



Job Title: Immigration Legal Assistant

Reports to: HEALS Immigration Legal Advocate

Program: Engaged Citizens Program

Employment Status: Full Time - 40 hours/week

Location: Lake County, IL

Salary: Negotiable depending on experience. Includes eligibility for health benefits and paid leave.

Founded in 2000, Mano a Mano is an immigrant-based, community development organization whose mission is to empower immigrant and underserved families of Lake County, Illinois to become full participants in American life by providing quality programs and services that educate and establish links to essential community resources. We implement this mission through our four programs: Healthy Families, Productive Parents, Successful Children, and Engaged Citizens. Our work is sustained by our respect for human dignity and our belief in the equality of all people. Located in Round Lake Park, Mano a Mano serves approximately 4,000 immigrants annually from across Lake County and surrounding areas. Mano a Mano is recognized by the Department of Justice (DOJ) to practice immigration law before the Department of Homeland Security through accredited staff members.

The Position:

Under the supervision of the HEALS Immigration Legal Advocate, the Immigration Legal Assistant will support the preparation and submission of immigration benefit applications to DHS/USCIS through case management and client communication management. This position focuses specifically on supporting immigrant victims of crime (especially Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Human trafficking) to apply for immigration benefits including U visas, T visas, and VAWA Self-Petitions. Upon hire and with the support of the agency, he/she will receive technical immigration legal services preparation. The Immigration Legal Assistant will work closely with the other immigration legal staff, partner agencies, and volunteers to provide comprehensive immigration legal and case management services for Lake County immigrant families, delivering these services with a focus on excellent customer service, high quality work, and cultural/linguistic competency. The Immigration Legal Assistant will provide services and support to community members with compassion, professionalism, and care.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Case Management:

- Manages client communication throughout case preparation process
- Educates clients on the process of opening a case with Mano a Mano and ensure compliance with the Immigration Legal Services procedures
- Works directly with clients to gather and prepare case documentation and evidence
- Maintains client files current and organized
- Develops community education materials on immigration topics and current events
- Supports clients in accessing other health and human services benefits available to them
- Provides direct outreach to immigrants at community events and through other outreach strategies

Administrative:

- Ensures compliance with program-related grant requirements

- Participates in program planning, monitoring, and evaluation
- Ensures compliance with organization policies and procedures
- Enters and maintains accurate case and client data in agency databases
- Prepares clear and concise reports

QUALIFICATIONS:

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily, must be completely fluent in English and Spanish (written and verbal), must demonstrate excellent people and communications skills, sensibility to people's needs, good understanding of immigrants' issues, must be a team player, self-starter, able to self-manage, and have strong computer skills (MS Office, Excel, Outlook, and PowerPoint). Position also requires regular use of computers (desktop and laptop), scanners, fax machines, and other technology.

This is a professional position and requires an Associate's or Bachelor's Degree in Paralegal studies, Human Services or related field and previous administrative or office experience. Extensive administrative experience will be considered as a substitute for a degree in certain cases. Note: while previous experience in immigration law is not a requirement, applicants with experience should note any previous immigration legal services training on resume.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to;

- Operate office equipment such as but not limited to a computer, printer, scanner, fax
- Use a computer for extended periods of time
- Must be able to remain in a stationary position for extended periods of time

*Nothing in this job description restricts management's right to assign or reassign duties and responsibilities to this job at any time. This job description is subject to change at any time.

APPLICATION INFORMATION:

To apply please submit cover letter, resume, and three professional references to:

Carla Rosales
Director of Operations
crosales@mamfrc.org

Interviews will be held in Spanish and English.

Mano a Mano Family Resource Center is an EEO employer who provides employment opportunities either salaried or volunteered regardless of sex, race, religion, national origin, age or disability.

Mano a Mano, Family Resource Center has an affirmative policy to maintain the workplace free of sexual harassment and intimidation.