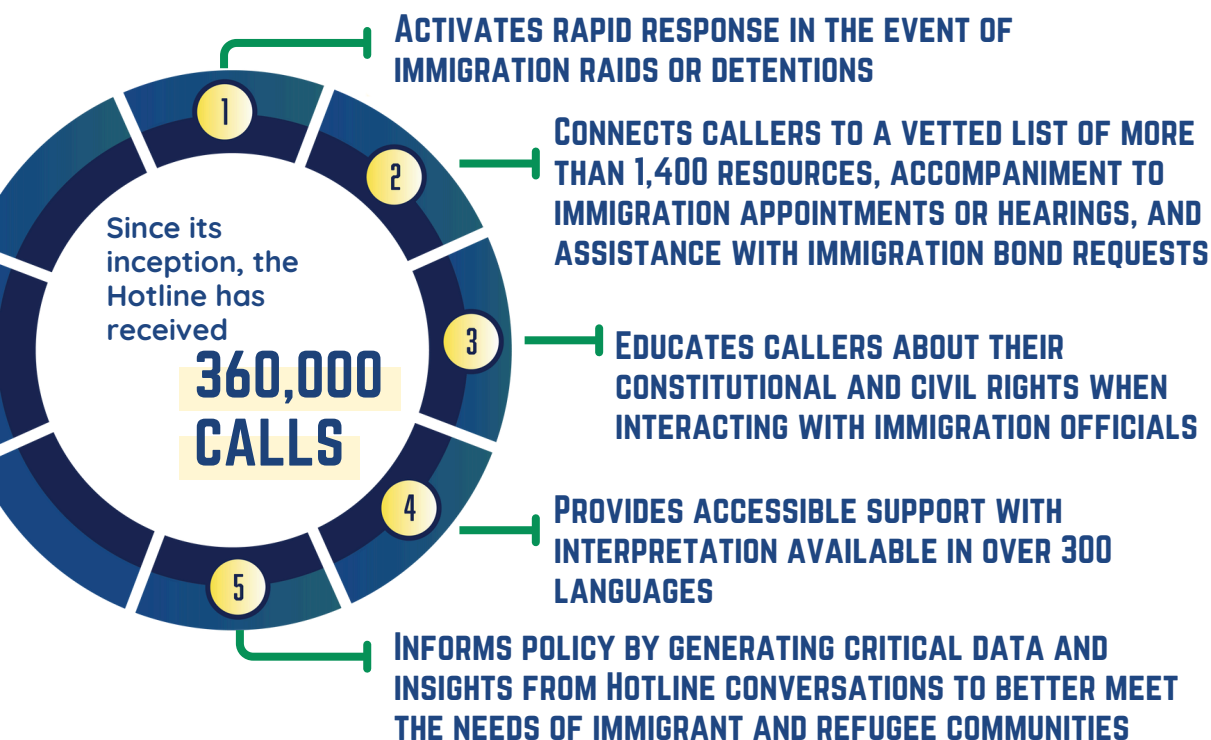


FUNDING FOR THE DEPORTATION DEFENSE HOTLINE

How does the WAISN Deportation Defense Hotline help immigrants?

The Hotline provides immigration and civil legal aid referrals, responds to immigration enforcement activity across the state, activates community support during raids, connects immigrants to over 1,200 vetted resources, and serves as a crucial mechanism to document ICE activity in our state, identify trends across communities, and provide a pathway to report violations of civil liberties, constitutional rights, and state law.



What is the funding ask?

As this federal administration continues to aggressively target immigrant communities with an increase in violent immigration enforcement activity and detentions, we call on Washington state leaders to **prioritize investing in community-based deportation defense infrastructure by allocating \$5 million in funding in the 2026 supplemental budget for the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN) Deportation Defense Hotline** and ask that these be ongoing funds.

Hotline Caller: “I called the WAISN Hotline in distress because my dad had been detained for two months but we lost contact with him and when we called the detention center they told us he was not in the system. I was so scared because so I’d heard of so many people who had disappeared. The Hotline helped us look him up and tell me that he had been transferred to a facility in another state and they were able to share information for how to contact him. I couldn’t thank the Hotline enough.”

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Why is investment necessary for the success of the Hotline?

The intensity of need, especially among undocumented callers and those in mixed-status households, **now requires expanded staffing and specialized support to meet this moment effectively and sustainably.**

During high call volume, we pivot by triaging and prioritizing calls related to ongoing immigration enforcement, detentions, Accompaniment requests, and bond fund applications. **This inevitably means that some calls go unanswered**, leaving Hotline organizers unable to connect people to community resources, like providing information about their rights when dealing with landlords, employers, or in other situations, or providing other information they need not only to survive, but to thrive.

A deeper investment in the Hotline will fortify the infrastructure of this crucial statewide resource, increase access to life-saving information, and ensure that families in Washington have somewhere they can call in the face of rampant and unaccountable immigration enforcement that is increasingly violating the due process rights and other civil and constitutional rights of all Washingtonians.

What does it take to operate the Hotline?

- Bilingual organizers who are trained to provide culturally, trauma-informed support
- Operations and People Development management
- Systems and Data management
- Directing and coordinating WAISN's statewide Rapid Response organizing efforts
- Language Justice organizing and coordination
- Coordinating requests for Accompaniment and Fair Fight Bond Fund support
- Maintaining the WAISN Resource Finder

Hotline Caller: "I called the Hotline to get connected to food assistance. Even though I have legal status in this country, I have been afraid to go to the grocery store because people are being racially profiled. My family and I don't want to go through this trauma of getting detained by ICE and be victims of the violence they are using to detain people just for the color of our skin. I wanted to learn if there were any food banks that deliver food like they did during the pandemic."

Impact by the Numbers:

In its history, the Hotline has received over 360,000 calls from close to 100,000 people — families, neighbors, and workers who are part of our community.

In 2025, the Hotline received **over 11,900 calls from over 7,500 unique callers:**

- This is **more than twice the number** of calls received from the year before
- In addition to the calls received, the Hotline team made **4,080 outbound calls** — which include returning missed calls and conducting follow-up calls — and conducted **2,384 intakes, which represents community members and families we have connected with and provided support to**

Since Jan. 20, 2025, The Hotline has

- **Logged 825 reports** of immigration enforcement activity
- **Connected over 260 people** to support with accompaniment to an immigration appointment
- **Sent 305 direct referrals to attorneys** to conduct legal intakes of people detained at the Northwest ICE Processing Center.