



FIAC

FLORIDA

IMMIGRANT

ADVOCACY

CENTER

ANNUAL
REPORT
2002-2003

*Protecting and promoting the basic human rights
of immigrants of all nationalities in Florida*

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear FIAC Friends and Supporters:

Because you share our belief that immigration is one of our country's strengths, you know that representation and advocacy must be available to immigrants in need. Your support has helped FIAC emerge as a leading force in immigrant advocacy through multi-faceted programming that protects and promotes the rights of immigrants.

We see immigrants' rights threatened constantly, as Florida has become the nation's testing ground for anti-immigrant measures and enforcement, including: mandatorily detaining asylum seekers from certain nations, forcing asylum seekers to wear electronic monitoring bracelets, criminally prosecuting asylum seekers using false documents to enter the country, deputizing local law enforcement officers to enforce immigration law, and implementing unreasonable restrictions on driver's licenses.

History has shown that advocacy groups, which protect human rights and defend the freedoms we enjoy as citizens, are the driving force in changing society. Without FIAC and others serving as watchdogs in Florida, punitive government policies enacted here recently may be implemented elsewhere and thus be detrimental to even more immigrants throughout the country. FIAC aims to forestall the steady erosion of immigrants' civil and human rights resulting from actions undertaken in the name of domestic security.

FIAC's efforts in bringing public attention to these injustices continue to meet with success. But the unprecedented challenges that immigrants face since September 11th are forcing FIAC to become more visible, more innovative, and more effective than ever.

The operating revenue for 2002 represents an increase of more than 70% in comparison with our starting-year budget in 1996. FIAC continues to be fiscally responsible and stretch the funds that are beginning to recede even as the importance of our work expands. We must, however, seek new and ongoing sources of revenue to continue crucial services on behalf of thousands of immigrants.

We owe a debt of thanks to our Board of Directors, for guiding FIAC through such tremendous growth in the last seven years; and to our funders and donors, for placing their confidence in our ability to protect and promote the rights of so many who desperately seek our services.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "CJL Little". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cheryl Little, Esq.
Executive Director



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2002 FIAC closed 6,122 cases and continued its advocacy efforts through multiple channels. FIAC's recent accomplishments include:

ADVOCACY

Seeking fair treatment for asylum seekers, immigrants defending themselves from deportation, and others with affirmative claims.

Working to restore immigrants' access to food stamp and Medicaid benefits, and to secure eligibility for driver licensing.

Litigating Convention Against Torture claims in federal courts to protect detainees from being returned to countries where they will be imprisoned and tortured.

Litigating issues that have an impact on many immigrants, such as prolonged detention of Haitians and the use of bone and dental exams to establish age.

Winning landmark cases extending asylum protection to a new class of domestic violence victims, to children forced to join street gangs, and to groups opposing the current government in Haiti.

Helping shape the new T-visa for trafficking victims.

Encouraging the Department of Homeland Security to improve conditions for immigrants in detention.

Submitting amici curiae briefs in key cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and the Board of Immigration Appeals.



TRAINING

Training shelter advocates and social service providers regarding victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.

Educating detainees about their rights.

Overseeing training and education programs on trafficking issues in a seven-state region.

Disseminating information statewide through fact sheets, e-newsletters, conferences, training sessions and media relations.

Training legal services and pro bono attorneys as well as judicial staff regarding the rights of immigrant children in state court.

Training and consulting with federal and state public defenders and immigration attorneys regarding the immigration consequences of crimes.

Providing technical support for dozens of agencies, organizations, and individual advocates working with immigrants.

PARTNERING

Extending services by drawing on pro bono attorneys donating more than 7,000 hours of work, and legal interns, who also gave more than 7,000 hours.

Working closely with local and state government, the private sector, major law firms and community-based organizations to create new strategies for better treatment of immigrants.

Organizing dozens of immigrant rights organizations and hundreds of advocates through the Florida Immigrant Coalition, a network that relays information and works for change.

Partnering with national groups, such as Amnesty International, ACLU, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, and Women's Commission for Refugee Women & Children to forestall the erosion of civil and human rights.

Partnering with law firms to litigate cases.

Collaborating with other organizations to provide comprehensive services to trafficking victims.



2002-2003 PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Impact Advocacy

FIAC employs creative strategies to fight discriminatory policies, including litigating, informing the media, advising elected officials, working closely with local leaders and national advocacy groups, meeting with immigration officials to clarify local implementation of policies, negotiating settlements, and releasing reports about specific problems.



Direct Services

FIAC represents indigent clients of all nationalities before the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Immigration Courts, and federal courts. We partner with other immigrant and social service organizations to assist those in our client population who are:

- homeless
- domestic violence victims
- trafficking victims
- children held in detention
- elderly
- disabled
- asylum seekers
- HIV+ or have AIDS
- migrant farm workers

FIAC also has several special direct services projects:

Homeless Assistance

While our partner agencies assist homeless clients with job training and employment counseling, FIAC represents those with medical or public benefits claims.

Children's Legal Project

Represents unaccompanied minors held in detention at Boystown and immigrant children who are dependents of the state.

LUCHA: A Women's Legal Project

Helps women resolve their immigration status without the assistance of their abusive domestic partners. Also represents victims of trafficking and coordinates services with partner organizations to ensure that these clients receive social, employment and mental health services.

Immigration Court Representation

Defends immigrants with complex cases in immigration court, often raising cutting-edge issues.

Affirmative Claims including Asylum

Files affirmative claims for immigrants from all over the world, focusing on complex asylum cases.

Detention Project

Defends the basic freedoms of detainees, including immigrant women and children, and monitors conditions of detention to bring about systemic change.

Pro Bono Project

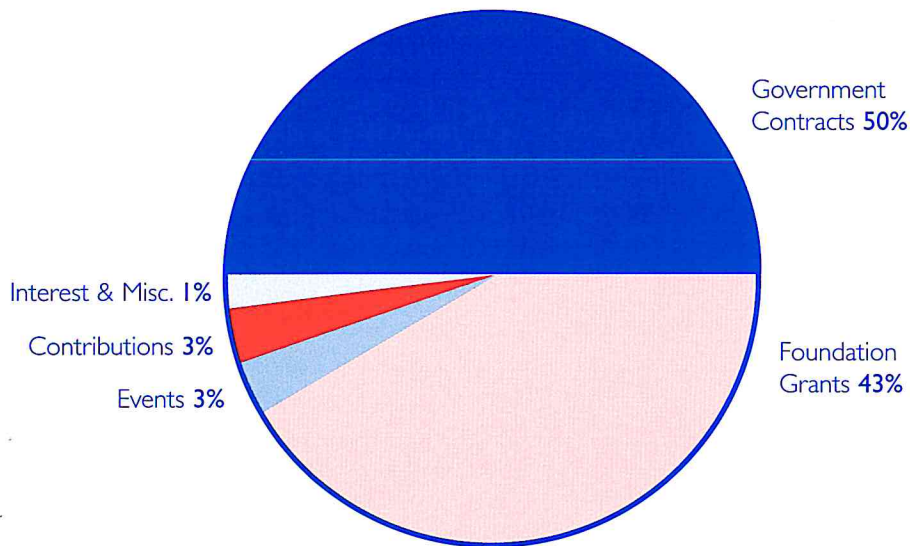
In conjunction with the Cuban American Bar Association (CABA), refers low-income, Spanish-speaking immigrants to pro bono attorneys for assistance with general civil matters, and handles uncontested divorces.

Florida Immigrant Coalition

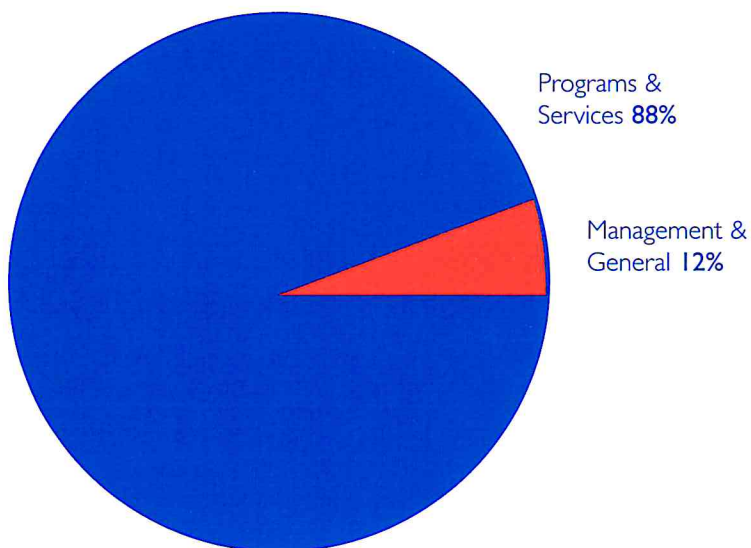
FIAC houses the Coalition, a collective of community-based organizations promoting fair policies for immigrants in Florida.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

INCOME 2002



EXPENSES 2002



Sources of Support & Revenue

2002

Government Contracts	\$1,191,834
Foundation Grants	1,001,691
Events	61,422
Contributions	60,306
Interest & Misc	16,907
Total	\$2,332,160

2001

Contributions	\$33,757
Foundation Grants	1,124,771
Government Contracts	813,000
Legal Fees	6,504
Interest & Misc	16,679
Events	48,509
Total	\$2,043,220

Expenses

2002

Program & Services	\$2,072,799
Management & General	291,853
Total	\$2,364,652

2001

Program & Services	\$1,923,935
Management & General	349,953
Total	\$2,273,888

FIAC has assisted clients from the following countries:

Albania	Kazakhstan
Algeria	Kenya
Angola	North Korea
Antigua	South Korea
Argentina	Kuwait
Australia	Laos
Azerbaijan	Latvia
Barbados	Lebanon
Bahamas	Liberia
Bangladesh	Lithuania
Bahrain	Macedonia
Belarus	Malawi
Belize	Martinique
Belgium	Malaysia
Bermuda	Mexico
Bolivia	Morocco
Brazil	Montserrat
Brigadoon	Mozambique
Bulgaria	Nether Antilles
Burundi	Nepal
Cameroon	Netherlands
Cambodia	Nicaragua
Canada	Nigeria
Cape Verde	Norway
Cayman Island	Pakistan
Chile	Palou
Peoples Republic of China	Panama
Colombia	Paraguay
Congo	Peru
Cook Islands	Philippines
Costa Rica	Poland
Croatia	Portugal
Cuba	Puerto Rico
Czech Republic	Romania
Denmark	Rumania
Dominica	Russia
Dominican Republic	Rwanda
Ecuador	Santo Domingo
Egypt	Saudi Arabia
El Salvador	Senegal
England	Sierra Leone
Eritrea	Slovakia
Ethiopia	Slovenia
Falkland Island	Somalia
Fiji	South Africa
Finland	Spain
France	Sri Lanka
French Guiana	St. Christopher
Ghana	St. Kitts. & Nev.
Georgia	St. Lucia
Germany	St. Vincent & G.
Greece	Sudan
Grenada	Surinam
Guadeloupe	Switzerland
Guiana-Bissou	Syria
Guinea	Taiwan
Guatemala	Tajikistan
Guyana	Tanzania
Haiti	Thailand
Hong Kong	Trinidad & Tobago
Honduras	Turks & Caicos
Hungary	Tunisia
Iceland	Turkey
India	Uganda
Indonesia	United Kingdom
Iran	Ukraine
Ireland	Uruguay
Iraq	USSR
Israel	Venezuela
Italy	Vietnam
Ivory Coast	Virgin Islands
Jamaica	Western Samoa
Japan	Yugoslavia
Jordan	Zaire
	Zambia

SINCERE THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS

Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center is extremely grateful to the following funders, who have enabled us to serve more than 36,000 clients since FIAC opened its doors in 1996.

Abriendo Puertas	Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters
ACCESS Project	Holland & Knight
Allegany Franciscan Foundation/Dade County	- Chesterfield Smith Community Service Fellowship
American Bar Association	Hope for Haiti
- Immigration Pro Bono Development Project	Immigrant Health Access Improvement Project
American Immigration Lawyers Association	Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Annie E. Casey Foundation	International Rescue Committee - Florida Freedom Partnership
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice	Junior League of Miami
Center for the Advancement of Human Rights at Florida State University	Ethel & W. George Kennedy Family Foundation
Alvah H. & Wylene P. Chapman Foundation	The John S. & James L. Knight Foundation
Robert Lee & Thomas M. Chastain Foundation	Levi Strauss Foundation
CitiGroup Foundation	Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services
Colombia University Public Interest Law Foundation	Miami Coalition for the Homeless
Community Catalyst	Miami-Dade County
Community Partnership for the Homeless/Homeless Assistance Center	- Immigration Emergency Fund
Coral Gables Congregational Church	- Department of Human Services
Cuban American Bar Association	National Immigration Law Center
Dade Community Foundation	New York University Public Interest Law Foundation
- New Americans Project	Norman Foundation
- South Florida Community AIDS Project	NOW Legal Defense Fund
Dade County Alliance Against Domestic Violence	One Nation
Diageo	The Reebok Human Rights Foundation
echoing green foundation	Riverside Front Porch Revitalization Council
Equal Justice Works (formerly NAPIL)	Joseph H. & Florence A. Roblee Foundation
- The Florida Bar Foundation	William J. & Tina Rosenberg Foundation
- Greenberg Traurig	St. Francis Medical and Health Care Foundation
- Mellon United National Bank	Sisters of the Humility of Mary
The Florida Bar Foundation	- H. M. Grants for the Poor
- Administration of Justice	- Ministry Endowment Fund
- Civil Legal Assistance	- Salmon Memorial Fund
- Emma Lazarus Grants	Skadden Fellowship Foundation
- Legal Assistance to the Poor	George M. & Mabel H. Slocum Foundation
- Summer Fellowships	State of Florida Office of Attorney General
- Technical Assistance	State Welfare Redesign Grants Pool
Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Target Corporation Community Relations
Florida Department of Children and Families	U.S. Department of Justice
- Refugee Program	- Office of Refugee Resettlement
- Special Immigrant Juveniles	- Violence Against Women Office
Florida International University Victim Advocacy Center	United Way of Miami-Dade County
The Ford Foundation - Public Interest Projects	Women's Fund of Miami-Dade County
Freedom Network Trafficking in Persons Training Institute	
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