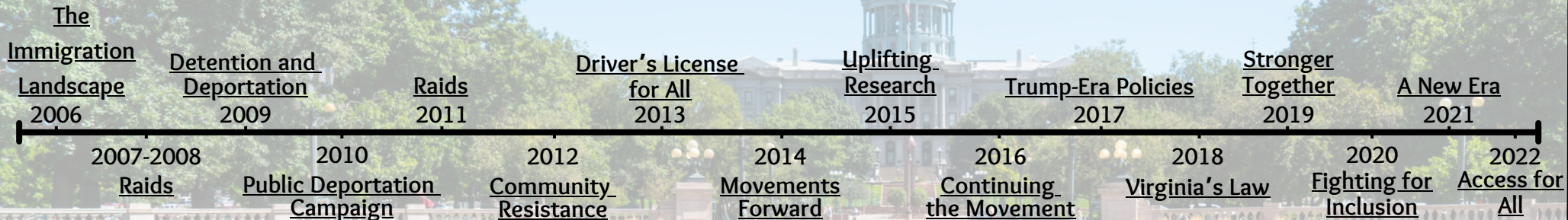


COLORADO IMMIGRATION POLICIES

Timeline of Resistance and Community Movements

2006 - 2022



In Colorado, we have witnessed a dynamic history of triumphs and challenges in immigration policies. Despite its conservative roots and a surge in anti-immigration sentiment fueled by local politics, our state has significantly changed laws and procedures to make Colorado a safer and more inclusive place.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of community members, advocacy leaders, political figures, and research organizations, Colorado is now leading the way in creating a welcoming environment for our immigrant community to thrive.

This timeline highlights critical milestones that have revolutionized how Colorado immigrants are welcomed and integrated into our communities. We hope this tool showcases the remarkable progress achieved and inspires the implementation of more inclusive policies in the years to come.

2006



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The 2006 Immigration Landscape

Colorado has long been home to a small number of xenophobic, anti-immigrant zealots, like Tom Tancredo, who formed the Congressional Immigration Reform Caucus and spent a lifetime attempting to restrict immigration to the U.S. and Colorado. In 2006, hoping to galvanize conservative voters, anti-immigrant activists, like the Colorado Alliance for Immigration Reform, descended on the Capitol to push through a slate of hateful policies. Through the regular legislative session of 2006 and a special session called by Governor Bill Owens specifically to deal with the immigration issue, 17 anti-immigration bills passed the Democratically controlled House and Senate, in a deal struck with a Republican governor.

These bills were meant to restrict immigrants without documentation from an ability to work, live, and raise families in Colorado. They were meant to punish employers who knowingly or unknowingly relied on these workers. And more than anything, they were meant to send a message to people immigrating to our country in search of a better life - Colorado does not want you. The chilling effect these bills had on immigration struck families and the Colorado economy. These effects and the narrative that prevailed in Colorado around immigrants and immigration that culminated in that special session of 2006 has taken nearly 20 years to unwind. But unwind we have.

The most significant bills of 2006:

Senate Bill 06-90 - Concerning Local Government Cooperation With Federal Officials Regarding the Immigration Status of Persons in this State ("Show Me Your Papers" law): Requires local law enforcement officers and agencies to report what they reasonably believed to be an undocumented immigrant to United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

House Bill 06S-1023 - Restrictions on Public Benefits: Creates a requirement for people to provide documentation of lawful presence to receive certain public benefits such as grants, welfare, or food assistance, contracts, unemployment benefits, public housing, or healthcare.

House Bill 06S-1009 Deny Business Permits Illegal Aliens: Denies state business licenses and permits to people without documentation.

House Bill 06S-1001 Eligibility for Economic Development Incentives: Requires that employers demonstrate that they do not hire or contract with workers without documentation in order to receive economic development incentives, grants, and credits.

House Bill 06S-1017 Employer Fines Fraudulent Documents: Requires employers to review, copy, and attest that all employees have current identification and evidence of legal work status. Employers who violate this could be fined up to \$25,000 for reckless disregard of this provision.

Senate Bill 06S-007 Voting by Persons Not Entitled to Vote: Makes it a felony for anyone not entitled to vote to cast a vote in Colorado.

2006: Raids

May: 100,000 people march in the streets after Colorado passed one of the first "show me your papers" laws under a democratic majority.

September: ICE raid at Buckley Air Force Base, 195 people are detained.

December: ICE raid at the Swift meat packing plants in Greeley, CO where 275 people are detained, making it one of the largest enforcement operations in US history.

2007

Immigration Raids

February: Raid in Denver on restaurant workers, 16 people are detained, while employers were not penalized.

April: ICE raid on potato packing plant in Center, CO.

May: Series of home raids in Pueblo, CO.

June: Street raids in Dillon. One person was detained at the bus stop while another was detained selling ice cream.

July: Another raid in Greeley at the Swift packing plant, 2 people detained.

2008

Immigration Raids

July: Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition (CIRC) member, Fuerza Latina, leads resistance efforts after a raid at a concrete plant in Loveland, CO, where 18 people are detained.

October: District Attorney of Greeley, Ken Buck (now Congressman), approves raid on Amalias Tax Service company and seizes 4700 tax returns, places charges on 100 people for identity theft.

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

2009

Detention and Deportation

January: GEO Group Inc. detention center expansion is approved. CIRC members, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), and Rights For All People (RAP), lead the resistance to delay expansion of the detention center for 18 months. The first ever GEO vigil is held and is now a monthly act of resistance.

January-December 2009: ICE reaches its peak of deportations in the SB06-90 regime, placing holds on more than 900 people in 2009.

2010

Public Deportation Campaign

CIRC members start a fledgling plan to repeal SB06-90, educating the community about their rights and resisting secure communities program.

April: Edgar Niebla is detained by a school resource officer (SRO) of Carbondale. CIRC launches its first public campaign and stops Edgar's deportation in 24 hours. This was the first successful public deportation campaign in Colorado.

2011

Raids

Governor Ritter signs on to secure communities program after months of resistance from statewide movement.


June: Raid at Wildcat Dairy in Ft. Morgan, CO, 5 people are deported and 6 received charges for using false SSNs. CIRC member Amanecer Ft Morgan is formed after a public campaign results in charges dropped for all 6 people.

June: Raid at the Strawberry Days Festival in Glenwood Springs. Collaboration with SRO and local police, 2 people are detained and deported.

August: Griselda Duarte and leaders from Eagle County work with the ACLU to stop the practice of discrimination and denying undocumented people PO Boxes in Gypsum, CO.

2011-2012: SRO who is cross designated as an ICE agent in Carbondale leads more than 15 home raids. CIRC member AJUA is formed and after a public campaign, forces the SRO to resign from his position and leave the state.

2012

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Community Resistance

CIRC members of End Unjust Enforcement Campaign meet to make a 4 year plan to push back on ICE with the goals of:

- 1) repealing SB06-90
- 2) passing local level detainer reforms
- 3) passing statewide law prohibiting ICE holds.

CIRC staff sued for defamation by the SRO agent in Carbondale who collaborated with ICE. CIRC wins the lawsuit and with leadership of AJUA, a national civil rights investigation is launched into SRO/ICE collaboration.

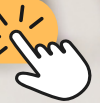
Summer: Dreamer activists lead a 5 day sit-in at the campaign offices of Obama in Denver along with other Dreamers across the country. DACA program is announced a couple of days after these actions.

September 15th: CIRC launches first ICE incident hotline to document abuses between police and ICE and train impacted leaders for the statewide resistance.

September 2012-April 2013: CIRC hotline proves that 67% of people who were detained and called the hotline were picked up for no driver's license. Colorado Fiscal Institute (CFI) releases a report highlighting how ICE holds cost the state of Colorado \$13 million annually.

2013

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Driver's Licenses For All

Senate Bill 13-033 – Advancing Students for A Stronger Economy Tomorrow (ASSET): In April 2013, CFI releases a report highlighting the sizable return on investment to the state when undocumented students have access to in-state tuition. Colorado passes the ASSET bill, doing just that.

House Bill 13-1258 – Community and Law Enforcement Trust Act: On April 27th, Colorado becomes the first state in the nation to repeal Article 29, Title 29, C.R.S., the “Show Me Your Papers” law through HB13-1258.

Senate Bill 13-251 – Noncitizen Driver Licenses: In May, the Driver's Licenses For All (Licencias Para Todos) Campaign wins the passage of SB13-251, a law expanding access to driver's licenses to undocumented Coloradans. CFI research shows that expanding driver's licenses to undocumented folks brings in state revenue through license and registration fees. Expanding access to driver's licenses increases the population of people paying for auto insurance in the state, and there is evidence to support that increasing the pool of insured drivers produces overall auto insurance premium savings for Coloradans.

September: CIRC launches 2nd statewide hotline. Docuteam expands to 30 individuals. Documenters are now trained on deportation resistance to provide more support to callers.

2014

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Movements Forward

April: National courts find that holding people on ICE holds without a warrant violates the Constitution. ACLU Colorado sends letters to all 64 counties in CO demanding they not hold people without warrants.

Summer: CIRC members and staff meet with 30 sheriffs in CO to fight to pass no hold policies. Advocates win advisement of rights forms and other protections and together with the ACLU, convince all 64 sheriffs to stop respecting ICE holds.

September: Metro Denver Sanctuary Coalition is launched. A week later Arturo Hernandez called the CIRC hotline and became the 1st person to take sanctuary in Colorado.

November: Obama repeals secure communities program, launches DAPA program, and starts ICE notifications to avoid Constitutional problems with ICE holds.

Senate Bill 14-005 – Wage Protection Act: Provides an administrative remedy for workers, many of them without documentation, who were paid unfairly or not at all by unscrupulous employers. This coalition led by United for a New Economy (formerly FRESC), El Centro Humanitario, 9to5 Colorado, CIRC, and the Plaintiff Employment Lawyers Association had sought justice for immigrant workers for many years. In 2013, CFI published Wage Theft in Colorado, a report to document the prevalence and harm of wage theft, helping the coalition push the bill over the finish line.

2015

Uplifting Research

Shifting the narrative - CFI starts turning to reports highlighting the economic contribution of immigrants and the importance of a path to citizenship.

Spring: Impact law to lock in policies of not respecting holds passes the House with bipartisan support, but is killed in the Senate.

RESEARCH

2016

Continuing the Movement

House Bill 16-1114 – Repeal of Duplicate Reporting Requirements: Working with a critical legislative ally, Senator Jessie Ulibarri and business lobbyists, CFI helps pass a bill that repeals HB06S-1017, the requirement that employers verify the lawful presence and legal work status of their employees or face fines. This bill passes with bipartisan support.

Fall: ICE director reports deportations have fallen from 8,000 in 2008 to less than 1,000 in 2016, thanks to the movement.

December: CIRC members approve a plan to protect the people as a platform of resistance to the Trump agenda. Goals are to prohibit ICE notifications, expand sanctuary churches, expand hotline, and protect no hold policies.

2017

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Trump Era Policies

Defending DACA - Newly-elected President Trump launches a number of anti-immigrant initiatives, Colorado advocates respond. CFI publishes a report showing why rescinding DACA would be bad for the economy and state and local governments.

January: Trump launches new enforcement priorities where everyone who does not have papers becomes a target for deportation.

April: After months of negotiations with the resistance table, the City of Denver passes a sentencing reform policy lowering the maximum sentence from 365 to 300 days so as not to trigger deportation consequences.


May: CIRC passes House Bill 17-1369 The Bond Surety Protection Act, eliminating one of the last pieces of "Show Me Your Papers" law. It is now illegal to inform someone they cannot pay their bond if they have an immigration hold.

July: Together with partners and members, CIRC, Colorado Peoples Alliance (COPA), Mi Familia Vota, (MFV), Padres y Jóvenes Unidos, United for a New Economy (UNE), Together Colorado, and AFSC, the Colorado Rapid Response hotline is launched.

CIRC Docuteam expands to more than 100 people.

August: Denver passes the Public Safety Enforcement Priorities Act, a policy to disregard holds without warrants and prohibiting probation and pretrial services from sharing info with ICE.

2018

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Virginia's Law

Building power in the state to protect families and shift the narrative in light of a hostile federal immigration policy environment.

Virginia's Law (House Bill 18-1417) is introduced, a continuous attempt to end police - ICE collaboration. Prohibiting ICE holds without warrants, IGSA agreements, requiring advisement of rights before ICE interviews at jails, requiring public schools, DV shelters, courthouses to adopt policies limiting ice enforcement. Virginia's Law dies.

February: CIRC documenters work with ACLU to file lawsuit against El Paso county sheriff for illegally holding people on ICE detainer requests. In March, a judge ordered the El Paso sheriff to stop holding people for ICE.

July: CIRC Documenters document case of Leonardo Canseco and work with ACLU to file lawsuit against sheriff for illegally holding people on ICE detainer requests. Judge does not grant an injunction and practice continues.

CFI leans in with a report highlighting the negative and lasting effects deportation and family separation have on children.

CFI works with our immigration collaborative partners, the Colorado Center on Law and Policy, Center for Health Progress, and other health care advocates to show how changes to the public charge rule will affect thousands of Colorado citizens and mixed status families, harming us all.

2019

Stronger Together

Wave of pro immigrant bills pass due to many years of pressure from community, advocates, and new majorities in the House of Representatives.

Senate Bill 19-139 – Colorado Road and Community Safety Act:

Increases the number of statewide offices from 6 to 11 that offer driver's licenses to undocumented folks per SB13-251, making these services more accessible to immigrants across the state.

House Bill 19-1124 – Protect Colorado Residents from Federal Government Overreach:

Prohibits information sharing between probation officers and immigration services, individuals detained by local law enforcement must be advised of their rights.

Other victories by CFI, CIRC members, and partners include:

House Bill 19-1148 – Change Maximum Criminal Penalty One Year to

364 Days: Because convictions of one-year trigger a federal immigration action for offenders with immigrant status and under certain circumstances, a county jail may be asked to hold an immigrant until they are transferred to ICE custody, HB19-1148 changes the maximum sentence for class 2 misdemeanors, class 2 drug misdemeanors, misdemeanors without a fixed statutory penalty, and municipal ordinance violations from one year to 364 days.

Senate Bill 19-230 – Colorado Refugee Services Program: The bill codifies the existing CO Refugee Services Program in the Department of Human Services (DHS). DHS is solely responsible for the development, review, and administration of the state plan under the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, which allows the state to receive federal funds. The program must provide refugees with cash and medical assistance and social services.

House Bill 19-1196 – Financial Aid For Students With In-state Tuition: The bill expands eligibility of certain state-funded student financial aid assistance programs offered by the Department of Higher Education to undocumented students.

House Bill 19-1239 – Census Outreach Grant Program: With the backing of CFI research, Together We Count, CFI, and other partners help pass HB19-1239, which allows intergovernmental agencies, housing authorities, school districts, non profit orgs, Ute and Southern Ute tribes to apply for funds to help Colorado achieve a full complete census count in 2020.

2020

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Fighting For Inclusion

COVID pandemic starts and the Legislature ends early; priority bills (data privacy and legal defense fund) die. CFI uses research to show that immigrants have been left out of state and federal aid. This exclusion becomes the cornerstone of our work through the pandemic - to demand that immigrants be included in all relief and recovery efforts.

Senate Bill 20-215 – Health Insurance Affordability

Enterprise: The bill allows the Division of insurance to collect a new fee to fund the Enterprise which will fund programs related to health insurance enrollment and affordability, including programs that would cover insurance costs for Coloradans without access to medicaid programs.

Senate Bill 20-224 – Immigrant Tenant Protection Act:

The Act prohibits a landlord from discriminating against a tenant because of their immigration status. A tenant who is aggrieved by a landlord's violation of the Act may bring a civil action and seek certain remedies.

House Bill 20-1420 - Tax Fairness for Coloradans

Act: With the exclusion of undocumented people and families from most federal COVID relief measures, CFI leads on HB20-1420, making Colorado the first state in the country to expand EITC benefits to ITIN filers.

Passage of Amendment 76: During the 2020 election, Colorado voters approved anti-immigrant Amendment 76 which amended the constitution to state that “only a citizen” of the U.S. who is 18 years of age or older can vote in Colorado. The campaign leading this effort was supported by Citizen Voters Inc., a 501(c)(4) organization based in Florida which had supported similar measures to amend state Constitutions nationwide. This passed even though it was already a felony for ineligible people to vote since the passage of SB06S-007.

CFI publishes a report with IRI data to show that undocumented immigrants contribute to the unemployment insurance system but fail to receive benefits. This spurs the philanthropic effort of the Left Behind Worker Fund to advocate for UI equity. With partners COPA, Colorado Center on Law and Policy, and others in the EERA, CFI works on a program that would create an unemployment insurance program for undocumented workers.

2021

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A New Era for Immigration Policies

Watershed year for immigrant rights in Colorado. Over 12 pro-immigrant bills pass the legislature! The CO Statewide Parent Coalition (CSPC) leads the passage of **Senate Bill 21- 199 - Remove Barriers to Certain Public Benefits** - effectively repealing the ban on public benefits from 2006 (HB06S-1023).

Senate Bill 21-077 - Remove Lawful Presence Verification for Credentialing: The companion bill to SB199, passes and allows for professional licenses to be opened to all regardless of immigration status - a bill that was led by the state department.

CFI, COPA, and the Left Behind Worker Fund, lead passage of **Senate Bill 21-233 - Unemployment Insurance Enterprise** - which directs the department of labor and employment to produce a study exploring how Colorado could create a permanent UI fund for undocumented workers.

House Bill 21-1150 - Create the Colorado Office of New Americans: Passes and adds Colorado to the growing list of states with a dedicated ONA.

State-funded housing benefits expand to undocumented Coloradans.

Backed by CFI research detailing the moral, budgetary, and economic importance of ensuring all people moving through the immigration court system are represented by an attorney, CIRC and partners lead the passage of **House Bill 21-1194 - Immigration Legal Defense Fund**, creating one of the first immigrant legal defense funds through statute.

Legislation that outlaws the sharing of information without a judicial warrant passes and is one of the strongest data privacy protection laws in the country!

Colorado makes extortion of immigrants based on their immigration status illegal.



2022

Access to Benefits for All

Senate Bill 22-234 – Unemployment Compensation

Building on the Left Behind Worker Fund to support undocumented immigrants with direct cash relief dollars, CFI leads on SB22-234, making Colorado the first state in the nation to expand unemployment insurance--like benefits to undocumented workers.

House Bill 22-1289 – Cover All Coloradans

Since 2016, advocates have been convening to explore policy and other solutions to improving immigrant health coverage and access in Colorado. In 2022, the Cover All Coloradans coalition led the effort to pass HB22-1289, a bill that expands medicaid and CHP+ coverage to undocumented pregnant people and children.