WAW’s NYCC services also included assistance with public benefits, safety planning and support for domestic violence survivors and assault, immigration, education, job placement, interpretation/translation, accompaniment to appointments, and other needs.

These services are highly needed because many immigrant families are unable to access basic needs nor receive assistance due to language and cultural barriers. 80-90% of our clients have little to no education and do not speak English. This, in addition to a new culture and way of life, makes navigating daily life very difficult.

What’s more, immigrant women struggle with domestic violence and isolation, while living in poverty and limited opportunities to get out of these difficult circumstances.

We strive to get families out of poverty and to improve their quality of life.

WAW’s case management and legal support program remains the only culturally sensitive and linguistically competent program able to serve the needs of the NY Afghan population, in addition to South Asian, Muslim, and other immigrant groups. We provide services in 6 languages: Dari/Farsi, Pashto, Urdu, Hindi, Spanish, and English.

VISION FORWARD:
We want to increase the capacity of this program so we can fully meet community needs. We will continue our outreach to promote language access, women’s rights, healthy relationships, and change the community culture towards gender equity.
LIZA came to the United States (US) in 2019, already from a verbally and psychologically abusive marriage of two years. Her husband wanted her to stop going to college and live with his family in Afghanistan while he moved back to New York. He would send her videos of himself cutting his wrists and threatened to kill himself if she did not listen. He even threatened to never bring her to the US and harm her and her family.

Despite all the abuse and threats, she continued her studies and she and her family made a very brave decision to send her to the US. When she arrived in New York, she was afraid for her safety and reported her situation to the police at the airport. Liza was connected to WAW, and our caseworker began to find her a safe place to stay in the city.

Within three months, WAW’s case management and legal team obtained her permanent resident card, social security card, and ensured her address was secure to make sure none of her information is shared with her husband, who is her petitioner and abuser.

Additionally, WAW’s caseworker connected her to secure housing and employment opportunities. She is working with a lawyer to get a divorce and move on with her life. Liza wants to become a doctor.

Thanks to the assistance she received from WAW and partner organizations, Liza is happy to be free from her abusive relationship, and hopeful for her new life in New York City.

“I am so happy for the chance to lead a decent life while at the same time being able to take care of my family and provide a critical service to my community.” - Liza