

IOWA MMJ LEGAL PROGRAM

Legal Clinics

IOWA MMJ

Iowa MMJ offered over 45 immigration legal services clinics in one of seven regions: Cedar Rapids, Columbus Junction, Decorah, Des Moines, Marshalltown, Ottumwa, and Storm Lake.

In addition, Iowa MMJ added a Story County Clinic in Ames and hired Francisco Hernandez to provide immigration legal services for the clinic.

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Detention Project

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Barbi Rodriguez joined Iowa MMJ, as a staff attorney and Skadden Fellow, to provide legal services for individuals who are at higher risk of deportation, including people who are detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in county jails across Iowa.

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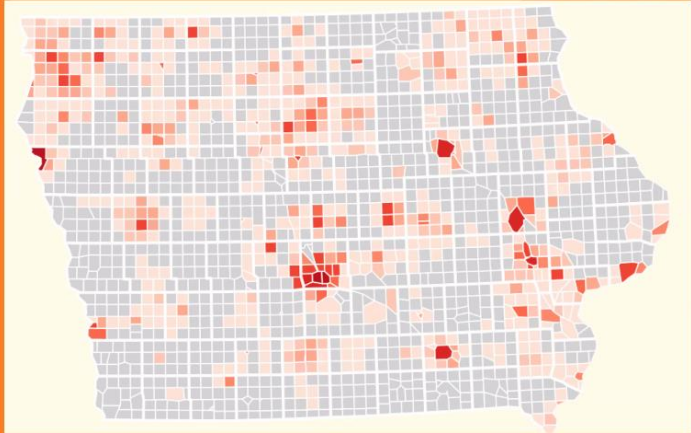
Immigration Detention and Deportation in Iowa

Five county jails are authorized to detain people for ICE for over 72 hours (Polk, Pottawattamie, Linn, Hardin, Marshall)

Many more county jails are authorized to hold people for ICE for up to 72 hours

In 2024, the average daily population of ICE detainees in Polk and Pottawattamie County Jails has been between 23 and 31

20,175 Iowans have pending deportation cases, and only 36% are represented



In 2024, Iowa MMJ's Community Organizers:

- helped members get back nearly \$10,000 in stolen wages
- provided leadership development training for 75 people
- offered over 50 trainings/presentations
- organized to defeat 3 of 4 anti-immigrant bills introduced during the 2024 legislative session

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Presentations

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Trainings included:

- Know Your Rights
- Know Your Workers' Rights
- Power of Participation Trainings
- Community Organizer Trainings
- Safety Trainings

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SF 2340

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SF 2340 is the one bill that made it out of the legislative session and was signed into law by Governor Reynolds. However, Iowa MMJ sued the state and successfully petitioned for a preliminary injunction to keep the law from taking effect.

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Narrative Change

Iowa MMJ moved into phase two of our Narrative Change Campaign and trained over two dozen people to become "Narrative Change Ambassadors across the state.

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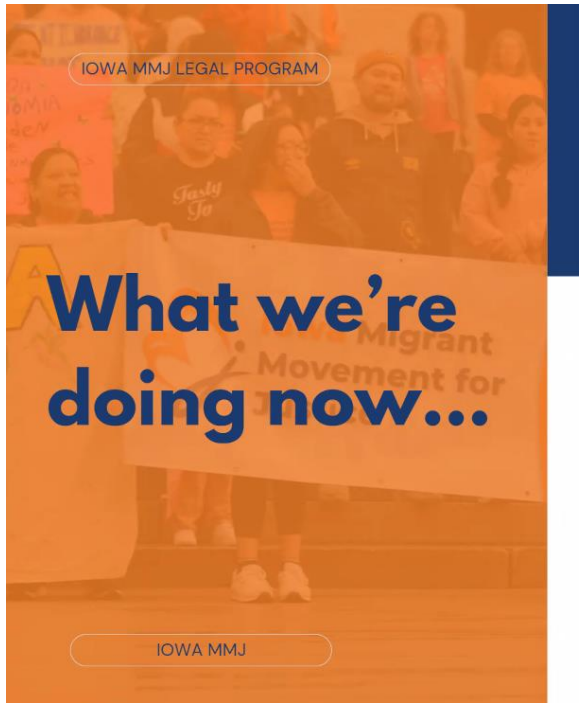


What we're preparing for...

Based on our experience during the previous Trump Administration, we are preparing for:

- Family Separations
- Mass Deportation
- Workplace Raids
- Increases in Violence/Hate Crimes

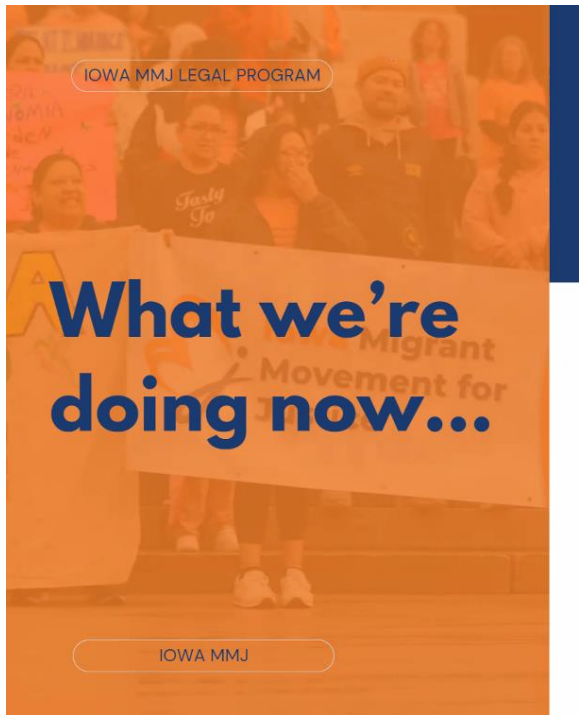
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Iowa MMJ is preparing for a Second Trump Administration by:

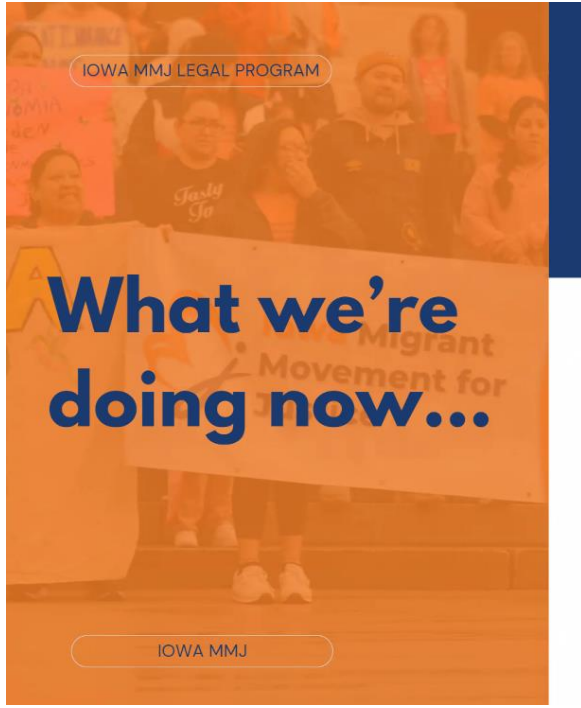
- Conducting listening sessions with members and allies
- Providing Know Your Rights & Safety Planning trainings

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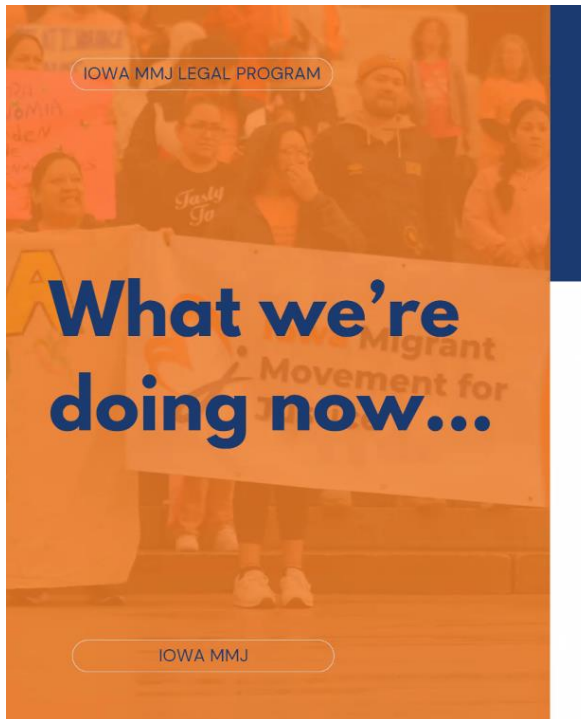
- Leading policy advocacy efforts
- Identifying and reaching out to communities in Iowa where immigrants are most vulnerable
- Relaunching our rapid response ICE reporting hotline

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- Building and coordinating a Legal Rapid Response Team
- Building Community Defense Teams across the state
- Relaunching our network of sanctuary spaces

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Preparing for:

- State legislative advocacy
- Community ID advocacy
- Leadership, Organizer & Civics Trainings
- SF 2340 lawsuit & outreach
- Addressing Wage Theft
- New citizen voter registration

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What we're doing now...

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Preparing to move our offices due to both increased capacity needs and for the safety and security of all members of the Iowa MMJ staff

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- Donate and/or join as a member!
- Sign up to receive updates.
- Follow us on social media.
- Help us change the narrative- get a yard sign!



Visit www.iowammj.org!