



2025 Advocacy Priorities

In 2025, CLINIC seeks to harness the power of its Affiliate network in furtherance of the following policy objectives. Our theory of change is grounded in the Catholic social teaching principle of subsidiarity, in that we provide support to and amplify the work, asks, and recommendations of directly impacted people.



Access to Counsel

Policy Position: CLINIC advocates for access to counsel for low-income immigrants through promoting a robust Department of Justice Recognition and Accreditation (DOJ R&A) Program.

Objectives:

1. Ensure the R&A program is properly maintained with the necessary resources for an efficient & effective application.
2. Advocate for state and local budget, policies and practices that improve access to counsel.
3. Use strategic communications to educate decision makers on why R&A is so critical to the immigration legal system.



Asylum Access

Policy Position: CLINIC advocates for access to asylum.

Objectives:

1. Advocate for regulations, policies, and practices that improve access to a fair asylum system and due process, including affirmative asylum, and work permit issues. Advocate for state and local budget, policies and practices that improve access to counsel.
2. Focus on advocacy for the end of restrictive regulations on asylum access at the border, including the circumvention of lawful pathways rule, mandatory bars, security the border final rule, and improve transparency at the border for credible fear interviews and access to counsel at interviews.
3. Engage in advocacy efforts to reduce the affirmative asylum backlog.



Rapid Response and Special Projects

Policy Position: CLINIC will respond to emerging issues in support of its Affiliate network.

Objectives: Engage in advocacy to address emerging and unique issues.



Temporary Statuses

Policy Position: CLINIC advocates for the bold and broad use of Temporary Protected Status (TPS), Deferred Enforced Departure (DED).

Objectives:

1. Secure review of country conditions in support of renewed and new TPS designations at DHS.
2. Ensure that implementation of TPS and DED decisions provide access to all who are intended to benefit.
3. Eliminate Federal Register Notice delays.
4. Promote programs that reunite families and advocate for protections and reforms to family reunification processes, including various parole programs and monitoring the outcome of the Keeping Families Together (KFT), or PIP, implementation.
5. Continue to address unique challenges in protection for the Afghan and Ukrainian parolee populations.
6. Support policies at the state and local level that promote immigrant family unity for those in temporary statuses and allow children to be free from the fear of deportation and detention of themselves or their family.



Challenging Racism, anti-Blackness, and White-Supremacy in the Immigration System

Policy Position: CLINIC advocates for equitable treatment of immigrants regardless of race or ethnicity.

Objectives:

1. Support and partner with Black-led immigrant advocacy organizations and other partners in strategies to address racism and white supremacy in the immigration system.
2. Combat state and local legislation and initiatives rooted in anti-immigrant sentiments such as policies around local law enforcement interactions with immigrant communities and people of color, and promote policies that uplift marginalized voices and issues.
3. Advocate for broad language access and cultural competency and appreciation in government communications and outreach.
4. Lead in building a broad Catholic voice speaking out and taking action against racism in immigration.



Religious Workers Program

Policy Position: CLINIC advocates for an accessible religious workers program to ensure the spiritual needs of American communities are met.

Objectives:

1. Secure practices and policies at USCIS and Department of State (DOS) that promote access for religious worker immigrants, including policies to relieve the negative impacts of the EB-4 Visa Bulletin retrogression.
2. Advocate for equity in USCIS policy and practices to ensure religious workers are eligible for the same benefits as those in other employment categories.
3. Support USCCB in making the religious workers program for non-ministers a permanent part of immigration law.



Enforcement

Policy Position: CLINIC advocates for fair and just enforcement priorities and dignified treatment of immigrants in enforcement activities.

Objectives:

1. Advocating for enforcement priorities that reflect risk to society and deprioritize enforcement that targets vulnerable immigrants.
2. Ensure protected areas such as hospitals, churches, school property, etc., are being respected by DHS enforcement.
3. Training our network to know how to report the unprofessional behavior of government agents to various government oversight bodies.
4. Educate law enforcement and communities about the damage to trust and public safety that ensues from local law enforcement participating in 287(g) and detainer requests not signed by a judge.
5. Advocate for border removal, expedited removal, and other policies that ensure equitable treatment and justice for all immigrants, including educating on the effects of the 100-mile zone (reasonable distance) of border enforcement policies.
6. Keep CLINIC's "Know Your Rights" materials up to date and participate in trainings for affiliates to effectively educate their communities on their rights during enforcement activities.



DACA/Status for Child Arrivals

Policy Position: CLINIC advocates for maintaining DACA and/or its replacement.

Objectives:

1. Engage in systemic advocacy in support of DACA protections, including equitable access to the ACA and health care protections at the state and federal levels.
2. Support USCCB in promoting a fair and generous pathway to citizenship for childhood arrivals.
3. Advocate for other forms of relief if DACA is threatened.



Immigrant Economic Justice

Policy Position: CLINIC advocates for a U.S. immigration system where immigration benefits are available to all, not just the wealthy.

Objectives:

1. Advocate for a fee schedule and fee waiver policies that ensure accessibility to benefits for immigrant families and vulnerable immigrants.
2. Promote the fair and just implementation of public charge policies that ensure low-income immigrants are included.
3. Advocate for the efficiency and effectiveness of the federal agencies' case processing policies and procedures.
4. Support policies that promote economic safety and justice for immigrants at the state and local level.
5. Educate and engage on the unlicensed practice of immigration law to ensure that immigrants are not being defrauded.
6. Engage in advocacy efforts to reduce the affirmative asylum backlog.



Naturalization Access

Policy Position: CLINIC advocates to ensure that naturalization is accessible to vulnerable populations and advocates for policies that promote integration and inclusion.

Objectives:

1. Secure updates to the citizenship test that promote access for vulnerable populations.
2. Ensure an accessible and equitable naturalization process, including language access, online fee waivers for naturalization cases and fair policies for all applicants.



Protection for Immigrant Survivors of Violence

Policy Position: CLINIC advocates at the local, state, and federal level for policies that prioritize protecting immigrant survivors of violence and minimizing re-traumatization in the immigration and criminal legal systems.

Objectives:

1. Advocate to reduce the U visa backlog at USCIS, including the long wait for a bona fide determination and for travel eligibility for those awaiting adjudication for their derivative family members abroad.
2. Advocate for USCIS to create online filings for VAWA, U, and T filings.
3. Advocate for state and local policies and other measures that promote and build trust between immigrant communities and local law enforcement.



Welcoming, Integration, Inclusion, and Belonging

Policy Position: CLINIC advocates for intentional, inclusive policies, practices, and norms that enable all community members, regardless of citizenship, to live, thrive, and contribute.

Objectives:

1. Promote immigrant integration and inclusion in state and local policies such as noncitizen voting at the state and local level, language access, educational resources for the newly arrived, and more.
2. Ensure that low-income immigrants are affirmatively included in those efforts.
3. Support policies at the federal level that promote immigrant integration and inclusion.
4. Advocate for local welcoming events by libraries, museums, community centers, town halls, and local community, and elected leaders.