

Safety & Fairness for Everyone (SAFE) Network: Dane County

In 2017, Dane County was selected to join the Vera Institute of Justice’s Safety and Fairness for Everyone (SAFE) Network - a growing group of jurisdictions around the U.S. that are **committed to keeping families together and communities safe and strong** by protecting due process and providing legal representation to immigrants facing deportation. SAFE Network Members have dedicated public funding to deportation defense, focusing on serving individuals who are detained.



Why representation matters

Because immigrants facing deportation do not have the guarantee of an attorney to represent them, 70 percent of detained immigrants face deportation alone. Representation promotes due process and dignity, and results in better outcomes — represented immigrants are **up to ten times more likely to establish a right to remain in the United States.**

SAFE Program Description: Dane County, Wisconsin

Legal Service Providers:	Community Immigration Law Center (CILC); Immigrant Justice Clinic at the University of Wisconsin Law School
Populations Served:	Dane County residents facing removal or those with close ties to Dane county, with a priority for serving those who are detained
Detention Centers Served:	Dodge County Detention Center (Juneau, WI); Kenosha County Detention Center (Kenosha, WI)
Method of Identifying Clients:	Monthly intake clinics at Dodge; Community referrals

Making an Impact in Dane County



61
Clients represented in
Dane County, WI



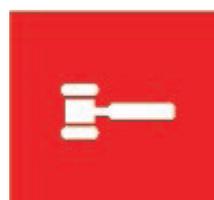
59
Children with a
parent represented
in Dane County



9
Average years
living in the
United States



53 %
Of the 43 detained
clients released
from detention



54 %
Of the 13 completed
cases granted an
outcome allowing client
to remain in US

**Data as of 7/31/2019*

Client Stories

Javier was living with his wife and two U.S. citizen children in Madison before being detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) at the Dodge County Detention Center. Javier had resided in the United States for 10 years before he was brought to ICE’s attention after being arrested for driving without a license. His detention caused a great deal of hardship for his family. Because Javier was the primary breadwinner for his young family, they were uncertain if they would be able to pay rent. His youngest child experienced separation anxiety and began to display behavioral problems in school. Although ICE originally refused to release Javier on bond, his CILC attorney zealously advocated for his release with the immigration judge. As a result, the judge granted his motion for bond and set it at a reasonable amount that his family could afford. Javier was released from detention and has reunited with his family so he can continue to care for them while he proves his case to remain in the United States from outside of detention.

Gloria fled Honduras with her eight-year-old brother, Ernesto, after gang members threatened her and burned down her home. With no place to go to be safe from the threats of this gang, Gloria and Ernesto began the long journey to the United States where they planned to join their mother, a Dane County resident, after years of separation. Gloria was detained in Texas where she sought asylum based on the domestic violence she endured by a prior partner and the gang violence she endured that culminated with her home being burned down. Gloria’s CILC attorney helped prepare her for her credible fear interview – the first step to pursuing asylum in the United States – which she passed successfully. Her attorney also successfully convinced the judge to substantially lower the bond amount set to ensure that she could be released from detention to reunify with her family in Dane County. They are healing from the trauma they endured in Honduras and will continue to fight their asylum case so that they can remain safe and together in Dane County.

**The names of the individuals featured here have been changed to pseudonyms to protect the individual’s identity*