



BRIDGING THE GAP FOR IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS:

Integrating Immigration Legal Services and Domestic Violence Support Services

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CALIFORNIA RURAL LEGAL
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CENTRO LA FAMILIA
ADVOCACY SERVICES
NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE CENTER



I. INTEGRATED SERVICES MODEL FOR IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Immigrant survivors of domestic violence face significant barriers in seeking both domestic violence support services and immigration legal assistance. Lack of lawful status, fear of deportation, and language barriers make it difficult for immigrant survivors to access critical services. These challenges can be even more acute in underserved and rural areas, such as California's San Joaquin Valley. Even when an individual may access one type of service, there is a pattern of attrition in successfully connecting with other, complementary, and important types of services. These challenges require a comprehensive approach which includes services provided in an accessible language, in a safe and accessible location, and immigration legal services.

In response to these challenges, the project *Creating Economic Stability for Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence in the San Joaquin Valley*¹, was created to serve this population at the intersection of immigration and domestic violence in this expansive geographic region. The project's integrated support model is designed to serve immigrant survivors through a partnership between non-profit domestic violence support agencies and immigration legal service providers in two

¹ The project was funded by State Bar of California through the Homelessness Prevention Grant III, funding which was allocated to provide legal aid to combat housing instability in California.

counties in the region.

The project objectives include:

- Train and inform domestic violence support agency staff advocates about the immigration legal options available to immigrant survivors.
- Increase the access to information and legal support available to immigrant survivors so they can better understand their legal options and navigate the immigration system.
- Formalize a partnership between domestic violence support agencies and immigration legal services providers to integrate services provided to immigrant survivors and reduce attrition in referrals.
- Connect immigrant survivors directly to free, high-quality immigration legal service providers who could assess their case, submit relevant immigration petitions, and facilitate their access to public benefits and work authorization.

This project aims to fortify the economic stability of immigrant survivors of domestic violence in California's rural San Joaquin Valley by facilitating access to lawful immigration status, employment authorization, and public benefits for immigrant survivors, thus reducing their risk of poverty and homelessness.

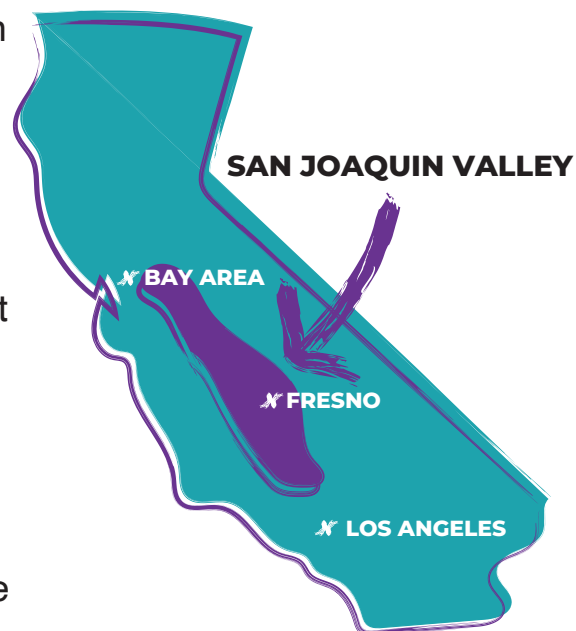
II. PROEJCT CONTEXT

A. REGIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS. The San Joaquin Valley is a large agricultural region in the heart of California made up of eight counties. The San Joaquin Valley has [a population of about 4.2 million](#), 900,000 of which are immigrants, and it is estimated that more than one-third of immigrants in the region are undocumented.

Although the San Joaquin Valley is home to a large agricultural economy, more than [20% of the residents](#) have incomes below 100% of the federal poverty level. In addition, about 71% of the undocumented immigrant population in the region lives below 200% of the poverty level.

Undocumented residents of the rural region suffer not only from higher levels of poverty, but about [43% of this population suffers from linguistic isolation](#) as well.

B. REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY. The San Joaquin Valley is an expansive region, extending over 10,000 square miles. Isolation is a common theme as the region does not have reliable public transportation, making a car necessary for daily life. Most non-profit agencies are concentrated in larger cities, such as Fresno, leaving smaller communities underserved and with limited services, leaving people to travel outside their communities to receive services. Many residents must travel long distances to access basic necessities



as well as crucial services. Low-income residents without personal transportation often pay someone they know to transport them to important appointments, placing a further financial strain. In addition, funding for some service providers is restricted to those from specific counties and does not allow serving residents of surrounding counties. This can create a barrier for residents who may be geographically closer to a certain service provider, but unable to receive services there due to their county of residence.

C. NON-PROFIT CAPACITY IN THE REGION. Each county in the San Joaquin Valley has a domestic violence support service agency. However, despite its large immigrant population, the region lacks adequate immigration legal services capacity. The gap in services is even greater for immigrant survivors, as many agencies do not provide legal services for the special immigration programs available to this population.²

² A report by Resource Development Associates, published in April of 2022, *Immigration Legal Services in California: A Time for Bold Action*, surveyed organizations to identify challenges and opportunities across California's immigration legal services. A total of 38 organizations reported serving the Central Valley in 2022, with the majority of those organizations who serve the region being located outside the region. Out of the 38, only three organizations reported actually being located in the Central Valley. See, https://www.gcir.org/sites/default/files/resources/GCIR_Legal-Services-Assessment-2020-and_2022-Update_STC.pdf.

San Joaquin and Madera counties were selected for the project because of the low number of immigration legal services available to immigrant survivors. In San Joaquin County, there are two domestic violence organizations who provide services to immigrant survivors of domestic violence. In Madera County there is only one. As for immigration legal services nonprofits, there are three in San Joaquin County and none in Madera County. Of those who provide immigration services in San Joaquin County, only one actively takes cases for those who are eligible for a humanitarian-based relief.³ While there is a legal service provider who serves survivors in Madera County, they are not located in the county. The service providers in these areas are saturated with people in need. Three out of four of the partners have client waitlists at their respective organizations. The lack of legal service providers has resulted in a prevalence of immigration fraud in the region. Often, immigrants end up obtaining services from individuals known as a notarios or “immigration consultants”. This most commonly is a non-attorney who is paid for legal work they do not actually complete, or they prepare an application for status for which the client is not technically eligible, or the application and evidence is not properly prepared.⁴

D. NEED AMONG IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS. Immigrant and non-immigrant communities face domestic violence at similar rates. While both groups are impacted negatively by domestic violence, survivors without stable immigration status face heightened risks and obstacles.⁵ Factors like language, social isolation, lack of information, financial constraints, cultural stigma, and fear of deportation compound the challenges of seeking support and securing stability. Immigrant survivors of domestic violence may not report crimes due to fear of the repercussions from contact with law enforcement agencies, being economically tied to their abuser, or not knowing where to access services. As a result, reaching and serving

3 Noncitizen victims of violence, serious crimes, and persecution may be eligible for certain forms of immigration protection and status. These options are often referred to as Humanitarian Forms of Relief. They include: T nonimmigrant status, U nonimmigrant status, VAWA self-petition, asylum, and special immigrant juvenile status.

4 Organizations serving the Central Valley have been active in combating fraud. In 2018, organizations noted in a Fresno Bee article on fraud in immigration that many immigrants are victimized by notaries public, immigration consultants, and unlicensed individuals who promise relief but often leave individuals in worse legal situations. See <https://www.fresnobee.com/news/local/article217226465.html>.

5 See Battered Women’s Justice Project, Assisting Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence Advocate’s Guide, available at https://www.bwjp.org/assets/documents/pdfs/assisting_immigrant_victims_advocates_guide.pdf.

immigrant survivors of domestic violence can be a challenge. Even if an immigrant survivor receives a certain service, they can go on to get lost in the process of navigating different agencies and service providers. For example, an immigrant survivor who seeks out services at a domestic violence support agency and needs immigration legal services, will be referred out for that since few domestic violence agencies have in-house immigration legal support. Likewise, an immigrant survivor who seeks immigration services and needs social services for abuse they have suffered, will be referred out to for that type of support. The individual may not follow up to seek out those additional but vital services or may become discouraged, confused, or fearful in the process. This is especially true when the person must wait for follow-up services, re-tell traumatic experiences, cannot find a service provider who speaks their language, and engage with new and different systems.

III. PROJECT MODEL

The Creating Economic Stability for Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence in the San Joaquin Valley project initiated in January 2022 at both the San Joaquin County and Madera County sites. Each project site was jointly coordinated and run by an immigration legal service provider and a domestic violence support agency. The Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) provided training, coordination, legal resources, and support to both project sites. Each site operated two annual immigration legal clinics that took place at the domestic violence support agency.

The project model builds on existing resources and expertise to respond to the needs of immigrant survivors in the region. It was key to find partners in the geographical areas that needed to be served to ensure that the target population was reached. First, agencies from the community would be the most knowledgeable about local services and service providers. Next, because many domestic violence advocates work closely with law enforcement, they could help gather or guide the process of gathering the necessary police reports and certifications on behalf of clients. Finally, since the domestic violence support agency was local, and the clinics were held there, services were brought directly to

the participants.

Before this collaboration, immigrant survivors of crime were given referrals by domestic violence advocates for possible immigration legal services. Many times, there was insufficient time to follow up with them about a possible immigration case since advocates were usually focused on obtaining shelter, restraining orders, and helping with other critical social services for the survivors. At the same time, survivors were mainly focused on escaping an abusive situation and having their basic needs met during a distressful time. Generally, the onus was on the survivor to access these services after receiving a referral. These 'cold calls' often resulted in the immigrant survivor being placed on a standard waitlist at the legal service provider, which deterred them from following up.

To respond to the needs of immigrant survivors, project partners met to discuss the needs of their local community and the needs that arose after each clinic. Clinic partners were trained by the ILRC on topics related to humanitarian forms of relief to help advocates tackle issues that would come up during clinics and also to help the domestic violence support agency advocates identify participants. The project model operates by holding a yearly training in quarter one, followed by quarterly planning meetings to discuss upcoming clinics and keep track of client participants. These meetings also serve as a place to identify any resources needed by community members.

Project clients connected with the domestic violence support agency because they were victims of crimes. They were either referred to the agency by law enforcement or sought out the service themselves. Domestic violence support agency staff who received legal training from the ILRC screened clients for immigration needs as part of their intake and assessment process. Each domestic violence support agency had their own process for identifying clients for the clinics. The only parameter was that those who participated in the clinic were individuals who had sought a service from the domestic violence support agency. Pioneering Restoration and Elevating Voices of Advocacy, Idealism and Leadership (PREVAIL, formally the Women's Center-Youth & Family Services) identified clients by informing their advocates of upcoming legal clinics. Advocates provided the project contacts with

client information, including background and history of the abuse. The project leads called the client and performed a more in-depth screening, where they asked specific questions like: have they ever filed for immigration relief before, have they had contact with the immigration system, and the immigration status of the abuser. Each client identified as potentially benefiting from the immigration consultation was scheduled for an appointment. Community Action Partnership of Madera County (Madera CAP) primarily works with victims of qualifying crimes who have been referred by a law enforcement agency. Their staff scheduled clients when charges were filed as part of a criminal case and the case was near resolution. They found that this was a way to prioritize clients since Madera County authorities provide certifications where a criminal case was resolved.

For clinics, the domestic violence support agency reserved quiet office spaces in their agency's office and added white noise machines outside the office doors for privacy. They also prepared a folder for each client. The folders contained a summary of the incident that brought the participant to their agency, a signed release of information allowing the legal service provider to access the documents, and any available documents about the case, including police reports, advocate support letters, medical records, and restraining orders. Legal clinics were scheduled for spring and fall at each site each year, with attorneys and DOJ accredited representatives⁶ from the immigration legal services agency providing the consultations and using their respective agency's intake sheets and limited scope representation agreement. The folder prepared by the domestic violence support agency allowed the legal advocates to more quickly assess the case, identify potential avenues to immigration status, and streamline the process of preparing a given case.

At the legal clinics, immigrant survivors met with a legal service provider who conducted an immigration consultation. Through these consultations, clients were screened for immigration relief. The domestic violence support agency was available at each clinic in case the client needed any extra support or follow-up assistance. Those identified as eligible were placed on a list to receive full representation assistance in preparing and submitting their immigration petitions to

⁶ DOJ Accredited Representatives are practitioners who are not attorneys but who have been authorized to represent immigrants on behalf of a non-profit organization that has been recognized by the Department of Justice.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

Each clinic and each site served a different number of clients. The number of clients served was dependent on how many immigration legal service providers could be present to conduct legal consultations as well as the capacity of the legal service provider to provide full-scope representation to any qualifying clients.

While the scope of the project was to identify immigrant survivors who

needed immigration legal services so they could get screened for eligibility, the legal service providers were able to take on full representation of many of those eligible for relief, free of cost. This connection was pivotal since access to free, high-quality legal representation means presenting a stronger case and a more likely path to immigration status and employment authorization. This connection minimized the number of clients falling through the cracks that often arise during the referral process and prevented clients from falling prey to fraudulent service providers.

THE WORK DESCRIBED WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE FOLLOWING PROJECT PARTNERS.

Immigration Legal Service Providers:

- California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (CRLAF) (<https://www.crlaf.org>)
- Centro La Familia Advocacy Services (CLFA) (<https://www.centrolafamilia.org>)

Both agencies provide low-cost immigration legal services.

Domestic Violence Support Agencies:

- Pioneering Restoration and Elevating Voices of Advocacy, Idealism, and Leadership (PREVAIL, formerly known as Women’s Center) (<https://weshallprevail.org>)
- Community Action Partnership of Madera County (Madera CAP) (<https://maderacap.org>).

PREVAIL primarily serves domestic violence survivors in the northern San Joaquin County, and Madera CAP serves survivors in Madera County.

IV. PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS



- a. **Train and inform domestic violence support agency staff about the immigration options available to immigrant survivors.** Domestic violence agencies were trained around immigration options available to immigrant

survivors so they would be able to identify clients who might benefit from the clinics. This was accomplished through yearly trainings, access to resources on immigration options, and regular meetings with the project partners. This allowed the advocates to integrate that knowledge into their domestic violence support work with clients and to increase their knowledge of how the immigration system worked.

When project partners were surveyed on the impact of the project on their work, domestic violence advocates identified receiving immigration legal trainings as a pivotal factor in making them better equipped to serve immigrant survivors who seek services at their centers.

b. Increase the knowledge and information available to immigrant survivors so they can better understand their legal options and navigate the immigration system. A select group of clinic participants were surveyed to gauge if the project increased the knowledge and information that immigrant survivors were receiving and to determine if this increased their own understanding of their legal options and the immigration system. To gather the information, a short survey was given to this group with questions around access to legal support, how they felt about receiving services at the domestic violence support agency, and what had prevented them from seeking legal help in the past. Clinic participants were called by the domestic violence support agency advocate.

Immigrant survivors reported feeling more informed about their immigration options and more knowledgeable about services they were eligible for, after the clinics. At the clinics, clients received detailed information regarding their own options and a clear explanation of what would be needed to submit their applications. They had the ability to seek information from both the legal service provider and the domestic violence support agency. Immigrant survivors who were screened, and would be represented, did not need to call a third agency to get services; they were taken on by the immigration legal agency who screened them.

“I am very thankful. You guys gave me confidence. I hope you continue to help other women and you are angels sent from heaven.”

General resources were made for immigrant survivors to help increase the community’s knowledge of immigration options. For example, through the partnership two videos were created to inform the community of the process of the U visa and VAWA. Additionally, several community resources were shared regarding immigration options for survivors on topics like Asylum, SIJS, U Visa, and VAWA. This ensured clients received accurate and updated information on immigration policy and did not rely on social media or unscrupulous service providers for information.

- c. Formalize a partnership between domestic violence support agencies and immigration legal services providers to integrate services immigrant survivors and reduce attrition in referrals.** The project allowed for the formalization of the partnership between the agencies and created systems for feedback and implementation. The agencies met quarterly to discuss clinic processes and any trends or needs. This allowed the agencies to triage identified needs and coordinate any response. This was especially helpful when clients needed support with follow-up items.

Project partners emphasized how beneficial the project was to both the agencies and for clients. All participating partners noted the importance of the project in creating a safe place for clients to get services and facilitating the gathering of information. Specifically, the domestic violence support agencies identified bringing legal resources to partners and communities who previously would not have access to these resources.

After working together in this formalized partnership, project partners identified that they would recommend the project model to other agencies who work with immigrant survivors of crimes. Legal partners found that it was useful and beneficial, to both the legal service provider and the client, to have the domestic violence support agency identify clients since it increased the legal service provider’s access to information and support for

the client. This was the case because the domestic violence support agency organized case information and provided a written description of the case for the legal service provider to review. In addition, they found it was useful to have a debrief at the beginning and end of each clinic to review the needs of each case and the next steps for each client.

Furthermore, legal service providers saw that partnering with a domestic violence support agency helped close the gap for clients and helped build trust so that the participant was more willing and able to trust those who were providing legal services. This was especially important when the agency was coming from outside of the county. Partner CLFA noted that the “local service provider in Madera closed the gap for clients to trust a non-county agency to deliver the work.” Lastly, the partnership helped create a safe space for clients who have endured horrific episodes in their lives.

The partnership also helped expand the knowledge of the immigration legal service providers. Legal agencies reported that they became more aware of other social services that existed for immigrant survivors of domestic violence and were able to help clients access other services to meet their needs. For example, legal service agencies learned that domestic violence support agencies could help report crimes to the police, provide transportation to get clients to screenings and legal appointments, and bridge the gap in communication.

“My work benefited because our clients actually have the opportunity to easily meet with a legal representative at no cost. I learned that if we have the resource for the client, and we assist them throughout the process, the more likely they are to follow through with no worries.”

Domestic violence support agencies identified the access to other services as a key benefit since it brought information to agencies and counties that do not have access to legal services. Partners saw this type of project as being beneficial in underserved counties like Madera, who has no legal service provider offering immigration support. This is important because

it allowed services to be offered locally and did not require vulnerable clients to leave their communities to seek services. This can be difficult for survivors of crimes and especially challenging for clients who are monolingual non-English speakers and lack legal status. Additionally, project partners noted how the partnership helped to increase the services that the domestic violence support agency was able to offer. PREVAIL identified as a key benefit their ability to increase the services they were able to offer survivors of crimes, noting that “having attorneys come to our domestic violence support agency helped cover a gap in the services our agency is able to offer since we do not have legal representatives, this partnership allowed for our clients to get legal support within our organization.”

Communication was identified as pivotal to making this type of partnership work. Partners noted that communication was not only needed between the legal service provider and the participant, but also between the legal service provider and the domestic violence support agency. This was particularly important since, more often than not, most clients first communicated with the domestic violence support agency when they had questions. This also meant that in a project like this, a shared master list of clients was needed for both agencies to review which cases were going to receive full representation and which cases were referred out or not eligible for services.

“This partnership has benefited many families, both directly and indirectly. These families will have the chance to better themselves and to have a future regardless of what obstacles or episode they endured. We are proud of this work, and we thank all of the partners for the love they show their community members in hosting clinics like this.”

- d. Connect immigrant survivors directly to legal service providers who could assess their case, submit relevant immigration petitions, and facilitate their access to public benefits and work authorization.**

Since immigration screenings were brought into the domestic violence support agency, those clients identified were connected directly to a legal

service provider who could assess their case and help with submitting their immigration application. Clinic clients were able to receive information and get their questions answered by a trusted legal service provider. For many, this was the first time they spoke to an attorney or DOJ accredited representative about their case and options. Furthermore, clients felt that they had been given a safety net, by having both immigration legal service advocates and domestic violence support advocates to help guide them through a complicated process.

Of the clients selected to be surveyed, most noted that this was the first time they spoke with a legal service provider and had failed to do so beforehand because they feared seeking help. Primarily, they feared that their abuser would harm them if they sought services. Clients also reported that they were also not aware of the services available or felt that seeking legal representation was too expensive. Additionally, clients reported that receiving immigration legal services at the domestic violence support agency made them feel safe. Clients felt that they could trust the information they were being provided when it came from an agency who had already helped them and who was a recognized organization within their community. The information was offered to them in a language they understood and explained in a manner that was clear and effective.

“I feel good and I’m hopeful to continue receiving services here (MaderaCAP). I think it will go well. Little by little I am less afraid of going through this process and I’m hopeful I will qualify soon.”

After participating in the clinics, clients noted that they felt more informed about their options, and what other benefits they could qualify for while they waited for their immigration case to be adjudicated. Overall clients reported that they generally felt happy and excited at being helped because this meant they would soon have access to work authorization and permanent immigration relief that would allow them to build a more secure future for their families. The majority felt hopeful for the future and voiced a sense of security from being part of this process. Additionally, through this project,

clients found that others are also going through this process and that they are willing to help.

“I am very grateful to Victims Services because they were very helpful and knew what to do in my situation. Getting a U Visa and obtaining a work permit would make a big difference in my life and my children’s.”

Clinic clients received a full screening and were identified as being eligible to receive full representation or were referred out if the case was beyond the scope of the agency. Clients were screened for immigration benefits. These included screening for humanitarian forms of relief, like U nonimmigrant status, T nonimmigrant status, Asylum, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS).

U nonimmigrant status is available to individuals who were victims of a certain serious crime that occurred in the United States and are willing to cooperate in the investigation or prosecution. There are 10,000 visas available each year.

T nonimmigrant status is available to persons who were victims of human trafficking, either labor or commercial sex. Trafficking must have occurred in the United States or at a port of entry. There are 5,000 visas available each year.

Asylum can be available for individuals who have been survivors of domestic violence if they can show that they were persecuted in the past or have a well-founded fear of future persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Self-Petitions is available to individuals who have been battered or subject to extreme cruelty by a spouse or parent who is a green card holder or U.S. citizen or by a U.S. citizen adult son or daughter.

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) is a form of relief that allows certain undocumented children and youth who are found to have been abused, neglected, or abandoned by one or both parents by a state court.

See the explainer for a description of each of these legal services.

Most clients were identified to be eligible for U visas, since they were victims of a qualifying crime that occurred in the United States. Many clients were also eligible for VAWA. Agencies also identified several DACA recipients who were eligible for the above-mentioned forms of relief. In addition to this, clients were also screened for family-based immigration by screening

for any relatives with lawful permanent status or U.S. citizenship who could petition them.

From January 2022 to December 2023, a total of 80 individuals were screened for immigration relief. Out of these screened, 15% served were men, and 86% had children under 18 living in their household. 98% of the clients were Spanish speakers, with most of them being monolingual Spanish speakers. Out of all the individuals screened, 86% of clients screened were given full representation by the service provider. The few cases that were referred out were because a client had a complex deportation case in immigration court, or the client was already working with a private attorney when they came to the clinic consultation. In addition to screening and serving the primary survivor of a case, the legal service provider was also able to serve family members who also needed immigration legal services. Of the cases identified as having a qualifying member who could also be included in the petition, the majority had a derivative spouse or child, and some had children currently living in their home country.

V. REMAINING GAPS, OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH, AND CONCLUSION



Though the partnership helped to close the gap for immigrant survivors who needed immigration services, there are remaining challenges. Some of the challenges are policy and systemic issues, while others relate to organizational capacity and strengthening support systems.

The long wait list for U Nonimmigrant Status, more commonly known in the community as a U Visa, is very daunting and means filing an application will not result in any immediate form of immigration protection. There are only 10,000 U visas allocated each fiscal year and as more people apply it has created a backlog. This means that people are placed on a 10 + year wait list for their cases to be fully adjudicated and for them to receive a visa. While the government has created a

process for people to get work authorization and protection from deportation faster, the wait for this is still a 5+ years. The clinics allowed survivors to connect with a legal service provider that could start filing their cases, but the long wait still means that many clients would not have any immigration benefits for many years. Clients can access other public benefits, like food assistance once their U visas are filed and receipted, but this is not always enough.

Additionally, while the clinics helped bring services to survivors in counties that do not have local access to these services, it did not increase the capacity of those doing the work. As noted above, there are only a handful of agencies who offer immigration services for survivors of crimes and who file humanitarian type of applications. This meant that all the clients who were identified at the clinic joined the legal service provider's waitlist of clients to be served. These cases were given priority because of the partnership, but it still meant that clients whose cases were taken for full representation had to wait to get their cases started. So, while the client had the connection to a free, high-quality legal service provider, it was still not a fast process to file their case and would take time before receiving an actual immigration benefit.

Lastly, although the domestic violence support agency was able to help in obtaining needed documents for cases where clients had language barriers, transportation and language access issues persist for clients as they move forward with their cases. Clients may need transportation to the legal service provider, the legal service provider may need to travel to the domestic violence support agency, or the legal service provider would need to drive to the client's residence or other location to meet with them. The domestic violence support agency was able to provide some transportation, but coordinating when an advocate was available to drive or to get a car service could be complicated. There was also a need to accompany clients to get copies of police reports or court documents at agencies where there were not always bilingual staff. Again, staff capacity at the domestic violence support agencies continues to be stretched. In addition, responding to language barriers was also limited primarily to Spanish-speakers. While CLFA has some language capacity outside of Spanish, most advocacy and outreach were done to Spanish-speakers. There is a need to reach non-Spanish speaking

communities and to coordinate services with advocates who can help bridge the gap. It is unclear if having more advocates who can reach non-Spanish speakers will increase clients from other backgrounds, but it would be worth exploring. There is also a need for more education for non-legal advocates who work with immigrant survivors. An advocate of PREVAIL once reported their agency staff stating that the clinic was only for Spanish-speakers when in fact it is not. Others reported that immigration is only a Latino issue, which it is not.

There remains much work to be done to fully support immigrant survivors of domestic violence. However, the Creating Economic Stability for Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence project has strengthened the network of support in the San Joaquin Valley. The project marshals existing resources to create a close partnership between domestic violence support agencies and immigration legal service providers to ensure critical services are geographically and financially within reach for immigrant survivors. This coordination engendered trust, promoted efficiency, and streamlined resources to facilitate immigrant survivors' path to stability and well-being.