

IMPACTS AND BENEFITS OF INVESTING IN IMMIGRATION JUSTICE

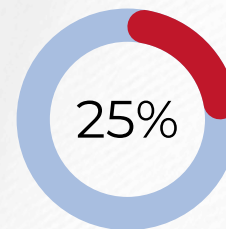


Increasing access to legal representation advances justice and supports a more fair and efficient immigration court system.

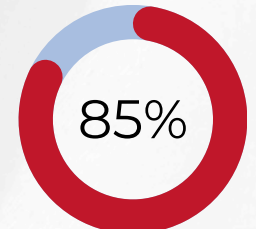
Access to legal representation can dramatically change the outcome of an immigration case. **In Colorado, immigrants who do not have legal representation are 60% more likely to face deportation** and be separated from their families and communities.

Representation's Effect on Outcomes in Colorado from 1998-2024

Outcomes for immigration cases closed in Colorado from fiscal year 1998 to 2024 with and without legal representation.



With legal representation
Removal 25% of the time



Without legal representation
Removal 85% of the time

46,686

Immigration court backlog in Colorado at the end of 2023, **triple** the amount in 2019.

14%

Colorado ranks **LAST** in legal representation in immigration courts, with just 14% of defendants having representation.

We have a clear need for the state to increase funding for immigration legal defense to work through pending cases more efficiently and justly.

THE ECONOMIC COST OF FAILING TO PROVIDE UNIVERSAL REPRESENTATION

Immigrants with access to legal representation are less likely to spend time in detention. This benefits state and local economies and governments.

Keeping immigrants in detention costs our economy. Unnecessary detentions from 2021-2023 resulted in:



- Immigrants losing \$10 million in labor income.



- Colorado communities losing \$15.8 million in economic activity.



- State and local governments losing \$894,000 in tax revenue for services.

Investing in Colorado's Immigration Legal Defense Fund

**\$5
MILLION**

Investing \$5 million annually over 5 years is a scalable investment that could lay a foundation for a future **Universal Representation program in Colorado.**