



IMMIGRANT CONNECTION LAUNCH PATHWAY



Immigrant Connection partners with & invests in local churches so that more immigrant families can have access to low-cost immigration legal services. In the **Launch Pathway**, Immigrant Connection's (IC) National Team partners with your local team to move step by step through the process of successfully launching a church-based immigration legal services (ILS) office in your community.

WHY IS THE LAUNCH PATHWAY NEEDED?

Starting a Department of Justice recognized ILS office in a church is not a simple process, and there are many "speed bumps" along the way - upfront financial costs, figuring out the government application, choosing the right candidates to become accredited, finding opportunities for shadowing/experience, helping your congregation understand the Biblical basis for welcoming and serving immigrants, etc. Without support, any one of these speed bumps could derail, stall, or seriously slow down your efforts.

WHAT MAKES THE IMMIGRANT CONNECTION PATHWAY UNIQUE?

Experience, Expertise, & Innovation. Immigrant Connection has launched over 23 Local IC Sites around the nation since 2013. We have partnered with a diverse range of churches from various denominations and with congregations that are small, large, urban, suburban, rural, mono-ethnic, and multi-ethnic. We are continually innovating and adapting our Launch Pathway to meet the needs of churches as well as the requirements of the government. For example, we developed our own Virtual Shadowing Experience model, which allows participants to engage and learn at their own pace while still gaining practical, in-depth ILS experience.

Partnership, Support, & Investment. At IC, we value "TOGETHER" (being and doing together) through every step of the Launch Pathway. We don't simply hand you a plan and tell you to do it; we walk beside you every step of the way - answering questions, encouraging your team, and challenging you to reach your goals. While you will work through the on-demand curriculum on your own time, you will also receive personal coaching that will keep you on pace so that you can launch a church-based ILS site in the most efficient timeline. In addition, IC invests up to \$25,000 of the \$30,000 it usually takes to launch a Local IC Site.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF MY CHURCH?

Commitment to Partnership. The IC Launch Pathway entails a *Training Partnership* and a *Financial Partnership*. Within the Training Partnership, IC provides Launching Coaching and Support as well as standardized curriculum and materials, and *your church commits to moving through the Launch Pathway in a timely, focused manner*. Within the Financial Partnership, IC invests up to \$25,000 (as funds are available), and *your church invests a minimum of \$5,000 (called the Launch Investment)*. See Launch Pathway Agreement for details.

Commitment to Mission. Your church joins the Launch Pathway with the IC mission and with equity in mind. This means if a local church has more financial capacity, they may assume more responsibility over associated launch expenses, freeing up IC resources to cover costs of other local churches that may not have the same financial capacity.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO LAUNCH A LOCAL IC SITE?

It costs \$30,000 to launch a Local IC Site. See Launch Pathway Expenses document for details.



- Legal Training (for 2 people) - \$14,000
- Church/Community Training - \$6,000
- Legal Resource Library - \$5,000
- Initial Operating Costs - \$5,000

WHAT IS THE PROCESS/TIMELINE TO LAUNCH A LOCAL IC SITE?

Pre-Pathway. It will take your team about 2 months to complete Pre-Pathway steps.

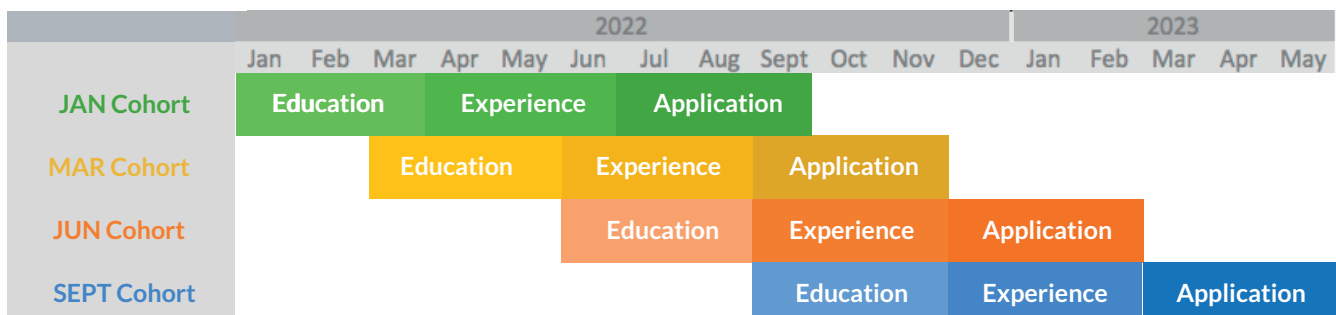
Launch Pathway. It will take your team 9-12 months to move through all the steps and submit a DOJ Recognition & Accreditation (R & A) application to the government.

Government Approval. Waiting on government approval (WOGA) is currently 10-14 months.

Pre-Pathway	Launch Pathway	WOGA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial Interest Call Assessments (local church & potential legal reps) Leadership Team Call IC MOU, Launch Pathway Agreement, Launch Investment submitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch Cohort and start date assigned by IC Education/Training Experience/Shadowing Application Prep Final application review Submit DOJ R & A application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WOGA 10-14 months Potential Welcome Programs Potential Online Learning Cohorts Potential Marketing & Publicity

WHEN CAN MY CHURCH GET STARTED?

Immigrant Connection accepts 12 church teams into the Launch Pathway each year. Once accepted, a church team will be assigned to a Launch Cohort and a start date. Launch Cohorts start in Jan, March, June, and Sept, and start times are staggered in order to provide each church team with optimal support and training opportunities. See Launch Pathway Cohorts, Components, & Timeline document for details. Please note: Launch Cohorts/starts dates are assigned based on availability. Pre-Pathway steps must be initiated at least 2 months prior to the start date of a Launch Cohort.



Launch Pathway Inquiries? Email Courtney Peñaranda, IC Director of Site Launch, at courtney@icwelcome.org.