



**American
Friends
Service
Committee**

<https://afsc.org/programs/new-jersey-immigrant-rights>
Immigrant Youth Education and Empowerment Project

Who we are:

AFSC is a nonprofit organization working for peace with justice for all. For over 30 years, AFSC has supported immigrant communities in New Jersey. In 2018, an office was established in Red Bank to better serve the 87,000 immigrant residents in Monmouth County by providing legal services and youth mentorship.

The project:

This project seeks to transform the lives of first-generation Americans, immigrant students, and children of immigrants by empowering them to pursue higher education. In New Jersey, where 40% of children live in immigrant families and one in four residents is an immigrant, the need for targeted support is critical. In Monmouth County, just 26.6% of university graduates are from multicultural backgrounds, demonstrating a significant gap in higher education attainability.

Without individualized guidance, countless talented students face daunting barriers that prevent them from accessing higher education. The consequences are profound: these young people could miss out on opportunities for personal growth and economic stability. This project emphasizes mentorship, guiding students through the college application process and assisting with vital financial aid applications. Additionally, it engages parents by demystifying the college process and addressing their questions about higher education, all provided in multiple languages to ensure accessibility and inclusivity.

AFSC's strong partnerships with local nonprofits, such as Lunch Break, and educational institutions like Red Bank Regional High School and Brookdale Community College, enhance the effectiveness of this initiative. Supporting these students and their families is an investment in the future of communities, ensuring that every potential bright future is realized.

How it aligns with Impact 100 NJ Coast's Funding Priorities:

This project is a powerful opportunity to transform lives, aligning perfectly with Impact 100 NJ Coast's funding priorities—Education, Children & Families, and Health & Wellness. By providing mentorship to first-generation and immigrant youth in Monmouth County, it empowers young people and their families to overcome barriers to higher education. The mental health benefits are significant, alleviating the anxiety and stress associated with navigating complex systems and fostering resilience. This is a generational legacy project that will create lasting change—years from now, it will be possible to point to the professionals nurtured through this program, all of whom will be making remarkable contributions to our county and enriching their communities for the better.