

# FY2024 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

<b>Organization Name:</b>	Pisgah Legal Services		
<b>Project Name:</b>	Justice For All Program		
<b>Reporting Quarter:</b> (Check one)			Quarter 1 (July 1, 2023 - September 30, 2023)
			Quarter 2 (October 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023)
	X		Quarter 3 (January 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024)
			Quarter 4 (April 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024)

## Narrative summary of grant related activities

Please provide a brief summary (no more than 1500 characters). You may attach supplemental documents if needed.

<b>Quarter 1</b>	<p>Pisgah Legal Services has provided legal services to 581 families, helping 1,180 people in the first quarter of the grant. In the 47 cases closed for Buncombe County immigrants this past quarter, we helped provided representation to 25 clients to help them obtain legal status and/or employment authorization. The vast majority of the 581 cases Pisgah Legal provided assistance on this quarter were for help with immigration-related issues. However, the remaining cases are for immigrants seeking assistance with issues across Pisgah Legal's areas of practice, including housing, health, domestic and interpersonal violence, employment, and consumer law. In addition to the 47 cases closed for Buncombe County immigrants we helped to obtain legal status or employment authorization, Pisgah Legal closed 60 cases in which we helped immigrant clients secure driver's licenses or identification cards, prepare wills, avoid eviction, obtain child custody and child support, escape violence, protect essential property, stop illegal creditor harassment, and otherwise manage their limited resources.</p>
<b>Quarter 2</b>	<p>Pisgah Legal Services has provided legal services to 647 families, helping 2,071 people in the two quarters of the grant. Of the 26 cases closed for Buncombe County immigrants this past quarter, 57% were related to obtaining legal immigration status and the other 43% of cases were related to obtaining employment authorization. For the cases related to employment authorization, 37% specifically obtained employment authorization for domestic violence victims. In addition to working cases directly for our clients, Pisgah Legal's immigration team along with the assistance of a local pro bono attorney have two pending cases against the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services related to U Visas. Only 10,000 U Visas are set aside each year, which are for immigrant victims of crimes who have cooperated with law enforcement. Currently, the waitlist is 15 years and growing. There are, however, interim benefits written into the regulatory framework that immigrants should be receiving if they get an interim review designation. These benefits have been taking 5 years or longer. This practice is unreasonable and harming Pisgah Legal's clients (among all immigrants on the U Visa waitlist) and causing more work for our attorneys, which is why they sued. In December, the government agreed to begin giving most of the 175 clients in one of the lawsuits their interim benefits, which is great news for our clients and offers positive signs for U Visa petitioners across the country.</p>

<b>Quarter 3</b>	<p>Pisgah Legal Services has provided legal services to 757 families, helping 2,377 people in three quarters of the grant. Pisgah Legal closed 60 cases for immigrants during the quarter, providing representation and/or advice on a wide range of legal issues. We closed 12 cases for Buncombe County immigrants related to immigration status or employment authorization, and provided representation to helping 10 of those clients obtain employment authorization or legal status. Pisgah Legal also provided legal advice and obtained work authorization for an additional 43 Buncombe County clients whose cases remain open as they await further progress on their path to legal status.</p>
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## Progress toward annual goals

Measure	Annual Goal	Actual Results (Enter Data) Please only include new data for the specific quarter				Progress toward Annual Goal
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
# of Buncombe County people (immigrants and their children) helped by the Justice for All program	1390	1880	191	306		2377
# of Buncombe County cases handled (closed and pending)	485	581	66	110		757
# of Buncombe County cases handled (closed and pending) through this grant	N/A	203	23	39		265
# of closed Buncombe County cases supported through this grant	32	11	9	4		24
Success rate obtaining a positive outcome	90%	100%	100%	100%		100%

**Comments:**

Cases reported in the first quarter include cases for immigrants opened prior to the grant period that remained open during the quarter, as well as cases opened during the quarter. Subsequent quarters will only include new case numbers.

During the quarter, we closed a case for Carmen (name changed) a mother of two sons, one adult and one a minor. Carmen came to Pisgah Legal hoping she might have a pathway to citizenship after living in the U.S. without lawful status for decades. Carmen's adult son had completed military service and had been received an honorable discharge, making Carmen eligible to apply for "parole in place" (PIP), which allows for non-citizen spouses, widows, widowers, parents or children of U.S. military members and veterans to apply for lawful permanent residence or a green card. Attorney Shoshana Barton helped Carmen apply for PIP and her application was approved. Carmen received an I-94 card, which protected her from deportation until she could receive her green card. Attorney Barton then helped Carmen apply for a green card, which she received in January. Carmen is now a lawful permanent resident, allowing her to work lawfully in the U.S., travel in and out of the country, and increase the stability of her family. Attorney Barton referred Carmen to Pisgah Legal's HEOP team to help her enroll in health insurance.

Note: Pisgah Legal identified errors that were made while revising project goals during contract development. Pisgah Legal's second goal ("Number of Buncombe County cases handled (closed and pending) through this grant = 485") was calculated incorrectly. The goal of 485 would have been a more appropriate goal for "# of Buncombe County cases handled (closed and pending)" rather than the percentage attributable to Buncombe Strategic Partnership funds. We have added a row (row 15), above, to show the discrepancy of those two numbers. Since Strategic Partnership funds account for 35% of the Buncombe County JFAP project budget, the amount supported through the grant would be 35% of that number (row 16). We apologize for the mistake and are happy to answer questions or address concerns.

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## Use of funds to date and any budget considerations

Spending Category	Starting Budget	Total Spending (Enter Data)				Amount Remaining
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Personnel	\$ 64,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000		\$ 16,000
Training						\$ -
Supplies/Materials						\$ -
Meetings						\$ -
Equipment/Furniture						\$ -
Printing/Marketing						\$ -
Licensing/Memberships/Dues/Subscriptions						\$ -
Client Support						\$ -
Contracts						\$ -
Professional Services						\$ -
Insurance and Bonds						\$ -
Building Maintenance						\$ -
<b>Total</b>	\$ 64,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ -	\$ 16,000

**Comments:**