

Vera Institute of Justice

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://www.vera.org/publications/implementing-the-vision-report-summary>

Policy Issue Resources

Publication

Universal representationa public defender system for all immigrants facing deportationis based on the fundamental belief that everyone deserves due process under the law. While a growing movement works toward a legally mandated and federally funded representation system, several counties, cities, and states have stepped up to fund deportation defense programs. Although many of these programs have not yet grown to full scale, they have adopted a universal representation modelone advancing the equitable delivery of legal services and rejecting narratives that some people are more deserving than others of due process and dignity. This summary describes the best practices and lessons learned from Veras experienceand the experiences of partners and national leaders implementing programs funded locally or at the state level that have adopted this universal model. This fact sheet provides a summary of insights included in the third module of [*Advancing Universal Representation: A Toolkit for Advocates, Organizers, Legal Service Providers, and Policymakers*](#).

The implementation universal representationa public defender system for all immigrants facing deportationis a significant step toward advancing the equitable delivery of legal services and rejecting narratives that some people are more deserving than others of due process and dignity.

While a growing movement works toward a legally mandated and federally funded representation system, several counties, cities, and states have already stepped up to fund deportation defense programs.

Universal representation holds the government to its burden: providing due process, dignity, and the fullest defense ethically possible to all.

Government funding at the local, state, and federal levels would ensure that universal representation programs remain financially sustainable.

ARTICLE

PUBLICATION

Transformative change, sent to your inbox.

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