



A Snapshot of Hope Acts



- Our Mission: Hope Acts offers asylum seekers access to housing and basic needs, assistance in navigating complex immigration processes, and resources for learning English to help them successfully transition to a new life in Maine.
- 11 staff members and 80+ volunteers.
- We are based in Portland with clients throughout southern Maine. In 2025 we served over 3,000 people. Our clients are both families with children and single adults. Almost all are low or extremely low income.
- Last year, 52% of clients came to us with an immigration-related problem and 42% needed help with an issue related to housing.



Our Services



- Housing
- Work Permit Clinic
- English Language Learning
- Digital Literacy
- Immigration Navigation
- Access to Basic Needs



Responding to the Federal Administration Arrests, Detentions and Deportations

- Over 80 clients arrested and detained since 2025, mostly men. There is no specific reason/pattern as to who is taken.
- Most of our clients and half of our staff sheltered in place during the January ICE “surge.”
- During the surge, we partnered with multiple food pantries, churches, Portland Schools, and volunteers to deliver food, diapers and baby formula to 100 household, mostly families with children.
- All our focus is on planning, prevention and emergency response. Individuals and families are emotionally and financially devastated.

"We fled the rain, only to find ourselves drowning in the river."

- asylum seeker/Hope Acts staff member



Meeting the Moment

- **Planning:** working with clients to create guardianship plans for children, power of attorney documents, finding attorneys, and access resources, compiling immigration records, medical information, etc.
- **Prevention:** educating clients and answering questions about how to stay as safe as possible, partnering with Maine Volunteer Drivers to provide rides to immigration appointments.
- **Immediate Detention Support:** coordinating with attorneys, accessing legal funds, notifying employers and landlords, setting up commissary accounts at detention centers, writing letters of support, finding sponsors.
- **Support for Non-Detained family:** helping moms with children survive the crisis—sign up for emergency food and financial support, ensure basic needs are met and advocate for the family however is needed.



Volunteer Opportunities

- Driving to Immigration Appointments
- Practicing English with a Student (on-line)
- Teaching assistants for online and conversational classes
- One-on-one mentoring with an individual or family
- Work with clients in our office
- Coming soon. . .Gardening and outdoor maintenance



Thank you!



For more information, please visit our website: hopeacts.org. FMI: contact Martha Stein, martha@hopeacts.org , 207-217-4456 or Madeleine Saucier, madeleine@hopeacts.org 207-350-9799