

## **Our Unique Contribution to Immigration Legal Services in Illinois**

- We are the only not-for-profit organization in Illinois offering immigration legal assistance through a rural provider model. Charging low fees and covering a large rural area allows us to reach many immigrants who would otherwise have considerable difficulty accessing professional legal advice.
- We conduct more than 40 clinics throughout the downstate Illinois region every year. Our regional approach provides legal assistance to more than 1,000 immigrants from 200 communities in a geographic area that consists of 120,000 square miles.
- We use income guidelines and a sliding fee scale to provide affordable application support services so that low-income immigrants may access citizenship, family reunification, and other primary services.
- In 2012, we served immigrants from 75 countries—as diverse as Bolivia, Scotland, Senegal, Nigeria, El Salvador, Guatemala, Brazil, Thailand, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iran, and Mexico.
- The active involvement of our volunteers, who contributed more than 5,000 hours of service in 2012, significantly increased our capacity to provide DACA and Citizenship services.
- Our information aids not only immigrants, but their family members, government officials, social service workers, and employers.
- When immigration laws change, we respond quickly to meet new needs. For example, as soon as President Obama signed into law the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), we offered community education meetings and application assistance to qualified individuals from central and southern Illinois.
- We help immigrant victims of violence, including victims of domestic violence, solve their immigration problems.
- We employ a completely bilingual staff, enabling us to work efficiently and effectively with our many Spanish-speaking clients.