



UnLocal

ANNUAL REPORT

2021



A MESSAGE FROM TERRY LAWSON, OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year marked my one-year anniversary at UnLocal as Executive Director, which has been an incredible journey so far. I'm so proud of what we have accomplished together, and to work alongside the growing team at UnLocal. I hope you take a moment to learn about our 2021 achievements highlighted in this report. I look forward to UnLocal making an even bigger impact for immigrant communities in 2022.

MISSION STATEMENT

UnLocal aims to address the fundamental injustices and structural inequities that disproportionately impact immigrant communities. We are a community-centered non-profit organization that provides direct immigration legal representation, community education, outreach, and advocacy for New York's undocumented immigrants. UnLocal is dedicated to creating sustainable structures that build collective power and allow us to flourish.

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OUR LEGAL TEAM

In 2021, UnLocal fought to obtain asylum for immigrants fleeing violence, persecution, and political upheaval. We also helped clients gain employment authorization, DACA, naturalization, lawful permanent residency, and humanitarian parole and connected clients to mental health resources, social services, and case management support. In total, we handled 1290 legal matters in 2021.

UnLocal continued to provide specialized legal services through our Post Order Defense (POD) Team and the Queer Immigrant Justice Project (QIJ), guided by our philosophy of tailoring our services to address the needs identified by our communities.



POST ORDER DEFENSE (POD) TEAM

UnLocal's Post Order Defense (POD) team collaborates with Make the Road New York and the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) through the Rapid Response Legal Collaborative to assist people removal orders who are detained and at risk of deportation.



POD uses a comprehensive approach of legal representation, social work support, and community education and advocacy to represent each client. In 2021, POD helped to free seven clients from detention and reopened numerous removal orders, making it possible for our clients to seek permanent immigration status.

#FREEJAVIER CAMPAIGN

In January 2021, POD launched the #FreeJavier campaign to stop the deportation of Javier Castillo Maradiaga. Despite his DACA eligibility, ICE planned to deport Javier on the heels of the one-hundred day deportation moratorium ordered by the Biden Administration. POD acted quickly by filing legal briefs, organizing community gatherings, creating petitions, speaking to the press, and galvanizing the support of elected officials. Thanks to the collective efforts of POD, Javier's family and community members, and our partners, Javier was released in March 2021. His story was featured on MSNBC, The New Yorker, The New York Times, NPR, Univisión, PBS, the New York Daily News, Pix11, News 12, and more.

#FREEJORGE CAMPAIGN

In June 2021, POD and The Queer Detainee Empowerment Project (QDEP) organized the #FreeJorge campaign to demand the release of our client, Jorge Rondon Torrealba, a former DACA recipient and proud member of the queer community. QDEP rallied in Washington, D.C. calling to #EndTransDetention and uplifted Jorge's story outside the White House. The following month, we organized a community gathering in Foley Square to demand Jorge's release from ICE detention, spearheaded a letter-writing campaign, and drafted a petition and social media toolkit with original artwork, graphics, statements from Jorge, and scripts for email and phone actions. In August 2021, Jorge was granted a motion to reopen his case and is now able to seek asylum in Immigration Court.

THE QUEER IMMIGRANT JUSTICE PROJECT (QIJP)

In 2021, UnLocal's Queer Immigrant Justice Project (QIJP) continued to represent LGBTQIA+ immigrant communities, specifically those who are BIPOC, transgender, and gender nonbinary. QIJP provided holistic legal services and connected clients to health care, housing, therapy, transitioning support, and more.

This year, QIJP developed new partnerships with AAPI grassroots organizations, the Caribbean Equality Project, TransLatinx, and the Tent Partnership for Refugees, and continued our work with Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, SAFE, QDEP, and others to expand our reach with the LGBTQIA+ community.



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The Education and Outreach (E+O) team continued to use education to inform clients and community members about pressing issues and connect them to available resources and opportunities. In 2021, E+O hosted a total of 70 in-person and virtual presentations, reaching 2,400 individuals, on topics ranging from the Excluded Workers Fund, unemployment benefit, changing immigration policies, Covid-19 updates, the New York State Dream Act (NYSDA), tax resources, and more.



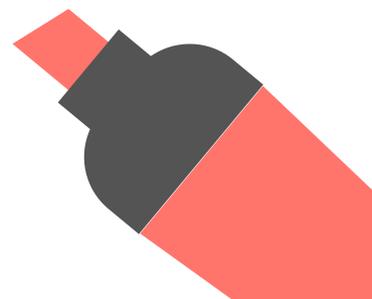
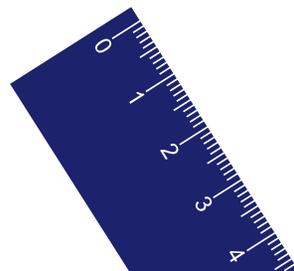
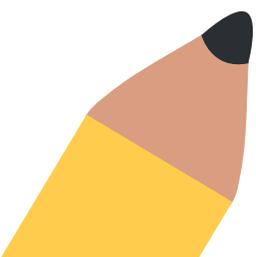
THE EXCLUDED WORKERS FUND

In June 2021, the New York State Department of Labor selected UnLocal to assist individuals with the New York State's Excluded Worker Fund (EWF) for those excluded from federal pandemic relief. UnLocal provided extensive information and hosted several presentations on how to apply. We screened individuals for application eligibility, and we submitted numerous applications, resulting in awards of \$90K for our clients and community members.



THE NEW YORK STATE DREAM ACT

Many undocumented students believe higher education is unattainable because of their immigration status. This is simply not true. In 2021, UnLocal taught hundreds of students and educators about the New York State Dream Act (NYSDA), which enables undocumented students and others to apply for tuition assistance for college. We guided students through the NYSDA application process and connected over 200 students to this financial assistance.



CLIENT STORIES

LIVING AN IDENTITY-AFFIRMING LIFE

UnLocal represented a Ghanaian man subjected to extreme persecution for his sexual orientation and whose mother was murdered by a mob. UnLocal supported our client with critical emotional and social support throughout the entirety of his case, and carefully prepared him for his asylum hearing, which he won in July 2021.

LAND RIGHTS ACTIVIST FROM GUATEMALA

UnLocal represented a land rights activist from Guatemala in his asylum hearing, during which he passionately described his work to protect communities from land grabs by mining companies, as well as the deep and complicated connection between private mining companies and the Guatemalan government. As a result of his activism, he was kidnapped and subjected to a false execution. He survived and fled immediately thereafter. More than three years after fleeing Guatemala, his case was finally heard. His testimony was so compelling that even the prosecutor agreed he was eligible for asylum.

POLITICAL ACTIVIST FROM VENEZUELA

UnLocal represented a political activist from Venezuela who was deeply engaged in the opposition movement against Nicolas Maduro. As a result of her activism, our client was beaten unconscious, shot at, and nearly killed. She and her family lived in hiding for six months before being able to flee the country. As part of the new administration's "designated docket," which accelerates deportations proceedings, we had to prepare and litigate her case within six months of first meeting. Following her compelling testimony, the Immigration Judge granted asylum to her, her two children, and her husband. They are on their way to stability and success in the United States.

ADVOCACY

In 2021, UnLocal advocated for the shutting down of ICE detention centers and closing loopholes in NYC's detainer laws that lead to collaboration with ICE. We signed petitions and met with elected officials to pressure them to end ICE contracts with New York jails. We believe all people, including those with migrant backgrounds, have the right to live a fulfilling life without fear of having their lives uprooted at any given moment.

UnLocal also supported the Break the Shackles Coalition's efforts to block companies from using unscrupulous practices to track immigrants released from detention with ankle monitors. It is unnecessarily cruel to submit individuals to such humiliating treatment. UnLocal will continue to help with any efforts to stop predatory companies from profiting off of people's hardships.



COMMUNITY EVENTS



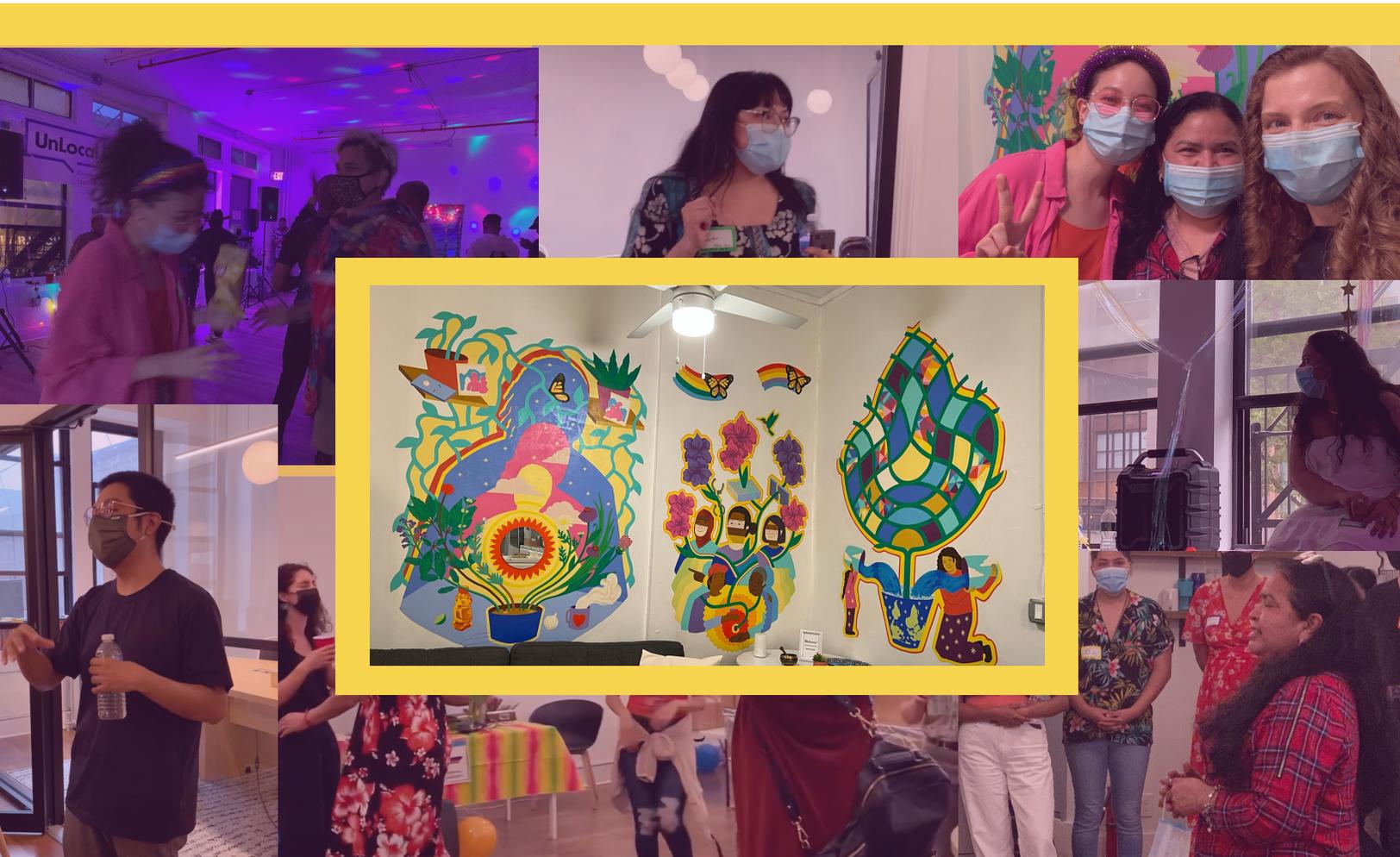
UNLOCAL SPRINGS FORWARD



This year, we organized the UnLocal Springs Forward campaign to celebrate our commitment to Health and Wellbeing, Inclusivity and Interconnectedness, and the Radical Imagining of our Futures. These three themes inspired the UnLocal Mural Project spearheaded by Intake Paralegal Eva Mayhabal Davis and Art Educator Angel Garcia, who facilitated art workshops with staff, clients, and community members. UnLocal Springs Forward was a community event where we unveiled our new mural and shared a fun evening of dancing, music and food. We also enjoyed a spoken word performance and a ceremonial dance by Cetiliztli Nauhcampa Quetzalcoatl in Xochitlan.

PRIDE

UnLocal also hosted a PRIDE gathering with our LGBTQIA+ immigrant clients where former QJP clients performed, sold their art, and participated in our annual celebration.



FUNDRAISERS AND CAMPAIGNS

TOGETHER WE GROW

This year's Fall Fundraiser, Together We Grow, showcased the growth of our team and raised over \$100K to support work. The campaign spotlighted Educator Diana Castillo, Social Work intern Melissa Magallanes, Immigrant Justice Corps Community Fellow Assata Davis, Social Media and Communications Strategist Pamela Benitez, our five new board members, and the new renovations to our office space.



UNLOCAL RUNS NYC!

Our remarkable runners – Michele Lampach, Christian Diaz, Gerardo Mendez, Brennan McGrath, and Robert Dalmau – ran 26.2 miles in the 50th Annual New York City Marathon, raising over \$18K for UnLocal. We are touched knowing that we have dedicated supporters who would go the extra mile to support our vision for immigrant justice. We cannot thank them enough!



WHAT'S NEW?

IMMIGRANT WELLNESS TEAM

In 2021, UnLocal created the Immigrant Wellness team (IWT). The IWT includes a full-time social worker, interns, and off-site supervisors. IWT connects undocumented immigrants with critical social and mental health services. UnLocal Social Worker Jackie Cruz provides emotional counseling to immigrants being held in detention, connects them to health services, creates a post-release plan with clients, and helps attorneys locate important records. In 2021, the IWT supported 42 clients with social work and therapeutic services.

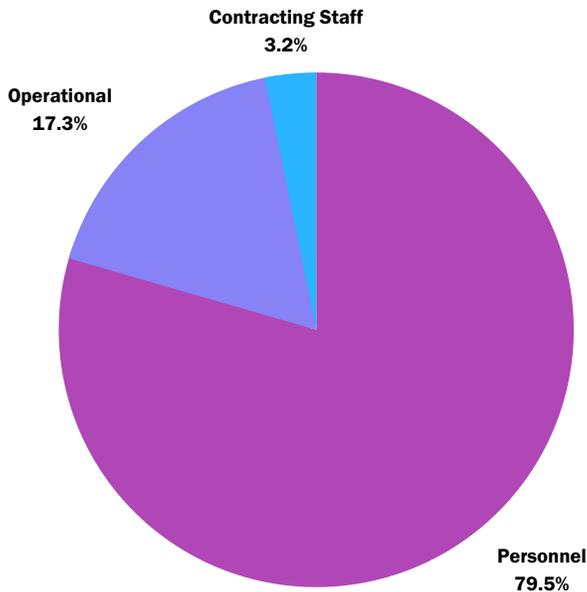


RENOVATED OFFICE SPACE

UnLocal renovated our office to create a space where our staff feels comfortable to work and where our clients have privacy. Envisioning a place that reflects our team's vision for growth and our commitment to the communities we serve, we installed private consultation rooms and a community and outreach room that also doubles as a space for us to hold virtual court hearings. With more team members opting for hybrid work schedules, we designed an open floor plan to accommodate our team members.



FINANCIALS



Personnel (79.4%): Personnel includes staff salaries, fringe benefits, and payroll.

Operational Expenses (17.3%): Operational expenses include training for staff, shipping and mailing case files, research on cases, translation services for clients, and office expenses.

Contracting staff (3.2%): Contracting independent contractors we hire to assist UnLocal with our work.

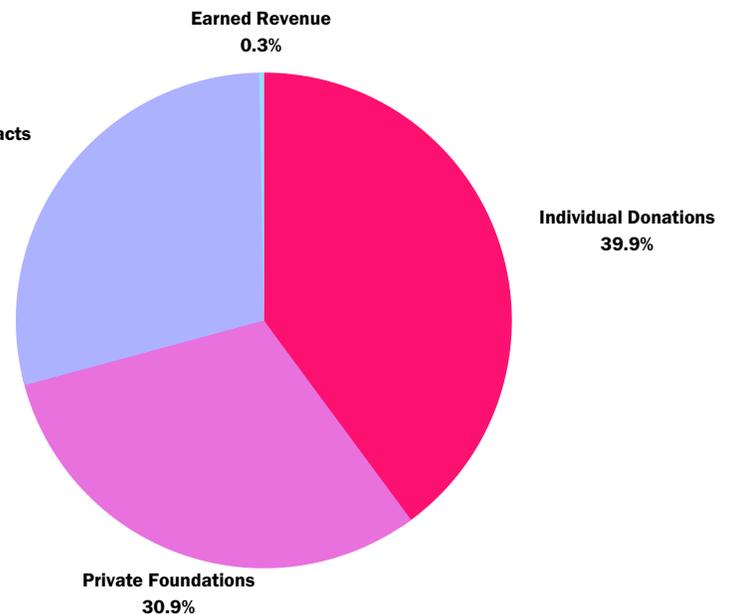
SOURCES OF FUNDING

In 2021, UnLocal received funding through individual donations, government funding, private foundations and earned revenue.

- Individual donations: \$675,000: 40%
- Private foundations: \$519,916: 31%
- Municipal awards and contracts: \$482,386: 29%
- Earned revenue: \$4,500: 0.3%

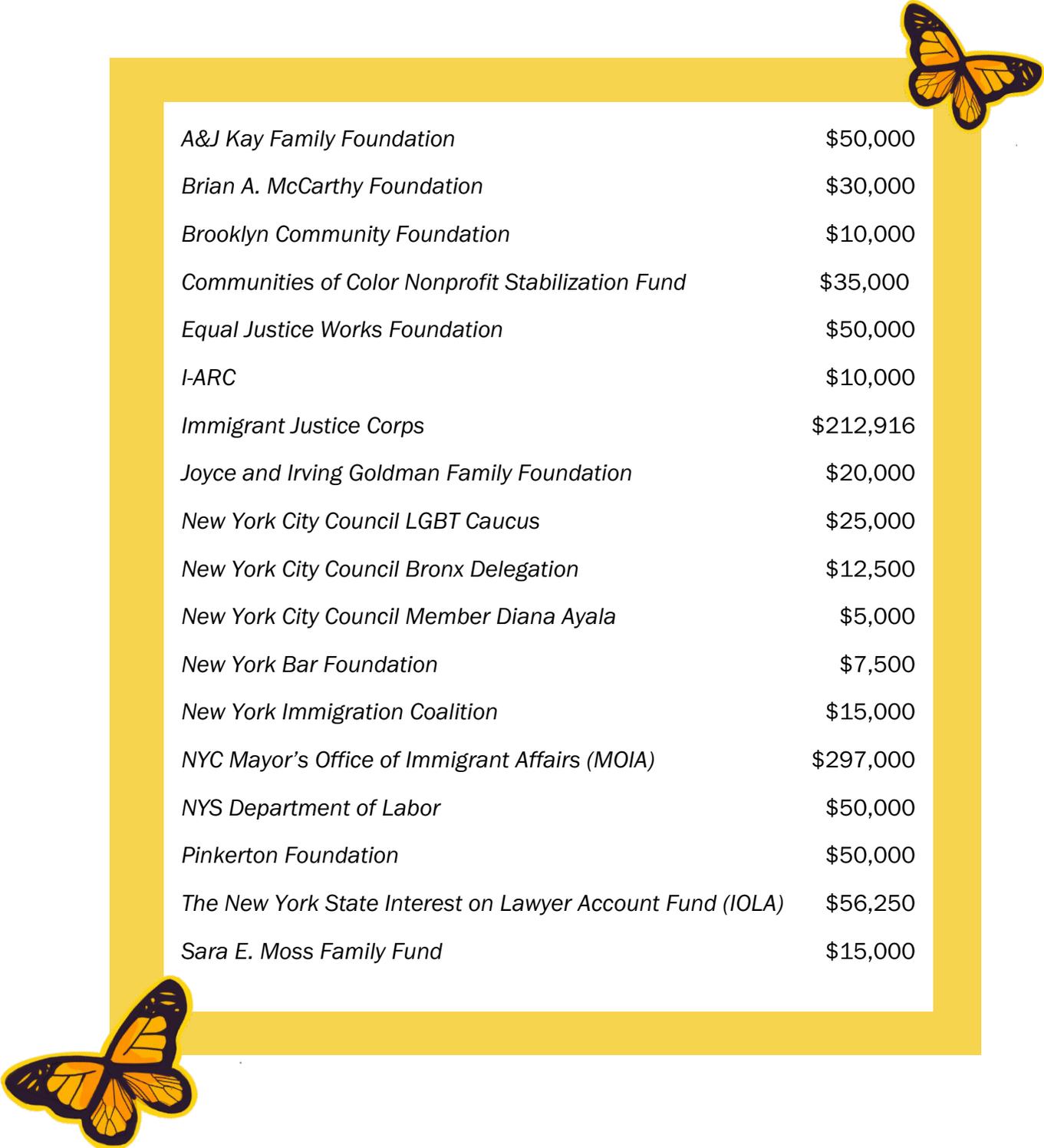
\$1,681,802

Municipal Awards and Contracts
28.9%



THANK YOU

UnLocal is grateful for all the support we receive from our donors, partner organizations, and community members. We cannot accomplish our work without your support. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our mission in 2021.



<i>A&J Kay Family Foundation</i>	\$50,000
<i>Brian A. McCarthy Foundation</i>	\$30,000
<i>Brooklyn Community Foundation</i>	\$10,000
<i>Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund</i>	\$35,000
<i>Equal Justice Works Foundation</i>	\$50,000
<i>I-ARC</i>	\$10,000
<i>Immigrant Justice Corps</i>	\$212,916
<i>Joyce and Irving Goldman Family Foundation</i>	\$20,000
<i>New York City Council LGBT Caucus</i>	\$25,000
<i>New York City Council Bronx Delegation</i>	\$12,500
<i>New York City Council Member Diana Ayala</i>	\$5,000
<i>New York Bar Foundation</i>	\$7,500
<i>New York Immigration Coalition</i>	\$15,000
<i>NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA)</i>	\$297,000
<i>NYS Department of Labor</i>	\$50,000
<i>Pinkerton Foundation</i>	\$50,000
<i>The New York State Interest on Lawyer Account Fund (IOLA)</i>	\$56,250
<i>Sara E. Moss Family Fund</i>	\$15,000