

No child should face
the immigration
process alone.

Impact Report 2019



Safe
Passage
Project

Our Mission

To ensure that every child in New York who is eligible for substantive immigration relief receives high quality legal representation.

Dear Friends,

In 2019, we made major progress towards our vision that no child should face the immigration process alone:

- We took on 415 new cases—more than any other year in our history.
- We recruited and trained more than 250 new pro bono attorneys.
- We worked with state lawmakers to draft legislation that would provide free lawyers to thousands more young immigrants each year.

Yet we know there is still so much more work to be done. Record numbers of unaccompanied minors crossed the United States' southern border in 2019, all of them in need of lawyers to help them navigate the complicated immigration process. At the same time, 2019 brought new restrictions on the fundamental rights of immigrants and asylum seekers through federal policy, rule changes, and rhetoric designed to terrify our already vulnerable clients. From the Remain in Mexico policy to dramatic ICE raids, these challenges underscored the importance of Safe Passage Project's mission.

The young people we serve have fled dangerous and unstable conditions, and need a strong advocate by their side to realize their right to remain in this country. The resilience our young clients demonstrate in spite of tremendous challenges motivates us to continue fighting on their behalf.

Likewise, the generosity of our partners inspires us every day. Safe Passage Project would not be able to advocate for the immigrant youth we serve without the steadfast support of passionate volunteers and donors. We are so grateful to our partners for standing with us in this fight.

We are proud to share this report and update you on our progress toward a future where no child has to go through the immigration process alone.

Thank you.



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Executive Director



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"My greatest reward from working with Safe Passage Project has been watching my young client adjust successfully to his new life in this country against all odds. He has had to confront a powerful but broken immigration system that seems determined to crush his dream of a better life. My client has exhibited tremendous courage and stamina throughout a process that has already taken years and is still unresolved.

I am grateful to Safe Passage Project for allowing me to represent my client and am humbled by the knowledge that it is legal representation that most often makes the difference in the fate that befalls our most vulnerable migrants."

Richard Storrow
Professor of Law, CUNY School of Law
Safe Passage Project Pro Bono Attorney

2019 by the Numbers



415

new cases taken on by our team - meaning 415 fewer young people facing the immigration process alone.



1,054

total number of young people actively being served by our team at the end of 2019.



333

social service referrals made for youth - connecting children to services such as housing, health care, and education.



1,146

total number of young people provided with free, competent legal representation throughout the year.



445

pro bono attorneys mentored in providing free legal representation to immigrant youth.



785

legal professionals trained at 25 events at top law firms, schools, and more.



\$4,895,000

leveraged in legal services provided to youth by our network of 400+ pro bono attorneys.



39,160

hours donated by Safe Passage Project's pro bono attorneys.

Victories in 2019

We achieved the following milestones on behalf of the young people we serve over the course of the year:

20 Asylum Applications **Granted**

60 Green Cards **Approved**

96 Employment Authorizations **Filed**

142 Custody Petitions **Approved**

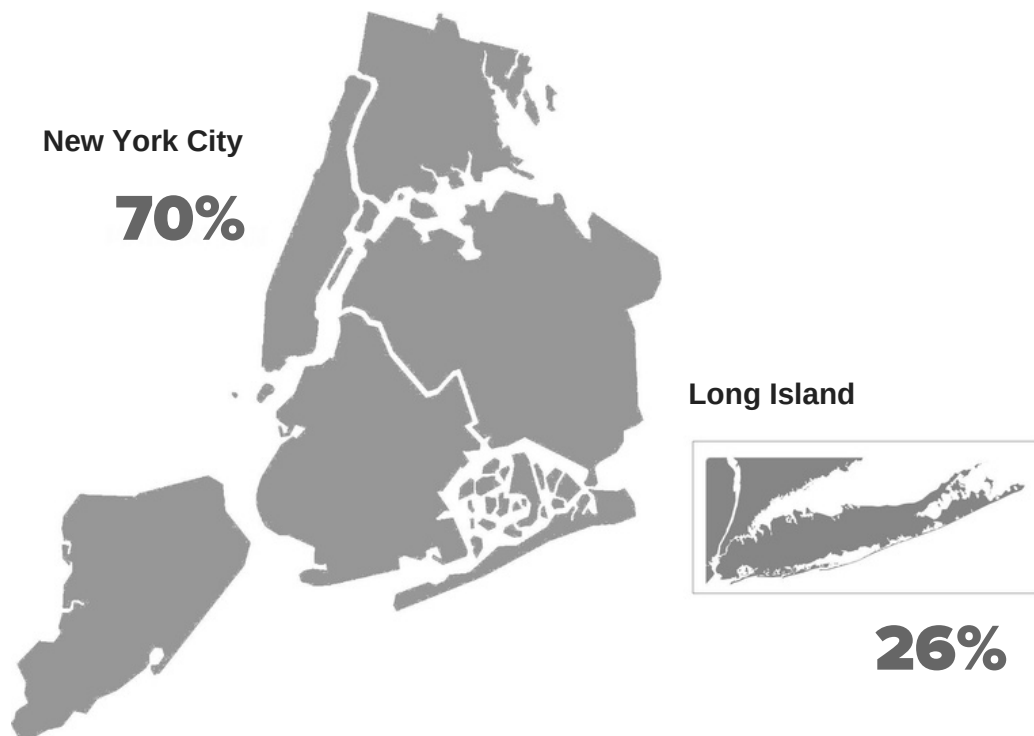
158 Special Findings Orders **Granted**



Open Cases in 2019 by Country



Open Cases in 2019: NYC and Long Island



In the Press

The New York Times

'If You're Like Me, You Can't Sit By. This Is America.'

"The safety net for these children (such as it is) is sustained by the legal equivalent of a bake sale. The system has life-or-death power over children. Yet it provides a modicum of fairness only by the grace of tens of thousands of volunteers. 'If you're like me, you can't sit by,' Professor Benson said. 'This is America.'"

Lenni Benson

Founder of Safe Passage Project
The New York Times, August 2019



A Righteous Path

"No child should be forced to have to go back to an unbelievably violent situation without the minimum of a lawyer by their side," Leimsider says. "We are going to have to rebuild an immigration system that sees children as children and treats them with all the care and support that any of us would want our own kids to get."

Rich Leimsider

Executive Director, Safe Passage Project
Harvard Business School Alumni Stories, December 2019

aspire

Our Responsibility To Help Those In Need

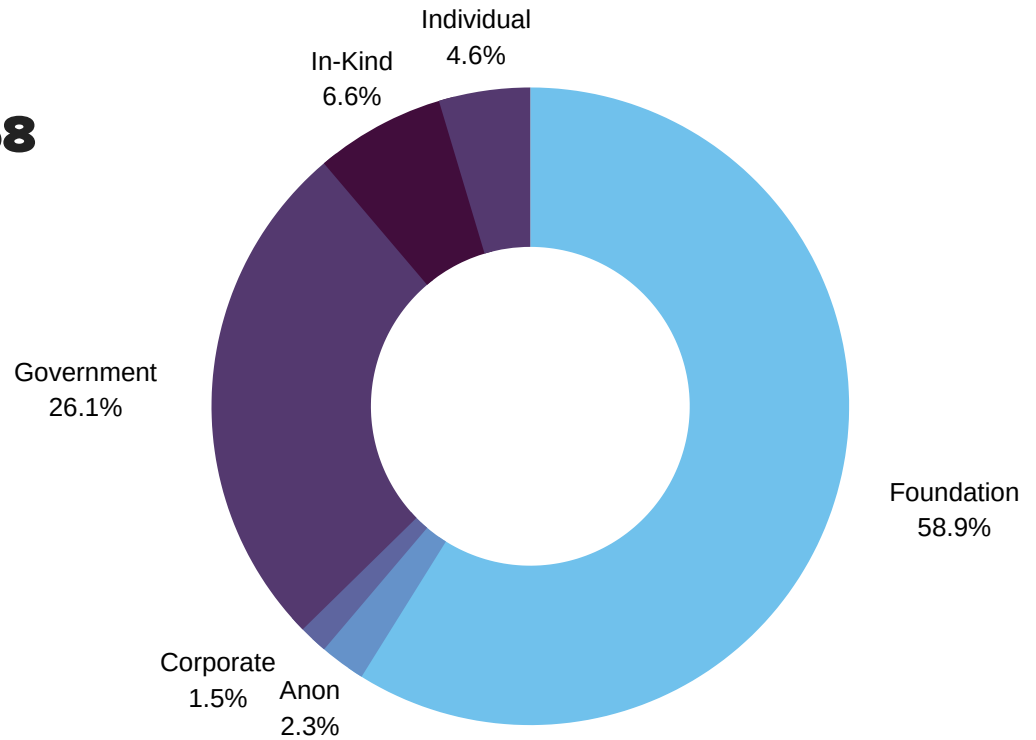
"The children coming to our border have suffered horrifying harm and some face death if they are forced to return to their home countries. While they are labeled as gang members, they are the ones fleeing the gangs in their homes. They deserve a chance to present their case with high quality and free legal representation."

Desireé Hernández

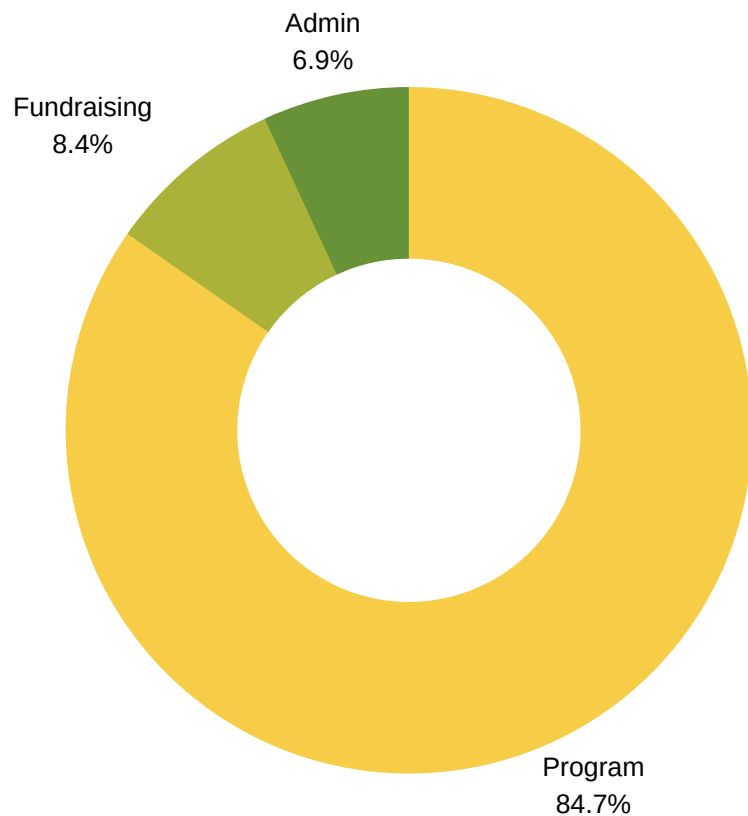
Deputy Executive Director at Safe Passage Project
Aspire for Equality, May 2019

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Revenue
\$4,639,258



Expenses
\$3,446,134



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