



Project LLEGAR

Education and Protection for New Arrivals

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

A forgotten population, these students are under the radar of educators and have few advocates to draw attention to their needs.

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 Center for Children's Advocacy created Project LLEGAR to help at-risk children avoid deportation to a dangerous environment, and help traumatized children get the educational services they need to learn English and succeed in school.

Project LLEGAR is working with families, community providers, legal professionals and schools to create a holistic model of service that addresses the legal rights of children and can be implemented by school systems throughout Connecticut.



Center for **Children's** Advocacy
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Children who are New Arrivals Need Help and Advocacy

“Project LLEGAR fills an enormous need for new immigrant children arriving in Connecticut. Without Attorney Edwin Colon, these children would slip through the cracks. His expertise 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

Project LLEGAR addresses:

Education, Health, Trauma

- English Language Learners
ELL services
- 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.

Protections for Youth in DCF Care

Training DCF staff to increase protections for undocumented youth in care.



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