



# California Youth Leadership Corps

## What is the California Youth Leadership Corps?

California Youth Leadership Corps (CYLC) is a new statewide partnership among the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, selected California community colleges, the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office, the Community Learning Partnership, local nonprofit organizations, the California Endowment, the Hilton Foundation, Haas Jr. Fund, and other community partners. This unique partnership was created to prepare the next generation of young leaders to become community organizers and change agents in their local communities. CYLC is piloting learn-and-earn community change career pathway programs in the cities of Los Angeles, San Jose, Riverside, and Fresno.

CYLC learn-and-earn career pathway programs are preparing youth with low incomes – including youth of color, opportunity youth, and immigrant youth – for community change careers. CYLC participants take credit-bearing courses leading to a postsecondary credential, receive critical supports and mentoring while enrolled, and participate in paid internships as an integral part of learn-and-earn pathways into community change careers. Students intern with and find meaningful employment with partner organizations who organize in low-income communities, communities of color, and immigrant communities and provide critical services to marginalized communities.

## Who is CYLC designed to serve?

This statewide initiative is designed to serve community college students with low incomes, including youth of color and immigrant youth, primarily between the ages of 18-24. CYLC also serves opportunity youth -- youth who face barriers to education and employment due to poverty, lack of opportunity, immigration status, and other issues. DACA recipients are eligible to participate in CYLC’s learn-and-earn pathways into community change careers.

### *CYLC Participants...*

- ✓ Earn a postsecondary credential in a community change field
- ✓ Gain experience in a paid internship at a living wage doing work that benefits their communities
- ✓ Learn community organizing skills
- ✓ Engage in leadership development and mentoring activities
- ✓ Receive holistic academic, social-emotional, and career advising supports to succeed

### *CYLC Community Change Career Pathways*

- ✓ Public and community health
- ✓ Clean energy planning/development
- ✓ Leadership and social change
- ✓ Community planning and economic development
- ✓ Community-based immigration legal services
- ✓ Language justice/Interpretation and translation

## California Youth Leadership Corps – Community Learning Partnership

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## ***Community-Based Immigration Legal Services and Language Justice Career Pathways.***

CYLC has begun partnering with Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) and California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. (CRLA), selected community colleges, community-based immigration legal services providers and language justice advocates/interpreter training providers to expand career pathways in two areas: community-based immigration legal services and language justice interpreter training. These career pathways will expand the number of well-trained paralegals, legal assistants, qualified interpreters, community organizers, and nonprofit leaders who are prepared to serve immigrant communities.

### **I. Community-Based Immigration Legal Services Career Pathway**

Through this career pathway, more legal service providers and non-attorney staff will attain and maintain the proper credentials to practice immigration law. This will enable more low-income immigrants to receive affordable, quality legal services and to take advantage of existing immigration benefits and, eventually, obtain U.S. citizenship. This project seeks to expand and enhance the ability of local nonprofit agencies to provide quality immigration legal services to low-income immigrants. The demand for these services has continuously outstripped the supply, particularly in rural areas of the state. It is also a timely project because the legal services community continues to need capacity in order to help people seeking asylum, family-based visas, and citizenship.

- Participants will pursue a certificate in paralegal studies, legal support services, or other related credentials.
- Student interns will be placed with campus and community-based immigration legal services providers to gain experience in the field and be prepared to assist immigrants in adjusting their legal status.
- Participants will be paid a living wage of at least \$15 per hour and earn up to \$10,000.
- Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), California Youth Leadership Corps (CYLC), and California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. (CRLA) will collaborate with selected community college partners and campus and community-based organizations with DOJ accredited and recognized campus-based and community-based immigration legal services providers to co-design the career pathway program, recruit participants, and train and mentor students.
- Participants will receive holistic academic, social-emotional, and career advising supports to succeed.

### **II. Language Justice Career Pathway**

California is the most multilingual state in the nation, with over 200 different spoken and sign languages, and 44 percent of Californians speaking a non-English language at home. What's more, nearly 18 percent are not fully proficient in English (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates). Trained and qualified interpreters enable access to critical legal and healthcare services and empower immigrant communities to make their voices heard in local decision-making. However, few interpreter-training programs are available to aspiring interpreters who use languages other than Spanish, and such programs are rarely available to under-resourced rural communities. Almost all existing interpreter-training programs are delivered in English, excluding the many potential trainees who work between Indigenous Latin American languages and Spanish but who aren't proficient in English. With a third to half of California's farmworkers speaking an Indigenous Mexican language, the lack of accessible interpreter training is silencing some of our most marginalized communities.

- Participants will pursue a certificate in interpretation and translation services.
  - Student interns will be placed with campus and community-based organizations providing interpretation services to immigrant communities, including those providing services to Indigenous migrant communities; the courts; and public agencies offering interpretation services.
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- Participants will be paid a living wage of least \$15 per hour and earn up to \$10,000.
  - Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), California Youth Leadership Corps (CYLC), and California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. (CRLA) will collaborate with selected community college partners and campus and community-based organizations providing interpretation and translation services to immigrant communities, including those led by indigenous migrant leaders, to co-design the career pathway program, recruit participants, and train and mentor students.
  - Participants will receive holistic academic, social-emotional, and career advising supports to succeed.
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