel to the U.S. from Pakistan. Throughout the process, she survived thanks to a support system that became available through pure luck: the help of complete strangers who risked their own safety for her. Unfortunately, given the limited avenues available for reunification and delays in processing humanitarian parole requests, it may take miracles for Afghan nationals to seek safety in the U.S. But at the same time, we are immensely grateful to have helped her reach the U.S. and reunite with her sister.



MAKING LIFE CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES POSSIBLE THROUGH ADVANCE PAROLE

Advance parole is a special travel permit that allows some DACA recipients to travel outside of the United States for educational, employment and humanitarian purposes.

Although DACA has been in place for over a decade, many DACA recipients remain unaware of this opportunity. During the past eight years, our team has worked to increase awareness of advance parole, and represented hundreds of DACA beneficiaries in applying for and receiving advance parole, and successfully traveling and returning to the United States.

Advance parole is life-changing for our clients. It has allowed students to participate and present important research at international conferences, and innovate their fields of study and work. As our client, a PhD candidate at UC Riverside describes, it is an experience “[she] will remember for the rest of [her] life”.

“After 17 years, I was given the opportunity to re-enter this country with Advance Parole, and for the first time, I felt free. Even though it felt like I was risking my entire life and future as I exited this country, Attorney Alfonso Maldonado Silva explained the process clearly and made me feel safe. Having access to UC Immigration Legal



Services since 2015 has been a pillar for my academic success since, thanks to their assistance, my immigration status has not been a limitation to my endeavors.

I graduated from UC Riverside in 2020 with a double bachelors in Spanish. I am currently a third-year PH.D. Entomology student. I requested an advance parole to Collaborate with one of the most prestigious researchers in population genomics. While planning my trip, a very important pollinator specialist found out about my visit and asked for my collaboration in his research on bumble bee hibernation success and reproduction. After this collaboration, the word spread, and three days before my return, the lead biologist at Wildlife Preservation Canada's Native Pollinator Initiative contacted me to teach dissection techniques to his conservation specialist at the African Lion Safari Park.

It was a true adventure I will remember for the rest of my life. Thanks to advance parole, I was able to learn new skills to further my research, build strong connections with important scientists in my field, and develop collaborations to help advance the awareness and conservation of pollinators.”



SHARING OUR EXPERTISE

Over the past eight years, our Center has become an expert in representing DACA beneficiaries in advance parole cases. In fact, our Center is one of the only legal services organizations in the entire country to offer legal representation in advance parole cases free of charge.

This past Spring, Staff Attorney, Andrés Lemons and our partners at UC San Diego presented at the 2023 NAFSA International Education Conference in Washington DC about how to expand study abroad programs to DACA beneficiaries through advance parole.

Pictured left to right: UCIMM Staff Attorney, Andrés Lemons, Dayan Castañeda, the UC San Diego Undocumented Student Services program manager, and Sarah Vatch, UC San Diego study abroad advisor.



Staff Attorney, Elda Rosales (pictured right, second from left) represented and accompanied a cohort of UC Irvine (UCI) students to Mexico City as part of the Building Binational Bridges Conference, a cross-border convening organized by the UC Irvine DREAM Center and the UC Irvine Center for Liberation Anti-Racism, and Belonging. This initiative aims to bring together U.S. and Mexican students to discuss immigration, one of the most critical binational issues affecting the U.S. and Mexico. By engaging across borders, they aim to promote a deep understanding of critical issues affecting both Mexican and U.S. society and to foster binational connections to address them. These align with the University of California's mission of "discovering and advancing knowledge" and advances UC Irvine's strategic plan to train partners who will "provide leadership in and solutions to diverse societal issues."

With the help of UCIMM colleagues Lorena Rosas and Alfonso Maldonado Silva, UCIMM attorney Elda Rosales prepared advance parole applications for students before their trip to Mexico City. They conducted various meetings and trainings on what to expect and how to prepare. Elda spoke at an event before departure to prepare and quell anxiety from students. She also communicated regularly with students during their trip, to ensure their safe return. She also spoke to the US ambassador to Mexico regarding the importance of advance parole travel and the process of being processed by Customs and Border Protection upon return. Elda's own experience accompanying students on this trip, left a profound and lasting impression on her. She was struck seeing first-hand how



advance parole changes lives. She spoke to various people who had been deported or self-deported. Their reintegration stories opened her eyes to how migrants resettle in their countries of origin. "By seeing advance parole first-hand, we can better serve our clients and understand their concerns, anxieties, and excitement." Furthermore, seeing people who have been deported resettle and reacclimate to life and are thriving opened Elda's eyes. "We often think people choosing to leave the US is the worse choice but it can be done and people do succeed in their new lives."

POST-DACA PLANNING

With the loss of DACA looming in the courts,¹⁷ our Center is exploring new ways we can support DACA recipients as well as students who were never able to apply for DACA. Our initiatives include: incorporating business/employment-based immigration questions into our general screening; hosting a consultation workshop for UC employees with DACA; partnering in medical resident advocacy; exploring inclusive professional opportunities; and partnering with campus Vice Chancellors of Student Affairs (VCSAs) and University of California Office of the President (UCOP) to explore ways to better support DACAmented students and staff.



HIGHLIGHTS

CONSULTATION WORKSHOP FOR UC EMPLOYEES

The UC alone employs almost 500 individuals with DACA. On June 10, 2023, UCIMM hosted our first immigration consultation workshop for UC employees with DACA. With the help of 14 volunteer attorneys, many of whom have offered ongoing support, we were able to remotely screen over 40 UC employees for all forms of immigration relief—including family, humanitarian, and business/employment. Many of those screened learned about advance parole and its benefits for the first time. Several others require further investigation of their parents’ decades-old family-based petitions, which could open up family or employment immigration opportunities for those families (a.k.a. “245(i) eligibility”). Finally, a number of attendees would qualify for H1B visas¹⁸ if employers are willing to sponsor them. We hope that this workshop will inspire similar workshops in other employment settings.

MEDICAL RESIDENT ADVOCACY

DACA’s end will affect both future and current medical healthcare workers. According to a 2020 Center for American Progress profile, 29,000 frontline medical healthcare workers are DACA recipients.

Currently, most undergraduate students do not have DACA and will likely never benefit from the program. Some of these undocumented students will choose not to pursue graduate medical education because they do not have work authorization—which is not required to attend medical school nor to obtain a medical license, but is required to train in the medical residency. A choice to broaden eligibility for medical residency will help ensure a diverse and vibrant healthcare workforce who share the lived experience of those they serve.

Our Center is spearheading a group of immigration advocates passionate about inclusive access to healthcare professions in light of changes to DACA. The group drafted and disseminated a letter that serves as a call to action. We shared the letter with a variety of medical professionals and administrators in the UC system, and received appreciation for bringing the content of the letter to their attention. We hope the letter sets a foundation for future collaboration to support expanding options in healthcare for undocumented students.



“ During my internship, I had the opportunity to research and learn about immigration reliefs and use the research to create informational graphics for the community. I gained so much knowledge in a short period of time, which left me more interested in the immigration system. Assisting the attorney in the client intake process was one of the best experiences, as I felt that I was using my Spanish/English skills to help another person who needed it. I am also really thankful for all the patience and support that I received; memo-writing was an intense assignment, but it was my favorite part because I learned the IRAC legal writing process. Researching immigration rules, connecting them with the facts of the case, and then analyzing, all while receiving feedback from my supervisor, made the process enjoyable. I have no words to thank my supervisor for all her support, and the many times she read my work! Thank you again! ”

-Erick

INCLUSIVE PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

During the past year, our Center hosted volunteer and fellowship positions through the California Student Aid Commission's Dream Service Incentive Grant and the UCLA Labor Center Dream Summer Fellowship. Inclusive work opportunities can uplift immigrants and others who are unable to engage in “traditional” employment, such as single parents and people with disabilities.

“ I am glad that DSIG has given me the opportunity to volunteer at the law school of UC Davis. Not only has it given me a professional work experience but has helped me greatly at paying my tuition and financial needs... this program has given me a great piece of mind when it comes to my financial situation. ”

-Cristian



PARTNERSHIPS, COMMUNICATIONS, & POLICY, FY 2023

CAMPUS PARTNERSHIPS

The list below shows a few of the ways in which our campus attorneys go above and beyond the standard role of immigration attorney in support of our unique client community.

- UCIMM attorneys partner with campus undocumented student programs (USPs) to provide undocuallship trainings for students, staff, and faculty.
- UCIMM attorneys host immigration 101 and know-your-rights legal trainings year-round.
- UCIMM attorneys partner with campus USPs to provide advance parole application and information workshops.
- UCIMM attorneys partner with campus study abroad offices to strategize around undocuttravel and advance parole.
- At UCD, UCIMM met with campus mental health services to discuss the concept of self-deportation.
- At UCD School of Law, UCIMM partnered with the Immigration Law Clinic to host a community naturalization workshop held at the Mexican Consulate.
- In partnership with UCM USP, UCIMM's campus attorney accompanied students to a conference in Chicago.
- At UCR, in partnership with campus USP, UCIMM's campus attorney spoke at a workshop for survivors of violence.
- At UCSF, in partnership with financial aid, UCIMM's campus attorney provided an immigration 101 staff training and explained how UCIMM can support with undocumented student financial aid and in-state residency issues.



UCD School of Law naturalization workshop volunteers, including: UCIMM's Rachel Ray and Aidin Castillo Mazantini; UCD Immigration Clinic's Amagda Perez; and UCD School of Law's Dean Kevin Johnson.

NON-CAMPUS PARTNERSHIPS

CONFERENCE: HIGHER EDUCATION LEGAL SERVICES

The May 2023 convening, organized by CARECEN and hosted by the Foundation for California Community Colleges, brought together community-based organizations serving the immigration legal needs at CCCs and CSUs, and UCIMM, to discuss legal issues, best practices, and ongoing statewide collaboration.

PUBLICATION: CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION'S (CSAC) RENEWING THE DREAM

CSAC convened a workgroup to identify, discuss, and propose solutions to challenges faced by undocumented students in obtaining financial aid. This report provides findings and recommendations to policy makers and campus administrators to better support undocumented students.

PUBLICATION: IMMIGRANTS RISING'S CHAMPIONING EQUITY: SYSTEMWIDE AB540 FAQ

AB 540 allows eligible students, including undocumented individuals, to access in-state tuition and state-based financial aid. Yet thousands of eager students who want to pursue higher education have been unable to achieve their academic and career goals. This has been caused by confusion over the requirements, lack of accurate information, and uneven implementation of in-state tuition at California colleges and universities. This FAQ aims to solve these problems.

PUBLICATION: CALIFORNIA UNDOCUMENTED HIGHER EDUCATION COALITION: FAQ - CA DOJ BACKGROUND CHECKS AND UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS IN CALIFORNIA HIGHER EDUCATION

Students, including undocumented students, may be asked to complete a CA DOJ background check in order to participate in professional development opportunities. This document aims to educate undocumented students and higher education practitioners about CA DOJ background checks and how to navigate the process.

UCIMM COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

NEW UCIMM SELF-HELP AND RESOURCE WEBSITE

In September 2022, we proudly launched our [new website](https://ucimm.law.ucdavis.edu), ucimm.law.ucdavis.edu, which features [legal resources and FAQs](#), [campus resources](#), [policy newsletters](#), and much more. Individuals can also [book an appointment](#) and sign up for UCIMM [updates](#).

POLICY NEWSLETTERS

In previous years, we included our monthly/bimonthly policy newsletters as an appendix to this report. With the launch of our new website, all 2023 newsletters can instead be viewed on our [Newsletters & Events page](https://ucimm.law.ucdavis.edu/newsletters-events): ucimm.law.ucdavis.edu/newsletters-events.

NOTICE & COMMENT – USCIS' PROPOSED FEE SCHEDULE

In March 2023, [UCIMM submitted a public comment](#) opposing USCIS' [proposed filing fee increases](#) that would adversely impact individuals applying for employment authorization, family-based petitions, adjustment of status, naturalization, and other pathways.

DEFERRED ACTION FOR IMMIGRANTS IN LABOR DISPUTES

On May Day, 2023, UCIMM launched an awareness campaign to inform the UC community about a program that enables immigrants involved in labor disputes to apply for deferred action and employment authorization. The [Fact Sheet](#) can be viewed on our [resources page](#).

FOOTNOTE CITATIONS

1. The UC Immigrant Legal Services Center provides free immigration legal services at UC Davis, UC Irvine, UC Los Angeles, UC Merced, UC San Diego, UC San Francisco, UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Cruz, and UC Riverside. UC Berkeley receives services from the East Bay Community Law Center in Berkeley, California.
2. The Post-DACA Generation is Here,” FWD.US (May 23, 2023), <https://www.fwd.us/news/undocumented-high-school-graduates/>
3. Learn more about AP travel and the ways in which our team has helped students access this life changing opportunity in the section: STORIES OF OUR COMMUNITIES - Making Life Changing Opportunities Possible Through Advance Parole.
4. This includes \$90,000 from FY 21-22 that was received during FY22-23.
5. See APPENDIX A for descriptions of immigration relief options.
6. Inquiries are contacts with individuals with immigration related questions that do not rise to the level of a matter.



7. Undocumented student enrollment is estimated by the number of UC-wide undergraduate and graduate California Dream Act Application filers:
2022-23: Not yet available
2021-22: 4,002
2020-21: 4,416
2019-20: 4,663
2018-19: 4,712
8. See our previous annual reports: <https://ucimm.law.ucdavis.edu/annual-reports>.
9. Learn more about AP travel in the section: STORIES OF OUR COMMUNITIES - Making Life Changing Opportunities Possible Through Advance Parole.
10. See tinyurl.com/UCIMM-SIJS-Toolkit.
11. Typically, a “general immigration screening” is an immigration consultation that does not result in any identified immigration relief. However, some general immigration screenings are consultations that do identify relief and are pursued with our Center at a much later date, or they are cases that must be referred to an outside organization.
12. The Freedom of Information Act provides immigrants the right to access their immigration and criminal history records from any federal agency.
13. See APPENDIX A for descriptions of these immigration relief options.
14. See – Campus Partnerships section for more information.
15. See 2022 Annual Report <https://ucimm.law.ucdavis.edu/sites/g/files/dgvnsk12741/files/inline-files/UCIMM-2022-Annual-Report-FINAL.pdf>
16. See 2022 Annual Report <https://ucimm.law.ucdavis.edu/sites/g/files/dgvnsk12741/files/inline-files/UCIMM-2022-Annual-Report-FINAL.pdf>
17. See <https://www.informedimmigrant.com/resources/daca/daca-court/>
18. H1B visas are temporary visas that allow foreign professionals to work in “specialty occupations” that require a bachelor’s degree or the equivalent. Because the H1B is a temporary form of relief like DACA, it would be a useful form of relief in the likely event the DACA program is terminated, for individuals who do not have a pathway to LPR.

APPENDIX A

– IMMIGRATION 101

This primer is intended to explain terms used in this report and is not meant to be a comprehensive compendium of immigration law.

UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICE (“USCIS”)

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is the federal agency that oversees lawful immigration to the United States. It is a component of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

FAMILY-BASED IMMIGRATION

Family Based Petitions

U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents (i.e. green card holders) can sponsor certain family members, such as spouses, parents, children, and siblings so that they may immigrate lawful to the United States. Beneficiaries of family petitions can receive lawful permanent resident status and a pathway to citizenship.



HUMANITARIAN-BASED IMMIGRATION

U Nonimmigrant Status (U Visa)

The U visa is available to survivors of qualifying crimes who have suffered substantial physical or mental harm as a result of surviving a crime. U visa recipients receive a potential path to citizenship for themselves, and, in some cases, their spouses and children.

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status is a form of relief available to juveniles who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected by one or both parents and for whom it would not be in their best interest to be returned to their native country. In California, individuals under the age of 21 who meet all other requirements can receive SIJS. Recipients of SIJS can be eligible for a green card and have a potential path to citizenship.

T Nonimmigrant Status (T Visa)

The T visa provides relief to survivors of severe forms of human trafficking. T visa recipients receive a potential path to citizenship for themselves, and, in some cases, their spouses and children. Trafficking includes persons working under certain conditions.

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

Under VAWA, immigrant survivors of domestic violence, child abuse, or elder abuse by a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident spouse, parent, or child may “self-petition” for lawful permanent residence status without relying on an abusive spouse, parent, or adult child to sponsor them even if they are undocumented. Relief under VAWA provides recipients with a potential path to citizenship for themselves, and, in some cases, their children.

TEMPORARY FORMS OF IMMIGRATION RELIEF

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

The DACA program was enacted following failed congressional attempts at creating a pathway to citizenship for undocumented youth. Under the program, recipients receive deferred action, meaning they are not subject to removal (i.e., deportation) from the U.S. DACA also provides recipients with a two-year work authorization permit subject to renewal. Because DACA is a form of temporary status created through a DHS policy, it does not provide recipients with a pathway to citizenship.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

Temporary Protected Status provides temporary protection from deportation to migrants from countries that have suffered natural disasters, conflict, or unrest. TPS recipients are eligible for a work permit subject to renewal while their native countries retain TPS designation.

BARRIERS TO OBTAINING IMMIGRATION RELIEF

In many cases, an individual may meet the basic requirements to qualify for a given form of immigration relief but still be ineligible. For example, an individual may have a qualifying relative who can file a family-based petition on their behalf. That individual may not, however, be eligible to apply for a green card if they have been convicted of certain crimes, if they initially entered the U.S. without permission, or if they have used certain public benefits, among other possible disqualifications. The many complex requirements for applying for immigration relief are the reason that individuals seeking to obtain an immigration benefit need to consult with a qualified attorney.

IN GRATITUDE

We are deeply grateful to our funders and partners whose investment and partnership allowed us to continue serving students and their families to ensure that fears and concerns about their immigration status are not an impediment to their success in higher education and beyond.

- **STATE OF CALIFORNIA** (Governor Newsom and Legislature)
- **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES,
IMMIGRATION BUREAU**
- **STAFF AND INTERNS OF THE UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT
PROGRAMS ACROSS THE UC SYSTEM**
- **UCIMM INTERNS, EXTERNS, VOLUNTEERS, AND FELLOWS**
- **ENTIRE UCIMM STAFF**
- **VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS WHO ASSISTED WITH
EMPLOYMENT-BASED SCREENINGS**

