



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Civil Rights, Racial Equity, and Immigrant Advancement
Benjamin J. Weber, Chair

One City Hall Square 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02201 ♦ Phone: (617) 635-3040 ♦ city.council@boston.gov

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

August 1, 2025

Dear Councilors,

The Committee on Civil Rights, Racial Equity, and Immigrant Advancement was referred the following docket for consideration:

Docket #0890, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) in the form of a grant for the Immigrant Advancement Fund Grant, awarded by the Boston Foundation to be administered by the Office of Immigrant Advancement. The grant will fund programs, initiatives, events and small grants that enable immigrants to play an active role in the economic, civic, social and cultural life of the City of Boston.

This matter was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and was referred to the Committee on April 16, 2025.

Summary of Legislation

Docket #0890 authorizes the City of Boston to accept and expend the Immigrant Advancement Fund Grant in the amount of \$200,000 awarded by the The Boston Foundation to be administered by the Office of Immigrant Advancement. The grant would fund programs, initiatives, events and small grants that will enable immigrants to play an active role in the economic, civic, social and cultural life in the City of Boston.

Information Received at Hearing

The Committee held a hearing on Wednesday, July 30, 2025 to discuss Docket #0890. The Committee was joined by Monique Nguyen, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Advancement, and Hannah Avila, Legal Access Project Manager of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Advancement.

Hannah Avila discussed the legal access work conducted by the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Advancement. She stated that this funding would primarily be used to award legal access grants to various organizations. She stated this is the third year they have administered immigration legal access grants that go to support organizations that provide legal assistance to immigrants to provide "Know Your Rights" presentations, immigration court support, ICE appointments, asylum and work permit applications, and other forms of legal consultations and assistance. As of this year, the Office has received 41 applications for these grants, and has awarded grants to 20 different organizations.

Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on Civil Rights, Racial Equity, and Immigrant Advancement I recommend moving the listed docket from the Committee to the full Council for discussion and formal action. At this time, my recommendation to the full Council will be that this matter **OUGHT TO PASS**.



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