StateFedConnect Action Call

The Pandemic’s Disproportionate Impact on Immigrant Children and Families: What Philanthropists and Advocates Can Do

May 1, 2020
Welcome.

Lisa Klein
Executive Director,
Alliance for Early Success

Shannon Rudisill
Executive Director,
Early Childhood Funders Collaborative
Today’s Call

- **Housekeeping and Reminders**
  Karen Howard, *Alliance for Early Success*

- **The Pandemic’s Disproportionate Impact on Immigrant Children and Families: What Philanthropists and Advocates Can Do**
  Wendy Cervantes
  Director, Immigration and Immigrant Families
  *Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)*

  Rebecca Vonderlack-Navarro, PhD
  Manager, Education Policy and Research
  Jose Marco-Parades
  Senior Policy and Communications Analyst
  *Latino Policy Forum*

  Yael Ross
  Director, Center for New American Children
  *Children at Risk (Texas)*

  Denise Dell Isola
  Senior Program Officer
  Ausannette Garcia-Goyette
  Associate Program Officer
  *Irving Harris Foundation*

- **Questions and Answers**

- **Federal Update**
  Danielle Ewen, *Education Counsel*

- **Wrap Up**
  Shannon Rudisill, *Early Childhood Funders Collaborative*
  Karen Howard and Helene Stebbins, *Alliance for Early Success*
COVID-19 and Immigrant Children and Families

Wendy Cervantes
Director, Immigration and Immigrant Families

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLSP)
COVID-19 and Immigrant Children and Families

May 1, 2020
COVID-19’s Impact on Immigrant Families

• Exacerbating existing inequities for immigrant families:
  – More likely to be low-income
  – More likely to lack health insurance
  – Underrepresented in other critical safety net programs, including Medicaid and SNAP

• Anti-immigrant policies have already led to immigrants avoiding critical assistance for themselves and their children
  – Fears of immigration enforcement
  – Concerns due to policies like the public charge rule
COVID-19’s Impact on Immigrant Families

• Immigrants represent 20% of workers in the hardest hit industries and fill “essential” roles

• DACA and TPS holders at risk of losing work authorization, despite many holding health care and other critical positions

• Immigrants—including children and families—being held in detention facilities are at increased risk of infection

• Immigrants and their families have been largely left out of the federal policy response

Photo credit to Protecting Immigrant Families Campaign
Some Relief for Immigrant Families, But Not Enough

• Funding for COVID-19 testing for uninsured, and increased funding for community health centers
• Cash assistance for immigrants with SSNs, including DACA and TPS holders
• Expanded nutrition assistance (Pandemic EBT, expanded WIC provisions, etc.)
• Expansion of unemployment insurance, including for independent contractors
Many Immigrant Families Left Out of Federal Response

• Bills did not lift the underlying restrictions in Medicaid and SNAP
  – As a result, many immigrants remain excluded from health care and SNAP, including DACA and TPS recipients, many green card holders (residing less than 5 years in the US), and undocumented immigrants
  – Serious implications for access to COVID-19 testing and treatment

• Confusion and fear over policies like public charge are likely to limit use of health services and benefits that families are eligible for (e.g. P-EBT)
Many Immigrant Families Left Out of Federal Response

- Workers must have SSN and be work authorized to collect economic impact payments or unemployment benefits (including PUA)
  - As a result, 2 million U.S. citizen spouses and 4.1 million U.S. citizen children in mixed-status families will be denied critical economic assistance
  - A mixed-status family with 1 U.S. citizen spouse and 2 U.S. citizen children losing out on $2,200 in cash relief

Photo credit to the Washington Post

Protecting Immigrant Families reference guide
What Can Advocates and Funders Do?

• Federal policy advocacy
  – Congressional advocacy to include immigrant families in future COVID-19 relief packages
  – Administrative advocacy to stop implementation of harmful policies and restrict enforcement/detention

• State policy advocacy to fill the federal gaps
  – Engaging local elected officials in federal advocacy
  – Advancing state policy measures to support immigrant families (Pandemic-EBT)

• Support CBOs serving immigrant families

Talking points on COVID-19 and children of immigrants
Children Thrive Action Network

- **Purpose:** To defend and support children growing up in the United States in immigrant families.
- **Membership:** Advocates and service providers at the national, state, and local level who work directly with or on behalf of children.
- **Coordinating Committee:** CDF-TX, CLASP, HANA Center, Justice for Migrant Women, MomsRising, The Children’s Partnership, NASW, NEA, and UnidosUS
- **Working Groups:** Federal Advocacy, State Advocacy, Provider Resources, and Communications
Contact Info

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COVID-19 and Immigrant Children and Families

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Impact and Response in Texas

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Questions and Answers

“Raise your Hand” to be unmuted to ask a question.
Federal Updates

Danielle Ewen
Principal, Education Counsel
Questions and Answers

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Thank you.

earlysuccess.org/resources/COVID19