



MIRA

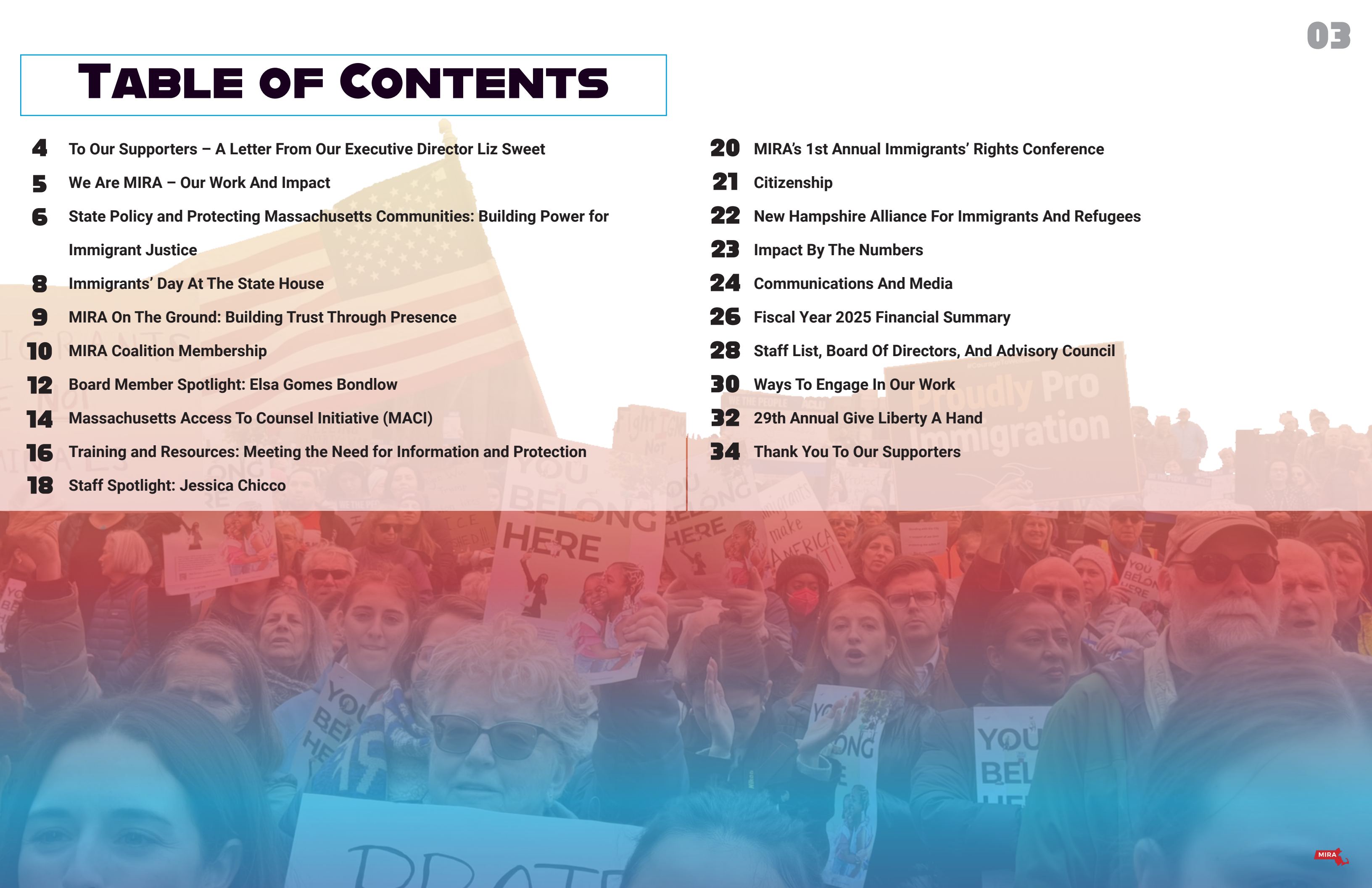
Massachusetts
Immigrant & Refugee
Advocacy Coalition

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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www.miracoalition.org

#CourageToWelcome
**Proudly Pro
Immigration**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 
- 4** To Our Supporters – A Letter From Our Executive Director Liz Sweet
- 5** We Are MIRA – Our Work And Impact
- 6** State Policy and Protecting Massachusetts Communities: Building Power for Immigrant Justice
- 8** Immigrants’ Day At The State House
- 9** MIRA On The Ground: Building Trust Through Presence
- 10** MIRA Coalition Membership
- 12** Board Member Spotlight: Elsa Gomes Bondlow
- 14** Massachusetts Access To Counsel Initiative (MACI)
- 16** Training and Resources: Meeting the Need for Information and Protection
- 18** Staff Spotlight: Jessica Chicco
- 20** MIRA’s 1st Annual Immigrants’ Rights Conference
- 21** Citizenship
- 22** New Hampshire Alliance For Immigrants And Refugees
- 23** Impact By The Numbers
- 24** Communications And Media
- 26** Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Summary
- 28** Staff List, Board Of Directors, And Advisory Council
- 30** Ways To Engage In Our Work
- 32** 29th Annual Give Liberty A Hand
- 34** Thank You To Our Supporters



To our supporters

LETTER FROM MIRA'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Liz G. Sweet (she/her)

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

Dear MIRA Supporters,

What a year. 2025 tested MIRA Coalition in a way that we could not have anticipated. We navigated escalating ICE activity and surges in Boston and throughout Massachusetts, dizzying and significant immigration law and policy changes, and unrelenting fear in immigrant communities and among our member organizations.

And yet, MIRA rose to these challenges.

We navigated losses of federal and state funding and asked for - and received - the support of so many generous individual donors and volunteers who stepped up to help us continue key programs. We expanded our know-your-rights work to meet the constant demand, and remain amazed by the more than **100,000 downloads of our materials**—many of which were then further distributed.

Our team rose to the challenge of advocating at the state level to protect our communities, launching the **Protecting Massachusetts Communities** campaign and securing state funding for immigration legal services, which resulted in the creation of the **Massachusetts Access to Council Initiative (MACI)**.

I am grateful to our strong and diverse team who continue to do the hard work every day to respond to all the attacks on immigrant communities. While we grieve the deep erosion of our country's values to welcome and include immigrants, MIRA has served as a constant voice for the value of immigrants to our Commonwealth and our nation. These efforts were strengthened by immigrant leaders and MIRA members who organized, advocated, and shared their perspectives alongside us. We are proud to have been quoted regularly in the media, to have led rallies and vigils, and to have maintained a strong presence in the State House, ensuring that our state leaders continue to focus on immigrant communities.

None of this would have been possible without both our long-time friends, member organizations, and donors, as well as new partners and donors who are joining us to respond to these grave moments for immigrants. We are grateful to all of you. The accomplishments you will read about in these pages were only possible with your support.

Together, we continue.

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 160 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 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.



MIRA Coalition Staff Members

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.

STATE POLICY AND PROTECTING MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITIES: Building Power for Immigrant Justice

During the 2025–2026 legislative cycle, MIRA played a central leadership role in advancing a comprehensive statewide policy agenda. Through coalition-building, legislative advocacy, and grassroots engagement, MIRA helped shape both the policy narrative and concrete outcomes at the State House while building lasting pro-immigrant power across the Commonwealth that extends beyond a single bill or budget line.

The Protect Massachusetts Communities Campaign

A major achievement was the launch of the Protect Massachusetts Communities (PMC) Campaign, a broad coalition advancing statewide protections for immigrants and building long term movement infrastructure rooted in immigrant communities and allies. The campaign was established to pass statewide legislation while building lasting pro-immigrant power beyond the 2025–2026 Massachusetts State Legislative Session.

PMC is organized around three primary goals:

- End collaboration between local law enforcement and ICE, including prohibiting 287(g) agreements and limiting informal cooperation between local agencies in federal immigration enforcement.
- Advance the Immigrant Legal Defense Act (ILDA), to establish a permanent, statewide immigrant legal defense program.
- Build long-term pro-immigration power by aligning labor, civil rights, and faith-based organizations, with educators and worker centers to strengthen infrastructure and defend immigrant rights.



Strategy and Structure

To achieve its goals, the PMC Campaign uses grassroots organizing, disciplined legislative advocacy, and public narrative change while also engaging institutional leaders, elected officials, and influential stakeholders. The campaign is governed by an Executive Committee that includes organizations with deep roots in immigrant, labor, and civil rights movements: the MIRA Coalition, the Brazilian Workers Center, SEIU State Council, SEIU Local 509, 1199 SEIU, 32BJ SEIU, the ACLU of Massachusetts, and the Massachusetts Teachers Association.

The PMC Campaign demonstrates MIRA's commitment to building collective power that ensures immigrant communities not only survive, but will thrive for generations to come.

FY26 Budget Victories

MIRA and the PMC Coalition secured significant FY26 state budget victories. Most notably, the FY26 budget includes **\$5 million for the first-ever statewide Immigrant Legal Defense Fund**, administered by the Office for Refugees and Immigrants. This historic investment followed a robust advocacy campaign that generated more than **4,100 constituent emails to State Senators**, demonstrating strong public demand for immigrant legal defense. While the ILDA bill remains pending before the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, this funding marks a critical step forward, proof that Massachusetts is willing to back its values with resources.

Additional wins included **\$190,000 for the Welcome Back Center for Internationally-Trained Nurses at Bunker Hill Community College**, advancing workforce and healthcare equity. MIRA also successfully helped defeat multiple harmful anti-immigrant amendments, preserving critical protections and preventing dangerous rollbacks of immigrant rights.

IMMIGRANTS' DAY AT THE STATE HOUSE



2025 Immigrants' Day at the State House group photo

Immigrants' Day at the State House (IDSH) is an annual advocacy day that MIRA has hosted for more than 29 years. IDSH is now a collective space for immigrant advocacy and community organizations across Massachusetts.

We gather not only to be seen, but to be heard, bringing our lived experiences and policy expertise directly to decision-makers to shape policies that reflect the needs and dignity of our people. Legislators hear from their own constituents and advocates about the issues that matter most and the bills needed to address them.

This year alone, more than **600 people participated**, representing over **195 organizations**. MIRA facilitated **49 meetings with legislators** to advocate for the lives, families, and futures of immigrant communities across Massachusetts.

This turnout couldn't happen without the trust, connection, and shared purpose that the MIRA team has built across our communities and coalition members.



"More than 600 people participated, representing over 195 organizations"



MIRA ON THE GROUND: Building Trust Through Presence

At a time when immigrant communities are living with fear and uncertainty, MIRA's presence mattered more than ever. We showed up consistently, building trust through action.

Our team participated in **98 community events across Massachusetts**—from the Berkshires to the South Coast—bringing resources, accurate information, and direct support to community members. We strengthened connections and reinforced a shared truth: none of us stands alone.

This work was possible because we stood shoulder to shoulder with our coalition partners. We worked across movements—including mental health, housing, workers' rights, and tax justice coalitions—while also designing campaign strategies to advance MIRA's policy priorities. Our MIRA Petition surpassed 2,000 signatures, creating a pathway for sustained engagement. Through monthly political education meetings, we mobilized more than 300 volunteers to take action. Our first postcard campaign reached 165 legislators with over 1,000 postcards delivered. Online, our action alerts generated more than **8,000 emails to legislators**.

We led **13 voter registration drives**, registering **541 new citizens to vote**—expanding the political power of immigrant communities. Our multilingual team remained in constant availability, translating policy changes and combating misinformation across local immigrant networks.

This spirit of shared leadership came alive at our Annual Members Meeting, where 42 coalition organizations convened to reflect, strategize, and move forward together. Immigrant community leaders spoke powerfully about the weight their communities are carrying and the strength we share in this moment. Partners reviewed the full landscape of state legislative advocacy campaigns and deepened coordination around messaging on immigration enforcement, grounding our work in research and shared strategy.

Together, we strengthened not only our campaigns, but the relationships that make collective action possible.

FY25 Organizing Highlights



Participated in
98 **community events across Massachusetts**

Registered
541 **new citizens to vote**



Hosted
13 **voter registration drives**

10 MIRA COALITION MEMBERS

MIRA's work is driven by its broad and diverse membership across the Commonwealth, including immigrant-led community organizations, refugee resettlement agencies, providers of social, legal, and health services, faith-based organizations, and civil and human rights advocates.

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

- ACLU of Massachusetts, Inc.
- Action For Boston Community Development (ABCD)
- ADL New England
- African Bridge Network
- Agencia Alpha
- Alianza DV
- American Jewish Committee
- Amplify Latinx
- Ascentria Care Alliance
- Asian American Civic Association
- Asian American Resource Workshop
- Asian Community Development Corporation
- Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK)
- Berkshire Immigrant Center
- Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC)
- Boston Center for Refugee Health & Human Rights
- Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center
- Boston Democratic Socialists of America (BDSA)
- Boston Education, Skills & Training (BEST) Hospitality Training
- Boston Missionary Baptist Community Center
- BRACE
- Brazilian Womens Group
- Brazilian Worker Center
- Cambodian Mutual Assistance Agency
- Cambridge Community Learning Center
- Cambridge Health Alliance
- Casa Esperanza, Inc.
- Casa Myrna
- Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Boston (CCAB)
- Catholic Charities of Fall River
- Catholic Charities of Springfield
- Catholic Charities Worcester

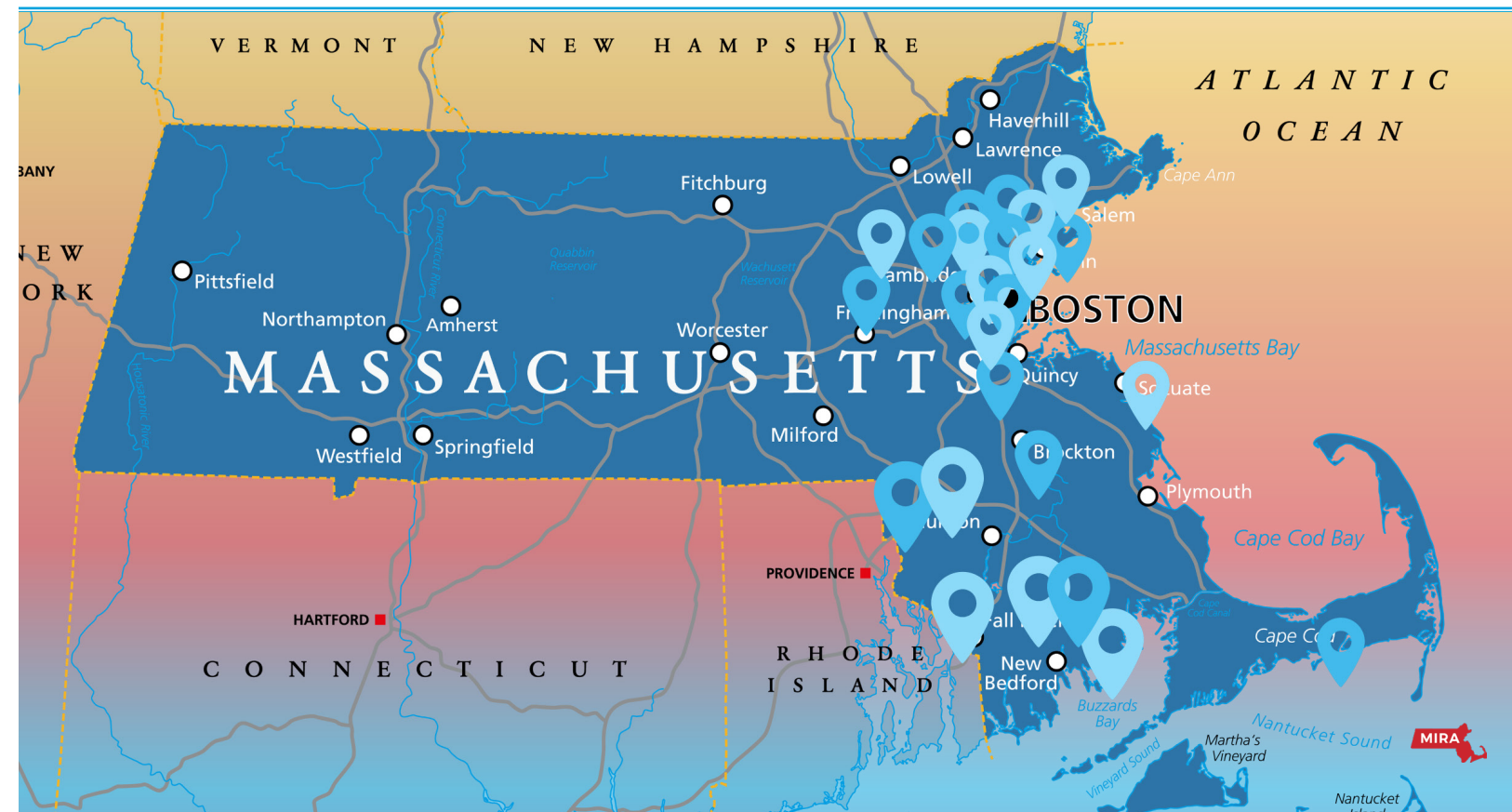
- Center for Labor Education and Research (Jobs with Justice)
- Center for New Americans (Multiple Offices)
- Chinese Progressive Association
- City of New Bedford
- Coalition For A Better ACRE, Inc.
- Coalition for Social Justice
- Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS)
- Community Action Committee of Cape Cod & Islands
- Community Economic Development Center
- Community Legal Aid, Inc
- Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries
- Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-MA)
- Dominican Development Center (DDC)
- Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island Inc.
- DOVE, Inc.
- East Boston Ecumenical Comm. Council
- Elizabeth Freeman Center (multiple locations)
- Enroot
- Family Aid
- Family Service Association
- First Literacy
- Greater Boston Legal Services, Inc. (GBLS)
- Greater Lawrence Community Action Council
- Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center
- Haitian American Chamber of Commerce Massachusetts
- Haitian American New Vision of Waltham (HANVOW)
- Haitian Community Partners Foundation
- Haitian-Americans United (HAU)

- Health and Law Immigrant Solidarity Network
- Health Imperatives
- Health Law Advocates, Inc. (HLA)
- Heath Care For All (HCFA) Massachusetts
- Immigrant Family Services Institute (IFSI)
- Immigrant Support Alliance (ISA)
- Immigrants Assistance Center
- Immigrants Community Integration
- International Institute of New England
- Iranian Association of Boston
- Irish Pastoral Centre
- Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation
- Jane Doe Inc.
- Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action
- Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston
- Jewish Family Service of Metrowest (JFSMW)
- Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts
- Jewish Vocational Service (JVS)
- Jewish Voice for Peace
- Jones Library, Inc.
- Justice Resource Institute, Inc. (JRI)
- La Alianza Hispana
- La Colaborativa
- La Comunidad, Inc.
- Latinos for Education
- Latinos Unidos en Massachusetts (LUMA)
- Latinx Community Center for Empowerment (LCCE)
- Lawyers for Civil Rights
- Lowell Alliance
- Lowell Center for Hope and Healing
- Lowell Community Health Center (LCHC)
- Lynn Community Health Inc.

- MA Appleseed Center for Law & Justice
- Mabel Center for Immigrant Justice
- MAPA Translations & Language Solutions
- Mass 50501
- Mass Association of Teachers of Speakers of other Languages (MATSOL)
- Mass Baptist Multicultural Ministry (MBMM)
- Mass General Brigham Health Plan
- Mass School Counselors Association
- Mass Transgender Political Coalition
- Mass. Association of Teachers of Speakers of Other Languages (MATSOL)
- Massachusetts Afghan Alliance
- Massachusetts Association for Community Action (MASSCAP)
- Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corps
- Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministry (MBMM)
- Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Center for Immigrant Health
- Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, Inc. (MLRI)
- Massachusetts Parents United
- Massachusetts Peace Action (MAPA)
- Massachusetts School Counselors Association
- Massachusetts Senior Care Association

- Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition
- Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS)
- MassCOSH
- Merrimack Valley Project
- Metro-West Workers Center CASA
- Metrowest Legal Services, Inc.
- Muslim Justice League
- Neighbor 2 Neighbor
- Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH)
- New American Association of Massachusetts
- New England Justice for Our Neighbors
- Northeast Justice Center LLC (NJC)
- Northeastern School of Law
- Open Door Immigration Services (ODIS)
- Pathway for Immigrant Workers
- Pioneer Valley Workers Center
- Plymouth Congregational Church
- Political Asylum Immigration Representation Project (PAIR Project)
- ProGente Connections
- Progressive Massachusetts Inc.
- Project Bread
- Project Citizenship
- Quincy Asian Resources (QARI)
- Reach Beyond Domestic Violence, Inc.
- Rian Immigrant Center
- ROCA, Inc. (Multiple Locations: Boston, Chelsea, Lynn)

- Rosie's Place
- Safe Pass
- Saheli Inc
- SEIU 1199
- Shut Up Until You There
- Sisters of Saint Joseph
- Source Hub
- South Coastal Counties Legal Services
- Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Massachusetts
- St Mark Community Education Program
- Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice (SCIJ)
- The Center for Hope and Healing Inc
- The Family Center at Community Connections of Brockton
- The House of the Seven Gables Settlement Association
- The Literacy Center
- The Right Question Institute
- The Right To Immigration
- The Welcome Project
- The Women's Center
- Unitarian Universalists Mass Action (UU MASS Action)
- United Way of Greater Plymouth County
- Watertown Citizens for Peace, Justice and the Environment
- Welcome Immigrant Network
- Whittier Street Health Center
- Worcester Refugee Assistance Project (WRAP)



BOARD MEMBER

SPOTLIGHT:

Elsa Gomes Bondlow

What led you to advocate for immigrant rights?

I am the daughter of immigrants. My parents are originally from the Cape Verde Islands and moved to Lisbon, Portugal more than 50 years ago, where my two siblings and I were born and raised.

I grew up watching them build a life across borders joyfully—with resilience, faith, and extraordinary generosity even when resources were limited. My own immigration experience later made clear how complex and uneven access to systems can be. Advocacy became less of a choice and more a responsibility—rooted in empathy and in the belief that we don't have to experience every hardship ourselves to stand with those who do. We can uplift the voices of the unheard, the unseen, and the ones that need translation.

How did you first become involved with MIRA?

I joined MIRA earlier in my career as Director of Development. At the time, my former employer Mass Alliance of Portuguese Speakers' Executive Director Paulo Pinto served on the Board. I dreamed of being a politician, but after serving as a Congressional Intern in college, I quickly decided that politics was not for me—advocacy and fundraising were.

I pride myself on being a natural connector, and I was drawn to MIRA's ability to convene coalitions across policy leaders, service providers, and community advocates. MIRA understands that lasting change requires community building, advocacy, and

infrastructure. Returning now as a board member feels like coming home—and continuing unfinished work, some of which is now more dire than ever.

What inspires you to continue working with MIRA?

MIRA operates at the intersection of policy and community lived experience. As a coalition, it builds collective power. In a climate where immigrant communities are relentlessly targeted or misunderstood, that kind of coordinated advocacy is essential. Sustainable justice work requires infrastructure, and MIRA provides that. I also love seeing others thrive and become successful on their own terms, realizing how far they came from adversity.

Would you please share with us your immigrant story?

I am the product of advocacy—prayer warriors, mentors, and sponsors throughout my life have poured into me hopes and dreams bigger than my own, and for that I am eternally grateful. I moved to the United States from Portugal as a student at Fresno Pacific University in California, where I learned about faith, service, humility, and respect for all. Navigating new systems, cultural codes, and expectations gave me deep empathy for how isolating immigration can feel. Being multilingual helped, but it also made me aware of how language, race, class, and access shape opportunity. That experience continues to shape how I work to make institutions more equitable.

“Navigating new systems, cultural codes, and expectations gave me deep empathy for how isolating immigration can feel. Being multilingual helped, but it also made me aware of how language, race, class, and access shape opportunity. That experience continues to shape how I work to make institutions more equitable.”

Anything else you would like to share?

Sustainable advocacy requires sustainable resources. Immigration is an act of paying it forward for the next generation. Our ancestors made incredible sacrifices—their prayers and hopes brought us here. How can we honor their investment and make our lives the best they can be for our next generation?

Philanthropy should be seen as civic investment in the next generation. When we don't protect the victories we've fought and won, history repeats itself—and not in a good way. A lot of that is feeling very familiar lately.

When we align resources with our values and community wisdom, we create policy that reflects the communities we serve with dignity—and we manifest systems that actually serve all people. In my current work, including co-founding Healing After Loss to Overdose (HALO) Initiatives, I've seen that policy change must be matched with systems that reach real people. Years of advocacy led to the creation of a first-in-the-nation fund supporting those who lose a loved one to overdose. Sustainable advocacy requires both voice and infrastructure: an experience I learned from MIRA.

MACI



Massachusetts Access to Counsel Initiative

When individuals are arrested by ICE and face removal, or deportation court proceedings, the stakes couldn't be higher. Families face potential permanent separation, individuals can face return to countries they may barely know, or where they face grave danger. Yet unlike in other courtroom proceedings where the Constitution guarantees the right to an attorney, immigrants facing removal proceedings receive no such protection. The federal government provides no lawyer for those who cannot afford one, leaving thousands to navigate a labyrinthine legal system alone, often while detained and separated from their communities.

In response to this, MIRA and our member organizations launched a new campaign in 2025 to advocate for Massachusetts state funding and support for immigrant legal defense for our low income community members. We drafted and introduced the [Immigrant Legal Defense Act](#) in the State House, thanks to Leader Frank Moran and Representative Dave Rogers in the House, and Senator Adam Gomez. While the bill remains pending, our state leaders recognized the need for this protection this year, and authorized \$5 million in state funding to develop Massachusetts first statewide, public private partnership to provide legal services to immigrants in removal proceedings.

At a time when the federal government is aggressively targeting immigrants, trampling due process and civil rights with increasing frequency, this gap in legal support has become a crisis. Our state leaders responded, in a strong statement of our values.

MIRA is proud to have then stepped forward to launch the Massachusetts Access to Counsel Initiative or MACI. MIRA partnered with the State's Office for Refugees and Immigrants and the Committee for Public Counsel Services and a network of legal organizations across the state. These organizations rallied to stand up a program in late 2025, adding more than 20 additional attorneys who are now dedicated to representing people in removal proceedings.

The program works through a centralized intake phone line operated by MIRA - a single number that connects immigrants anywhere in Massachusetts to urgent legal support.

Against a national backdrop where immigration attorneys are in short supply and demand has never been higher, MACI represents an investment in both individual lives and community stability. When people have access to qualified legal representation, they have a fighting chance to understand their options, present their case effectively, and challenge unlawful deportations.

MACI demonstrates MIRA's commitment to ensuring access to justice for all residents. For the families who call that phone line, the program provides critical legal support at a moment when they need it most. Through this initiative, MIRA continues its work defending the rights and dignity of immigrant communities across the Commonwealth.

“ We must use this momentum to show the nation that Massachusetts will firmly oppose hate and tirelessly fight for immigrant rights ”

~ **Elizabeth Sweet**

“Hundreds Push for New Bills, Rally for Immigrants' Rights at State House” | GBH, 19, Mar. 2025



TRAINING AND RESOURCES: Meeting the Need for Information and Protection

When immigration enforcement escalates, immigrant communities need more than just information—they need tools to protect themselves. In 2025, MIRA's Training and Resources team worked to build both immediate resources and long-term community capacity to respond to changes in immigration policy and enforcement.

MIRA worked to meet the need by:

- **Providing Know Your Rights trainings:** We conducted more than **180 in-person and virtual trainings**, reaching over **10,000 individuals**. Our recorded trainings have been viewed more than **20,000 times**. We developed materials tailored for immigrant communities, service providers, healthcare workers, houses of worship, and educators. We also trained dozens of community leaders through our "train the trainer" model, ensuring trusted voices could share critical information in culturally responsive ways.
- **Developing multilingual Know Your Rights resources:** Our Know Your Rights **webpage was visited more than 124,000 times** in 2025. We developed resources for families, educators, employers, and those with loved ones in detention, available in multiple languages.
- **Launching our Bystander Know Your Rights training:** More than **300 people participated in our Bystander webinar**, learning best practices for creating accountability when witnessing immigration enforcement.
- **Providing information through our Helpline:** More than **1,400 calls** answered in 2025.

Building capacity for community-based legal services: We launched the Colibrí Fellowship—a nine-month program training **11 Fellows** to become DOJ Accredited Representatives. We also offered technical assistance to DOJ Accredited Representatives. This work demonstrates MIRA's commitment to meeting immigrant communities where they are.

FY25 Training Highlights



Conducted more than **180**
in-person and virtual **Know Your Rights**
trainings, reaching over 10,000 individuals.

Your detailed, comprehensive presentation was very well organized and thoughtful, and most importantly, took situations fraught with emotion and fear, providing our members the power of clear protocols and an action plan. They can now be prepared vs. reactionary, which is a gift.

~ FY25 Training Client



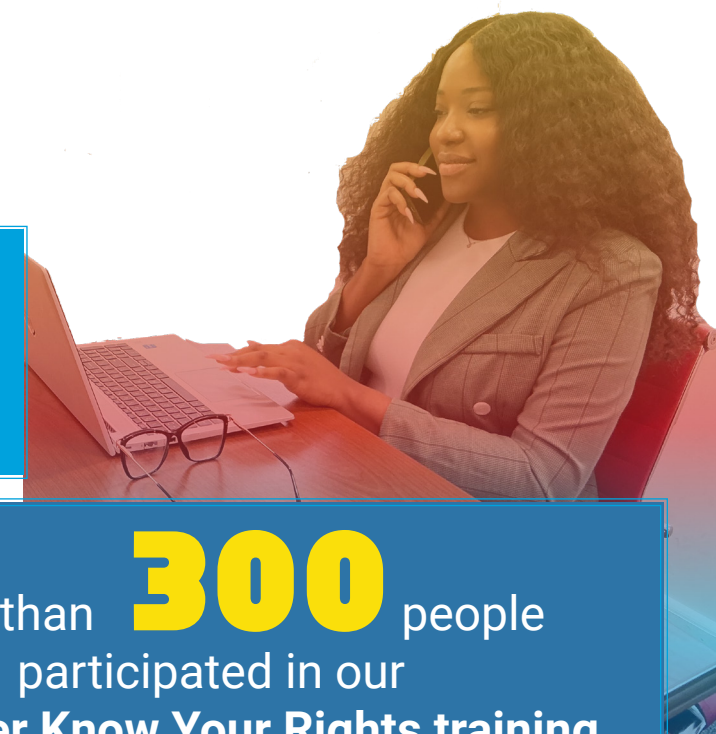
Provided information through
1,400+ calls answered in
2025 through our **Helpline**.



Our multilingual **Know Your Rights** resources was visited more than
124,000 times
on our webpage

Our recorded
trainings have been
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More than **300** people
participated in our
Bystander Know Your Rights training.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

Jessica Chicco

Director of Training

Jessica Chicco was born in Chicago, but when she was just a month old, her family moved to Italy—her father's homeland. She grew up there until she was 12, when economic pressures forced her family to return to the United States. She has lived and studied in Corsica, Senegal, and Spain, holds a JD from NYU Law School and a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University.

Jessica joined MIRA as Staff Attorney in January 2020 after more than a decade of using her legal expertise in support of immigrant communities. As Director of Training, she oversees MIRA's training and resources work as well as the helpline program—creating pathways for community members, advocates, and service providers to access critical information when they need it most.

Before MIRA, Jessica served as Senior Immigration Attorney at DOVE in Quincy, representing immigrant survivors of domestic violence. She was the Human Rights Fellow at Boston College's Post-Deportation Human Rights Project and started her legal career at Human Rights First's Refugee Protection Program in New York.

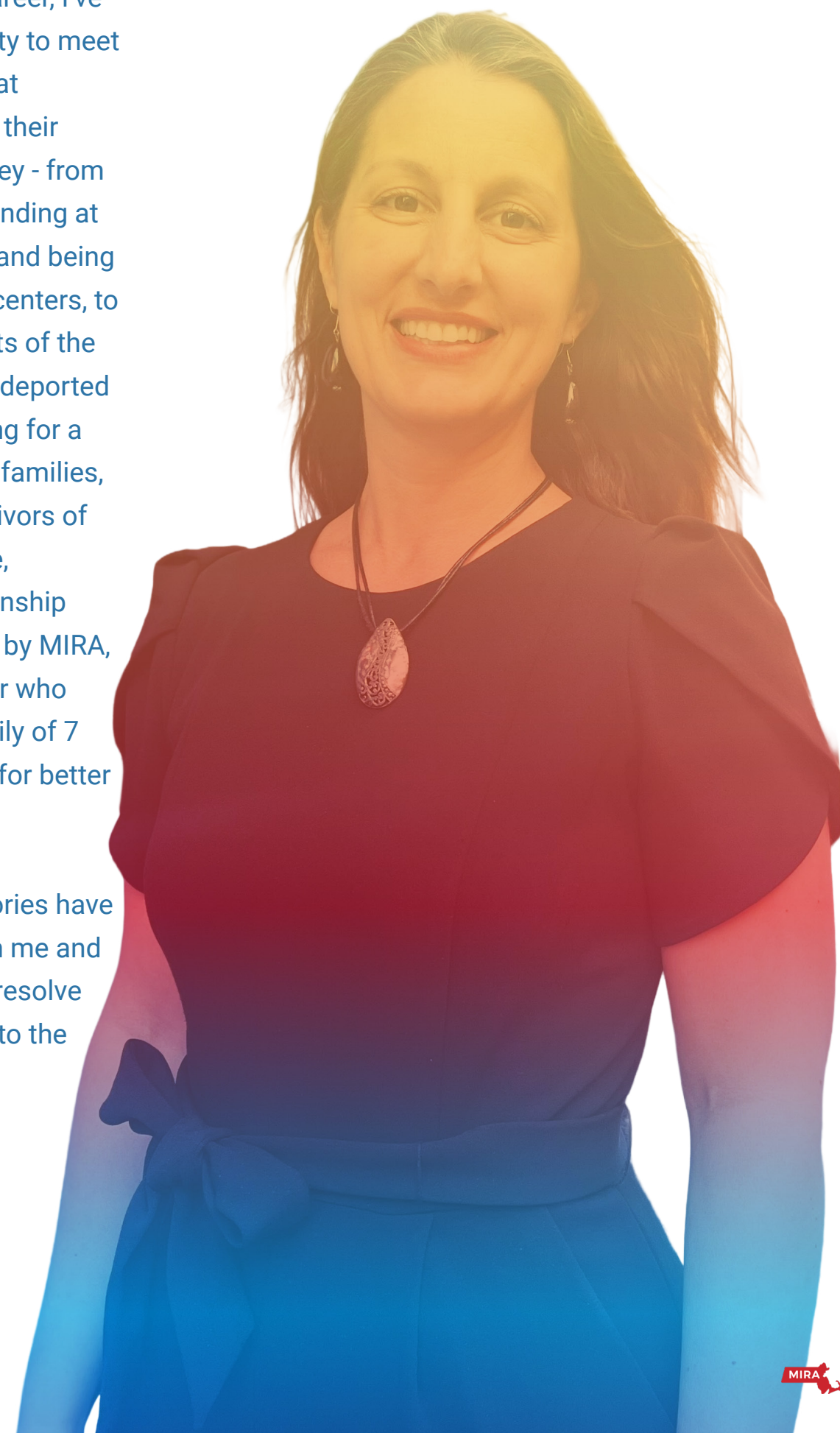
Jessica's work at MIRA is constantly evolving to meet urgent needs. Drawing on her deep immigration legal and policy knowledge, she creates and leads trainings for advocates, service providers, and the general public—from DOJ accreditation programs to bystander trainings. She leads her team in developing multifaceted Know Your Rights resources and facilitates translation into multiple languages. Her timely policy updates help thousands navigate a confusing and uncertain immigration landscape.

In 2025, Jessica's exceptional work has been well recognized! She was named a Brookline Woman of the Year. She was also awarded the John G. Brooks Award on behalf of MIRA, and was recognized by the Boston Bar Association for "lighting the path for immigrant communities." Beyond MIRA, she chairs the Immigrant Advancement Committee of Brookline's DEICR Commission and volunteers with BIJAN and LUCE to offer community support.

At a time when threats to immigrant communities are escalating, Jessica builds the infrastructure that allows communities to protect themselves, advocates to multiply their impact, and collective power to grow. Her work is rooted in compassion for others.

Throughout my career, I've had the opportunity to meet people who were at different points in their immigration journey - from asylum seekers landing at JFK airport in NY and being held in detention centers, to long term residents of the US who had been deported and were searching for a path back to their families, to immigrant survivors of domestic violence, hundreds of citizenship applicants served by MIRA, and my own father who relocated our family of 7 across the ocean for better opportunities.

And all of their stories have left their marks on me and strengthened my resolve and commitment to the work. ||





MIRA'S FIRST ANNUAL IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS CONFERENCE

MIRA brought together more than 200 members and immigrant rights activists for our first ever **Immigrants' Rights Conference** in 2025—a gathering centered on advocacy, education, and community power.

The conference prepared attendees to engage directly with legislators at **Immigrants' Day at the State House**. Workshops on rapid response to immigration enforcement, fundraising for immigrant services, and an overview of federal and state immigration policy provided practical tools for advocacy and built networks of solidarity.

The coalition's legislative priorities—the **Safe Communities Act** and **Immigrant Legal Defense Act**—took center stage. Our keynote speaker, **Guerline Jozef**, co-founder and executive director of the Haitian Bridge Alliance, reminded us why we cannot afford to stop fighting.

The conference also marked a meaningful milestone as we honored community leader **Huiling Chen** with the inaugural **Christine Ntagengwa Leadership Award**. This honors MIRA's former colleague, an immigrant from Rwanda who embodied the values of service, leadership, and love.

Attendees left energized, ready to advocate, and prepared to demand justice at the State House. This conference demonstrated MIRA's commitment to building the collective power our communities need to defend their rights and dignity.



"Many of our field work in this sort of care in silos, so it would be really nice to be able to mingle and share what we are all doing so that we can stay connected on resources."

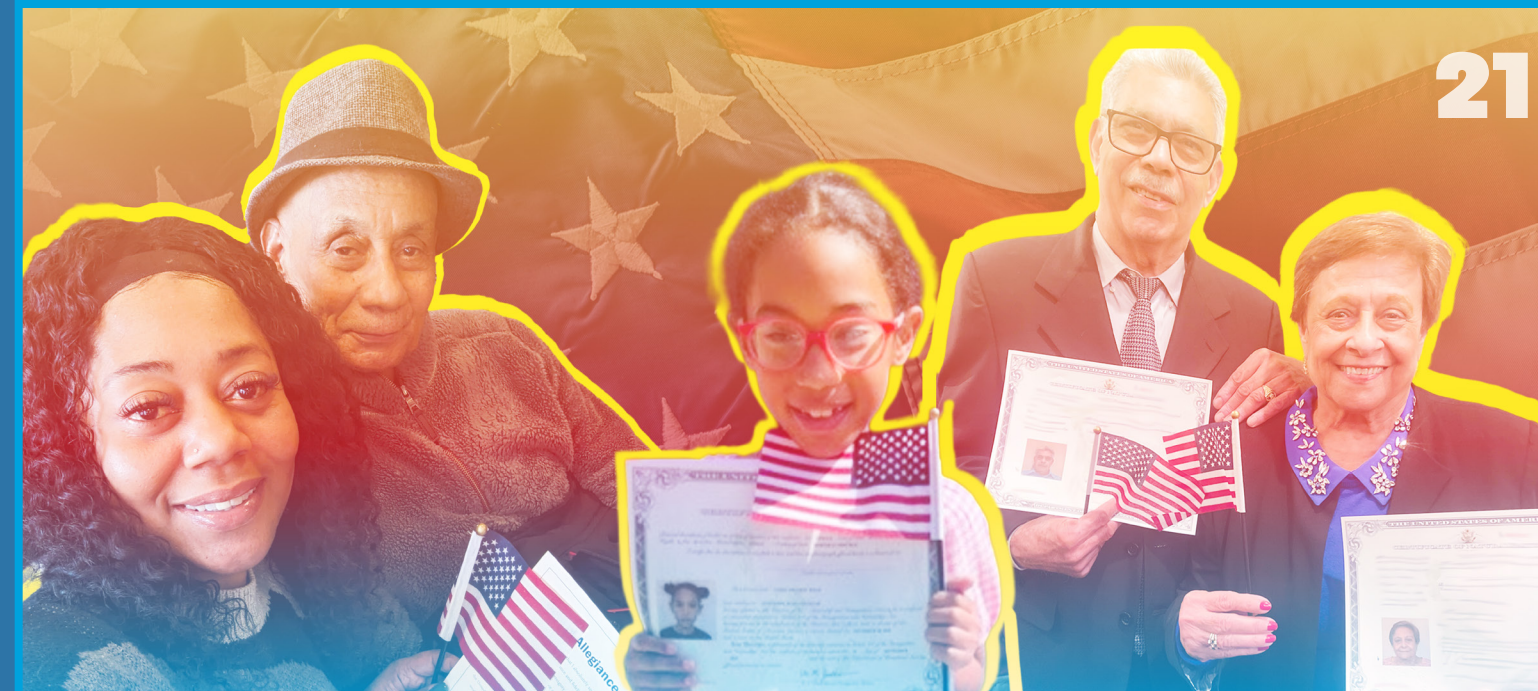
~ Conference Attendee



Guerline Jozef
Haitian Bridge Alliance



Huiling Chen
Christine Ntagengwa
Leadership Award Recipient



CITIZENSHIP

Since its inception in 2011, MIRA's Citizenship Program has supported over 3,000 immigrants and refugees in becoming naturalized U.S. citizens.

This year brought unexpected challenges for our Citizenship program when weeks into the new year, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) froze our federal grant supporting this work. Thanks to the swift support of community members, donors, and partners, we rallied together and fully closed the funding gap. Our team went on to file citizenship applications for **275 green card holders**, and during the year, **371 citizens naturalized** thanks to the team's work.

The following story is just one of those many clients:

Bekele's Path to Citizenship: Guided by Support and Community

Bekele*, now 24, arrived in the United States from an African country when he was just eight months old and was adopted by American parents. He has lived with significant medical challenges, relying on his mother as his primary caregiver.

In the fall of 2025, Bekele reached an incredible milestone: he obtained his Certificate of Citizenship (N-600). However, the process was daunting and came with a few challenges. His mother was understandably anxious—she worried the interview notice might be an ICE check-in and what that could mean for her son. Bekele's safety and well-being depended on careful guidance and support.

That's where MIRA stepped in. Our team walked Bekele and his mother through the entire process,

explaining each step, preparing them for the interview, and offering reassurance when fear and uncertainty took over. Thanks to this support, **Bekele secured his citizenship, gaining stability, protection, and a greater sense of belonging.**

Moved by the support she received, Bekele's mother made a donation to MIRA to help other families navigate these moments with confidence and care. Stories like Bekele's are why we do this work—uplifting immigrant families, supporting caregivers, and empowering individuals to thrive despite fear and uncertainty.

*Name has been changed and the country of origin not mentioned to protect our client's privacy.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ALLIANCE FOR IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES



In response to the need for solidarity and community organizing, in 2025 the **New Hampshire Alliance for Immigrants and Refugees (NHAIR)**, built coalitions and expanded community education, ensuring immigrants have the support and resources they need.

The annual **New Hampshire May Day Rally**, the largest coalition-led event in the state's known history, drew more than 1,000 attendees from over 20 organizations, demonstrating that New Hampshire stands with immigrant communities.

Through the **Welcoming NH Table**, we brought together immigrant-serving groups across the state with attendance reaching 100 at many gatherings including the ACLU, New Hampshire Legal Assistance, the Progressive Coalition, and Welcoming America. As anti-immigrant rhetoric and enforcement escalates, NHAIR has played a central role in ensuring the immigrant community has access to critical information, through rapid response communications, Know Your Rights trainings, and grassroots canvassing efforts.

With support from the **Endowment for Health**, we distributed thousands of printed materials. In partnership with Granite State Organizing, Granite State Progress, American Friends Service Committee NH, ACLU NH, and others, we've built a network of support that responds when communities are under threat.

NHAIR has also worked to bridge divides through participation in the MLK Jr. Coalition, expanding its reach to include the New Hampshire Coalition for Justice and Equity's youth organizer, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and others. And through the **Welcoming NH Digital Equity Campaign**, funded by NH AARP, NHAIR provided transportation support for over 50 senior immigrants to access digital literacy and cybersecurity education.

Stay updated with NHAIR | www.websitewelcomingnh.org

It is with deep gratitude MIRA honors Eva Castillo's 18 years of dedication to immigrant rights as NHAIR Director. We wish her every joy in a well-earned retirement.



FY25 IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



ORGANIZING AND MEMBERSHIP

MIRA Petition surpassed **2,000 signatures**

1,000+ postcards sent to **165 legislators** in first postcard campaign

8,000+ emails sent to legislators via Action Alerts

98 community events from the Berkshires to the South Coast

300+ volunteers mobilized to take action

42 Coalition organizations convened at Annual Members Meeting

15 voter registration drives

541 new citizens registered to vote

IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE SERVICES (IAS)

92 clients served through emergency referrals

10 help desk appointments conducted

7 training sessions done about technical assistance and changes in immigration landscape for subgrantees

\$555,252 subgranted to 20 partner organizations (44% of IAS program budget)

CITIZENSHIP

371 Naturalized citizens

275 Citizenship applications

Since its inception in 2011, MIRA's citizenship program has supported over **3,000 immigrants and refugees** in becoming naturalized U.S. citizens.



\$824,387 subgranted to partner organizations FY2025

TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS



14,000+ Total individuals trained across all offerings

- Know Your Rights (KYR) Trainings
- 40-hour Immigration Law course
- Summer/Winter Training Series

180+ in-person and virtual **KYR Trainings**

20,000+ views on KYR recorded trainings

120,000+ visits to KYR website resource page

300+ participants in first ever *Bystander* KYR online training



FY25 COMMUNICATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

MIRA’s communications work met unprecedented urgency as federal attacks on immigrant communities intensified. Community members needed accurate, multilingual information quickly - and MIRA delivered.

New platforms were launched which kept communities informed and connected: a livestream series brought real-time information directly to those who needed it most, a policy updates blog tracked the shifting legislative landscape, and the MIRA Coalition weekly blog became a steady source of analysis and advocacy. These tools meant that when crises emerged, trusted resources could be shared quickly and widely.

Meanwhile, collaboration deepened between partner organizations across MIRA to ensure the urgency of the moment was met with coordinated, effective response.

The result: growth of MIRA’s support base, stronger coalitions, and communications work that supports impacted communities while advancing pro-immigrant legislative priorities.

Tracking these metrics allowed MIRA to measure and strengthen its ability to inform, engage, and mobilize communities at scale.

EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS
15,989

WEBSITE USAGE

291,000 users
124,000 views on our *Know Your Rights* page

YOUTUBE
644 Followers
(current: 854 Followers)
109 Videos published
29K Views

FACEBOOK
15K Followers
(current: 17K Followers)
31K Content Interactions
(shares, link clicks, comments and reactions)

INSTAGRAM
8K Followers
(current: 12.7k Followers)
59K Content Interactions
(shares, link clicks, comments and reactions)

Follow us on social media and sign up for our weekly bulletin!
linktr.ee/mira_coalition_

LINKEDIN
7K Followers | **6,095** Page Views
3K LinkedIn Newsletter Subscribers

MEDIA PRESENCE

MIRA’s media presence grew in 2025. MIRA worked to meet demand while expanding reach. Media training for staff expanded to include multiple languages, enabling quicker responses across platforms. Through it all, MIRA maintained its position as a trusted resource—a voice for journalists, community members, and advocates seeking.

APRIL 2025
MassLive: ‘Betrayal of the American promise’: Trump admin. cuts citizenship assistance in Mass.

JULY 2025
Univision: Derechos y Recursos para Recién Llegados en Massachusetts

NOVEMBER 2025
The New Bedford Light: Advocates testify on Beacon Hill in support of bills that protect immigrants

DECEMBER 2025
Nossa Rádio USA: MIRA’s Executive Director, Liz Sweet, joined Nossa Rádio USA to discuss the new Massachusetts Access to Counsel Initiative (MACI)

DECEMBER 2025
CityLine: Immigration challenges continue to impact Massachusetts residents

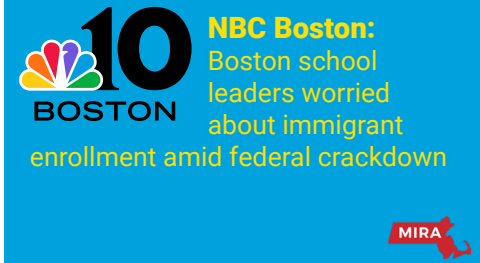
NBC Boston: Boston school leaders worried about immigrant enrollment amid federal crackdown



SEPTEMBER 2025

“We’re really urging that schools remember to protect their campus, protect their space, and ask immigration enforcement for a judicial warrant to enter the premise of the school and to show who exactly they’re looking for”

~ Catherine Ramirez-Mejia
MIRA’s Access and Resource specialist



FISCAL YEAR 2025 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In Fiscal year 2025, MIRA's overall budget increased by 16% compared to last fiscal year.

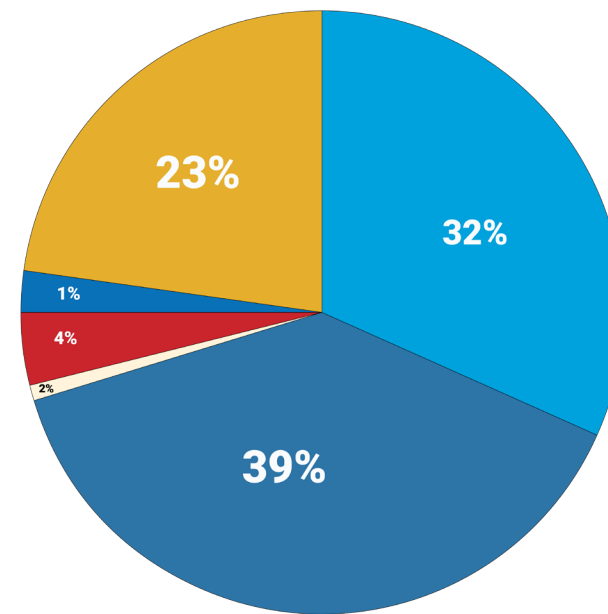
Expenses are split between Programming (83%), Management (11%) and Fundraising (6%). Programming comprises 83% in-house activities and 17% partner subcontract activities, mainly through the IAS & TPS programs. In addition to IAS & TPS, we engage in policy advocacy, grassroots organizing, education, and direct citizenship services.

Personnel expenses comprise 61% of expenses, followed by 20% for in-house direct programming and 14% subcontract costs. Administrative expenses comprise 11%, including management costs and overhead expenses (3%) for pay rent & utilities, IT, phone & internet, accounting & audit, HR & payroll fees, and organizational insurance.

Government contracts is the largest source of revenue in FY2025 at 39%, comparable to 41% in FY2024. This is followed by 32%: the combination of Foundations, Partners' support, and Corporate donations. Individual contributions increased to 22% from 16% last fiscal year.

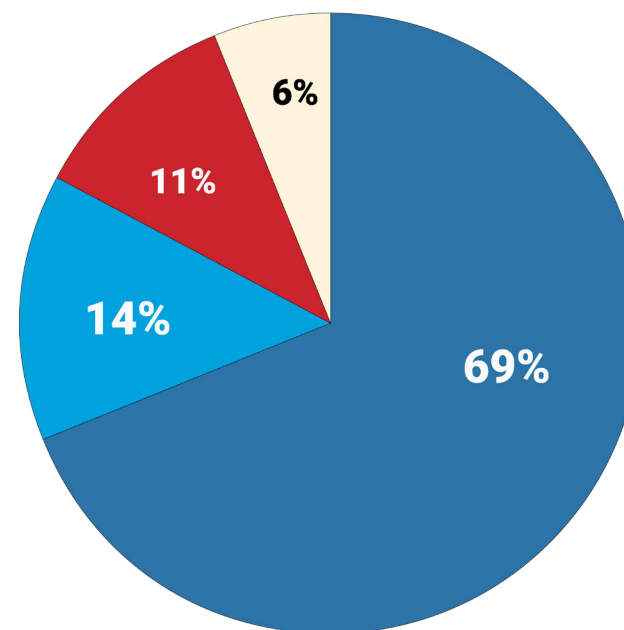
The 4% Earned income represents service fees such as AmeriCorps services; workshops, trainings, membership, and fiscal agent fees. Special Projects at 2% are linked to fiscal agent activities distributing Unafraid scholarships; Investment interests amounted to 1%.

FY2025 revenue exceeded expenses by \$1 Million largely due to the accounting of future income as multi-year grant awards.



FY25 Revenue

- Foundations, Partners, Corporations: \$2,164,652 (32%)
- Government: \$2,626,958 (39%)
- Investments: \$56,074 (1%)
- Earned Fees: \$262,274 (4%)
- Special Projects: \$120,654 (2%)
- Individuals: \$152,5664 (23%)
- Total: \$6,756,277**



FY25 Expenses

- In-house Programs activities: \$3,932,590 (69%)
- Subcontracts Program activities: \$824,387 (14%)
- Management : \$626,583 (11%)
- Fundraising: \$315,078 (6%)
- Total: \$5,698,638**

MIRA STAFF

Leadership Team

- Elizabeth Sweet**
Executive Director
- Eva Ng**
Senior Director of Finance and Administration
- Stephanie Rosario Rodriguez**
Senior Director of Programs
- Daisy Guzmán**
Director of Development
- Maroni Minter**
Political Director
- Sarang Sekhavat**
Chief of Staff

Staff Members

- Steeve Auguste**
MACI Data & Reporting Manager
- Cristina Dacchille Freeman**
Senior Immigration Attorney
- Liz McCarthy**
MACI Senior Staff Attorney
- Jamie Berkson**
Citizenship Specialist
- Kate Froehlich**
MACI Director
- Dawn Miller**
External Affairs Specialist
- Pricilla Cadet**
Immigration Helpline Manager
- Amy Grunder**
Director of State Government Affairs
- Alexia Perez-Lucas**
MCAI Intake Coordinator
- Gilberto Calderin**
Director of Advocacy
- Dylan Hoey**
Director of New Hampshire Alliance of Immigrants and Refugees (NHAIR)
- Laura Perras**
Communications Director
- Ana Cristina Chavez Andonie**
Corporate Engagement Specialist
- David Holt**
Welcoming NH Manager
- Catherine Ramirez Mejia**
Access and Resource Specialist
- Jessica Chicco**
Director of Training
- Farah Jeune**
Communications Specialist
- Maria Neomi Rendon**
MACI Intake Coordinator
- Viviana Contente**
Volunteer and Field Outreach Specialist
- Diane Joly**
Director of Citizenship
- Smriti Rupankheti**
People and Administration Coordinator
- Nicolaus Dahl**
Citizenship Fellow
- Catherine Kannam**
IAS Staff Attorney
- Alba Torres**
Development Operations and Analytics Manager
- Sophia Diez-Zhang**
Organizing Operations Specialist
- Yoana Kuzmova**
MACI Senior Staff Attorney
- Nahomie Vilnaigre**
IAS Paralegal
- Mariana Dutra**
Organizing Director
- Daniel Maradiaga**
NHAIR Community Outreach and Engagement Manager
- Summer Xiao**
Accounting and Payroll Manager
- Irene M. Egan**
Grants Administration Manager

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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.

PLANNED GIVING AND GROWING MIRA'S ENDOWMENT

- Sustain MIRA Coalition into the future to ensure ongoing operations through Gifts by Will, from Retirement Plans, and of Life Insurance with Income Retained.
- You may choose to designate one-time or multiple planned gifts to increase MIRA's Endowment, which can be designated to existing funds.

Contact Director of Development, Daisy Guzmán, at dguzman@miracoalition.org



STAY INFORMED

Visit our website
www.miracoalition.org



#CourageToWelcome
**Proudly Pro
Immigration**

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!



bit.ly/FY25donate

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 Massachusetts Communities Campaign (PMC)





29TH ANNUAL GIVE LIBERTY A HAND *Stronger In Community*

Thanks to the generosity of sponsors and attendees, the 29th annual **Give Liberty a Hand (GLAH)** event, held on May 29 at Artists for Humanity and emceed by **Oscar Margain** of NBC Boston, NECN, and Telemundo, raised critical funds to support MIRA's advocacy, coalition-building, and community engagement programs.

At the heart of the evening was the presentation of the **Community Champion Awards**, honoring individuals whose leadership has expanded access, equity, and opportunity for immigrant communities. This year's honorees included **Lino Covarrubias**; **Robert P. Marlin, MD, PhD, MPH**; and **Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune**. Their leadership embodies the values that drive this movement forward.

Guests also enjoyed a vibrant cocktail reception, dinner, and artistic performances, including Nigerian-American artist **Echezona "Eche" Onwuama**, a Lion Dance by the **Boston Chinese Freemasons Athletic Club**, and a video highlighting immigrant entrepreneurs. Celebrations like this highlighted the strength, creativity, and determination of the immigrant community.

Give Liberty a Hand is more than a celebration—it's a call to action.

To learn more about the event, get involved, or explore sponsorship opportunities, please contact us at development@miracoalition.org.

Together, we will continue building a more just and inclusive Commonwealth.



2025 GLAH HONOREES

From Left: Lino Covarrubias, Liz Sweet, Robert P. Marlin, MD, PhD, MPH, Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune and our Emcee, Oscar Margain.



Thank You

TO OUR FISCAL YEAR 2025 DONORS

We are grateful to the individuals, corporations, foundations, and organizations whose generous support advanced MIRA’s mission during Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025). While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, we regret any errors or omissions. Please contact development@miracoalition.org with any corrections.

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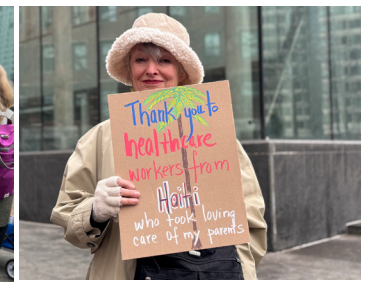
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“We stand here today because it is our shared responsibility not only for the sake of immigrant families’ humanity, but for the safety and survival of every one of us to ensure that the laws in Massachusetts protect all of us.”

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