

DEPORTATION DEFENSE LEGISLATION

What are we advocating for?

In response to the harms our communities are experiencing, WAISN and our partners are supporting bills that protect the personal data and civil rights of all Washingtonians and ensure that government agencies uphold Washington's values as a welcoming state.

Continued funding for the Washington Migrant and Asylum-Seeker Support Program:

Include \$25M in funding for the vital support services and allow this funding to be flexible to respond to emerging needs that our communities are facing.

Immigrant Workers Protection Act (HB 2105/SB 5852):

Require employers to notify employees when U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement plans to conduct inspections or audits in the workplace, so workers are not caught off guard and can better exercise their rights.

Banning All Law Enforcement from Wearing Masks (SB 5855/HB 2173):

Ban all law enforcement, including local, state, and federal law enforcement, from wearing masks and requiring them to have identification while conducting operations in the state.

End State Investment in Private Detention (SB 6109):

End any current investment and prevent future investment in companies that are involved in private detention.

Driver Privacy Act (SB 6002/HB 2332):

Create needed regulations for the use of automated license plate reader (ALPR) surveillance technology by state and local agencies, including limits on which agencies can use ALPRs, how long they can retain the data and who can access that data.

Attorney General Civil Investigative Demands (HB 2161/SB 5925):

Clarify the Washington Attorney General's Office investigative authority to uphold and enforce our state laws, such as Keep Washington Working and Courts Open to All.

Secure and Accountable Federal Enforcement (SAFE) Act (SB 5906):

Expand and codify model policies developed by the state attorney general regarding cooperation with federal immigration enforcement at or near K-12 schools, higher education institutions, and publicly operated health care facilities. And extend protections for people working at, visiting, or seeking services from hospitals, childcare and early learning facilities, and election offices.

Sheriffs' Eligibility & Standards (SB 5974):

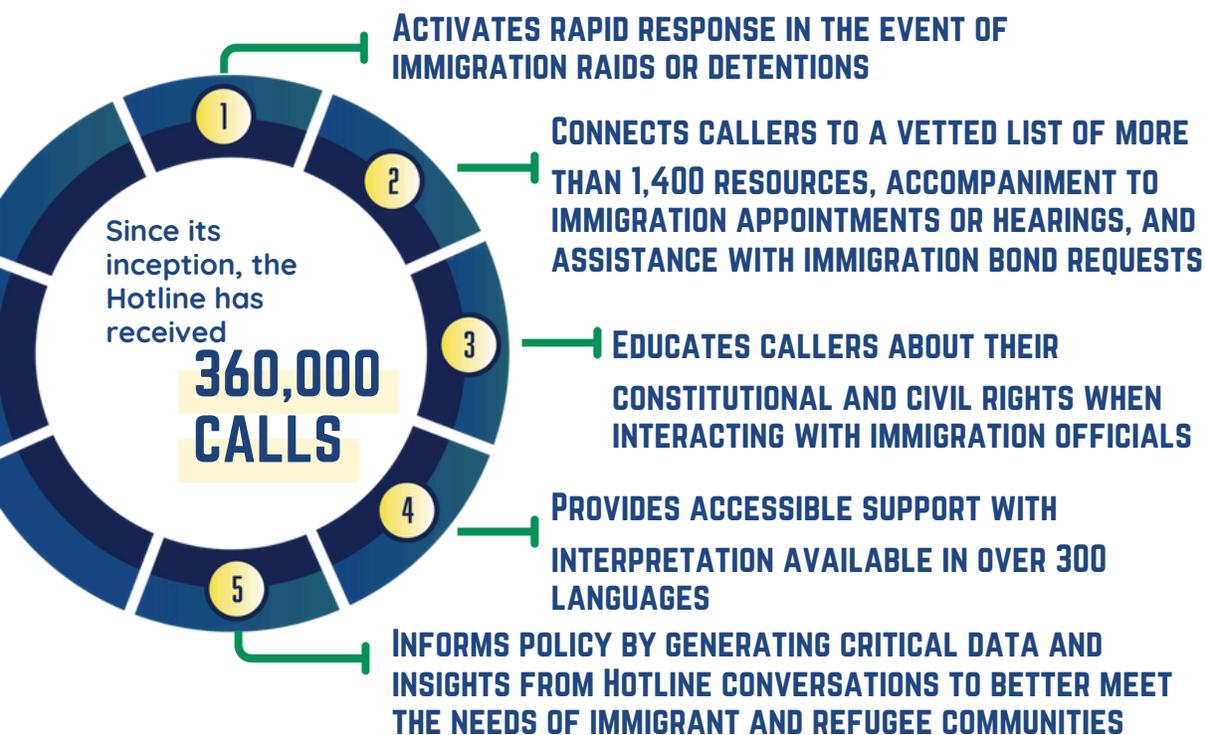
Modernize and strengthen state laws addressing sheriffs', chiefs' and marshalls' eligibility and background check requirements, accountability, use of volunteers, and the duties of sheriffs, which would support the enforcement of existing state protections.



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.”

FUNDING FOR THE DEPORTATION DEFENSE HOTLINE

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.

HEALTH EQUITY FOR IMMIGRANTS

Apple Health Expansion represents a critical lifeline for thousands of Washingtonians who are otherwise excluded from health coverage. The program has begun to close long-standing gaps in access to care for immigrant and refugee communities, ensuring that people can seek medical attention without delay, fear, or financial hardship. **These gains must not be reversed.**

At present, Apple Health Expansion provides coverage to about **9,000** residents across Washington. While the need for care extends far beyond this number, maintaining the program's current funding and structure is essential to preserving continuity of care for those already enrolled. **Any reduction in funding or restructuring of the program would create instability, disrupt provider relationships, and place individuals at risk of losing access to essential health services.**

What is community asking for?

- We ask that the legislature maintain current funding for Apple Health Expansion (AHE) and expand the program to cover everyone who is on the waitlist to provide health care coverage to Washington residents who otherwise do not have access to insurance. Many immigrants in Washington still do not have access to healthcare, even though there is a high level of need.
We ask that we maintain the Apple Health Expansion program as a Managed Care Organization (MCO) program. The MCO program offers a more comprehensive and quality network of providers, compared to the proposed fee for service model that would weaken care coordination and reduce quality of care for the people this program serves. Fee for service and funding reductions disproportionately harm people with chronic illnesses and disabilities.
People deserve clear, advance notice if their personal data could be at risk. We ask that the Health Care Authority is directed and authorized to inform current AHE enrollees and prospective enrollees about the
- potential data sharing risks involved in participating in the current program.

