

2024

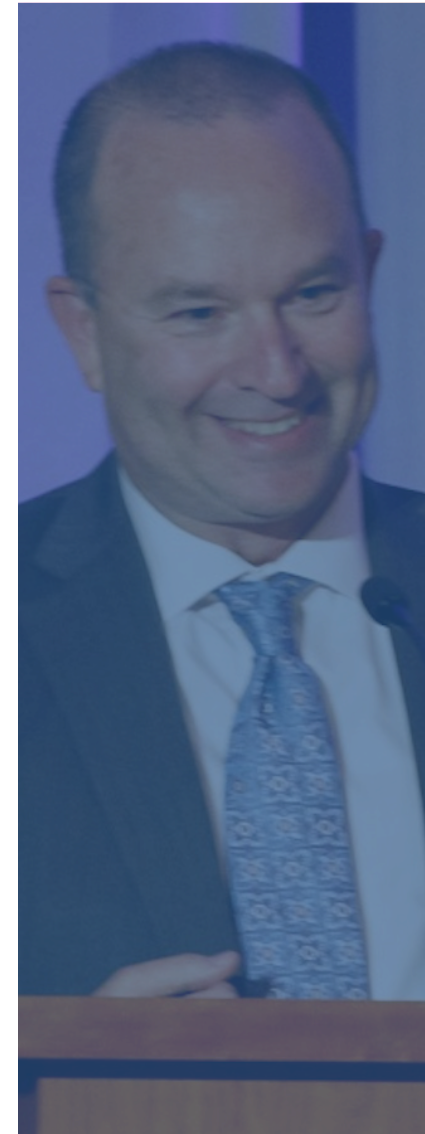
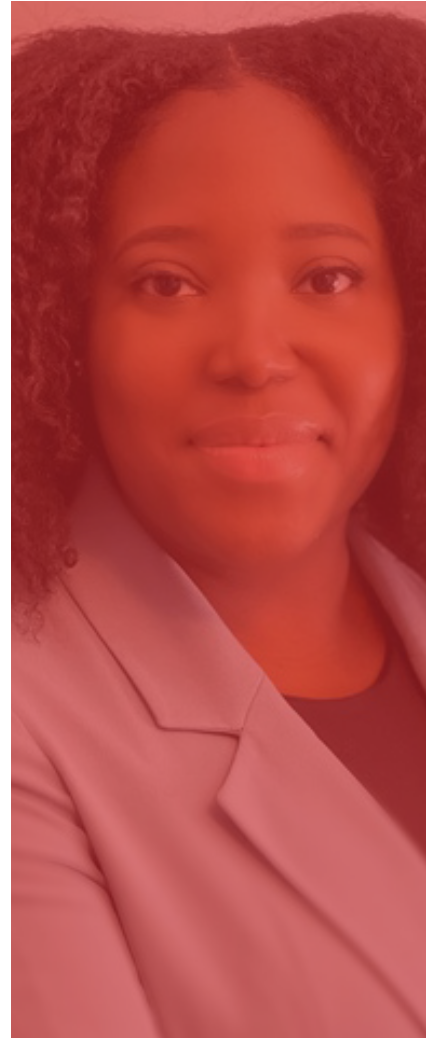
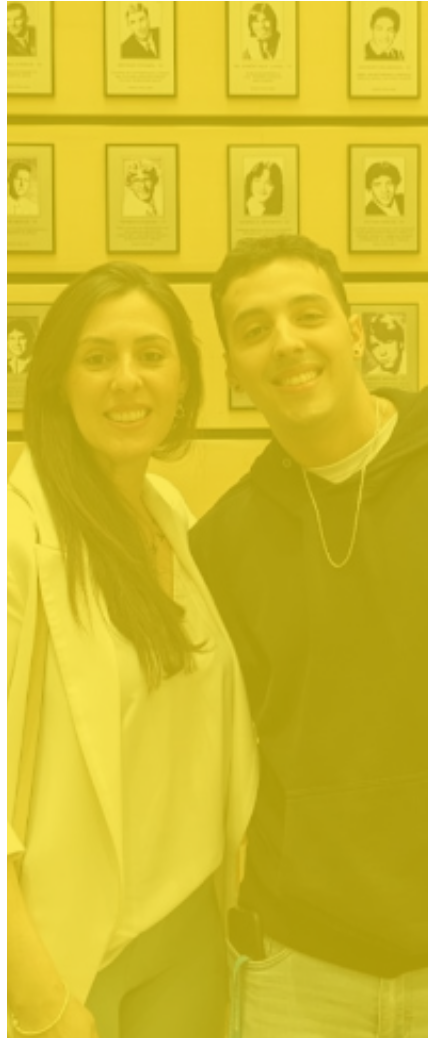


Annual Report

www.miracoalition.org | 69 Canal Street 3rd Floor Boston, MA 02114



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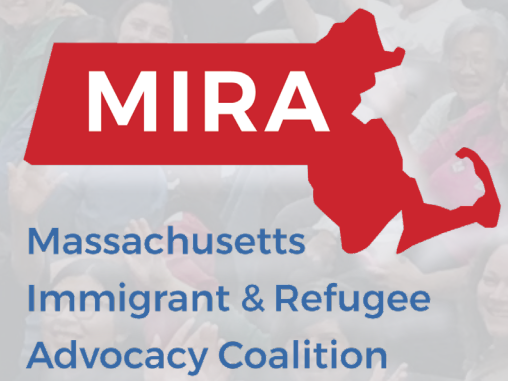


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2024 Donors



Massachusetts
Immigrant & Refugee
Advocacy Coalition



To our supporters
Letter from MIRA's

Executive Director

Liz G. Gweet (she/her)

✉ esweet@miracoalition.org ✕ @lizgsweet in @Liz Sweet

Dear MIRA Supporters,

We are pleased to share MIRA Coalition's 2024 Annual Report detailing our impact for immigrant communities in Massachusetts. In 2024, MIRA responded with an intentional and collaborative approach to growing challenges for immigrants and refugees. We began implementation of our four year strategic plan to strengthen our structure, align with our membership coalition, develop our communications strategy, and center racial equity – all with the ultimate goal of building power for immigrant communities.

Our strategic plan centers on the importance of listening to and partnering with our diverse membership coalition. To that end, in 2024, we launched our Advisory Council to provide a regular mechanism for communication and accountability between MIRA's staff and member organizations. We created a racial equity task force and developed a plan to better center racial equity throughout MIRA's initiatives. We launched a new helpline to support new immigrants and the many organizations serving them, with accurate legal information. And we greatly expanded our fundraising efforts to raise and sub-grant funds to many of our members and partners, strengthening capacity in our field.

With these and other changes, MIRA is deepening our alignment with the evolving needs of our communities and ensuring that our work continues to create meaningful, lasting change. MIRA continued to advocate at the local, state, and federal levels and we are especially proud to have successfully advocated for the passage of the Physician Pathway Act. This innovative bill will ensure that Massachusetts benefits from the talents of the many internationally trained physicians who chose to make their home here, while expanding access to primary care for all.

Looking ahead, we are confident that the work from this year will provide a foundation to navigate and respond to the anti-immigrant rhetoric and policy we are seeing so much of in the current moment. Joined in solidarity with our member organizations, our dedicated staff and your support, MIRA is ready to respond with continued determination.

With gratitude,

Liz

We Are MIRA

Our Work and Impact

The MIRA Coalition is New England's largest organization dedicated to promoting the rights and inclusion of immigrants and refugees. With over 150 member organizations, including grassroots groups, refugee resettlement agencies, service providers, faith-based organizations, and civil rights advocates, MIRA represents a broad, multicultural, and multilingual community.

Our Mission

MIRA Coalition's mission is to convene, serve, and organize together with our members, community leaders, and allies for the advancement of all immigrants across the Commonwealth and beyond. MIRA Coalition places immigrant and refugee voices at the forefront to advocate for the well-being of our communities.



MIRA Coalition Staff Members

Our Vision

Our vision is a Commonwealth – and a nation – where all can thrive, no matter where they came from or how they got here, and all can fully participate in their community's social, economic, and civic life.

Our Values

Immigrant and refugee centered: MIRA Coalition ensures that immigrant and refugee voices are at the forefront and are guided by those most impacted by the issues. Our work is only possible through collaboration and contribution from the coalition membership and the community.

Inclusion: Centering equity and inclusion for all means a commitment to anti-racism work and respect for all individuals regardless of race, gender, socioeconomic background, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, or immigration status. MIRA Coalition

believes that the diverse cultural heritage, languages, traditions, and origins of our staff, board, members, and communities make us stronger.

Collaboration: MIRA Coalition's power comes from our broad membership. We partner with organizations, policymakers, supporters, and other stakeholders to advance our mission.

Capacity Building: MIRA Coalition supports our immigrant and refugee communities with resources and training so we can create change.



State Legislative and Policy Advocacy

For nearly 40 years, MIRA Coalition has advocated with and for immigrant communities to create and support state policies that improve the lives, opportunities, and safety of immigrants and refugees in Massachusetts.

States are often the most effective engines of policy change where immigration issues are concerned. In 2024, our coalition continued its policy wins for immigrant communities.

Tuition Equity Act Impact

Signed into law in August 2023, the Tuition Equity Act makes in-state tuition and state financial aid available to **all** eligible students at Massachusetts public colleges and universities – regardless of immigration status. It also extends state financial aid to students attending both public and private institutions.

Throughout 2024, we worked closely with coalition partners and the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) to ensure the law's implementation was accessible and clearly communicated to immigrant students, school counselors, and college administrators.

MIRA also collaborated with DHE and the Office of Student Financial Aid during the roll out of the Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA), which allows undocumented students to apply for state aid. We helped relay student feedback, troubleshoot barriers, and improve the process.

As a result, over 2,000 immigrant students applied for state financial aid for the 2024–25 academic year.



“Being able to attend college is part of the dream life I want to build for myself.”

~ Patrik Carvalho de Oliveira



Victory for the Physician Pathway Act!

On November 20, 2024, the Physician Pathway Act (PPA) was signed into law after a robust campaign led by MIRA Coalition that helped push it through the state legislature in just one session. First introduced in January 2023, the bill was ultimately included in Governor Healey's economic development package.

The PPA will open doors for experienced, internationally-trained doctors in Massachusetts to help address the state's severe shortage of physicians, especially in primary care and psychiatry. This is not only a major win for MIRA Coalition—it's a transformative step for under-resourced communities, where many immigrants live, by expanding access to culturally competent, urgently needed healthcare.

Sponsored by Senator Jason Lewis, Representative Jack Lewis, and Representative Mindy Domb, the law was shaped by the Special Commission on Foreign-Trained Medical Professionals, where MIRA worked alongside other key partners. This new pathway is especially important for immigrant and refugee physicians who came to Massachusetts with years of experience but without the financial resources or professional networks to restart their careers.

Previously, these doctors had to repeat their clinical training in the U.S. and compete for a limited number of residency slots, usually reserved for new medical school graduates.

Now, the PPA removes the U.S. residency requirement for qualified internationally-trained doctors with equivalent clinical experience. In exchange, these physicians commit to working for 3 to 6 years in clinics and hospitals that serve communities with the greatest need.

Originally drafted by MIRA, the PPA was the first law of its kind in the country. Since it was introduced in 2023, ten other states have passed similar laws.



Community leaders advocating for the Physician's Pathway Act at the State House



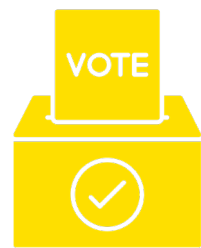
Membership Reach and Impact

In 2024, MIRA's Organizing Team— who build grassroots power by directly engaging immigrant communities—mobilized people statewide through the Courage to Welcome campaign, challenging anti-immigrant narratives with human stories and increased visibility.

The team traveled across Massachusetts, from Lowell to Fall River, connecting with community groups, faith leaders, and service providers. Highlights included a strong turnout at Immigrants' Day at the State House (IDSH), strategic legislative meetings, and the launch of our advocacy petition.

Through regional meetings, digital organizing, coalition building, voter registration, and get-out-the-vote efforts, MIRA strengthened grassroots momentum beyond Greater Boston. We also launched the Stories Us Now (SUN) Fellowship, a new advocacy-through-storytelling initiative.

Civic Engagement



Hosted **22 voter registration** drives with **734 new voters**

Organized phone banking and social media efforts for **Get Out The Vote**: in November 2024, MIRA shared biweekly social media posts on voting, ballot questions, and polling locations, and reached over **1,100 registered voters** through phone banking



Joined the Urgent (national advocacy) and Housing Fellowship

Immigrants' Day at the State House (IDSH)

IDSH is an annual event in Massachusetts where immigrants, advocates, and community leaders come together to celebrate the contributions of immigrants and advocate for their rights and needs.

- **300 people** attended on a rainy day!
- **70+ organizations** were represented 30 groups participated in preparing for and engaging in meetings with 21 legislators

Community Outreach



2024 HONK! Activist Street Band parade



MIRA with the Cape Verde Association



MIRA hosted a Voter Registration drive with Lowell Alliance

- Attended **65 community events** in different regions in MA such as: Boston, Lowell, Lynn, Everett, Somerville, Lawrence, Malden, Cambridge, Brockton, Fall River and around greater Boston.
- Post Election Debrief Convening: **50+ MIRA Members**
- Participated in the 2024 HONK! Activist Street Band parade
- Created and promoted two letter campaigns for Budget Amendments: **28 letters** sent to legislators
- Created and promoted two letter campaigns for the Safe Communities Act: **4,000 letters sent**
- Launched [MIRA's Advocacy Petition](#) with **679 signatures**



Coalition Building & Membership Engagement

- Arranged **24 one-on-one listening sessions** with members
- Released **20 digital organizing posts and live broadcasts** with members
- **Hosted a well-attended and invigorating Annual Coalition Members Meeting**: following the federal election, MIRA members gathered to be together in community, assess the political landscape, and vote on the legislative priorities that shaped the *Protecting Our Immigrant Communities* Campaign.
- Created and ran the first cohort of **SUN - Stories Us Now**: This six-week fellowship trained 11 participants from 7 MIRA Membership organizations in storytelling to support advocacy on language access, mental health, and workers' rights through digital projects like videos and graphic novels.

"I love how we were made to know personal stories carry so much power, and an invitation to listen to someone's story is an opportunity to build relationships to tell a story."

~ SUN Fellow

Immigrants' Day at the State House

Immigrants' Day at the State House is MIRA's largest and longest-standing legislative advocacy event for immigrants in New England. Every March for the past 28 years MIRA has mobilized coalition members and community partners—including grassroots organizations, legal and service providers, faith-based groups, ESL students, volunteers, and statewide allies—to come together at the Massachusetts State House.

The day serves as both a celebration of community strength and a critical moment where immigrant families, allies, and organizations come together to visibly claim their place in the democratic process and shape the policies that directly impact their lives.

In 2024, Immigrants' Day brought together 300 participants representing 70 organizations, who engaged in meetings with 21 legislators, including Assistant Majority Leaders and key committee chairs and vice chairs. MIRA also facilitated critical conversations between internationally trained physicians and legislators to support the **Physician Pathway Act**—an important step toward creating a more inclusive and equitable healthcare workforce and expanding access to primary care.

To learn more or to participate, visit [MIRA's website](http://www.miracoalition.org/news/events-calendar) at www.miracoalition.org/news/events-calendar.



2025 Immigrants' Day at the State House



MIRA's Advisory Council

MIRA Coalition launched a new Advisory Council in January 2024, which has met monthly since its creation. This Council was created to strengthen alignment between MIRA's work as an organization and as a coalition – our top priority in the 2023–2027 Strategic Plan.

Elected by the membership coalition at the end of 2023, the Council represents a diverse cross-section of immigrant communities across Massachusetts and around the world. They have been instrumental in shaping MIRA's advocacy by providing direct, consistent feedback on policy priorities and identifying the most useful educational materials for their communities.

Tri Tran, Chair
Director of Public Policy, Rosie's Place

Helena DaSilva-Hughes
President, Immigrants' Assistance Center

Emmanuel Owusu
Executive Director, African Bridge Network

Xan Webber, Co-Chair
Chief Advancement Officer and Senior Vice President, International Institute of New England

Dieufort "Pastor Keke" Fleurissant
True Alliance Center

Lenita Reason
Executive Director, Brazilian Worker Center

Arthur Almeda
Executive Director, Boston Missionary Baptist Community Center

Kevin Lam
Co-Executive Director, Asian American Resource Workshop

Dawn Sauma
Executive Director, Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence

Alma Cothias
Jewish Family Services of Metrowest

Javier Luengo-Garrido
Organizing Strategist, ACLU of MA

Fernanda Silveira
Executive Director, Source Hub

Suzanne Curry
Director, Policy & Government Relations, Health Care for All

Abeer Massri
Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence

Leninn Torres
Pioneer Valley Workers Center

Amy Nishman
Senior Vice President of Strategy, Jewish Vocational Services of Boston

Damaris Velazquez
Agencia ALPHA

Member Spotlight: Tri Tran

Tri Tran, Director of Public Policy at Rosie's Place, serves on MIRA's Advisory Council.

The son of Vietnamese refugees who fled during the Fall of Saigon, Tri has deep personal and professional roots in immigrant and refugee advocacy. He began his career at the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office supporting workers' rights, later supervised immigration casework for the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy, and worked in both the non-profit and business sectors on government affairs and political campaigns.

Tri brings extensive policy experience and a lifelong commitment to immigrant communities.



What motivated you to serve on the Advisory Committee?

I've witnessed MIRA make an extraordinary difference on behalf of immigrants for years. In my current role, working in partnership with MIRA on many policy initiatives - as we watched challenges continue to pile up for immigrants over the past few years it became a no brainer for me to want to find more ways to contribute.

What inspires you to continue working with MIRA?

I've been lucky to have gotten to know the MIRA team - it's seeing how passionate everyone is, how committed to the mission the team is and watching them deliver results for organizations and immigrants everywhere.

“Serving on the Advisory Council and working to uphold the rights of immigrants and refugees in this critical moment is a tremendous honor. I feel fortunate to contribute to MIRA and to work alongside such talented, passionate advocates.”
~ Tri Tran

MIRA Coalition Members

Learn more about our members on our website www.miracoalition.org/about-us/members/

Statewide

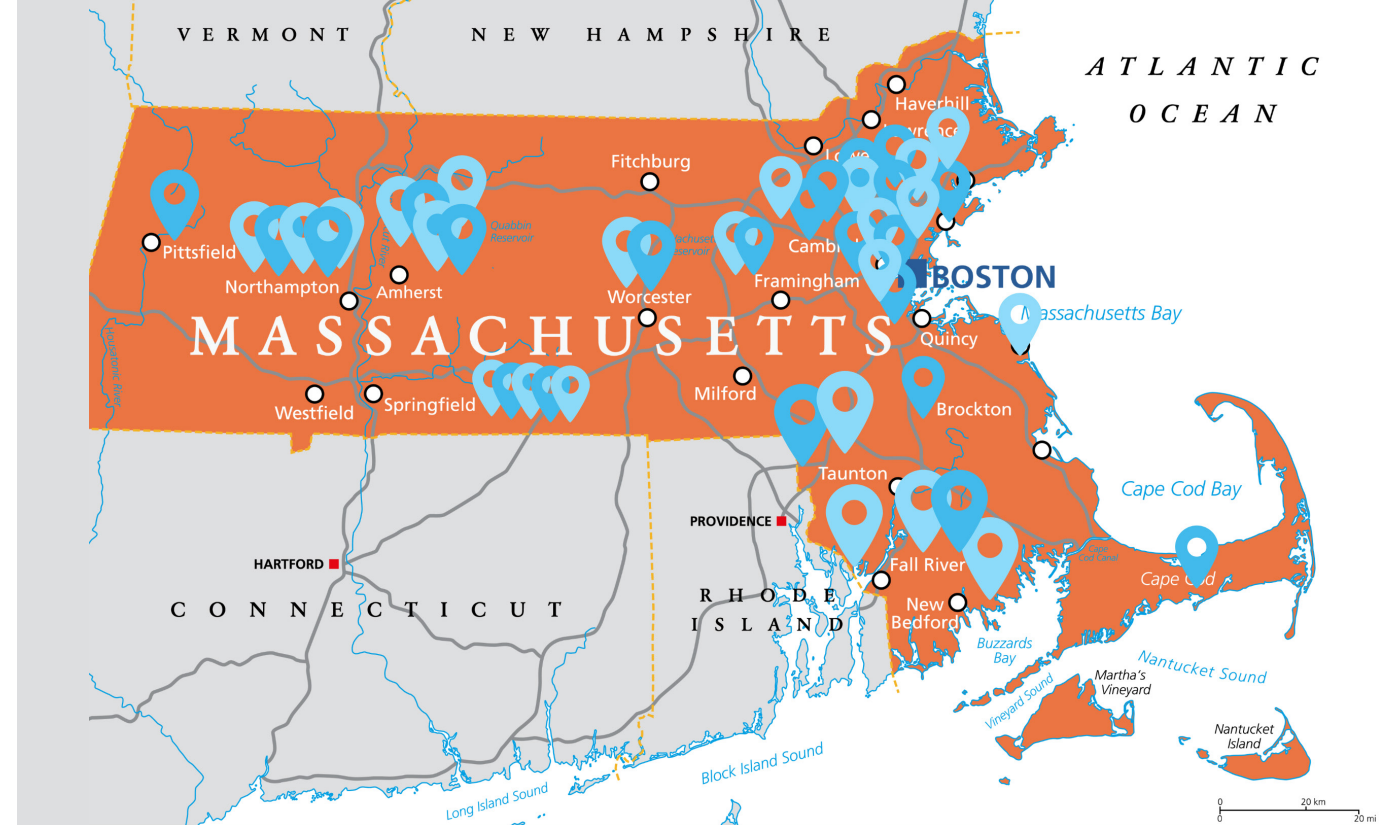
- African Bridge Network
- American Friends Service Committee
- American Immigration Lawyers Association
- ACLU of Massachusetts, Inc.
- ADL New England
- American Jewish Committee
- Asian American Civic Association
- Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK)
- Center for American Islamic Relations
- First Literacy
- Heath Care For All (HCFA) Massachusetts
- International Institute of New England
- Jane Doe Inc.
- Lawyers for Civil Rights
- Latinos for Education
- Latinos Unidos en Massachusetts (LUMA)
- Mabel Center for Immigrant Justice
- Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corps
- Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, Inc.
- Massachusetts Parents United
- Massachusetts Senior Care Association
- Massachusetts Association for Community Action (MASSCAP)
- Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS)
- Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministry (MBMM)
- Massachusetts Appleseed Center for Law and Justice
- METCO, Inc.
- Muslim Justice League
- MassCOSH
- New England Justice for Our Neighbors
- Project Citizenship
- Progressive Massachusetts Inc.

Central Massachusetts

- Ascentria Care Alliance
- Ascentria Care Alliance Immigration Legal Assistance Program
- Catholic Charities Worcester
- Community Legal Aid, Inc
- Jewish Family Service of Metrowest
- MAPA Translations & Language Solutions
- Metrowest Legal Services, Inc.
- Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Massachusetts
- Unitarian Universalists Mass Action

Greater Boston Area

- Agencia ALPHA
- Action For Boston Community Development (ABCD)
- Amplify Latinx
- Asian Community Development Corporation
- Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence
- Association of Haitian Women in Boston
- Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
- Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center
- Boston Center for Refugee Health & Human Rights
- Boston Democratic Socialists of America (BDSA)
- Boston Education, Skills & Training (BEST) Hospitality Training
- Boston Missionary Baptist Community Center
- Brazilian Workers Center
- Brazilian Womens Group
- Cambridge Community Learning Center
- Cambridge Health Alliance
- Casa Myrna
- Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Boston
- Center for Labor Education and Research (Jobs with Justice)
- Chelsea Collaborative
- Chinese Progressive Association
- Community Action Agency of Somerville
- Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries
- Dominican Development Center
- East Boston Ecumenical Comm. Council
- Enroot
- Family Aid Boston
- Greater Boston Legal Services, Inc.
- Haitian-Americans United (HAU)
- Health and Law Immigrant Solidarity Network
- Health Law Advocates, Inc.
- Immigrant Family Services Institute (IFSI)
- Iranian Association of Boston
- Irish International Immigrant Center
- Irish Pastoral Centre
- Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston
- Jewish Vocational Service
- Jewish Voice for Peace
- Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation
- Justice Resource Institute, Inc.
- La Alianza Hispana
- La Comunidad, Inc
- Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Social Services
- Neighborhood of Affordable Housing
- Pathway for Immigrant Workers
- Political Asylum Immigration Representation Project (PAIR Project)
- Project Bread
- ProGente Connections
- Plymouth Congregational Church
- Reach Beyond Domestic Violence, Inc.
- Sisters of Saint Joseph
- St. Mark Community Education Program
- Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice (SCIJ)
- The Right To Immigration
- The Right Question Institute
- Whittier Street Health Center



Northeastern Massachusetts

- Cambodian Mutual Assistance Agency - CMAA
- Casa Esperanza
- Coalition For A Better ACRE, Inc.
- Greater Lawrence Community Action Council
- Latinx Community Center for Empowerment - LCCE
- Lowell Community Health Center
- Lowell Alliance (YWCA)
- Mass Afghan Alliance
- Northeast Justice Center, LLC
- DOVE, Inc.
- Lynn Community Health Inc.
- New American Association of Massachusetts
- Open Door Immigration Services
- Merrimack Valley Project
- The House of the Seven Gables
- United Way of Greater Plymouth County
- Welcome Immigrant Network

Western

- Alianza DV
- Berkshire Immigrant Center
- Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts
- Center for New Americans
- Jones Library, Inc.
- Pioneer Valley Workers Center
- Womanshelter/Companeras, Inc.
- Safe Pass
- SEIU 1199
- Catholic Charities
- Pioneer Valley Project
- The Resistance Center
- ACLU - Western Massachusetts
- Neighbor 2 Neighbor
- Elizabeth Freeman Center
- ROCA, Inc.

Southeastern Massachusetts

- Catholic Social Services
- Community Action Committee of Cape Cod & Islands
- Community Economic Development Center
- Haitian Community Partners Foundation
- Coalition for Social Justice
- Health Imperatives
- Mass. Association of Teachers of Speakers of Other Languages (MATSOL)
- The Family Center at Community Connections of Brockton
- The Literacy Center
- Immigrants Assistance Center
- Quincy Asian Resources (QARI)
- South Coastal Counties Legal Services
- Sourcehub
- Justice Center of Southeast Massachusetts

MetroWest

- BRACE
- Haitian American Chamber of Commerce Massachusetts
- Metro-West Workers Center CASA
- Shut Up Until You There
- The Welcome Project
- Watertown Citizens for Peace, Justice and the Environment

Out-of-State

- Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island Inc.
- Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center
- Immigrants Community Integration

PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO MIRA COALITION MEMBERS



An important part of MIRA's strategic plan is a focus on supporting and increasing the capacity of coalition member organizations. To this end, we have expanded fundraising efforts to raise and distribute funds to our membership, allowing us to be more responsive to the shifting landscape and to members' specific needs.

In May 2023, MIRA received a \$1.75 million grant from the Office for Refugees and Immigrants (ORI), part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to launch the pilot Immigrant Assistance Services (IAS) Program. The program was created to address the urgent needs of newly arrived immigrants living in the state's Emergency Assistance (EA) hotel and motel shelters.

Through the IAS Program, MIRA provided critical legal and case management support to hundreds of families navigating complex immigration processes. The program assisted families in applying for work authorization, Temporary Protected Status, asylum, and more. In June 2024, the program was renewed for a second year, continuing its support for families in EA shelters.

To expand the program's reach, MIRA sub granted funding to nearly 30 partner organizations across the state. Subgranting allowed MIRA to distribute portions of its grant to trusted community-based organizations that directly provide legal services and case management to families in need.

“Working with MIRA to help immigrants obtain and extend their TPS allowed me to see how many people are passionate about this work as we came together during a critical time. In addition to helping individuals navigate the legal process, these clinics help rebuild public trust in government and nonprofit actors. Developing that confidence is imperative, because the resources MIRA leverages are effective to the extent that people are willing to use them.”

~ Ann Y.
MIRA TPS Clinic Volunteer

Grants ranged from \$500 - \$100,000+:

- A Life Worth Living Corp
- Beyond Bond and Legal Defense Fund
- Boston Health Care for the Homeless
- Boston Missionary Baptist Community Center (BMBCC)
- Brazilian Worker Center (BWC)
- Catholic Charities Boston (CCAB or CCB)
- Center for New Americans (CNAM)
- Central West Justice Center (CWJC)
- Community Economic Development Center of SE MA, Inc.
- De NOVO Center for Justice and Healing
- Empowered & Dedicated to Edify the Nation (EDEN)
- Health Care For All
- Immigrants' Assistance Center (IAC)
- Institute for Community Health
- International Institute of New England (IINE)
- Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts (JFSWM)
- Latinos for Education
- Lynn Community Health Center (LCHC)
- Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers, Inc. (MAPS, Inc.)
- Northeast Legal Aid
- Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success (ORIS)
- South Coastal Counties Legal Services (SCCLS)
- St. Marks Community Education Program

“Last year, IFSI-USA was honored to serve as a partner in the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) clinics hosted by the MIRA Coalition and the Office for Refugees and Immigrants. Our team was deeply committed to supporting this vital work through pre-registration of families, translation services, application preparation, and comprehensive event support. The collaboration was incredibly meaningful, and we're proud that together we were able to assist over 2,352 individuals at the large-scale TPS clinics, with even more supported through community partners. We must congratulate the state of Massachusetts and MIRA Coalition for this outstanding initiative - it truly demonstrates what can be accomplished when organizations come together with a shared commitment to serving our immigrant communities.”

~ Barbara Antoine Quezada
Associate Director of Legal Services at Immigrant Family Services Institute (IFSI)

18 Citizenship

Since its inception in 2011, MIRA's Citizenship Program has supported over 2,800 immigrants and refugees in becoming naturalized U.S. citizens.

The journey to citizenship is rarely simple. Applicants face complex paperwork, high federal fees, language barriers, civics tests, and long processing delays—sometimes lasting more than a year. Legal or personal challenges, such as time spent outside the U.S. or living with a disability, can make the process even more overwhelming without support.

MIRA's Citizenship Program offers step-by-step guidance throughout the naturalization process. We assist applicants in completing forms, applying for federal fee waivers, and submitting medical waivers for those with physical or mental disabilities. But our work goes beyond paperwork—we offer community-based support rooted in care, solidarity, and accessibility.

In 2024, with funding from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the Citizenship for New Americans Program (CNAP) through the Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants, we served hundreds of immigrants and refugees across the Commonwealth.

Our free citizenship clinics are at the heart of this work. Volunteers, interns, and immigration attorneys provide hands-on support—reviewing applications, answering legal questions, preparing applicants for interviews, and offering referrals when additional legal help is needed. These events would not be possible without our dedicated community partners who open their spaces to host clinics.

More than 160 volunteers, six outstanding interns, and our full-time AmeriCorps members donated their time, skills, and energy to support our immigrant communities. We are especially grateful to our interns—Angela Matta, Eliza Hernandez, Hellen Popa, Kenise Phanord, Rebecca Sparks, and Sophia Hebert—and our AmeriCorps members—Grant Olick-Sutphen, Kyle Burzycki, Alexis Savage, and Emiko Andrews.

For the first time in many years, MIRA also expanded its citizenship services beyond Massachusetts, hosting a citizenship workshop and informational session in New Hampshire to reach even more aspiring citizens.

At MIRA, we believe citizenship is more than a legal status—it's a pathway to full civic participation.



Trudy & her father, Vansley
Naturalized in 2024



Ivy and her grandmother
Naturalized in 2024



Norma & Ramon Liriano
Naturalized in 2024



Janna
Naturalized in 2024

"Muchisimas gracias por toda su ayuda en todo mi proceso. Que Dios los siga bendiciendo mucho a todos."

~ Wandí Rosario
Citizenship Client



MIRA's
Citizenship Team
Jessica Chicco,
Diane Joly and
AmeriCorps
members—
Kyle Burzycki,
Emiko Andrews
& Alexis Savage

“I’ve lived in the US since June 2008. It was impactful for me that I arrived in the US when the first Black person was president and it felt more impactful because like me, he is of Kenyan descent. The journey I’ve gone through to be here took a lot of time, money, and emotions. And now that I’m on the other side, I’m able to unlock the final achievement of voting. I vote not just for myself, but as a representation of what can be. My 83 year old grandmother voted for the first time in the United States in Texas a few days ago - something that neither of us would’ve imagined. Voting is so much more than just a right; it’s a powerful tool that can shape our future.”

~ Ivy
MIRA's New American Changemakers
2023 Cohort
(Picture: Ivy & her grandmother)

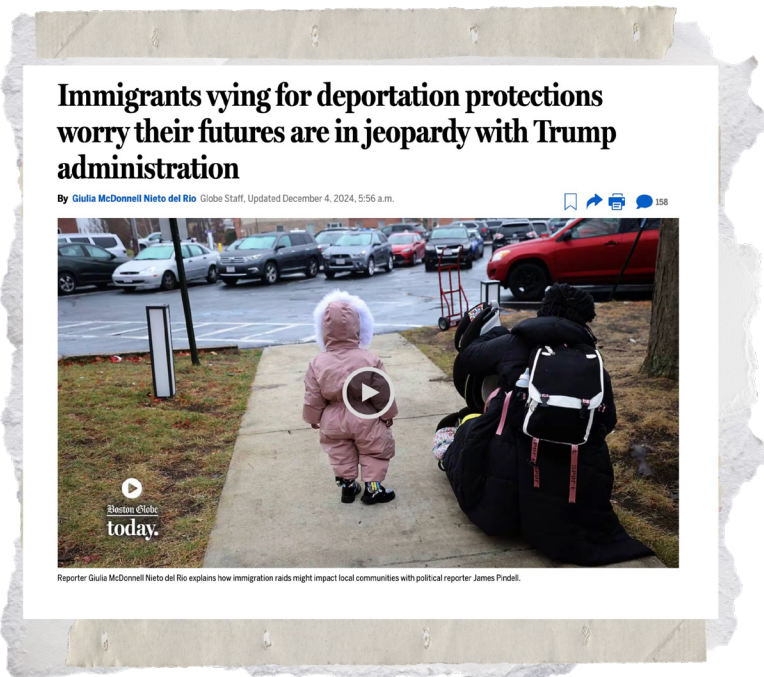


TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS CLINICS

In August 2024, MIRA received funding from the Office for Refugees and Immigrants (ORI) to implement a series of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) clinics across Massachusetts. TPS is a federal program that allows immigrants from countries facing war, natural disasters, or other crises to live and work legally in the United States on a temporary basis.

In partnership with the Immigrant Family Services Institute (IFSI), MIRA hosted 35 clinics between September and November, assisting over 3,200 individuals in applying for TPS and work authorization. This effort was made possible through the support of hundreds of volunteers and dozens of legal organizations from both the private and nonprofit sectors.

These clinics provided life-changing support, helping thousands of immigrants gain stability, access economic opportunity, and find a sense of safety—strengthening not only individual lives but entire communities across Massachusetts.



**MIRA hosted
35 Clinics
between September
and November,
assisting over
3,200
Individuals
in applying for TPS and
work authorization.**

MIRA Coalition featured in Boston Globe article [Immigrants vying deportation protections worry their futures are jeopardy with trump administration](#)
By Guilia McDonnell Nieto del Rio
December 4, 2024



Scan the QR code to read the article

Immigration Helpline



In March 2024, MIRA launched the **Immigration Advocate Legal Helpline** to serve as a trusted source of immigration-related legal information for service providers working with immigrant communities across Massachusetts. Designed as a non-emergency resource, the helpline offers timely, accurate information by phone or email, helping to bridge the growing gap in immigration legal support. Initially created for service providers, the Helpline quickly expanded to meet rising community needs. Over time, we extended access to directly impacted individuals, allowing more people to find reliable answers to frequently asked immigration questions. At a time when immigration attorneys face overwhelming caseloads and long wait lists, this Helpline helps expand the capacity of the broader legal services ecosystem.

The Helpline also plays a key role in preventing “notario” fraud. With long delays and limited access to legal representation, many immigrants—often unknowingly—turn to unlicensed individuals who exploit their vulnerability. These “notarios” are not licensed immigration lawyers or Department of Justice Accredited Representatives and are engaged in the unauthorized practice of immigration law. By providing reliable, vetted information, the Helpline helps community members recognize unauthorized practices and make safer choices.

In 2024, the Helpline fielded over 500 calls from providers and community members across Massachusetts, covering a wide range of issues. Callers included nonprofit staff, legal providers, employers navigating hiring laws, hospitals assisting patients’ families, and individuals with urgent questions about legal status, asylum eligibility, or how to reunite with family members abroad. Many also needed help understanding legal documents or next steps after contact with immigration courts.

We also supported translation mini-grants to help providers make critical information more accessible to their communities. Through the support of MOIA grant funds, the Helpline was able to offer three \$500 mini-grants to A Life Worth Living Group, Latinos for Education, and Community Economic Development Center of SE MA, Inc. to offer translation services for upcoming events. Today, the Helpline operates in collaboration with MIRA’s training and resource development team, ensuring that frequently asked questions inform future community education efforts. In 2024, we also welcomed two interns to support the Helpline and gain hands-on experience in immigration systems navigation.



Staff Spotlight

Pricilla Cadet

MIRA's Immigration Helpline Manager

Pricilla Cadet began working at MIRA Coalition in 2023 as a Legal Fellow with the Immigrant Assistance Services (IAS) program, providing legal support to immigrant families in emergency shelters. In alignment with the crucial work she did establishing the Helpline, Pricilla then moved into the role of Helpline Manager. She continues to leverage her legal expertise to help immigrants, providing invaluable support that benefits both those who call the Helpline and other legal professionals by taking on requests that would further strain the capacity of an already overtaxed system.

What led you on the path to advocate for immigrant rights?

My path to immigration advocacy began at home. Raised by my Haitian grandparents, I became a translator, advocate, and cultural bridge at a young age — helping them navigate medical systems, housing, and daily life. Though I was born in the U.S., I grew up between two worlds, constantly shifting between identities and languages. That duality, along with my family's lived experiences, made it impossible to ignore the barriers immigrants face.

Before law school, I worked at a boutique immigration firm and became so emotionally invested in clients' stories that I questioned whether I could sustain that work. I entered law school with an open mind but found myself drawn back through immigration clinics. I realized this work wasn't just a job — it was part of me.

Please share with us your immigrant story.

Although I was born in the United States, my roots are deeply embedded in Haiti. As a first-generation American raised by my Haitian grandparents, I learned very early what it meant to live between two cultures. Kreyòl was my first language — not because it was taught in school, but because it was the language of my home, my elders, my heart. My grandparents raised me in a household filled with Haitian traditions, stories, values, and rhythms, even though we lived in the U.S.

Growing up, I became a bridge between two worlds.

From a young age, I accompanied my diabetic grandmother to doctor's appointments, interpreting (or at least attempting to) complex medical terms into Kreyòl and translating her responses back into English. I helped my grandfather navigate everything from hospital visits to housing paperwork. I didn't realize it at the time, but this constant code-switching — between languages, systems, and cultural expectations — was shaping not just my identity, but also my path in life. I learned how much gets lost in translation when people are unseen or unheard, and how powerful it is to be able to stand in that gap and make someone feel understood.

Even though I wasn't born in Haiti, I've never felt far from it. My parents frequently traveled back and forth, and now my father lives there permanently. That sense of cultural continuity became even more important to me as I got older. Since 2020, I've returned to Haiti three to four times each year, often staying for weeks or months at a time. These visits aren't just trips — they are a reaffirmation of where I come from. They keep me grounded in the language, the people, the struggles, and the beauty of Haiti. They remind me of why I do the work I do today.

My immigration story isn't just about where I was born — it's about who raised me, how I was raised, and how I've chosen to carry that forward. Being Haitian-American means constantly navigating dual identities, but for me, it's never felt like a conflict. It's a source of strength, empathy, and purpose.

What's the biggest challenge you've had to face working at MIRA?

Accepting that I cannot fix everything. Immigration law is unpredictable, and what's true today may not be tomorrow. It's hard to sit with those limits while holding space for people in crisis.

What are some highlights?

One of my most memorable moments was helping a pregnant Haitian woman and her partner during my first clinic. What started as an EAD application turned into a heartfelt exchange about her journey,

trauma, and hope. Months later, we reconnected at a TPS clinic — she handed me her baby with joy and shared that she and her partner were getting married. It reminded me how deeply meaningful this work is.

What inspires you to continue this work each day?

The people. Their strength, resilience, and hope, even in the face of so much uncertainty. Being part of their journey — helping them feel seen and supported — is what fuels me every day.



Before law school, I worked at a boutique immigration firm and became so emotionally invested in clients' stories that I questioned whether I could sustain that work. I entered law school with an open mind but found myself drawn back through immigration clinics. I realized this work wasn't just a job — it was part of me.

~ Pricilla Cadet





AmeriCorps New American Integration Program (NAIP)

The **New American Integration Program (NAIP)**, an AmeriCorps initiative, recruits and places AmeriCorps members at community-based organizations across Massachusetts to support immigrants and refugees on their path to full civic, economic, and social participation. NAIP members provide English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) instruction, job readiness training, and naturalization assistance to hundreds of clients each year.

In 2024, NAIP made a significant impact:

More than **600 clients** received support on their path to U.S. citizenship—a milestone that strengthens not just individuals, but entire communities.

Over **400 clients** participated in ESOL classes, gaining essential language skills for daily life and professional growth.

More than **200 clients** accessed job readiness and employment support services, building tools for long-term stability and success.

The program's reach extended beyond direct services. Host sites and AmeriCorps members reported record satisfaction, and several host organizations expressed interest in hiring their NAIP members after service—reflecting the high quality and dedication of those who served.

NAIP also recruited a diverse pool of volunteers, including part-time and full-time members from a broad range of ages, ethnicities, educational backgrounds, and professional experiences. This diversity strengthened the program's cultural responsiveness and deepened its ability to serve immigrant and refugee communities with care and empathy.

In 2024, **five new host sites** joined NAIP, bringing the total to eight for the year:

- Massachusetts General Hospital Asylum Clinic for Global Health
- Boston Missionary Baptist Community Center (BMBCC)
- Maverick Landing Community Services (MLCS)
- St. Mark Community Education Program (ODIS)
- Open Door Immigration Services
- Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center Quincy (BCNC)
- Pathway for Immigrant Workers, Inc.

NAIP continues to serve as a vital bridge for immigrant and refugee communities in Massachusetts. The 2023–2024 program year was a year of learning, community, and high-quality service, grounded in a deep commitment to equity and empowerment.

Thank you to our AmeriCorps members, host sites, funders, partners, and staff for making this year possible.

New Hampshire Alliance of Immigrants and Refugees - NHAIR

NHAIR, MIRA's New Hampshire branch, was established in 2007 to serve the state's growing immigrant and refugee community. Since then, NHAIR has fought anti-immigrant legislation, strengthened community capacity, and advocated for policies that protect the rights of all New Hampshire residents. The organization builds immigrant leadership, collaborates with labor and faith allies, provides immigration trainings, and leads statewide advocacy efforts. NHAIR is also an active member of key advocacy coalitions, including the Immigrant Support Network, the Immigrant Rights Network, and the New Hampshire MLK Jr. Coalition.

Welcoming New Hampshire, NHAIR's core program, connects immigrant-serving organizations, local agencies, and immigrant-led groups across the state. The program fosters inclusion, opportunity, and stronger community relationships.

Under the leadership of Director Eva Castillo and Table Manager David Holt, NHAIR has expanded its partnerships to include organizations serving other marginalized groups. This intersectional approach ensures that NHAIR's work is inclusive, collaborative, and community-driven.

2024 Highlights

- **Launched the Multicultural Collaboration**, a network of individuals and organizations that host and plan multicultural events, creating space for relationship building, resource sharing, and community coordination.
- **Joined regional Digital Equity efforts**, including the creation of a Seacoast Digital Equity group and active participation in the Greater Nashua Digital Equity group, focusing on asset mapping, grant applications, and digital access campaigns.
- **Organized and facilitated six Welcoming New Hampshire Table meetings**, featuring guest speakers from the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).
- **Led community events and discussions**, including a conversation on immigration with Congressman Ro Khanna, a "Report from the Border" session with Texas-Mexico border organizer Amerika Garcia, and our annual International Workers' Day (May Day) event.
- **Supported and tabled at local community events**, including multicultural festivals, LGBTQ+ Pride celebrations, farmers markets, the MLK Celebration, and more.



Learn more about NHAIR on their website www.welcomingnh.org

Communications and Media

In 2024, MIRA's Communications Department expanded our reach and deepened audience trust through engaging, community-centered content. Prioritizing video significantly grew our YouTube presence with short-form, long-form, livestream, and animated content. In February, we launched a weekly LinkedIn newsletter, quickly building an audience of over 2,000 subscribers. We improved our website, connected it to Google Analytics, and began preparing for a future redesign. In June, we implemented Hootsuite to streamline social media management and enhance data tracking.

Effective, trust-based communication is essential to shifting public narratives, uplifting immigrant voices, and ensuring communities have access to timely, accurate information. Our communications strategy, aligned with MIRA's Strategic Plan, was enhanced by the findings of focus groups MIRA coordinated in March to explore public perceptions of immigrants and immigration. We continue to prioritize centering immigrant voices in our efforts to utilize authentic and ethical storytelling, and an anti-racist messaging framework across all our materials and channels.

Note: Data tracking allows staff to measure the reach and impact of MIRA's online presence.

EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS



mailchimp

11k

Mailchimp Bulletin Subscribers
(current=12,669)

SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook

13.4k Followers
(current = 15K)

59.2k Reach

5.4k Content Interactions



Instagram

4k Followers
(current = 8.6K)

2.2k Content Interactions

63.6k Reach



LinkedIn

903 NEW Followers
(current = 6K)

2580 Newsletter Subscribers

10.2k Page Views | **3.8k** Unique Visits



YouTube

32k Views

311 NEW Followers
(current = 598)

252,243 Impressions



49 Videos Published

FY24 Media Appearances

In FY24, MIRA's media presence grew significantly, strengthening its platform to engage the public and elected officials. Radio interviews, print stories, and online coverage provided key opportunities to share accurate information and counter harmful narratives about immigrants and immigration. MIRA continues to be recognized as a trusted expert on immigration issues. MIRA was featured in 99 media appearances.

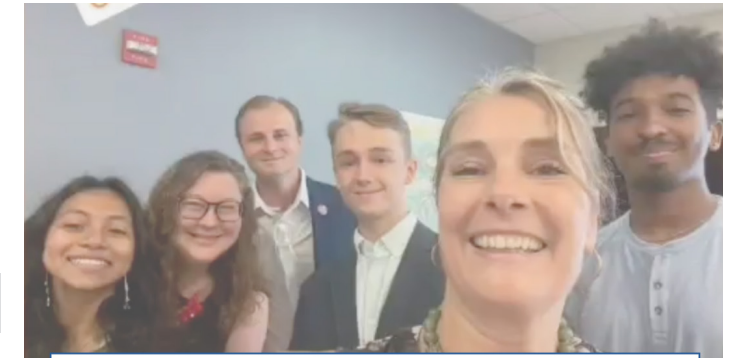
August 2023



El Planeta: Matrícula estatal para estudiantes indocumentados de secundaria se convierte en una ley en MA



August 2023



MIRA Coalition
@MIRACoalition

MIRA's Executive Director Liz Sweet joined WBUR Boston radio to discuss the passage of the Tuition Equity Act! Thanks to student advocates & legislators, Massachusetts became the 24th state to offer in-state tuition to students regardless of their immigration status!

September 2023

WGBH: Healey directs state agencies to knock down language barriers



February 2024

Boston Globe: Turning their backs on Ukraine, and asylum-seekers



March 2024



MassLive: MIRA Coalition Launches Immigration Advocate Legal Helpline

June 2024

Boston Globe: Mass. migrants worry closing the border could hurt those attempting to flee unsafe countries



March 2024



Immigrants coming into Massachusetts right now absolutely present an economic opportunity. The reality is that no one comes here wanting to sit in a shelter and be dependent. They come here wanting to work and use the skills that they bring.

~ Liz Sweet



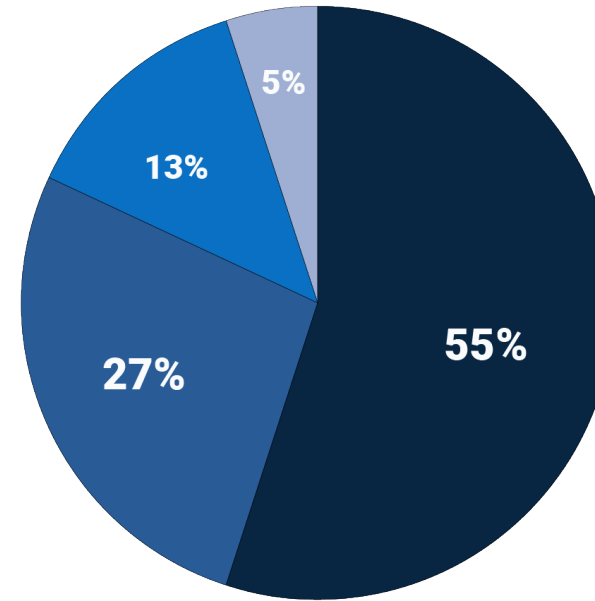
Visit bit.ly/MIRAMedia to access the articles or please scan the QR code.

Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Summary

In Fiscal Year 2024, MIRA's expenses were allocated as follows: Programming accounted for 82%, Management 13%, and Fundraising 5%. Within Programming, 67% of activities were conducted in-house, while 33% were coordinated through partner subcontracts, primarily via the Immigrant Assistance Services (IAS) program. Beyond IAS, MIRA also engaged in policy advocacy, grassroots organizing, education, and direct citizenship services.

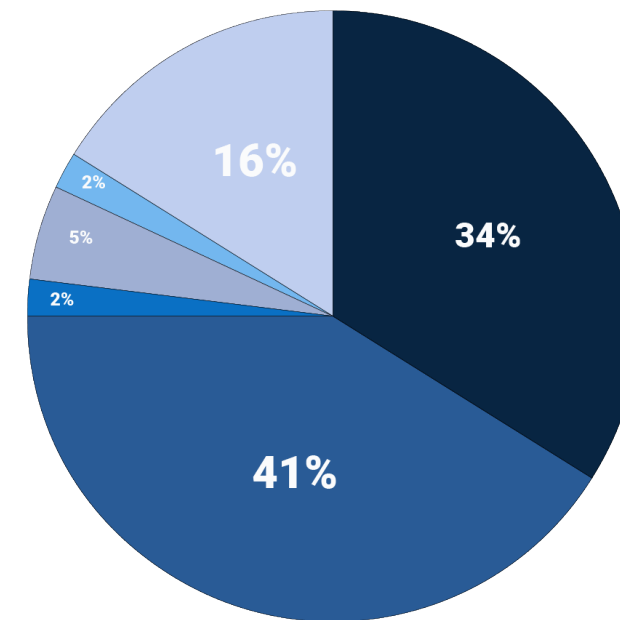
Personnel expenses represented 52% of total costs, with 27% spent on program subcontracts and 3% on other direct programming expenses. Administrative costs made up 13% of the budget, which includes management and overhead expenses such as rent, utilities, IT, phone and internet services, accounting and audit fees, HR and payroll services, and organizational insurance. Fundraising expenses comprised 5% of the total budget.

In terms of revenue, government contracts were the largest source, making up 41% of income in FY2024. Foundations, partner support, and corporate donations collectively contributed 34%, while individual contributions accounted for 16%. Earned income, which includes fees from AmeriCorps services, workshops, trainings, memberships, and fiscal agent fees, represented 5%. Special Projects, tied to fiscal agent activities like distributing Unafraid scholarships, accounted for 2%, with investment interest also at 2%.



FY24 Expenses

- In-house Programs activities: \$2,753,754 (55%)
- Subcontracts Program activities: \$1,366,324 (27%)
- Management : \$626,228 (13%)
- Fundraising: \$249,956 (5%)
- Total: \$4,996,262**



FY24 Revenue

- Foundations, Partners, Corporations: \$1,200,142 (34%)
- Government: \$1,458,825 (41%)
- Investments: \$54,185 (2%)
- Earned Fees: \$178,586 (5%)
- Special Projects: \$77,994 (2%)
- Individuals: \$572,555 (16%)
- Total: \$3,542,286**

MIRA's Staff and Board of Directors

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Executive Director

Maroni Minter
Political Director

Stephanie Rosario Rodriguez
Senior Director of Programs

Daisy Guzmán
Director of Development

Eva Ng
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Sarang Sekhvat
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Mariana Dutra
Organizing Director

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External Affairs Specialist

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Immigration Advocate Legal
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Formerly Public Education Institute, The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.

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Partner, McHaffey & Nice LLC

2024

Impact by the Numbers

\$1,366,324

Subgranted to partner organizations

996

Families served by Immigrant Assistance Services

500+

Helpline calls processed



524

Citizenship applications

380

Naturalized citizens



734

Citizens registered to vote

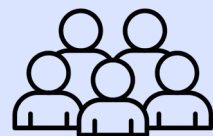
22

Voter registration drives



24 One-on-one

Listening sessions with members



65 Community events

In different regions in Massachusetts



1,919.48 Miles driven

Across Massachusetts for on-the-ground outreach

Trainings and workshops

approx **100** organizational trainings

250 Individuals trained

Summer/Winter Training Series



68 Individuals trained

40-hour Immigration Law course



4032 Total individuals trained

Across all offerings

Temporary Protected Status Clinics

35 clinics in 50 days

3279

Individuals served Across Massachusetts

221 Applications

Processed in one day – USCIS national record!



Ways to Engage in Our Work

GIVE ANNUALLY TO MIRA COALITION

Make a financial contribution to support MIRA Coalition now and in the future.

- **Make a one-time or monthly contribution** via check, a donor-advised fund (DAF), or online by credit card on our website.

Checks made payable to MIRA Coalition

69 Canal Street, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02114

- **Make a gift in honor or in memory of someone special in your life.** We will inform the honoree or family member of your thoughtful contribution.
- **If you work for a company that “matches” charitable donations,** check for eligibility requirements and submit a matching gift request.

CONSIDER A PLANNED GIFT

- Sustain MIRA Coalition into the future to ensure ongoing operations through Gifts by Will, from Retirement Plans, and of Life Insurance with Income Retained. Contact MIRA’s Director of Development, Daisy Guzmán, at dguzman@miracoalition.org.

GROW MIRA’S ENDOWMENT

- You may choose to designate one-time or multiple planned gifts to increase MIRA’s Endowment which can be designated to existing funds. Contact MIRA’s Director of Development, Daisy Guzmán, at dguzman@miracoalition.org.

STAY INFORMED



Visit our website at www.miracoalition.org

VOLUNTEER OR ENDORSE YOUR SUPPORT

Volunteers are vital to sustaining the important work at MIRA Coalition. These roles include citizenship application services, voter registration drives, and community events like *Immigrants Day at the State House* and *Give Liberty a Hand*.



Visit our website to get involved www.miracoalition.org/get-involved

Sign MIRA’s Advocacy Petition

www.miracoalition.org/petition
To show your support for immigrants’ rights and stay up to date on advocacy actions and ways you can get involved.

Make your voice heard by supporting the legislative priorities included in the **Protecting Our Immigrant Communities Campaign (POIC):**

- Safe Communities Act
- Immigrant Legal Defense Act
- Dignity Not Deportations



DONATE TO MIRA COALITION

MIRA is the leading voice for immigrants and refugees in Massachusetts, from civil rights to social and cultural integration.

Your gift supports vital advocacy, organizing and capacity-building!

28th Annual Give Liberty A Hand

On June 6, 2024, the MIRA Coalition proudly hosted its 28th Annual Give Liberty a Hand (GLAH), a fundraiser that helps sustain MIRA's work to advance the rights and inclusion of immigrants and refugees across Massachusetts. Every year the event honors champions for immigrants—leaders in government, business, and advocacy who truly "give liberty a hand."

This year the event was held at the Seaport Hotel in Boston, a neighborhood with deep immigrant roots, where we celebrated JD Chesloff, President and CEO of the Massachusetts Business Roundtable, Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, and Stories Inspiring Movements (SIM) for their outstanding leadership and commitment. We also uplifted a key victory from Summer 2023: the passage of the Tuition Equity Act in Massachusetts, which now allows all high school graduates, regardless of immigration status, to access in-state tuition and financial aid—a win 20 years in the making.

The evening was emceed by Oscar Margain of NBC Boston, NECN, and Telemundo, with unforgettable performances by OOMPA, the Community Music Center of Boston (CMCB), and Ghassan Sawalhi. Give Liberty a Hand (GLAH) is not only a celebration of the progress we've made together, but a call to keep building toward a Commonwealth where all immigrants can thrive.

If you want to learn more, participate, or sponsor the event, please email development@miracoalition.org.

2024 GLAH Honorees



Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll



JD Chesloff
President and CEO
Massachusetts Business Roundtable



Stories Inspiring Movements (SIM)



GLAH 2024 Performer
Oompa

GLAH 2024 Performer
Ghassan Sawalhi

GLAH 2024 Emcee
Oscar Margain

GLAH 2024 Performers
CMCB Musicians
(Olayemi & Carlos)

Thank You to Our Fiscal Year 2024 Donors

We are grateful to the contributions of individuals, corporations, foundations, and groups whose generous support carried our mission forward. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, we regret any errors or omissions. Please email development@miracoalition.org with any corrections.

\$200,000+

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Cummings Foundation

\$199,999 - \$100,000

Hyams Foundation
Klarman Family Foundation
United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
United Way of Massachusetts Bay

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Kecia and Mohamad Ali
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Common Stream
Community Catalyst
Endowment for Health
Herman & Frieda Miller Foundation
Massachusetts Attorney General's Office
Amy Merrill

\$20,000 - \$49,999

Bayley Charitable Trust
Cabot Family Charitable Trust
Richard Grudzinski
Linde Family Foundation
National Immigration Law Center
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
Shipley Foundation

\$10,000 - \$19,999

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