



## World Relief and CLINIC Co-Host Timely Training to Prepare National Non-Profit Immigration Networks for Implementation of Immigration Reform

World Relief and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC) co-hosted an exciting conference entitled “Building Legal Immigration Services Capacity Through National Networks and their Affiliates” at the World Relief home office in Baltimore on April 3 and 4, 2013.



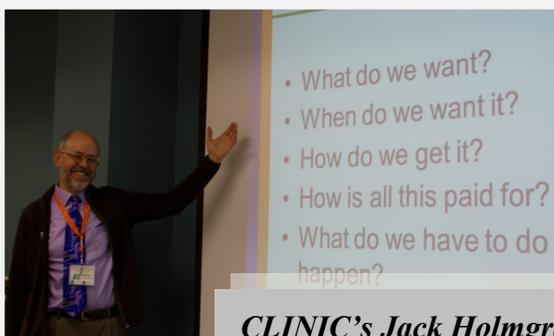
*Participants tackle challenging issues in small groups*

The conference was aimed at national immigration networks and discussed how to prepare for immigration reform and its implementation. The conference was held at a critical time point, considering that the Senate “Gang of 8” introduced an immigration reform bill on April 17. Over forty participants attended, representing twenty national organizations and three local organizations.

The sessions of the conference focused on increasing capacity within networks to serve a greater number of immigrants, as well as preparing networks for implementation of immigration reform. The agenda covered the following and other topics:



- Overview of the need for affordable immigration legal services
- Legislative analysis of possibilities for comprehensive immigration reform
- Building long-term capacity through Board of Appeals (BIA) recognition and accreditation
- Conducting community and partner analysis
- Lessons learned from past large-scale initiatives for future service delivery
- Meeting with USCIS and the American Immigration Lawyers Association discussing the unlawful practice of immigration law
- Training and technical support possibilities during immigration reform
- Meeting with USCIS and the BIA discussing implementation issues with immigration reform and other issues



*CLINIC's Jack Holmgren*

Highlights of the conference included visits from both USCIS and the BIA to discuss issues relevant especially to the non-profit immigration community. The participants found the training to be extremely helpful in terms of content, network, and brainstorming for the future. Additional collaboration is being planned.

*World Relief's Jenny Yang addresses the group*



*CLINIC's Laura Burdick and Jeff Chenoweth and LIRS's Megan Bremer*



### *List of Participating Organizations*

- American Immigration Council
- American Immigration Lawyers Association
- Board of Immigration Appeals
- Casa de Maryland
- Catholic Charities Maryland
- Christian and Missionary Alliance
- Church World Service
- Esperanza
- Ethiopian Community Development Council
- Goodwill Industries International
- Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
- Immigrant Advocates Network
- Immigrant Hope
- International Rescue Committee
- Justice for Our Neighbors
- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services
- Mennonite Central Committee
- National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials
- Presbyterian Church USA
- United Farm Workers Foundation
- United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
- University of Maryland Law School
- US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants



World Relief is an international humanitarian organization affiliated with the National Association of Evangelicals. In the United States World Relief focuses on refugee resettlement and immigrant legal services. It has immigrant legal services programs in over 30 sites of World Relief offices and member organizations in the World Relief Immigrant Legal Support Network. These programs are staffed by BIA-accredited representatives and/or attorneys. World Relief also works with various evangelical denominations to increase their capacity to serve immigrants with legal services.



The Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC) has 217 affiliates in 47 states and over 300 cities comprised of Catholic, other faith-based and non-sectarian charitable immigration programs; it is the largest network of such charitable programs.

CLINIC has a Capacity Building Section staffed by attorneys, Field Support Coordinators and Project Coordinators who provide: immigration program management training (classroom, webinar and e-learning formats) and consult with nonprofit executives on starting immigration legal programs with attorneys and/or BIA accredited representatives.