



City of Boston
Immigrant Advancement

MOIA Pre-Budget Hearing

FY27

March 05, 2026 - 2 pm
Iannella Chamber, Boston City Hall





MISSION

The Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA) strives to strengthen the ability of immigrants to fully and equitably participate in economic, civic, social, and cultural life in Boston.

MOIA also promotes the recognition and public understanding of the contributions of immigrants to the City.



FY25 IN REVIEW

We are committed to language access and justice, ensuring that immigrants can speak in the languages that make them feel most whole and powerful to participate. Our proactive approach, rooted in partnership, led to a year of deepened impact:

- Held a Community Participatory Action Research project surveying **immigrant and refugee Bostonians** to shape our Strategic Plan.
- Transformed **Immigrants Lead Boston** into a multilingual program.
- Helped **316 permanent residents** become citizens through Citizenship Day.
- Launched the **You Belong Here** campaign, distributing **2,638** posters across the City.
- Collaborated in **Welcoming Week** events across the City with Embrace Boston, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston Market, and Open Streets.

1,002

Free Immigration Consultations,
one-per-person consultations

886

Youth served through Immigrant
Youth Advancement

3,913

Constituent Inquiries- calls,
walk-ins, or email

Over \$2.1M

Total in grant funding provided



FY26 YEAR-TO-DATE

- Collected, analyzed, and synthesized **744 survey responses from immigrant and refugee Bostonians**, and conducted sessions with community members to make meaning of the data at the Immigrant Advancement Forum, further shaping our four-year Strategic Plan (FY27-FY31).
- Deepened **Immigrants Lead Boston** impact through the implementation of ongoing community action projects and growing the alumni network to **113 adults**.

631

Free Immigration Consultations,
one-per-person consultations

467

Youth served through Immigrant Youth
Advancement in Summer 2025.

1,934 (as of March 3, 2026)

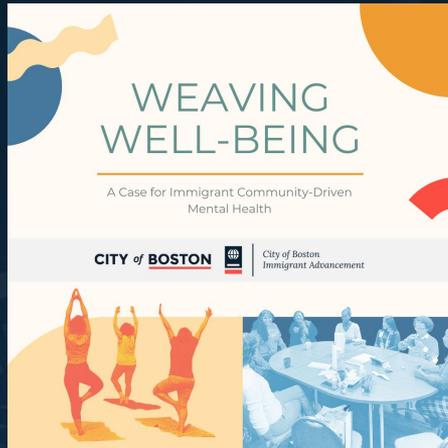
Constituent Inquiries- calls, walk-ins, or email

Over \$1.6M

Total in grant funding provided as of March 3,
2026, with **\$617K** to be spent by the end of the
fiscal year.



SUCCESS STORIES



Weaving Well-being

“What I found beneficial from this program is the diverse mental health-focused resources that not only educate but also aim to destigmatize mental illnesses. As a person who comes from a cultural background that struggles with the need to accept mental health issues, I was able to learn about the topics relevant to mental health and bring it back to my own family to spread the word,”

– Weaving Well-being participant

3,034 community members were served through the FY25 Weaving Well-being Grant.



SUCCESS STORIES



ENGLISH

2026 FREE IMMIGRATION CONSULTATIONS
By telephone
You must register in advance.
To register:
Call: 617-635-2980
Email: immigrantadvancement@boston.gov
Website: boston.gov/immigrants

Ask a volunteer lawyer for immigration advice by phone on the first and third Wednesday of every month from 12:00-3:00 P.M.
Interpretation and disability accommodations are available.
Consultations are 15 minutes and limited to one time only.

JANUARY 7 & 21	FEBRUARY 4 & 18	MARCH 4 & 18	APRIL 1 & 15
MAY 6 & 20	JUNE 3 & 17	JULY 1 & 15	AUGUST 5 & 19
SEPTEMBER 2 & 16	OCTOBER 7 & 21	NOVEMBER 4 & 18	DECEMBER 2 & 16

City of Boston
Immigrant Advancement

Scan to contact MOIA!



Immigration Legal Access

“Another story is that of a constituent name Raul. He unfortunately was detained for 15 days. While in Burlington [ICE Field Office], he was almost forced to signed documents. He shares that he refused to signed because he remembered that he heard that in one of Agencia Alpha’s workshops to “not sign any documents without [a lawyer] and to request to speak with an attorney,”

- *Legal Access grantee*

4,561 individuals were served through the FY25 Immigration Legal Access Grant.



SUCCESS STORIES



Immigrants Lead Boston (ILB)

“After learning in the program that leadership is about empowering others, I started to change the way I deal with my kids at home. I started teams for every project we have in the community, and let the teams make decisions. Giving the people the power to make changes is the true leadership.”

- Osman Elmutaz, ILB alum

28 individuals graduated from the 2025 Cohort, bringing the alumni network to 113.



SUCCESS STORIES

Immigrant Youth Advancement (IYA)



“The youth program became a place where I could finally be myself without hesitation. As an immigrant, I often felt like I had to hide parts of my story, but here, I found a community that not only accepted me but also celebrated my journey. It reminded me that my experiences are my strength and that I belong, no matter where I come from.”

- IYA program participant

FY25 Summer IYA program provided employment to 336 youth.



FY25 PARTNERS

Immigrant Youth Advancement (27)

617Peak
ACEDONE
Agencia ALPHA
Apprentice Learning
Beat The Streets New England
Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC)
Boston International Newcomers Academy (BINcA)
Boston Little Saigon
Boston Public Schools - Recruitment, Cultivation & Teacher Cadet Summer Academy
Brazilian Worker Center, INC
Cape Verdean Association of Boston (CVSA)
Centro Presente
Chills Diamond Ring Education Foundation
City on a Hill Church (English High)
Digital Ready
Haitian Health Institute, Inc
Immigrant Family Services Institute, Inc. (IFSI-USA)
MassVOTE
Mattapan/Greater Boston Technology Learning Center
Northeastern University (Learn and Earn)
Piers Park Sailing Center
Shalupe Community Alliance
Soccer without Borders
Sociedad Latina
Stories Inspiring Movements (SIM)
The Pathway Initiative Inc
Veronica Robles Cultural Center

Weaving Well-being (28)

Abilities Dance Incorporated
ARKanum
Asian American Resource Workshop
Berklee College of Music
Brazilian Women's Group
Chinese Progressive Association
Community Healing Project Center
EHR Boston Communities
Family Nurturing Center of Massachusetts
Fathers' UpLift
Found in Translation
Gilbert Albert Community Center
Hiddo, Inc.
Irish Pastoral Centre
Jean Appolon Expressions
La Alianza Hispana
Madison Park Development Corporation
Maverick Landing Community Services
Mutual Aid Easteie
Shalupe Community Alliance
Soccer Without Borders
Sociedad Latina
Somali Parents Advocacy Center for Education (SPACE, Inc.)
The City School
Tunefoolery
Vermilion Theater
Veronica Robles Cultural Center
Young Man with a Plan

Immigration Legal Access (20)

Agencia ALPHA
Asian American Resource Workshop, Inc.
Asian Pacific Islanders Civic Action Network
Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, Inc
Brazilian Worker Center INC
Casa Myrna Vazquez Inc
Catholic Charities Bureau of the Archdiocese of Boston
De Novo Center for Justice and Healing, Inc.
Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS)
Immigrant Connection at Awaken City
Immigrant Family Services Institute, Inc. (IFSI-USA)
International Institute of New England Inc
Justice at Work
KIND, Inc
Mabel Center for Immigrant Justice
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
Mutual Aid Easteie
Rian Immigrant Center
Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice, Inc
Vietnamese American Civic Association, Inc

Tuition Equity Implementation (11)

Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC)
Brazilian Worker Center, INC
Cape Verdean Association of Boston (CVSA)
College Advising Corps
Cultivate Pathway
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
Shalupe Community Alliance
Sociedad Latina
Stories Inspiring Movements (SIM)
St. Stephen's Youth Programs
uAspire

71
total



FY26 PARTNERS

Immigrant Youth Advancement (32)

Greater Boston Technology Learning Center, Inc
Immigrant Family Service Institute, Inc.
Veronica Robles Cultural Center
Shalupe Community Alliance
Sociedad Latina
ACEDONE
Agencia ALPHA
Apprentice Learning
Beat The Streets New England
Friends of Boston International Newcomers Academy
Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center
Boston Little Saigon
Chills Diamond Ring Education Foundation
MassVOTE
Digital Ready
Boston Public Schools - Student Support
The Pathway Initiative Inc.
Brazilian Worker Center
Centro Presente
617 Peak
Inspiring Today's Adults
Judicial Summer Program
Cape Verdean Association
Friends of St. Stephen's Youth Programs Inc.
Hyde Square Task Force, Inc.
Level Ground Mixed Martial Arts
Massachusetts Sudanese Community Association
New Immigrant Multi-Service Center, Inc
Piers Park Sailing Center
Shaloh School Oholei Torah
Soccer Without Borders
Stateless Collection

Weaving Well-being (32)

Abilities Dance Incorporated
Allston Brighton Community Development Co.
Asian Women for Health
BalletRox
Berklee College of Music
Boston Little Saigon
Cape Verdean Association of Massachusetts
Center for Community Health Education & Research
Centro Presente
Chica Project
East Boston Community Soup Kitchen
EHR Boston Communities
Fan S Noli Library and Cultural Center
Friends of St. Stephen's Youth Programs
Gilbert Albert Community Center
Hildebrand Family Self-Help Center
I Learn America
Immigrant Family Services Institute
La Alianza Hispana
Maverick Landing Community Services
Mutual Aid Eastie
OUTNewcomers
Rian Immigrant Center
Sahiyo
Shaloh School Oholei Torah
Soccer Without Borders
Somali Parents Advocacy Center for Education (SPACE)
The City School
The Diahann Project
Veronica Robles Cultural Center
Waldo Immigration and Refugee Services
Young Man with a Plan

Immigration Legal Access (18)

Agencia ALPHA
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
Brazilian Worker Center
Catholic Charities Boston
Centro Presente
De Novo Center for Justice and Healing
Greater Boston Legal Services
Immigrant Family Services Institute
International Institute of New England
Justice at Work
KIND, Inc.
Lawyers for Civil Rights
Mabel Center for Immigrant Justice
Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
Political Asylum / Immigration Representation Project
Project Citizenship
Rian Immigrant Center

Mutual Aid (13)

Asian American Resource Workshop
Asian Pacific Islanders Civic Action Network
Massachusetts
Brazilian Worker Center
Chinese Progressive Association
Casserly House
Community Service Care
Eastie Farm
Friends of the Rafael Hernández School
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
Shalupe Community Alliance
Equity Now & Beyond
Unnamed Youth Organizing Network
Voice of Tabernacle Multi Service Center

82

total



NEED INDICATORS

Immigration Legal Access grant:

- FY 25 - 41 applications requesting ~\$3.2M. MOIA could only fund \$700K meeting 21% of demonstrated need.
- FY 26* - 31 number of applications requesting ~\$2.3M. MOIA could fund \$900K, meeting 39% of the need.

Mutual Aid (“Diverse Neighborhoods”) grant:

- FY26 - 47 applications requesting \$735K. MOIA could only fund \$164K, meeting 22% of the need.

Weaving Well-being grant:

- FY25 - 94 applications requesting ~\$1.4M. MOIA could only fund \$232K, meeting 16% of demonstrated need.
- FY26 - 68 applications requesting \$885K. MOIA could only fund \$270K*, meeting 30% of need.

* The FY26 Legal Access Grant was intended to fund only immigration legal services, as opposed to previous years also funding community support. It is likely that due to that strategy change, fewer organizations applied than previously.





NEED INDICATORS

Immigration Consultations: 50+ constituents per week reaching out for legal representation and interest.

MOIA ESOL grant:

- FY25 - 49 applications requesting ~\$3.5M. MOIA could only fund \$500K, meeting only 14% of the demonstrated need.
- FY26 ESOL for Parents - 8 applications requesting ~\$1.4M. MOIA could only fund \$250K to one organization, meeting only 18% of the demonstrated need.

Immigrant Youth Advancement (YEO provided \$1.4M in FY25, and \$850K in FY26):

- FY25 - 76 applications requesting ~\$3.85M. MOIA could only fund \$2.1 M, meeting 54% of demonstrated need.
- FY26 Summer - 33 applications requesting \$1.4M. MOIA could only fund 31 applicants totaling \$1.1M, meeting 79% of demonstrated need.





FY27 BUDGET

We know that OBM, the Cabinet, and the broader Finance team is working hard to finalize the FY27 Budget and making a lot of difficult decisions.

We appreciate the Council's partnership over the past year, which has been very challenging.