

## **Arizona Dream Act Coalition**

### **ADAC's Bio**

The Arizona DREAM Act Coalition is an immigrant youth-led organization focusing on the fight for higher education and immigrant rights. In 2006 Arizona passed Proposition 300, requiring undocumented youth to pay out-of-state tuition to attend college and made them ineligible to receive merit-based public scholarships. Prop 300 was the first law targeted at immigrant students. Many students dropped out of school and went deeper into the shadows. Yet, a small group of students from Arizona State University began a support group in which they were able to embrace their stories as immigrant youth. This group was the founder of the ADAC, whose members have long ago stepped out of the shadows and announced their status as “Undocumented and Unafraid.”

The work of the ADAC initially revolved around passage of the DREAM Act. The ADAC played a major part in mobilizing youth at the state and national level during the 2010 push for the DREAM Act. Due to the leadership of immigrant youth and the ADAC, the DREAM Act came closer than ever to becoming a reality—passing in the House of Representatives but falling short 5 votes in the Senate.

Since 2009 the ADAC has devoted itself to holding politicians accountable, increasing voter participation in the Latino community, and integrating immigrant youth to our educational systems and economy to the fullest extent possible. ADAC members were present in most Phoenix City elections in 2011 and the historic Recall of Russell Pearce. Various media outlets and organizations have also recognized members of the ADAC for their exceptional community service, commitment to higher education, and contributions in the fight for immigrant rights.

The Arizona DREAM Act Coalition remains a youth-based and youth-led organization. Although only some of our members are undocumented, all our members are definitely DREAMers. It is the vision of the Arizona DREAM Act Coalition to create a nation of fully educated and integrated immigrant youth. The ADAC hopes to realize this vision through a commitment to higher education, youth leadership development, and civic engagement.

## **Asian American Legal Advocacy Center**

### **Who We Are**

- The Asian American Legal Advocacy Center, Inc. (AALAC) of Georgia is the first non-profit law center dedicated to Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Asian-ethnic refugees (“Asian Americans”) in the Southeast.
- Our mission is to protect and promote the civil, social and economic rights of Asian Americans through public policy, legal education, community organizing and leadership development.
- We envision a social movement in the Southeast where individuals are fully empowered, active in civic life, and working together to promote equity and fair treatment for all. AALAC believes the only sustainable way to effect change is for Asian Americans to achieve full civic integration and work together on policies that impact our jobs, our health, our social welfare and our voting power.

## **Black Alliance for Just Immigration**

### **Mission and History**

BAJI is an education and advocacy group comprised of African Americans and black immigrants from Africa, Latin American and the Caribbean. It was founded in April 2006 in response to the massive outpouring of opposition of immigrants and their supporters to the repressive immigration bills then under consideration by the U.S. Congress.

Black activists in the Oakland/San Francisco Bay Area were called to action by Rev. Kelvin Sauls, a South African immigrant and Rev. Phillip Lawson, a long time Civil Rights leader and co-founder/co-chair of the California Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights.

BAJI also grew out of the efforts of the Priority Africa Network. PAN organizes Africa Diaspora Dialogues which have brought African Americans and black immigrants from Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America together to dialogue about the myths and stereotypes as well as the cultural, social and political issues that divide our communities.

BAJI provides the African American community with a progressive analysis and framework on immigration that links the interests of African Americans with those of immigrants of color. BAJI's analysis emphasizes the impact of racism and economic globalization on African American and immigrant communities as a basis for forging alliances across these communities.

## **Border Action Network**

### **Our Vision**

A humane and civil society that values healthy, just and vibrant border and immigrant communities.

### **Mission**

Border Action Network is a human rights organization in border and immigrant communities. Our mission is to promote safety, equality, dignity, understanding and justice within the human environment and across cultures regardless of race, sexual orientation, religious beliefs or country of origin.

### **What We Do (on another page)**

Border Action Network "Educates and Advocates" [🔗](#)

BAN has been working since 1999 to assist immigrants in our state. We form human rights committees to educate the community about our ever-changing laws and rights. We teach ESL, GED, and computer skills and have plans to grow more educational programs. BAN trains Human Rights Promoters to carry the work into their own communities. Each election year, we participate in statewide civic engagement campaigns, registering eligible voters and hosting town halls.

As advocates, we monitor our local, state, and national governments, speaking publicly about legislation we feel is unjust. We meet with Border Patrol, ICE, DOJ, and other officials to share "the other side of the story." [🔗](#)[🔗](#)

BAN also participates with many other human rights organizations throughout the southwest, sharing information and resources that can best combat the unjust negative climate that has grown throughout our region.

## **Florida Immigrant Coalition**

### **Mission & History**

The Florida Immigrant Coalition (FLIC) is a statewide coalition of more than 30 member organizations and over 100 allies, founded in 1998 and formally incorporated in 2004. We are led by our membership – grassroots and community organizations, farmworkers, youth, advocates, lawyers, unions and others.

More than an organization, FLIC has become a hub for a bold, agile and strategic multi-racial, intergenerational social movement. We work together for the fair treatment of all people, including immigrants. With staff in five

counties, and members throughout Florida, FLIC's leadership builds depth in local communities, breadth for statewide reach and national alignment.

Our unique power-building model has contributed to our movement's cohesion, direction, and impact. In a short period and with modest investment, we've evolved from episodic, tactical mobilizations to a more sophisticated, strategic and impactful organization. While still emerging, we have become a growing force in Florida.

## **Our Mission**

To amplify the power of immigrant communities to impact the root causes of inequality, defending and protecting basic human rights, including the right to live without fear.

## **Our Vision**

To usher in a new dawn, moving Florida in a more progressive direction, by becoming an organization rooted in the history of struggles, incorporating leadership of new immigrant generations and promotion of culture, so immigrants and other oppressed peoples can fully participate in a democracy where we can freely create, study, work, play, and love.

## **Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights**

### **About ICIRR**

ICIRR is dedicated to promoting the rights of immigrants and refugees to full and equal participation in the civic, cultural, social, and political life of our diverse society.

In partnership with our member organizations, the Coalition educates and organizes immigrant and refugee communities to assert their rights; promotes citizenship and civic participation; monitors, analyzes, and advocates on immigrant-related issues; and, informs the general public about the contributions of immigrants and refugees.

## **Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest**

### **Who We Are**

Nebraska Appleseed is a nonprofit organization that fights for justice and opportunity for all Nebraskans. We take a systemic approach to complex issues – such as child welfare, immigration policy, affordable healthcare and poverty – and we take our work wherever we believe we can do the most good, whether that's at the courthouse, in the statehouse or in the community.

### **What We Believe**

At Appleseed, we believe that every Nebraskan deserves a shot at the American Dream.

Our job is to help clear the way.

To work with the community to tear down those obstacles – discrimination, oppression and reckless indifference – that keep the poorest of us poor and further weaken those among us who are the most vulnerable.

At Appleseed, we fight for justice and opportunity for all.

And we take that fight wherever we think we can do the most good – whether that's at the courthouse, in the statehouse or on the streets of our communities.

We also recognize that fighting the good fight often means not fighting at all – but finding consensus and allies who support our cause. The best way to accomplish real change in Nebraska is by working together. The best way to build a stronger community is as a community.

These goals are daunting, we know.

The challenges are many. And there's nothing easy or simple about our mission.

But we don't give up. We never give up.

Because when you believe in justice – when you believe in your heart in the American Dream – you can't walk away from the fight.

## **New Mexico Dreamers in Action**

### **Mission**

New Mexico Dreamers In Action (NM DIA) is a statewide student-led organization whose mission is to achieve equal access to higher education for all people, regardless of immigration status.

We aim to address the inequities and obstacles faced by immigrant students and our families to develop a sustainable, grassroots movement, led by immigrant students, documented and undocumented, and allies. We use leadership development, community organizing, policy advocacy, alliance building, education and capacity building to pursue our mission at the local, state and national level.

## **New York Immigration Coalition**

### **Our Mission**

The New York Immigration Coalition aims to achieve a fairer and more just society that values the contributions of immigrants and extends opportunity to all. The NYIC promotes immigrants' full civic participation, fosters their leadership, and provides a unified voice and a vehicle for collective action for New York's diverse immigrant communities.

### **What we do (on another page)**

The New York Immigration Coalition is an umbrella policy and advocacy organization for nearly 200 groups in New York State that work with immigrants and refugees. The NYIC is a leading advocate for immigrant communities on the local, state, and national levels, serving one of the largest and most diverse newcomer populations in the United States.

The NYIC's multi-ethnic, multi-racial, and multi-sector membership base includes grassroots community organizations, nonprofit health and human services organizations, religious and academic institutions, labor unions, and legal, social, and economic justice organizations. The NYIC provides both a forum for immigrant groups to share their concerns and a vehicle for collective action to bring about positive social change locally and nationally.

Since its founding in 1987, the NYIC has evolved into a powerful advocacy voice, developing innovative policies, promoting and protecting the rights of immigrants and their family members, improving newcomers' access to services, developing leadership and capacity in immigrant communities, expanding civic participation, and mobilizing member groups to respond to emerging issues and needs.

## San Diego Dream Team

### **About Us**

The San Diego Dream Team strives for a society in which all immigrant contributions are valued, and where immigrants are treated fairly, equally, and with dignity, therefore individuals and families live without fear within their communities.

### **Mission**

The San Diego Dream Team is an organization led by immigrant youth that exists to organize and advocate social justice for immigrant communities. This is done by:

- 1) Working to pass local, statewide, and national legislation that will change the living conditions of immigrants
- 2) Empowering and informing individuals to seek and obtain resources in higher education
- 3) Building awareness in San Diego County of the recurring issues faced by youth in immigrant communities

The San Diego Dream Team is an official affiliate of United We Dream & part of the California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance

## South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center

**Mission Statement:** SC Appleseed fights for low income South Carolinians to overcome social, economic and legal injustice.

Although South Carolina Appleseed existed in one form or another for many years, starting as a subsidiary of South Carolina Legal Services, it came into its own in 1996. When Congress cut funding and placed restrictions on the types of work that the organization could do, the organization split from the Legal Services Corporation. Our Director started doing business space donated by the Pro Bono Program at the University of South Carolina. The South Carolina Bar Foundation, led by the late Joseph Shine, showed a commitment to systemic advocacy for the low income community by increasing funding to the organization. In 1998, we began an affiliation with the Appleseed Foundation and officially became the South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center.

Today, from those humble beginnings, we have an office in downtown Columbia and a staff of 4 full time attorneys, one part time attorney, a community organizer, a development associate and a full time office manager. Our attorneys provide multiple free and low cost trainings during the year touching on areas of significant need in the low income community. Our goal is to influence policymakers to ensure the law is fair, to educate the public and their advocates about the law, and to assist attorneys in bringing systemic litigation where the law is unfair.

## Student Immigrant Movement

### **Mission**

The Student Immigrant Movement (SIM) is a statewide immigrant youth-led organization based in Massachusetts. We identify, recruit and develop leaders in local cities and towns who are invested in improving their communities through relational building, leadership development, electoral organizing and using both strategic and motivational campaigns that build movement.

## United We Dream Network

### **Mission**

United We Dream is the largest immigrant youth-led organization in the nation, a powerful nonpartisan network made up of 52 affiliate organizations in 25 states. We organize and advocate for the dignity and fair treatment of immigrant youth and families, regardless of immigration status. UWD's current priority is to win citizenship for the entire undocumented community and end senseless deportations and abuses. We seek to address the inequities and obstacles faced by immigrant youth and believe that by empowering immigrant youth, we can advance the cause of the entire community—justice for all immigrants.

We're driven by and accountable to our thousands of members across the country who make up our sustainable and robust grassroots network. We believe we can build power by organizing at the local, regional, and national levels and aim to provide tools and resources to support our leaders and member organizations, as well as create meaningful alliances with other advocacy organizations.

In 2012, we successfully pressured President Obama and won the deferred action policy—providing protection from deportation and work permits for young people without papers—and leading a diverse immigrant rights' movement in our biggest success in over 25 years. In 2013 and beyond, our network has committed to relentlessly fight for our families and communities and win a roadmap to citizenship and fair treatment for all 11 million undocumented Americans. (Read our full platform for change here and our 20-point plan for immigration reform here.) As we've proven, we have the power to redefine what is possible and win.