



CFRA's CLINIC Immigration Webinar
Q&A/ Discussion
September 19, 2018

- On average, how long does the accreditation process take?
 - Once you have the application ready and submitted, it takes three months to receive a decision from DOJ. As an agency must go through internal processes to prepare for the program and application, the length of the entire process can vary.
- Is CLINIC available to help organizations interested in getting accreditation?
 - Luis can provide private consultations. You can reach out to him at lguerra@cliniclegal.org.
- What are some of the challenges you've seen in smaller nonprofits trying to get accredited?
 - They may not have anyone to shadow or get hands-on experience. They also might not have the personnel or funding capacity to complete a project. However, there's education and outreach money for immigration services and subcontracting with organizations such as CFRA is possible.
- What is the policy regarding independent contractors?
 - If they are a contractor within the organization, make the case that the individual is an employee of the organization. The key is to demonstrate that the contractor has supervision and oversight from that agency.
- Can an agency with an attorney still apply for recognition and accreditation with other staff?
 - Yes. It could also help the application, because DOJ likes to see a staff member that understands the consequences and procedures of practicing law.
- Is there an advantage to being a subcontractor for CDSS with immigration services funding when applying for R&A?
 - It will look good because you're seen as already vetted by the state and as having sustainable funding, but it's not a requirement.
- Are there any flyers or trainings for the community on how to recognize fraud or those not appropriately licensed to handle immigration cases?
 - The G28 form is a community education priority as it can only be filled out by an attorney that's licensed or an accredited representative. If someone who's ineligible signs the form, it can make the applicant look suspicious. CLINIC and the California State Bar has materials in English and Spanish on recognizing fraud.
- Is there a directory for those who are licensed and those with DOJ accreditation?

- You would have to find the attorney based on where they are licensed, and then use the search index for the appropriate state bar. The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) website has an updated roster for DOJ-accredited representatives.