



Needham Area Immigration Justice Task Force

www.immigrationneedham.org

Year in Review

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

The Needham Area Immigration Justice Task Force (NAIJTF) promotes actions and policies that welcome and support immigrants in our local area, state, and country. During the past year NAIJTF has been actively supporting immigrant justice in collaboration with Casa (Metrowest Worker Center) and other community partners.

Partnership with Casa

Our members are deeply involved in community-based support through Casa Allies, including:

- Providing accompaniment and transportation to immigration hearings, ICE offices and medical appointments, etc.
- Delivering food to families in need.
- Established the GoFundMe page for major fundraising campaign for families.
- Organized the "Rhythms of Hope" benefit concert, which raised over \$20,000 to support local families facing food and housing insecurity.
- Developed a printed brochure to highlight the work of Casa and how to donate.

Making a difference

Volunteers with many of the groups, such as Casa Allies, are needed for the increased impact of government action against immigrants in eastern Massachusetts. Fundraising, food distribution, accompanying immigrants to appointments, bond/legal assistance, and transporting students to school are some of the areas that will need more volunteers.

Education & Empowerment

- Participated in "Know Your Rights" and legal self-defense presentations — equipping community members to understand what ICE can and cannot legally do.
- As an active member of Casa Allies, attend bi-weekly Casa Allies meetings to stay coordinated and informed.
- In collaboration with the Needham Human Rights Committee hosted a forum featuring immigration attorney Heather Yountz. Entitled "Fool Me Twice: The New Administration's Anti-Immigration Playbook."
- Defenders of Justice: A Gratitude Project – NAIJTF launched the ongoing *Defenders of Justice* project to expand on an initiative started by Needham Immigration

Attorney Heather Yountz to collect messages of gratitude for the immigration attorneys who tirelessly defend immigrant communities.

- Hosted a presentation by an undocumented worker at the June NAIJTF Annual Meeting. He shared his personal experience of detention due to his immigration status. The presentation was reported in an article in the [Needham Observer](#) (June 17, 2025).
 - Participated in the Need Shelter Network to support immigrant families in need of housing and other support.
 - Participated in the Needham Harvest Fair with other allied groups.
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Communication and Membership

- Distributed newsletter throughout the year to the membership list.
 - Expanded and updated information on the NAIJTF website (www.immigrationneedham.org).
 - Posted regularly on NAIJTF Facebook page.
 - Held monthly hybrid meetings of NAIJTF.
 - Members invited to attend biweekly Casa Allies meetings on Zoom.
 - Developed informational postcards and poster for tabling events.
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MA Legislative Advocacy

Hosted newly elected State Representative Josh Tarsky of Needham to provide an overview of the legislation the Task Force supports. We discussed four key bills, but will advocate for additional bills as they become active.

The four bills are Safe [Communities](#), [Protect Injured Workers](#), [Immigrant Legal Defense Fund](#), and [Dignity Not Deportations](#). In addition, we are advocating for the [Cover All Kids Health Care bill](#).

Two of these bills have had hearings, and the NAIJTF submitted written testimony for Injured Workers (6/18/25) and Cover All Kids (7/15/25). NAIJTF asked our two Needham legislators to co-sponsor the Injured Workers bill. As the remaining bills hold their hearings, the Task Force will submit written testimony and contact our state legislators for their support.

Stand outs

- Participated in Framingham's *Hands Off!* rally in May to protest of ICE's detainment of a young Guatemalan man taken into custody having no criminal record, with family roots in Needham.
 - Participated in July rally – *Good Trouble Lives On*, Framingham.
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The Future

The Task Force will continue its work by advocating for just legislation, deepening public understanding of the evolving immigration landscape, and inviting volunteers into projects and events that advance immigration justice. We will also expand opportunities that offer direct support to our immigrant neighbors. These personal acts of solidarity help build a safer and more equitable community for all.

Needham Area Immigration Task Force Steering Committee

Cheryl Aglio-Girelli, Co-Chair

Val Kistler, Co-Chair

Karen Walker, Treasurer

Sarah Napadensky, Secretary

Bill Okerman

Karen Price

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The Needham Area Immigration Task Force is a 501(c)3 Charitable Organization. Donations may be made at <https://www.immigrationneedham.org/donate/>.