

Immigrant Children's Justice Project

Education and Protection for New Arrivals

There are growing numbers of immigrant children in Connecticut. Most are from Central America, Mexico and South America, but children also arrive from Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and the Caribbean.

Many children have significant trauma related to arrival in the U.S. They fled abuse and neglect and live in constant fear of being returned to life-threatening conditions. Many arrive alone, without a parent or guardian. English is not their primary language. Education is hampered by trauma and inconsistent schooling.

The Immigrant Children's Justice Project helps new arrival children gain access to immigration relief options that allow them to remain in a safe environment.

Attorneys also work with families, community providers, legal professionals and schools to close the achievement gap for immigrant students and design an education model that can be implemented by school systems throughout Connecticut.



Immigrant Children's Justice Project

Children who are New Arrivals Need Help and Advocacy

Advocacy to Close the Achievement Gap

- Advocacy for English Language Learners
- Child Victims of Trauma
Health and mental health care
- Interrupted Education
Special education supports
- Systemic Educational Improvements
Implementation by school systems

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status

Training attorneys for pro bono representation of undocumented children who have been abused, neglected or abandoned. SIJ status allows a child to apply for lawful permanent residence.

Asylum

Training attorneys to help children under age 18 who have no lawful immigration status and may qualify for asylum relief.

Systemic and Legislative Efforts

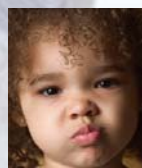
- Ensure access to SIJ status for youth up to age 21
- Ensure Department of Children and Families review of SIJS eligibility for children and youth in care
- Close the achievement gap for immigrant children, specifically English Language Learners (ELL)
- Increase access to quality education and legal relief through systemic reform at state and local level

"The Center's dedicated legal advocacy fills an enormous need for new immigrant children arriving in Connecticut. Without the assistance of the Center's attorneys, these children would slip through the cracks. Project director Edwin Colon educates Connecticut attorneys and guides the state in supports for children who desperately need help to find safety, security and educational success. Every child deserves to have hope."

Claudia Connor, President and CEO
International Institute of Connecticut

For more information, please contact

Immigrant Children's Justice Project
Director Edwin Colon
ecolon@kidscounsel.org
203-335-0719



Center for **Children's** Advocacy
kidscounsel.org