Less than half of the people facing deportation cases in Florida have legal representation. Because undocumented immigration is not a crime, immigrants, even children, do not have a right to an attorney. Local governments can partner with legal aid foundations and law firms to ensure immigrants have the legal advice necessary to navigate our incredibly complex immigration system.

**BEST PRACTICES**

- Establish an Immigrant Legal Aid Program to provide legal counsel to local community members navigating the immigration system.
- Establish an Immigrant Legal Aid Fund to help fund legal aid services for local immigrants.

**WHY?**

- According to the Vera Institute of Justice, a staggering 77 percent of immigration court cases in 2019 had no legal representation.
- Studies have shown that immigrants with legal representation are up to 10 times more likely to establish their right to remain in the United States than those without representation.

**TRAILBLAZERS**

Broward County and West Palm Beach provide funding for local legal aid societies to provide legal counsel to people subject to immigration detainers or those in detention.

**BUT WHAT ABOUT...**

**Cost**

- Public-private partnerships can offset the cost. The local economic impact of immigrants being ensnared in the system outweighs this cost.