



## PROTECTING THE RIGHTS AND ASSETS OF IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

Appleseed is a Network of 18 public interest justice Centers in the United States and Mexico. The Network focuses on a variety of social, economic, and legal justice issues, bringing a non-partisan evidence-based approach to evaluating problems. Appleseed, working with stakeholders across the spectrum, uses its findings to propose and advocate practical, achievable solutions. This document summarizes Appleseed's primary work in this area.

### OVERVIEW OF TOPIC AREA

Appleseed advocates for accuracy, legitimacy, and efficiency in the U.S. immigration system, especially in proceedings and operations within immigration courts. Our work has also focused on the repatriation of Mexican children and the efficacy of social services for that population. We also provide vital resources and information to help immigrant families and those that work with them prepare for emergencies.



### COLLABORATIVE NETWORK ACTIVITIES

The Appleseed Network Immigration Working Group is working on several projects to advance equal justice for immigrants. With the support of Latham & Watkins, the Group is working on a project around systemic reform of the immigration bond hearing system. The Group is also working to update one of Appleseed/Chicago Appleseed's signature reports, "Reimagining the Immigration Court Assembly Line: Transformative Change for the Immigration Justice System."

Appleseed is also working with Latham & Watkins to survey standby guardianship policies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and US territories. Standby guardianship policies provide legal avenues for parents to ensure their children are taken care of in the event of terminal illness, detention, deportation, or other administrative reasons.

### SELECT CURRENT PROJECTS

#### PROTECTING ASSETS AND CHILD CUSTODY IN THE FACE OF DEPORTATION

In 2018, Appleseed edited and updated its signature Manual for immigrants facing deportation titled "Protecting Assets and Child Custody in the Face of Deportation: A Guide for Practitioners Assisting Immigrant Families." Appleseed is working with Centers across the country and in Mexico to distribute the Manual, train practitioners to use it, and produce user-friendly materials that immigrant families can use to prepare for emergency situations. The Manual and related materials have already reached more than 150,000 people and organizations across the US and Mexico.

#### SUPPORTING SAFETY AND DUE PROCESS

Kansas Appleseed recently formed the Kansas Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. The coalition works together to support safety, financial access, and due process for immigrants. This year, they have focused on ending family separation policies, fighting the proposed 'public charge' rule, and addressing voter suppression.

## **PROVIDING RESOURCES AND TRAINING TO IMMIGRANT FAMILIES AND LEGAL PRACTITIONERS**

Louisiana Appleseed created a pamphlet titled “Plan is to Have a Plan” summarizing the content in Appleseed's Deportation Manual and made it available in both English and Spanish. Staff distributed over 10,200 pamphlets throughout the state in 2018. Louisiana Appleseed is also working on hosting a CLE to train attorneys on navigating the immigration court system by using another Appleseed publication titled "Getting Off the Assembly Line: Overcoming Immigration Court Obstacles in Individual Cases." This guide is intended to supplement the basic rules and procedures of immigration court with tips from experienced practitioners on how to deal with some of the peculiarities of these courts, including interpretation, videoconferencing, and a confounding document discovery process. Akin Gump, which provided pro bono counsel on the guide, is conducting training with several Appleseed Centers.

## **DELIVERING COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING AND SERVICES**

Nebraska Appleseed conducted 8 Community Emergency Response trainings in 2018 for communities preparing for large-scale immigration enforcement actions. They were also part of a coordinated multiagency response to a raid conducted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in O'Neill, Nebraska in August. They supported community members in their media efforts and helped connect them to elected officials, monitored conditions at a detention facility, and recruited pro bono support for detained community members.

## **SELECT PRIOR WORK**

### **2016**

Appleseed published “Sending Money Home: The Path Forward,” the results of a survey of remittance practices based on data collected by five Appleseed Centers (Connecticut Appleseed, Kansas Appleseed, Nebraska Appleseed, Texas Appleseed and Washington Appleseed). Appleseed also published “Sending Money Home: In Their Own Words,” the results of focus groups and story collection of immigrants’ stories about general financial practices and barriers based on interviews conducted by the same five Appleseed Centers.

### **2013**

Working with U.S. Senator Chris Coons, Chicago Appleseed and Appleseed successfully saw the approval of an amendment to S.744, the Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill passed by the U.S. Senate, which mandated that immigrants should not have to file Freedom of Information Act requests in Immigration Court to receive their own records.

### **2012**

Appleseed and Chicago Appleseed (with the support of Akin Gump and Latham & Watkins) released an update to the original “Assembly Line” report titled “Reimagining the Immigration Court Assembly Line: Transformative Change for the Immigration Justice System.”

### **2011**

Mexico Appleseed and Appleseed published “Children at the Border: The Screening, Protection and Repatriation of Mexican Unaccompanied Minors,” which focused on U.S. compliance with the Trafficking Victim Protection Reauthorization Act and the Mexican government’s treatment of repatriated minors. This report won an award from UNICEF Mexico in 2012.

### **2009**

Chicago Appleseed and Appleseed published “Assembly Line Injustice: Blueprint to Reform America’s Immigration Courts,” focused on the operation of the immigration courts, followed by direct advocacy with the Executive Office for Immigration Review, the agency responsible for the immigration courts and the Board of Immigration Appeals.