

FY2025 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

Organization Name:	Pisgah Legal Services	
Project Name:	Justice for All Program	
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)		Quarter 1 (July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024)
	X	Quarter 2 (October 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024)
		Quarter 3 (January 1, 2025 - March 31, 2025)
		Quarter 4 (April 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025)

Narrative summary of grant related activities

Please provide a brief summary (no more than 1500 characters). You may attach supplemental documents if needed.

Quarter 1	<p>Pisgah Legal Services provided legal services to 568 immigrant families, helping 1,774 people during the first quarter of the grant. We closed 47 cases for immigrants in Buncombe County during the quarter related to immigration status or employment authorization and provided representation in 29 of those cases. Since July, Pisgah Legal has seen an influx of requests for evidence in 12 of our cases due to the positive outcome of a U Visa litigation case Pisgah Legal’s immigration team is working against the US Citizenship and Immigration Services. U Visas are for immigrant victims of crimes who have cooperated with law enforcement. The requests for evidence are very time sensitive – our staff need to process our clients’ Parole within 30 days, or they lose the opportunity to enter the US for several more years. These include Humanitarian Parole cases for children living abroad whose parents have been victims of violence here in the US and have temporary U Status. Humanitarian Parole allows these children to legally enter the US to join their parents. Most of these cases have been pending since 2016/17. These cases are both heartwarming and heartbreaking. The families need money very quickly to travel to the US consulates abroad twice, then after receiving their approvals, purchase airline tickets to enter the US in under 30 days. In many of the cases these children are now leaving grandparents who have raised them for the last several years and in three of the cases, young mothers must make the choice to leave their small children behind as their children do not qualify for Humanitarian Parole at this time.</p>
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Quarter 2	<p>Pisgah Legal Services has provided legal services to 670 families, helping 2,130 people in the two quarters of the grant. Of the 22 cases closed for Buncombe County immigrants this past quarter, 59% were related to obtaining legal immigration status and the other 41% of cases were related to obtaining employment authorization. For the cases related to employment authorization, 22% specifically obtained employment authorization for domestic violence victims. The fallout from Hurricane Helene slowed things down for casework for a few weeks and it was all hands-on deck for disaster related work. Immigration Attorney Leonel Gonzalez was involved in a lot of hurricane related community education, and our immigration team also worked on FEMA application needs due to the great need in WNC.</p> <p>Pisgah Legal and local immigrant advocacy groups are partnering to assist immigrant parents with family preparedness, including preparation of Powers of Attorney (POA). Following the election there is increased fear and anxiety in immigrant communities due to the immigration policies that have been discussed by the new administration. We hosted a training for 24 volunteer attorneys on POAs for immigrant parents on December 5 and held two family preparedness clinics in mid-December. We partnered with grassroots organizations CIMA and Unete on the clinic in Asheville, and with El Centro and True Ridge on the clinic in Hendersonville. At the clinics, volunteer attorneys prepare durable Powers of Attorney, Health Care Authorization Forms, Educational Powers of Attorney, travel authorizations, and other documents to help ensure that parents can designate a trusted friend or relative to care for their children if they became ill, were detained by ICE, deported, or were otherwise unable to care for their children.</p>
Quarter 3	

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Progress toward annual goals

Only include new, unduplicated data for each quarter

Measure	Annual Goal	Actual Results (Enter Data) Please only include new data for the specific quarter				Progress toward Annual Goal
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
# of Buncombe County people (immigrants and their children) helped in closed and pending cases	1740	1774	356			2130
# of Buncombe County cases handled for immigrant clients in closed and pending cases (of which 34% is supported by this grant)	560	568	102			670
# of closed Buncombe County cases to help immigrants secure work authorization (of which 34% is supported by this grant)	40	47	15			62
Success rate containing a positive outcome	90%	100%	100%			100%

Comments:

Note: *Cases reported in the first quarter include cases for immigrants opened prior to the grant period that remained open during the quarter, as well as cases opened during the quarter.*

This quarter, Pisgah Legal Services closed a case for Iman (name changed) who fled Afghanistan after the fall of Kabul in 2021. Iman had worked alongside the United States against the Taliban for many years and feared for his life. He evacuated his home with his family from their rural home to the city of Khost in eastern Afghanistan, on the border with Pakistan, because they were constantly being harassed and threatened. The U.S. government was only able to evacuate Iman from Afghanistan, so he ensured his family was in a safe house before he continued his escape to the US. In April 2022, Iman was referred to Pisgah Legal Services for assistance in filing for asylum to stay in the US. For over two years both Pisgah Legal staff and his dedicated volunteer attorney worked with Iman on his asylum case, attending two asylum interviews in Arlington, VA, securing employment authorization documents along the way, and navigating a very complex immigration system. Iman's final asylum interview was in February 2024, after which he was officially approved asylum at the end of 2024. This now offers Iman a path to lawful permanent residency (also known as a green card) and eventual citizenship, and the ability to petition for his wife and children to join him in the United States.

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Use of funds to date and any budget considerations

Any budget changes of more than 10% to any line item must be approved by County staff in writing in advance.

Spending Category	Starting Budget	Total Spending (Enter Data)				Amount Remaining
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Personnel	\$ 79,452.00	\$ 19,863.00	\$ 19,863.00			\$ 39,726.00
						\$ -
						\$ -
Total	\$ 79,452.00	\$ 19,863.00	\$ 19,863.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39,726.00

Comments: