

2025 Mid-Year Report

Justice. Safety. Opportunity. *For all.*



Reporting Period: January 2025 – July 2025

YOU MAKE AYUDA POSSIBLE:

AN IMPACT UPDATE FOR OUR VALUED SUPPORTERS

Thanks to your generosity, **Ayuda continues to be a lifeline for immigrants** facing immense barriers to safety, stability, and justice. Together, we're providing **critical legal, social, and language access services**, and doing so with compassion, creativity, and grit.

DESPITE UNCERTAINTY, YOUR SUPPORT KEEPS THE WORK GOING

Federal funding delays and policy threats have created real challenges. Government reimbursements—especially from VOCA and OVC—were significantly delayed this year, causing short-term cash flow strain. At the same time, operational costs rose with inflation and growing client demand.

Here's how we stayed strong—because of you:

- Maintained uninterrupted services by drawing on reserves and cutting non-essential spending
- Held the line with a hiring freeze to preserve frontline roles
- Doubled down on private fundraising to reduce reliance on volatile federal grants and to increase our ability to be flexible

THANK YOU

In every service delivered, every policy defended, every interpreter coordinated—**you are there**. Your generosity doesn't just sustain our programs; it fuels the compassion, courage, and commitment behind every service we provide. We are deeply grateful for your trust, your partnership, and your belief in a more just and welcoming world.

**FROM ALL OF US AT AYUDA, THANK YOU FOR MAKING
THIS WORK—AND AYUDA ITSELF—POSSIBLE.**

LEGAL SERVICES: EXPANDING ACCESS & PROTECTION



1,919 individuals served through full legal representation, brief advice and counsel, and legal education events since the start of 2025



557 clients granted legal relief, including work permits, green cards, and citizenship



Monthly brief advice clinics and specialized legal clinics (e.g., EAD renewals) took place in collaboration with pro bono partners

Upcoming Areas of Growth:

- More pro bono case placements to extend representation reach
- In-person consultations offered twice a month to meet client preferences for flexible access
- Creating manageable and sustainable caseloads for staff attorneys

Prioritizing Client Confidence and Safety

- Virtual court appearance advocacy continues as a best practice—helping ease client anxiety and ensure safer participation
- Through proactive, trauma-informed communication, Ayuda ensures clients stay informed and empowered—even amid shifting policies and rising fear

PATHWAY TO BELONGING. POWER IN PROTECTION.



SOCIAL SERVICES: HEALING POWERED BY INNOVATION



- **521 survivors** received holistic wrap-around case management helping them achieve their unique goals and receive emotional & basic needs support



- **25 clients** received mental health therapy sessions due to the addition of a in-house mental health professional



Ayuda launched three innovative support groups:

- *Hydroponic Healing*, in partnership with the University of the District of Columbia focused on sustainability and growth
- *MejorArte* in partnership with Joe's Movement Emporium (Maryland) used art as a healing medium
- *Trauma-informed yoga*, in partnership with Yoga Heights to support physical and mental wellness

Expanding Access Through Innovation and Talent

- **Flexible, hybrid service delivery** continued to break down barriers like transportation and fear of immigration enforcement—ensuring consistent support for survivors, no matter their circumstances.
- **Expanded internship opportunities** welcomed Bachelor of Social Work students into Ayuda's domestic violence program, growing trauma-informed care under expert guidance while investing in the next generation of service providers.

HEALING WITH DIGNITY. STABILITY WITH COMPASSION.



LANGUAGE SERVICES: RISING TO MEET SURGING DEMAND



1,633 interpretation cases facilitated by local, specially trained interpreters to support trauma-informed service delivery across programs



7,853 telephonic interpretation sessions connected clients with legal, social, and medical services in their preferred language



97 organizations accessed the DC Language Access Bank's free services, expanding multilingual access across the region

Demand Surging Beyond Expectations: Interpretation and translation requests far exceeded projections due to escalating fear and urgent need—proving the essential role of language access in crisis response.

Connecting Clients to Critical Services: Ayuda's Language Access program enabled participation in therapy, legal protections, workshops, and Know Your Rights sessions—ensuring no one is left behind due to language barriers.

Investing in a Representative Interpreter Pipeline: The BUILD Cohort is equipping BIPOC, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, and aspiring interpreters with training, mentorship, and resources to lead with equity.

Strengthening Infrastructure to Meet the Moment: Ayuda continues to invest in training, systems, and coordination—enhancing quality, responsiveness, and capacity under sustained pressure.

EQUITY IN EVERY WORD. CONNECTION IN EVERY LANGUAGE.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION:

SAFEGUARDING EQUITY ACROSS JURISDICTIONS

VIRGINIA



- **Improving Access to IDs:** Advocated for the reinstatement of a DMV Outreach Coordinator to support immigrants in obtaining valid identification. Although not yet passed, this effort laid the groundwork for future legislative success through strengthened policymaker relationships.
- **Securing Victim Services Funding:** Helped achieve a \$4 million increase in state funding for domestic violence and sexual assault services.
- **Blocking Harmful Policies:** Partnered with Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights to successfully defeat anti-immigrant legislation, including proposals to defund sanctuary localities.

WASHINGTON, D.C.



- **Sanctuary Protections Upheld:** Successfully defended the Sanctuary Values Act against proposed rollbacks.
- **Access to Justice Preserved:** Secured \$31 million for the Access to Justice Initiative, ensuring continued civil legal aid for low-income residents.
- **Victim Services Boosted:** Advocated for and secured a 14.3% increase in victim services funding through the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants.
- **Ongoing Concern:** Advocating against a significant funding cut to the DC Healthcare Alliance—efforts continue this fall to reverse the reduction.

WHEN COMMUNITIES ARE HEARD, POLICIES CHANGE.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION:

SAFEGUARDING EQUITY ACROSS JURISDICTIONS

FEDERAL



- **Combating Harmful Legislation:** Opposed anti-immigrant bills such as the Laken Riley Act and H.R.30, in partnership with national and local coalitions.
- **Protecting Services for Vulnerable Youth:** Mobilized quickly to block the termination of legal services for unaccompanied children, contributing to a successful court defense.
- **Defending Local Protections:** Actively engaged in efforts to protect DC's sanctuary policies from federal override attempts.

EMERGING CHALLENGES AND POLICY THREATS

- **The One Big Beautiful Bill Act** includes a series of harmful provisions targeting immigrants—such as **expanded funding for immigration enforcement (ICE)**, new **barriers to asylum**, and **increased immigration application fees**. These measures threaten to deepen fear within immigrant communities and may restrict access to critical public benefits, including healthcare and food assistance, even for lawfully present immigrants and survivors of violence.
- As a result, community mistrust and anxiety have increased, making it harder for survivors to engage in services—particularly in-person support. **Ayuda responded swiftly and with trauma-informed flexibility**, adapting outreach and service delivery to ensure continuity of care and connection.

WHEN COMMUNITIES ARE HEARD, POLICIES CHANGE.

OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET CHALLENGES

We are **profoundly grateful to have you** in this work. And **we need you with us** for what comes next.

Ayuda's holistic model remains a **vital lifeline for immigrant communities**. But harmful new legislation threatens to raise fees, restrict asylum access, and strip critical benefits from even lawfully present immigrants and survivors of violence. These threats increase trauma and push families further into the shadows.

As we look towards the rest of this year and beyond, there are several key ways that donors like you can make a transformative difference:

- **Ensure Stability Amid Funding Shortfalls:** Flexible, unrestricted support bridges critical funding gaps—keeping life-changing services going when government dollars fall short.
- **Double Your Impact:** Secure a matching gift through you or your spouse's employer's workplace giving program.
- **Build Community:** Raise awareness and dollars through digital and in-person fundraising events in support of Ayuda's mission.

The challenges ahead are significant and real but so are the opportunities to rise and respond. With your continued partnership, we can strengthen and expand our fundraising, forge new philanthropic alliances, and safeguard the essential services our clients depend on.

Because of you, Ayuda is mobilizing faster, reaching farther, and building the future our communities deserve.

**THE NEED IS URGENT, AND THE OPPORTUNITY IS REAL.
THANK YOU FOR HELPING US MEET IT—TOGETHER.**