



priority
Africa
network

DIRECTORY OF
LEGAL SERVICES
FOR
BLACK IMMIGRANTS
IN THE BAY AREA



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Foreword

Nunu Kidane

Executive Director, Priority Africa Network

This resource is provided as a guide for accessing critically needed legal information. It is relevant for all immigrants, but particularly focused on Black immigrants.

My connections to our community are deep and personal. Having many family members and friends in the Bay Area, I have a vested interest in the well-being of our diverse community of Black immigrants. I am also well aware that often such information is shared informally when needed. In such cases, the advice given may often not be factually reliable, and may even lead to unnecessary legal complications.

As Black foreigners we are distinct and must navigate our racial and immigration status with particular disadvantages. It is clear we are not “African-American” with a long presence and history of that particular identity. Neither are we seen as the typical “immigrant” and are often not included in the services or outreach by ‘immigrant-serving’ agencies.

This puts us in uncharted legal territory, since we are often seen as African Americans with all the associated assumptions and prejudices. Our cultural and language needs also place us in vulnerable positions, without the broad general protections afforded to African Americans. This directory is intended to address the social and legal realities and complexities of Black immigrants in the Bay Area.

For the past two decades, I have had the privilege of serving PAN, an organization that raises awareness of the growing diversity of Black people in the US. We have based this work on inclusion and recognition of the diversity of identities and lived experiences of people of African descent. The continued increase of people from Africa as well as the Caribbean is undoubtedly adding to the economic and cultural vitality of a changing Bay Area. That also means addressing the challenges that arise from the dual identities of being Black and immigrant, as well as, other identities as undocumented, women, LGBTQ, and other ways we express ourselves as individual people.

The work that has gone into producing this directory is based on the love and care for this diverse and complex community of Black people. It is based on the spiritual foundation of the South African tradition of Ubuntu (*I am, because you are*) that recognizes that our lives are interlinked and we share a common destiny.

This resource is available to all who may need it free of charge.

The Immigration Legal Service-Providers Directory

This is a resource for all immigrants but was particularly developed to serve the needs of immigrants from Africa and the Caribbean. It has information that addresses the needs of vulnerable and invisible communities to access affordable and language-specific legal support for immigration matters.

Listings in this directory include not-for-profit agencies providing free services, as well as private attorneys and paralegals. We suggest you read through what is available and select something that best fits your needs. We recognize the informal information-sharing system among close-knit immigrant communities is not always reliable, even when it comes with care from 'trusted' sources like family and friends. The directory is being provided free of charge by Priority Africa Network. We hope you share it widely with those you know who need it.

SWAHILI

Raslimali hii ni ya kuwafaidi wahamiaji wote, haswa wenye asili ya Kiafrika na Kariba. Ina ujumbe maalum kusudia mahitaji ya walio kakita mazingira magumu na jamii zilizotengwa ili kuwapa nafasi ya kupata huduma za kisheria kuhusu uhamiaji, kwa gharama nafuu na lugha inayowafaa.

Saraka hii inaorodhesha mashirika ya misaada yanayo peana msaada wa bure, na pia mawakili na wanasheria binafsi. Tunakupendekeza uisome orodha hii ili uweze kuchagua msaada unaokufaa.

Mara kwa mara, kunao ujumbe usio rasmi unaopashwa ambao huwa huaminiki, hata ukiwa umepitia mtu mwaminifu wa jamii ama rafiki. Kawaida huo ujumbe huwa ni fununu ambazo hazimfai mpokeaji na hali yake.

Raslimali hii imeratibiwa ili kudhibitisha maswala yenye uchanganyifu kupitia ufikiaji wa jumbe sahihi zilizopo. Raslimali hii imeletwa kwako na Priority Africa Network bila malipo yoyote. Tunatumai utaweza kuisambaza na kuieneza raslimali hii vikuu kwa wale unaowajua kuihitaji.



AMHARIC

የሰደተኞችን የሕግ ፍላጎት ለመመለስና ለማርካት የተዘጋጀ አገልግሎት።

ይህ አገልግሎት፡ በአጠቃላይ ለሁሉም ሰደተኞች፡ በተለይ ደግሞ የአፍሪቃና የካሪብያን ሰደተኞችን ለማገልገል በማሰብ የተደራጀ ነው። ይህ ማለት፡ የተጠቀሱ ብዙ የማይስተዋሉ ሰደተኞች፡ ሕጋዊ ፍላጎታቸውን አንድረገህ ተብሎ፡ በቂ መረጃ በሚያገኙበት መልኩ፡ በቋንቋቸው የተደራጀ አገልግሎት ማለት ነው።

አገልግሎቱ፡ ለትርፍ በማይሰሩ ድርጅቶች፡ የግል ጠበቆችና ረዳት ጠበቆችን፡ ያለ ክፍያ በነጻ አገልጎት የሚሰጡበትን ይካተታል። ያለውን መመርያ በደንብ ያንብቡና ለእርስዎ የሚመለከትውን ደረጃ መጥኑውን ክፍል መርጥው ይጠቀሙበት

ጥብቁ ግንኙነት ያላቸው የሰደተኞች ማህበረሰብ፡ አርስ በአርሳቸው መረጃ አንዲሚለዋወጡ የታወቀ ነገር ነው። ይሁን እንጂ መረጃው፡ በጥሩ መንፈስ ከቀርብ ጓደኞችና ቤተሰቦች፡ ቢሰራጭም፡ ብዙ ጊዜ የማይታወቅና የተሳሳተም ሊሆን ይችላል። መረጃ ከአንድ ሰው ወይ ሌላ ሰው ሲተላለፍ፡ ይዘታው ሊለዋወጥ ይችላል። በዚህ ምክንያትም፡ የምንሰማቸው መረጃዎች፡ ለልዩ ሕጋዊ ፍላጎታችን የማይገለገሉና የማይጠቀሙ ሊሆኑ ይችላሉ።

ስለዚህም ይህ ሕጋዊ አገልግሎት፡ ሊያሻሙና ሊያሳስቱ የምችሉትን የሕግ ጥያቄዎችን በማስወገድ፡ እርግጠኛና ግልጽ መረጃ እንዲገኝበት ተብሎ በጥንቃቄ የተዘጋጀ ነው። ይህ መረጃ ያለክፍያ፡ በፕራዮሪቲ አፍሪቃ ኔትዎርክ (Priority Africa Network) በነጻ የሚሰጥ ነው። ይህን አገልጎትና መረጃ ሊጠቀሙበት ለሚገኙ ለሚያስፍልጋቸው ሁሉ አንድታካፍሉትና አንድታስተላልፉት ብተሆኑት እንጠይቃለን።

TIGRINYA

ንሕጋዊ ጠለባት ሰደተኛታት አገልግሎት ዝህብ ተበግሶ።

እዚ ማዕከን ሓበሬታዚ ብሓፊሻ ንኹሎም ሰደተኛታት ብፍላይ ከአ ንኹብ አፍሪቃን ደሴታት ካራብያንን ዝመጹ ሰደተኛታ ንኹንግል ተባሂሉ ብፍላይ አተዳለዉ ኢዩ። እዚ ማዕከንዚ ንዘይሰትውዓሉን ንካብ ሓደጋ ዘለውን ሕብረተሰባት ምስ ዓቕሞም ዝኸይድን፡ ምስ ቋንቋኦም ከኣ ብዝሰነዘን ኣገባብ ንዩ ሰደተ ሕገ ዝምልከት ሓገዝ ክረኽቡሉ ዝኸኣሉ ብቐዕ ሓበሬታ ዝሓቅፊ ኢዩ።

እዚ መምርሒዚ፡ መኽሰብ ዘይደልዩ ተካላትን ከምኡውን ናይ ግሊ ጠበቓታትን ተሓጋገዞት ጠበቓታትን ብነጻ አገልግሎት ዝህቡሉ አገልግሎት የጠቓልል። ነዚ ብነጻ ዝወሃብ አገልግሎትዚ፡ ብግቡኣ ኣንቢብኩም፡ እቲ ንዓኻትኩምን ንኹነታትኩምን ዝምልከት መሪጽኩም ክትጥቀሙሉ ንዕድመኩም።

ብዘይወግዓዊ ኣገባብ ኣብ ሞንጎ ኣብ ሰደተ ዝርከቡ ሕብረተሰባትን ስድራ ቢታትን ዝመሓላለፍ ሓበሬታ ዋላኳ ዓላምኡ ንምርዳእን ንምሕገዝን እንተኾነ፡ እቶም ዘመሓላልፍዎ ሰባትውን እመናትኩም ኢልና ንግምትን ንኣምንን እንተኾነና፡ ግን ዝበዘሐ ጊዜ፡ እቲ ሓበሬታ ግንደን ዝነቡዕን ከይቲ ኢና እንረኽቡ። ከምዚ ዝበለ ሓበሬታ ዝበዘሐ ጊዜ ካብ ሰብ ናብ ሰብ እናተሓለፈ ኣብ ካልኣይን ሳልሳይን ኣካላት ምስ ተሰጋገረ፡ ትርጉሙን ቁምነገሩን እናተቐያየረ ስለ ዝኸይድ፡ ነቶም ርግጽን ርጡብን ሕጋዊ ሓበሬታ ዘድልዩም ሰደተኛታት ኣይጠቐሞምን ጥራይ ዘይኮነ፡ ንፍሉይ ጉዳዮም ዘይበቐዕን ዘጋግዮምንውን ክኸውን ይኸኣል ኢዩ።

እዚ ማዕከን ሕጋዊ አገልግሎት ዝኾነ ሓበሬታዚ ንኸድናግሩን ከጋግዩን ዝኸኣሉ ሕቶታትን ጠለባትን ሕገ፡ ንምንጻርን ንምብራህን፡ ርጡብ ሓበሬታ ንምርካብን ተባሂሉ አተዳለዉ ኢዩ። እዚ አገልግሎትዚ ኹኣ፡ ብ ፕሮራሪቲ አፍሪካ ኔትዎርክ (Priority Africa Network) ብነጻ ዝወሃብ አገልግሎትዩ። ንኸትጥቀሙሉን ንኸጥቀሙሉ ዝኸኣሉ ካለኣት ሰባት ከተመሓላፍዎ ብኸብሪ ንሓትትን ንዕድምን።

LINGALA (Congo)

Bureau ya lisungi pona oyo etali mikanda ya leta.

Lisalisi na makambo ya mikanda ya leta, kasi mingi koleka pona ba oyo ba wuti na mokili ya Afrika, na mokili ya Karayibe.

Ezali na ba Informations pona baye banso basili ko wuta na ba mboka ya bosenga to pe ya ba paya pona oyo etali Lokota, pona ko sunga na tina ya makambu ya mikanda ya leta.

Mokanda oyo ezali kotalisa bisika pona lisungi ya ofele na makambo etali ba avocats na baye basungaka bango.

To sengi na yo, o tanga pe o pona eloko oyo ezali ya bosenga po na yo.

To yebe ete ba informations oyo batu ba zuaka ko wuta epayi ya ba ndeko, to pe ba ninga, esungaka penza te, pona ko zanga elimboli ya malam, ata soki ezali ya solo.

Yango to fungoli "PRIORITY AFRICA NETWORK" pona ko sunga baye oyo ba zali na bosenga ko yuta na ba mboka misusu, na makambo oyo etali leta.

Na yango to ko senga na yo o yebisa ba ndeko nioso oyo ba zali na bosenga ya lisalisi na oyo etali mokanda ya leta, na tina ya "PRIORITY AFRICA NETWORK."

FRENCH

Le répertoire des fournisseurs de services juridiques en matière d'immigration, il s'agit d'une ressource pour tous les immigrants, mais particulièrement développée pour répondre aux besoins des immigrants d'Afrique et des Caraïbes.

Il contient des informations qui répondent aux besoins des communautés vulnérables et invisibles, pour accéder à un soutien juridique abordable et spécifique à la langue, pour les questions d'immigration.

La liste de ce répertoire comprend des agences à but non lucrative fournissant des services gratuits, ainsi que des avocats privés et des parajuristes.

Nous vous suggérons de lire ce qui est disponible et de sélectionner celui qui correspond le mieux à vos besoins.

Nous reconnaissons que le système informel de partage d'informations entre les communautés d'immigrants étroitement liées n'est pas toujours fiable, même lorsqu'il est fourni avec des soins provenant de sources "de confiances" comme la famille et les amis.

Souvent, les informations transmises sont de seconde et de troisième rang, ce qui peut ne pas correspondre aux particularités des besoins juridiques en matière d'immigration d'une personne.

Ce répertoire qui fournit de sources d'informations sur les services juridiques, est développé pour aider à clarifier les questions juridiques compliquées, afin d'accéder à des informations précises.

Ces informations sont fournies gratuitement par "PRIORITY AFRICA NETWORK."

Nous espérons que vous le partagerez largement, avec ceux qui en ont besoin.

ARABIC

دليل مقدمي الخدمات القانونية للهجرة

يخص هذا المورد جميع المهاجرين مع انه تم تطويره بشكل خاص لتلبية احتياجات المهاجرين من إفريقيا ومنطقة البحر الكاريبي. يحتوي هذا المورد معلومات تلبية احتياجات المجتمعات الصغيرة والغير مرئية لتمكين تلك المجتمعات للوصول إلى الدعم القانوني بلغة سهلة ومحددة لمسائل الهجرة

تتضمن القوائم في هذا الدليل بتفاصيل الوكالات الغير ربحية والتي تقدم خدمات مجانية، بالإضافة إلى المحامين والمساعدين القانونيين الخاصين. نقترح عليكم قراءة ما هو وارد في هذا الدليل واختيار ما يناسب واحتياجاتكم. إننا على دراية بأن تداول المعلومات غير الرسمية بين مجتمعات المهاجرين المتناسكة لا يمكن الاعتماد عليها دائماً حتى عندما تأتي من مصادر تعتبر "موثوق" بها، مثل أفراد العائلة والأصدقاء. وفي كثير من الأحيان، يتم تمرير المعلومات من جهة ثانية وثالثة والتي قد لا تتناسب مع خصوصيات الاحتياجات القانونية للهجرة لشخص ما.

تم تطوير دليل الموارد هذا لمقدمي الخدمات القانونية للمساعدة في توضيح المشكلات القانونية المربكة للوصول إلى المعلومات الدقيقة.

يتم توفير هذا الدليل مجاناً من قبل شبكة بريوريتي أفريكا

About Priority Africa Network (PAN)

In 2023, PAN celebrates its twentieth anniversary! We are proud of a history that serves as a stable 'NorthStar' organization to the decades of US-Africa solidarity.

Our current programmatic focus continues in recognizing our growing population of Black immigrants in the Bay Area whose needs are not fully addressed. The handful of organizations serving them are the least resourced among immigration legal and service providers. PAN is a leading advocate for Black immigrants, the majority of whom are African. Over the past two decades, the Black immigrant population has increased steadily. But there are still few services that are strategically aligned to serve their needs for legal support on immigration.



Ed Yourdon

Introduction

One of the challenges immigrants face when settling in a new country is getting a proper understanding of the laws and conditions of their entry. To many, navigating the legal complexities of their status can seem daunting. Whether entering the US as refugees, asylees, on student or family visas, or undocumented, all immigrants are in need of clear guidelines to ensure they are abiding by the laws of the country. Not knowing the law is not an acceptable excuse for infractions and can have severe consequences for those who are uninformed. This is particularly true for Black immigrants who are criminalized and placed on a deportation track at higher rates than any other immigrants.

Caught in the nexus of racial profiling and unclear immigration status, many suffer the consequences of not knowing when and how to protect themselves and their families. Many who are undocumented are subject to deportation because they failed to address their legal needs in a timely manner. Nationally, an estimated 23% of immigrants are unauthorized, of which 14% (approximately 625,000) are Black immigrants.

While for the most part Black immigrants are virtually invisible, blending into existing African American communities, the undocumented are "hyper-visible," criminalized, detained and deported at disproportionate percentages. Many who have their proper papers desire to gain citizenship to secure their stay permanently. However, Black immigrants are also denied citizenship in disproportionate numbers. For example, "Blacks from Muslim-majority countries are much less likely to be approved than Whites from other countries." (PNAS Feb 2022)

In the past two decades, the African-born Black immigrant population rose from half a million to nearly 2 million; over 40% immigrated to the US in the last decade. Even as California's Black/African American population is in decline, those of foreign Blacks continue to grow. According to a 2018 BAJI report (also from USC), the majority of Black immigrants living in the Bay Area (60%) are from Africa 33% East African, 17% West African and 10% other Africans.. (footnote add on the baji report)

In recent years, an increasing number of undocumented immigrants are crossing the US-Mexican border. Black migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa crossing that border increased dramatically in recent years, from 200 in 2019 to 1,200 in 2020. The number is expected to exceed 1,800 by 2023. According to historical data published by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, over 56,000 Haitians reached the U.S. in the fiscal year 2022. In 2021, over 45,000 people from Haiti were arrested at the border, an increase from under 4,400 in 2020. However, very few organizations and individuals provide legal support to Black immigrants at that border. For the most part, they remain invisible and their needs ignored because of their racial identities, both in Mexico and in the US.

This directory was created to inform communities that are virtually invisible to conventional immigration service providers. Very few, if any, African American legal institutions know about or provide immigration support to foreign Blacks.

Typical “immigrant” focused agencies are not aware of the growing population of immigrants and continue to define immigrants as being primarily Asian or Latinx. This directory has been compiled to speak to the particular needs of Black people in the US who are foreign and disenfranchised, to provide a verified and reliable list of legal service providers that can help them navigate the complex landscape of immigration laws and policies.

Language and translation needs

One high priority is to ensure people who need the information can use it easily by including translated sections of the directory. In addition to non-profit agencies, this directory includes a list of private attorneys and paralegal support providers who speak languages from different African countries. The lack of affordable language services has been a major barrier for many who need legal services but may not speak English.

All standard documents of the US Customs & Immigration Service (USCIS) are available only in English. Without access to proper translation, most immigrants cannot fully comprehend the laws to understand their rights and obligations which can lead to complicating their status.

The law provides language assistance to immigrants based on the population size. For example, most agencies are mandated to provide interpretation in Spanish, Mandarin, or Cantonese because there are large populations that need these languages, especially in the Bay Area. This is not the case for Africans where many different languages are spoken by highly diverse immigrant populations. Over the past decade or more, the Bay Area has had a significant increase in populations from East Africa who speak Amharic and Tigrinya. At present, there are no legal mandates to provide interpretation support services in these languages.

Legal service agencies are not obligated and do not provide language services for many African communities, based on the assumption that they are not sufficient in number to justify such a requirement. Many contacts listed in this directory have been included to address these specific concerns to have translations from or into Arabic, Swahili, Amharic and Tigrinya.

Language access is critical for immigrants to understand their rights and obligations and follow the legal mandates. Some of the agencies listed in the directory, particularly the African Advocacy Network and the Black Alliance for Just Immigration provide seminars and know-your-right sessions targeted specifically towards Black immigrants. They also have walk-in services or appointments for legal support.

With few formal translation agencies providing languages for immigrants from Africa, many have little choice but to rely on informal channels through family members or friends which are often unreliable. A cursory search of Bay Area agencies proves very few listings for languages spoken by Africans other than Arabic and French. Languages such as Amharic, Tigrinya, Swahili, Lingala, Akan, Ga, Somali, and Wolof.

The vast majority of the agencies in this directory are non-profit legal service providers funded by Congress through the Legal Services Corporation Act. They thus have a congressional mandate to serve all low-income persons seeking legal redress who reside in the US regardless of citizenship and national origin. If you have sought service from a legal service agency and been turned down, please inform Priority Africa Network of your experience.

Gender-specific legal/social needs of Black immigrants

In recognition of the particularities that arise at the intersection of gender and immigration status, the directory includes legal service providers that address the needs of immigrant women, such as victims of domestic and/or gender-based violence. Studies show that immigrant women are at a higher risk of becoming victims of domestic violence or abuse than non-immigrants. The intersectionality of immigration with social factors such as gender, race, class, and culture exacerbate the abuse immigrant women face, sometimes with little resource to find solutions. Their immigration status can create institutional, social, and legal barriers that limit access to resources and social support. Abusive spouses have used their partner’s documentation status as a means of control, such as (K1 or K3 visas) entering the US through marriage or fiancé visa. With incomplete or distorted perception of options available to them, victims of domestic violence may not be aware of the legal resources available to protect them.

This directory includes agencies that provide services specific to gender-related cases through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), including options to stay in the US via self-petition or the U nonimmigrant status visa. The U visa has provisions for protection against mental and physical abuse, based on the Victims Against Trafficking Violence & Battered Immigrant Women’s Protection program. Please seek counsel with an expert or a legal service provider for more details about this.

Violence is generally assumed to be committed against women because they are the gender identified as vulnerable to domestic violence overwhelmingly perpetrated by men. However, PAN’s framework upholds broader views of gender, recognizing that anyone can be a victim of domestic violence. Legal protections apply to all, including those affected by same-gender partners.

Methodology

In putting this directory together, we first consulted with partner organizations from around the Bay Area who have been working in this field for many years, as well as online searches. The result was a list of conventional non-profit organizations, the majority of whom served Latinx and Asian immigrants.

It became very clear that we needed to go beyond this initial list, to identify

a wider set of agencies and the extent of their services adapted to Black and immigrant identities. We reviewed each agency on the list, verifying their services and costs and adding that information to the listing to ensure easy navigation and access. We also solicited referrals and suggestions from trusted members of our community.

This directory is the first of its kind specifically produced to meet the needs of Black immigrants. We have made efforts to ensure the reliability and relevance of the contents. We do not claim to have produced an exhaustive or final product. This is rather a baseline document that can be expanded and corrections made. Agencies and clients should submit corrections, comments, or suggestions to PAN at info@priorityafrica.org.

How to use the document

We have tried to make this document accessible and easy to use. The columns should be self-explanatory, starting with name and contact information. It is formatted in such a way as searches can be conducted using city/county categories to find agencies in the closest location to residents. The language category includes languages that are provided by the agency at their offices. For additional language needs, please call the agency directly and inquire.

The directory has a column indicating what to expect to pay for services. The majority of the service providers are standard non-profit agencies with low or no cost depending on what each case involves. Also included, however, are a few private attorneys and agencies recognized by the Department Of Justice (DOJ, which may charge higher fees. Some of them have pro-bono (free or complimentary) options for limited time periods such as 15 minutes or 30 minutes.

Acknowledgements

This directory has benefited from the efforts of many people. Researchers working with PAN, including Binta Camara, Debora Tolessa, and other staff members, have made enormous contributions to making it possible. Our thanks also go to our in-house legal advisor Esayas HaileMariam, who worked pro-bono on PAN's incorporation status. In addition, staff at African Advocacy Network (AAN) and the Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI) have had periodic input into this process. We are grateful as well to our friends in the African Communities Program at Partnership for Trauma Recovery (PTR) and to Attorney Haregu Gaime and Professor Bill Hing, both of whom serve as members of the San Francisco Immigrants Rights Commission. Special thanks go to Priscilla Ankrah and Debora Tolessa for their meticulous research and verification of the entries.

It takes financial resources to pay for time and expertise to produce this. Our heart-felt thanks to many individual funders across the Bay Area and the nation and to the following organizations.

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Major Bay Area Organizations Focused on Immigrants and Refugees

East Bay Refugee and Immigrant Forum (EBRIF)

Contact: Sean Kirkpatrick, Coordinator. Telephone: 510-282-7550. Email: coordinator@EBRIF.org.

The East Bay Refugee and Immigrant Forum (EBRIF) was established in 1978 as the East Bay Refugee Forum in response to a large influx of Southeast Asian refugees. We are a coalition of over 35 agencies, organizations, advocates and community leaders serving immigrants, refugees, asylees, Special Immigrant Visa holders and others permanently displaced from their home countries by persecution, violence, or war who now seek refuge in the San Francisco East Bay. The EBRIF includes resettlement organizations, community-based non-profit organizations, community-based groups, members of the refugee community, individual advocates, community leaders, and government agencies.

Stand Together Contra Costa

Contact: Ali Saidi, Director. Email: info@standtogethercontracosta.org.

Stand Together Contra Costa is a rapid response, legal services, and community education project to support safety and justice for immigrant families in Contra Costa County. An innovative partnership between Contra Costa County, philanthropy, and community-based organizations, Stand Together Contra Costa provides culturally competent, no-cost rapid response support, legal defense services, and immigrant rights education and training to support families impacted by anti-immigrant policies and practices affecting Contra Costa County residents. The mission of Stand Together Contra Costa is to ensure that all people in Contra Costa County, regardless of immigration status or ability to pay, are afforded the rights established by the United States Constitution, and are protected from actions or policies that result in disparate, discriminatory, or unlawful treatment.

SF Refugee & Immigrant Forum (SF-CAIRS)

Contact: Cristy Dieterich, Director. Email: sf.cairs@gmail.com

Established in 2007, SF-CAIRS is a coalition of organizations serving the San Francisco Bay Area asylee, immigrant and refugee community and service providers. SF-CAIRS is a multidisciplinary body of over 60 agencies and 240 members with representation from city, state

and federal partners, community-based organizations, employment, immigration and health care providers, educational and vocational training organizations and other support services. We collaborate to ensure all immigrants live healthy and productive lives in a safe and inclusive environment by expanding resource knowledge among service providers about health, employment, social, education and legal services for recent refugees, political asylees, and immigrants in San Francisco.

SF-CAIRS houses the materials and resources for the Statewide monthly New Asylee Orientations.

This orientation is conducted in English.

*We must have at least three registrants to provide interpretation in Spanish or Mandarin. We are working to provide other languages. Please have an interpreter or someone to assist you.

The San Francisco Asylum Office hosts virtual orientation for persons with asylum status. You have the right to programs and new benefits and resources as a newly granted asylee. Some of these benefits are limited and time sensitive, beginning on the date that you are granted asylum. This orientation focuses on California benefits and services. However, some information applies to persons with asylum status throughout the U.S.A.

Abbreviations Found in the Directory of Legal Service

B-1: Temporary Business Visa

You may be eligible for a B-1 visa if you will be participating in business activities of a commercial or professional nature in the United States.

B-2: Temporary Tourism Visa

This visa classification is for tourists on vacation and people coming for medical treatment, a social event, or participation in amateur contests for no pay.

CAM: Central American Minors Refugee and Parole Program

The CAM refugee and parole program provides certain qualified children who are nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, as well as certain family members of those children an opportunity to apply for refugee status and possible resettlement in the United States.

CAT: Convention Against Torture

If you fear you may be subjected to torture if you return to your home country, you may be eligible for CAT. According to international and U.S. law, a person cannot be returned to a country where they are likely to face torture. The United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, requires countries that sign-on, to condemn and prohibit torture.

DACA: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

DACA gives young undocumented immigrants protection from deportation and a work permit. The program expires after two years, subject to renewal.

DAPA: Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents

If you receive deferred action under DAPA, you may be able to stay in the United States temporarily without fear of deportation. In addition, you will be considered for employment authorization, which would allow you to work legally in the United States, for a three year period.

EB-5 Visa: Employment Based Immigration: Fifth Preference

Under this program, investors (and their spouses and unmarried children under 21) are eligible to apply for a Green Card (permanent residence) if they make the necessary investment in a commercial enterprise in the United States and plan to create or preserve 10 permanent full-time jobs for qualified U.S. workers.

FOIA: Freedom of Information Act

Under FOIA and the Privacy Act (PA), you can request your own immigration records, someone else's immigration records (if you have their written permission) and agency policies, data, communications, and other records.

H1B: Specialty Occupations, DOD Cooperative Research and Development Project Workers, and Fashion Models

This nonimmigrant classification applies to people who wish to perform services in a specialty occupation, services of exceptional merit and ability relating to a Department of Defense (DOD) cooperative research and development project, or services as a fashion model of distinguished merit or ability.

I-485: Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status

Is used by a person in the United States to apply for lawful permanent resident status.

NACARA: Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act

If an alien is granted cancellation of removal under the NACARA program, they will obtain lawful permanent resident status in the United States. The law targets Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Guatemalan, Cuban and countries of the former USSR.

SIJ: Special Immigrant Juveniles

If you are in the United States and need the protection of a juvenile court because you have been abused, abandoned or neglected by a parent, you may be eligible for Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) classification. If SIJ classification is granted, you may qualify for lawful permanent residency.

TPS: Temporary Protected Status

The Secretary of Homeland Security may designate a foreign country for TPS due to conditions in the country that temporarily prevent the country's nationals from returning safely, or in certain circumstances, where the country is unable to handle the return of its nationals adequately. USCIS may grant TPS to eligible nationals of certain countries (or parts of countries), who are already in the United States. Eligible individuals without nationality who last resided in the designated country may also be granted TPS.

T Visa: T nonimmigrant status

T nonimmigrant status (T visa) is available to noncitizens who are or have been victims of a severe form of trafficking in persons and assist law enforcement in the detection, investigation, or prosecution of acts of trafficking.

U Visa: U nonimmigrant status

The U nonimmigrant status (U visa) is set aside for victims of certain crimes who have suffered mental or physical abuse and are helpful to law enforcement or government officials in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity.

VAWA: Violence Against Women Act

Provides noncitizens who have been abused by their U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident relative the ability to independently petition for themselves (self-petition) for immigrant classification without the abuser's knowledge, consent, or participation in the immigration process. This allows victims to seek both safety and independence from their abusers.

Name	About	Address	Website
African Advocacy Network (Nonprofit)	A San Francisco-based nonprofit founded in 2009 to serve the growing Diaspora of African and Afro-Caribbean immigrants. AAN provides immigration legal services, case management, and social integration services based on a unique Cultural Brokering model.	3106 Folsom St. San Francisco CA 94110	www.aansf.org
AIDS Legal Referral Panel - Immigrant HIV Assistance Project (Nonprofit)	ALRP's mission is to help people with HIV/AIDS maintain or improve their health by resolving their legal issues.	1663 Mission St. Ste. 500 San Francisco CA 94103	www.alrp.org
Anthony O Egbasi (Private Attorney)		Word Trade Center 350 South Figueroa St., Ste. 189 Los Angeles CA 90071	www.aoelaw.com
Arab Resource and Organizing Center (Nonprofit)	AROC serves poor and working class Arabs and Muslims across the San Francisco Bay Area, while organizing to overturn racism, forced migration, and militarism.	1663 Mission St., Ste.4500 San Francisco CA 94103	www.araborganizing.org
Asian and Pacific Islander Legal Outreach (Nonprofit)	Provides culturally competent and linguistically appropriate legal representation, social services, and advocacy for the most marginalized segments of the community including low-income women, seniors, recent immigrants, and youth.	1305 Franklin St., Ste. 410 Oakland CA 94612	www.apilegaloutreach.org
Bar Association of San Francisco Justice Diversity Center (Nonprofit)	One of the largest and most distinguished legal services providers in San Francisco. JDC mobilizes the pro bono power of the legal community and provide free legal services to low-income San Franciscans and nonprofit organizations that serve them.	201 Mission St., Ste. 400 San Francisco CA 94105	www.sfbar.org/jdc/

Phone Email	Language	Cost	Service Offered
(415) 503-1032	Tigrinya / French / Spanish / Amharic / English	\$	Representation in detained and non-detained matters, Bond hearings, Parole requests, Representation in affirmative asylum filings, Adjustment of status applications, Family-based petitions, Consular Processing, VAWA applications, U-visa applications, Citizenship & naturalization applications, Work Permits, and Temporary protected status applications, translation and interpretation.
(415) 701-1100	Spanish / English	\$	Asylum applications, DACA, DAPA, Employment authorization, Employment-based petitions, Family-based petitions, Naturalization/Citizenship, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, U visas, VAWA petitions.
(511) 575-8612 (213) 620-7070 info@aoelaw.com	Spanish	\$\$\$	Immigration Law: Family Based Petitions, Asylum, Withholding of Removal, Convention Against Torture (CAT) relief, Cancellation of Removal, Vacation of Criminal Convictions, Temporary Protected Status, Relief For Abused Spouses Under Vawa, Deferral of Removal (Mini Dream Act), Immigration Appeals
(415) 861-7444	Arabic / English / Urdu / Pashto / Farsi	\$	Adjustment of Status, Asylum applications, Consular Processing, DACA, Employment authorization, Family-based petitions, NACARA, Humanitarian Parole Naturalization/Citizenship, Removal defense, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, T visas, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), U visas, VAWA petitions
(510) 251-2846	Spanish / Vietnamese / Tagalog / Chinese / Korean	\$	Consular processing, DACA renewal, employment authorization, family based petition, naturalization, citizenship, removal defense, T visa, U visa, VAWA petitions, adjustment of Status, asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.
(415) 982-1600 probono@sfbar.org	Spanish / Chinese interpreters	low / none	Legal and social support through these projects: The Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP), Community Organization Representation Project (CORP), Tenant Advocacy Project, Family Law Project, Federal Pro Bono Project, Legal Advice and Referral Clinic (LARC) Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic.

Name	About	Address	Website
Black Alliance for Just Immigration - BAJI (Nonprofit)	Formed to bring Black voices together to advocate for equality and justice in our laws and our communities. BAJI educates and engages African American and black immigrant communities to organize and advocate for racial, social and economic justice.	111 Fairmont Ave. Oakland CA 94611	www.baji.org
California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice (Private Attorney)	CCIJ is committed to fighting against the unjust and for-profit system of immigration by empowering folx in detention and working with them to find innovative strategies for individual and collective liberation.	1999 Harrison St. Suite 1800 Oakland CA 94612	www.ccijustice.org/we-are-ccij
Catholic Charities CYO – Refugee & Immigrant Services (Nonprofit)	Catholic Charities East Bay's mission is to support children, youth, families, and seniors from crisis to stability to well-being. It helps vulnerable communities within Alameda and Contra Costa Counties and serves and works in partnership with all and celebrate the diversity of our community, including people of all backgrounds, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and religious or spiritual affiliation or belief.	990 Eddy St. San Francisco CA 94109	www.catholiccharitiessf.org
Catholic Charities of the East Bay (Nonprofit)		433 Jefferson St. Oakland CA 94612	www.cceb.org
Central American Resource Center (CARECEN SF) (Nonprofit)	CARECEN SF empowers and responds to the needs, rights and aspirations of Latino, immigrant, and under-resourced families in the San Francisco Bay Area — building leadership to pursue self-determination and justice.	3101 Mission St. San Francisco CA 94110	www.carecensf.org
Centro Legal de la Raza (Nonprofit)	A legal services agency protecting and advancing the rights of low-income, immigrant, Black, and Latinx communities through bilingual legal representation, education, and advocacy. By combining quality legal services with know-your-rights education and youth development.	3022 International Blvd. Suite 410 Oakland CA 94601	www.centrolegal.org

Phone Email	Language	Cost	Service Offered
(917) 474-2380	English / Tigrinya	low / none	Immigration services: USCIS Application Service, Asylum, Defensive, Legal Education.
	Spanish	\$	Adjustment of Status, Consular Processing, DACA, Employment authorization, Family-based petitions, NACARA, Naturalization/Citizenship, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), Temporary Protected Status (TPS), U visas, VAWA petitions.
(415) 972-1200	Spanish	\$	Family Reunification: Family-based petitions, Adjustment of status, Consular processing, Waivers of Unlawful Presence Victims of Crimes or Persecution: U Visa, T Visa, VAWA (domestic violence), Political Asylum Other: Naturalization, Special Immigrant, Juvenile Status, DACA (Dreamers), TPS
(510) 891-8635	Spanish / Tigrinya / Amharic	low / none	Information and referrals to legal service providers for asylum applications, legal permanent residency, citizenship, work permits, travel documents and family petitions; assistance with civil surgeon exams and biometrics
(415) 642-4400 (415) 824-2367	Spanish	\$	Legal Consultation, Processing of documents and applications, legal representation in Immigration Court and USCIS, Know Your Rights education, Renewal of legal permanent status, Citizenship and naturalization, Family visa petitions, Consular process, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and U Visas, Violence Against Women Act, Adjustment of status, Asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, 601 waivers
(510) 437-1554 info@centrolegal.org	Spanish	\$	Asylum applicaions, Family-based visa petitions, U visas for victims of violent crimes, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), Adjustment of status, Naturalization

Name	About	Physical Address	Website
Dawit Ghedle Beraki (Private Attorney)		2039 Kala Bagai Wy #500, Berkeley, CA 94704	
Dolores Street Community Services (Nonprofit)	Dolores Street Community Services nurtures individual wellness and cultivates collective power among low-income and immigrant communities to create a more just society.	938 Valencia St. San Francisco CA 94110	www.dscs.org/
immi (Nonprofit)	Immi was created by the Immigration Advocates Network and Pro Bono Net, two nonprofit organizations dedicated to increasing access to justice for low-income immigrants. Immi helps immigrants in the U.S. understand their legal options.	Virtual	www.immi.org
Immigrant Legal Defense (Nonprofit)	ILD is a nonprofit agency dedicated to providing immigration legal services. One of the most critical aspects in the delivery of high volume, high quality legal services is an experienced team of attorneys who work efficiently together.	1322 Webster St., Ste. 300 Oakland CA 94612	https://ild.org/
Immigration Institute of the Bay Area (Nonprofit)	The Immigration Institute of the Bay Area (IIBA) helps immigrants, refugees, and their families join and contribute to the community. IIBA provides high-quality, affordable immigration legal services, education, and civic engagement opportunities.	657 Mission St. Ste. 301 San Francisco CA 9410	www.iibayarea.org
International Rescue Committee (Nonprofit)	A San Francisco-based nonprofit founded in 2009 to serve the growing Diaspora of African and Afro-Caribbean immigrants. AAN provides immigration legal services, case management, and social integration services based on a unique Cultural Brokering model.	440 Grand Avenue Suite 500, Oakland CA 94610	www.rescue.org www.rescue.org/ united-states/ oakland-ca

Phone Email	Language	Cost	Service Offered
dawit.beraki@gmail.com (510) 575-8612		\$\$\$	
(415) 282-6209	Spanish	\$	Free consultations to low-income immigrants, processes urgent legal filings, DACA applications and renewals, deportation defense, represent unaccompanied minors and individuals with impaired mental competence, advocacy.
info@immi.org	Spanish	low / none	online screening tool, legal information, and referrals to nonprofit legal services.
info@ild.org		free	Immigration legal services to individuals at nine CSU campuses in the Bay Area, Central Valley, and the Central Coast; detained and non-detained removal defense representation; individual and class action litigation; advocacy relating to local, regional, statewide and national immigration law and policy.
(415) 538 8100 x 206 (San Francisco Office) (510) 451-2846 x 301 (Oakland Office)	Spanish	\$	Citizenship, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Family Reunification, Humanitarian, Deportation Defense.
(510)-452-8222	Intrprs for Arabic / Burmese / French Dari / Farsi / Karen / Kirundi Kinyarwanda / Nepali / Rohingya Russian / Somali Swahili / Tibetan, Tigrinya / others	\$	Immigration legal services, refugee resettlement, Processing, DACA, DAPA, Adjustment of Status, Consular Employment authorization, Family-based petitions, Naturalization/Citizenship, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), U visas, VAWA petition, Green Cards, Citizenship/ Naturalization, travel documents, visa applications, CAM/AOR

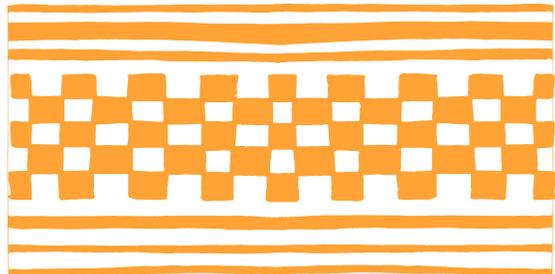
Name	About	Physical Address	Website
Jewish Family and Community Services of the East Bay (Nonprofit)	Guided by Jewish values and in collaboration with the diverse communities we serve, JFCS East Bay contributes to the resilience of communities, families, and individuals through advocacy and comprehensive support services at every stage of life.	1855 Olympic Blvd. Suite 200 Walnut Creek CA 94596 2484 Shattuck Ave. Suite 210 Berkeley CA 94704	www.jfcs-eastbay.org
La Raza Centro Legal (Nonprofit)	LRCL's mission is to provide high quality, free legal representation to the Latino community and other low-income immigrant families. LRCL provides excellent direct legal services by licensed attorneys and competent staff to ensure that poverty, immigration status, disability, language, sexual orientation, or gender identity will not be an impediment to justice.	474 Valencia St. San Francisco CA 94103	www.lrcl.org
Law Offices of Haregu Gaime (Nonprofit)	Law Offices Of Haregu Gaime is a boutique firm that focuses on the need of each individual client and their unique sets of issues. Law Offices of Haregu Gaime's main focus of practice is Immigration Law.	427 Grand Ave. Oakland CA 94610	www.haregugaimelaw.com
Mission Asset Fund (Nonprofit)	Provides DACA fee assistance program.	3269 Mission St. San Francisco CA 94110	https://www.missionassetfund.org/about/
Medya Ansari (Private Attorney)		255 N. Market St. Suite 170 San Jose CA 95110	www.ethiopianattorney.com/ getachew-yemi/
Oasis Legal Services (Nonprofit)	Oasis Legal Services provides legal assistance with asylum, residency, naturalization, VAWA, and family petitions for LGBTQIA+ immigrant communities.	1900 Addison St #100, Berkeley CA 94704 1252 Fulton St. Fresno CA 93721	www.oasislegalservices.org

Phone Email	Language	Cost	Service Offered
(925)-927-2000 (510) 704-7475 information@jfcs-eastbay.org	Spanish / Farsi / Dari, Russian / English	\$	Appeals to the Board of Immigration Appeals, Citizenship, Citizenship certificates, Counseling DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), Family-based petitions, Federal litigation in district court and before the Ninth Circuit, Greencards, Petitions to remove conditions on residence, Psychological evaluations, Representation before Immigration Courts, Special Immigrant Juvenile petitions, Temporary Protected Status, Travel documents, U-Visas, VAWA self-petitions, Waivers
(415) 575-3500	Spanish spoken. Can only bring 1 person due to covid concerns	\$	Asylum, family petition green card application, citizenship and work permit, deportation defense, elder and disability law
(415) 533-4919 haregu@haregugaimelaw.com	Amharic / Tigrinya	\$	Asylum, deportation defense, green card, family petition, H1B Visa application, I-485 Visa, EB-5 Visa, citizenship, Alien Fiance
(888) 274-4808 programs@missionassetfund.org	Spanish / Arabic / Chinese	\$	DACA Fee Assistance (\$247.50 loan with a matching \$247.50 grant that covers the \$495 filing fee to apply for DACA), interest free loan for DACA, Green Card, Citizenship application fees
(408) 292-7995	Amharic / Spanish intrpr, Farsi	\$\$\$	Asylum, Cancellation of Removal, Citizenship, Consular Processing, Crimmigration, DACA, Family Immigration, Green Cards, Religious Worker's Visa, Removal Defense, VAWA, Waivers, U Visa
Berkeley: (510) 609-1994 Fresno: (559) 777-6786	English / Spanish / Portuguese	free/pro bono, sliding scale fees	Screening for immigration relief, Affirmative asylum, VAWA, Residency / Green Card applications, Citizenship / Naturalization, Family petitions, limited case management support and psychotherapy to existing clients.

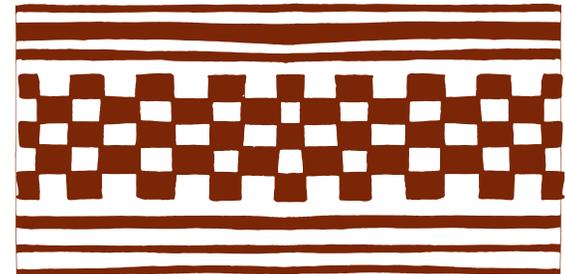
Name	About	Physical Address	Website
Pangea Legal Services San Francisco Office (Nonprofit)	The mission of PLS is to stand with immigrant communities and to provide services through direct legal representation, especially in the area of deportation defense. We advocate on behalf of our community through policy advocacy, education, and legal empowerment efforts.	391 Sutter St. Suite 500 San Francisco CA 94108 855 Lenzen Ave. San José CA 95126	www.pangealegal.org/
Simon Weldehaimanot (Private Attorney)	The Law Office of Simon Weldehaimanot focuses on U.S. immigration law while also following treatment of refugees and/or asylees in other countries.	433 Callan Ave. Suite 207 San Leandro CA 94577	www.simonelawoffice.com
Stand Together Contra Costa (a public-private initiative)	Is managed by the Office of the Public Defender. Free legal clinics are offered to provide immigrants and their families with individualized legal consultations, advising on legal rights and forms of relief, arranging structured and customized referrals for pro-bono or low-cost legal services.	800 Ferry Street Martinez CA 94553	https://standtogethercontracosta.org/our-services/community-workshops-legal-clinics-trainings/
SIREN (Nonprofit)	SIREN's mission is to empower low-income immigrants and refugees through community education and organizing, leadership development, policy advocacy, civic engagement and legal services.	1415 Koll Circle, Suite 108 San Jose CA 95112 2904 N Blackstone, Suite 202 Fresno CA 93703	www.sirenimmigrantrights.org/immigration-legal-services
The LGBTQ Asylum Project (Nonprofit)	The LGBTQ Asylum Project is the only San Francisco nonprofit organization exclusively dedicated to providing accessible legal representation for LGBT asylum seekers who are fleeing persecution due to their sexual orientation, gender identity and/or HIV status.	526 Castro Street San Francisco California 94114	https://www.lgbtasylumproject.org/
Yonas Debesay Gebreselassie (Private Attorney)	Law Offices of Yonas Gebreselassie is a dedicated provider of counsel on Immigration and Nationality Laws of the United States and formation of business entities in California.	1999 Harrison St, Ste. 1800 Oakland CA 94612	www.yonasglaw.com/home

Phone Email	Language	Cost	Service Offered
(415)-254 0475	Spanish	low / none	Detained removal defense, non detained removal defense (80% of clients are in deportation proceedings), asylum, policy advocacy
(510) 575-2551	Arabic / Amharic / Spanish / Tigrinya	\$\$\$ however, he offers pro bono services when he has capacity	Asylum, deportation defense, services relating to citizenship, green card, bringing spouse, relatives and fiancé/e, provide expert opinion on country background information; and, translation of documents (Tigrinya, Amharic, Arabic).
(925) 900-5151 info@standtogethercontracosta.org	Spanish	none	Legal Representation in Immigration Proceedings; free deportation defense services for those who live, work or go to school in Contra Costa county Community workshops; legal clinics and trainings; public education and outreach
San Jose: (408) 453-3003 Fresno: (559) 840-0005	Spanish	low / none	Citizenship, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) renewals, Green Card Renewal, Citizenship Certificate, Family-based petitions, Adjustment of Status, U-visa, FBI and FOIA requests, Refugee and Asylum assistance, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Deportation Defense and Legal Advocacy
info@lgbtasylum-project.org		none	work directly with clients and ensure that they receive the most suitable and appropriate services based on each case
(213) 620-7071 (415) 603-5300 Toll Free: +1 (888) 461 2024 yonasdg@yahoo.com	Amharic / Tigrinya	\$\$\$	Green Card (Adjustment of Status), Family Petition / Family Based Immigration, Fiancee Petition, Citizenship and Naturalization, Asylum, Deportation Defense, Visitor Visas (B-1/ B-2), Adoption Petition

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