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Supporting Survivors at the Intersection of Immigration & Child Welfare Webinar



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PROMISING FUTURES
**NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING CENTER TO EXPAND
SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ABUSED PARENTS
IMPACTED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**



Promising Futures

3

Our vision is a world where all children and families have everything they need to heal and thrive in a world that is free of violence.



Promising Futures

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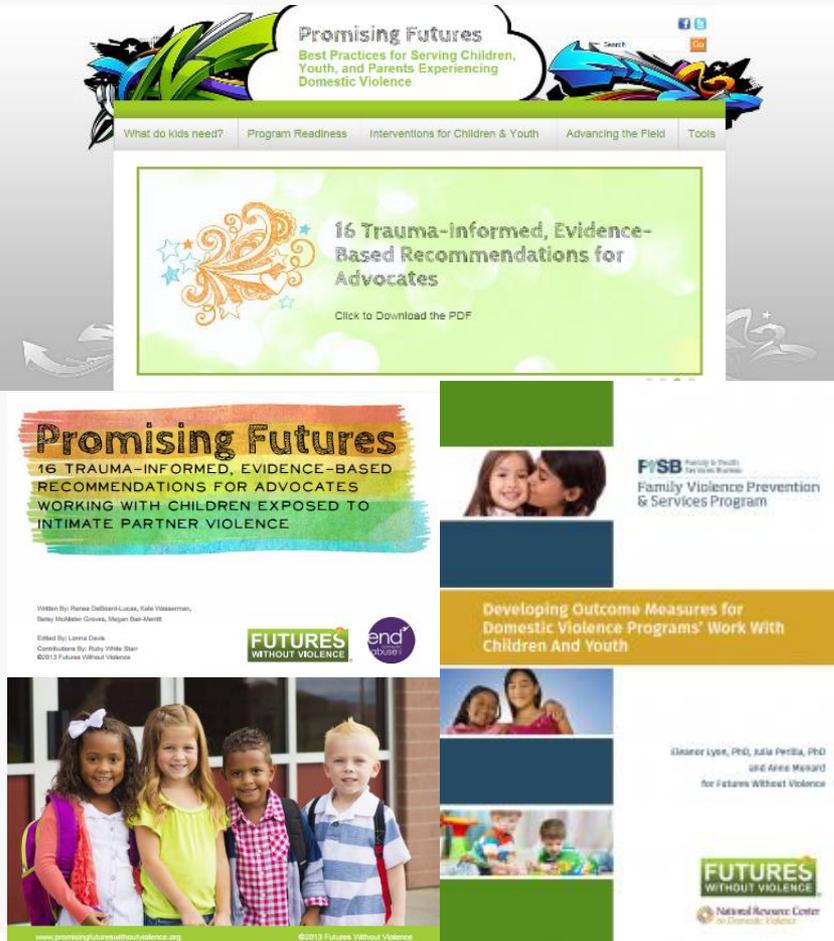
Goals:

- To help programs create the experiences and conditions that prevents family violence AND help children and families heal and thrive in the aftermath of family violence.
- To strengthen programs' ability to capture and share their stories of impact



Promising Futures: Best Practices for Serving Children and Youth Experiencing Domestic Violence

5



Website Includes:

- Resources for DV programs/Advocates to enhance children's programming
- Capacity Building resources
- Bridging Research with Practice
- Interventions for Children and Youth
- Trauma-Informed Strategies
- Practical tools and resources

www.promisingfutureswithoutviolence.org

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Introduction to Immigrant Survivors at the Intersection of Child Welfare

Rebecca Rodriguez, PhD

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WE ARE CAMINAR LATINO



Latinos United for Peace and Equity (LUPE)

Immigrant Children & Families in the U.S.

1 in 7 US residents is foreign born

1 in 4 children under age 18 in the U.S. (18.2 million children) live with at least one immigrant parent

Many in mixed status families:

- some adults and/or children are U.S. citizens,
- others are Lawful Permanent Residents (i.e. “green card”)
- others have temporary status (e.g. work visas)
- others lack lawful status (i.e. “undocumented/unauthorized immigrant”)

(2018 American Community Survey)



Photo by [Yogendra Singh](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Families Separated by Immigration Enforcement

Higher risk for family separation

- 5.5 million children in mixed-legal status families with at least one parent who is an unauthorized immigrant
- Latinos are 77% percent of unauthorized population but represent 90% percent of immigrants removed
- Black immigrants more likely to be deported due to a criminal convictions

Prevalence likely underestimated but increasing

- 108,000 parents of U.S.-citizen children deported from 1997-2007 (DHS, 2009)
- 204,810 parents of U.S.-citizen children deported from 2010-2012 (DHS, FOIA data)

Increases correlated with shifts in local immigration enforcement policy

- Work related enforcement (e.g. workplace raids)
- Criminal justice system cooperation with ICE (Secure communities)

May 2019 Advocates Survey

“IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS NO LONGER WANT TO GO TO FAMILY COURT. THEY ARE TOO SCARED. THEY PUT UP WITH ABUSE AND THEY REFUSE TO GET CHILD SUPPORT BECAUSE THEY ARE SCARED THEY WILL BE REPORTED TO IMMIGRATION [AUTHORITIES].”

“VICTIMS ALSO BELIEVE THAT COURTS WILL AUTOMATICALLY SIDE WITH THE ABUSER REGARDLESS OF EVIDENCE OR VICTIM’S TESTIMONY, SOLELY BECAUSE THE ABUSER IS A U.S. CITIZEN. **IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSURE VICTIMS THAT COURTS ARE MEANT TO BE FAIR** AND LOOK THROUGH ALL INFORMATION, ESPECIALLY WHEN ... THE NEWS SOUNDS ANTI-IMMIGRANT.”

3 OUT OF **4**
ADVOCATES



report that immigrant survivors have concerns about going to court for a matter related to the abuser/offender

Survey conducted by: NNEDV, NAESV, Tahiri Justice Center, ASISTA, National DV Hotline, API-GBV, Casa de Esperanza

<https://www.tahiri.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-Advocate-Survey-Final.pdf>

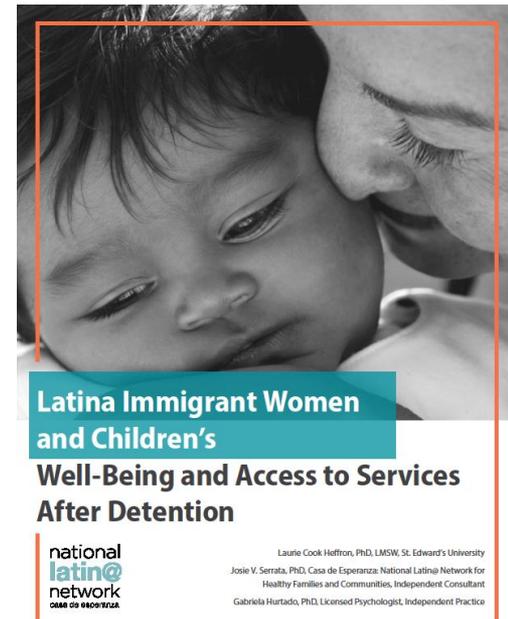
Detention Impacts on the Family

Family relationships and parent-child attachment are strained in multiple ways during detention and after release

Children may enter child welfare system

Post-detention experiences contribute to increased vulnerability to exploitation and other abuses

- Precarious housing,
- high bonds,
- employment barriers,
- the use of ankle monitors and frequent ICE check-ins
- disconnected from social support and services
- current anti-immigrant climate elevates fears and access to services



([Cook Heffron, L., Serrata, J. V., & Alvarado Hurtado, M. G., 2018](#)).

Impacts on Families

Compounding trauma (e.g. witnessing violence, family separation)

- Heightened levels of fear around detention and deportation & family separation correlated with increased social isolation and reduced mobility
- Mistrust of law enforcement
- Psychological trauma
- Increased mental health risks
- Poor education outcomes for children



Photo by [Johann Walter Bantz](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Pathways into the nexus

Multiple ways that survivors can encounter child welfare and ICE

Straight Path - Parent(s) detained (e.g. workplace raid) which follows with child welfare involvement

Parallel Path - Local law enforcement agency is notified of child abuse or neglect allegations leading to cross reporting of parent to ICE

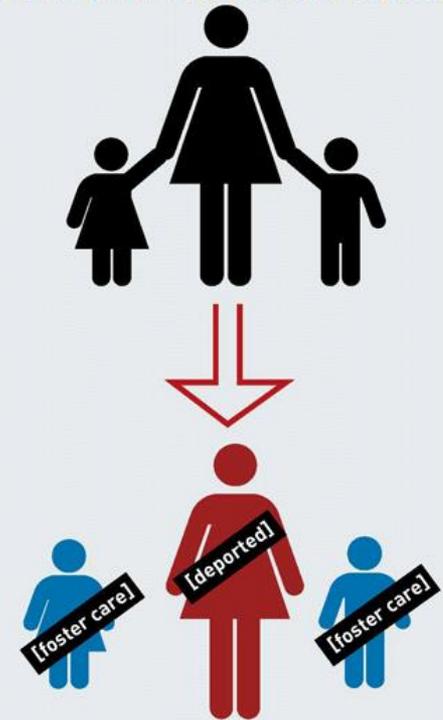
- Co-occurring DV and child abuse, maltreatment, or neglect
- Child welfare used as a form of control over survivor and their children, e.g. abuser may report survivor to child welfare

Interrupted Path – Already involved with child welfare and detention interrupts the process of family reunification

- What are other ways?

SHATTERED FAMILIES

The Perilous Intersection of Immigration Enforcement and the Child Welfare System





Immigrant Survivors engaged in Child Welfare System

- Gendered nature of involvement - Women are most likely to be primary caregiver involved in child welfare systems and more likely to experience IPV
- Undocumented and US citizen women report similar rates of IPV as U.S. citizens, but more likely to have child maltreatment allegations involving domestic violence (Ogbonnaya et al. 2015)
- Immigrants might not disclose IPV when prompted due to language barriers, lack of information about their legal rights, the stress of adapting to a new culture, and difficulties resolving their immigration status (Geisz 2014)
- Immigrants investigated by the CWS are less likely to receive a range of other services (Dettlaff and Berger Cardoso 2010; Finno-Velasquez 2013; Finno-Velasquez et al. 2015, 2016)
- However high service use when referred to specialized services by the child welfare worker

Dynamics of Abuse for Immigrant Survivors

- **Isolation**-Preventing someone from learning English or communicating with friends, family or others. Moving to places where transportation is not available.
- **Threats**-Threatening deportation or withdrawal of petitions for legal status.
- **Intimidation**– Destroying legal documents or papers needed in this country, such as passports, resident cards, health insurance or driver’s licenses.
- **Manipulation Regarding Citizenship or Residency**– Withdrawing or refusing to file immigration papers; threatening loss of legal status if abuse is reported.
- **Economic Abuse**– Withholding documents to be able work, making false reports to employers regarding immigration status.
- **Using Children**-Threatening to hurt children or send them away if the police are contacted or threatening to harm children or family in their home country.

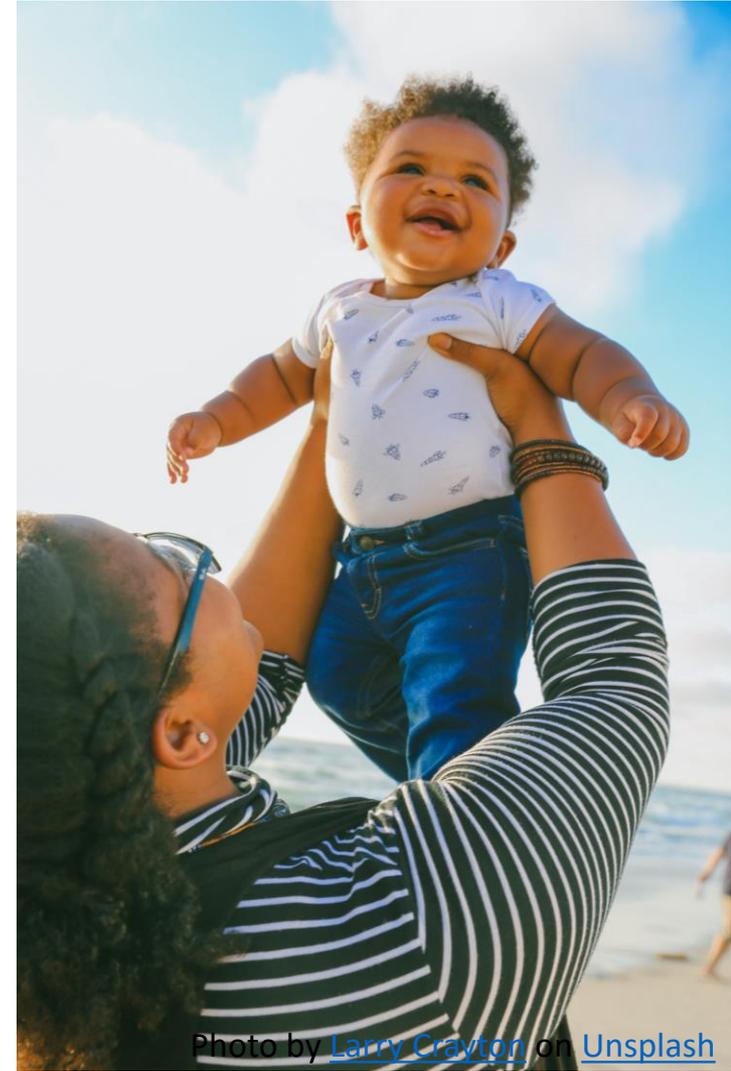
Cultural and Contextual Barriers to CPS Engagement

- Parents transferred to detention centers away from home community, difficulty to access family court proceedings
- Immigration status may make it difficult to meet the needs of case plans required for family reunification
- Language or cultural barriers may lead to a perception of unwillingness to work with caseworkers
- Unfamiliarity with the systems involved
- Hesitation from undocumented family members to accept kinship placements
- Compounded with immigrant families disproportionately impacted by lack of adequate healthcare, food, and shelter
- And etc.



Strengths Based Trauma Informed Advocacy

- Need more research in this area to understand and document effective intervention strategies for these families
- Preliminary evidence support culturally specific and trauma informed practice approaches for increase well-being in immigrant Latina survivors
 - **Advocate knowledge and support around immigration** was a primary factor in culturally specific service provision in this study (Serrata, et al 2019)
- Latina immigrants had higher trust in family members and community organizations for IPV support rather than systems (Rodriguez et al, 2018)
- Looking toward documenting more practice based evidence



Thank you!

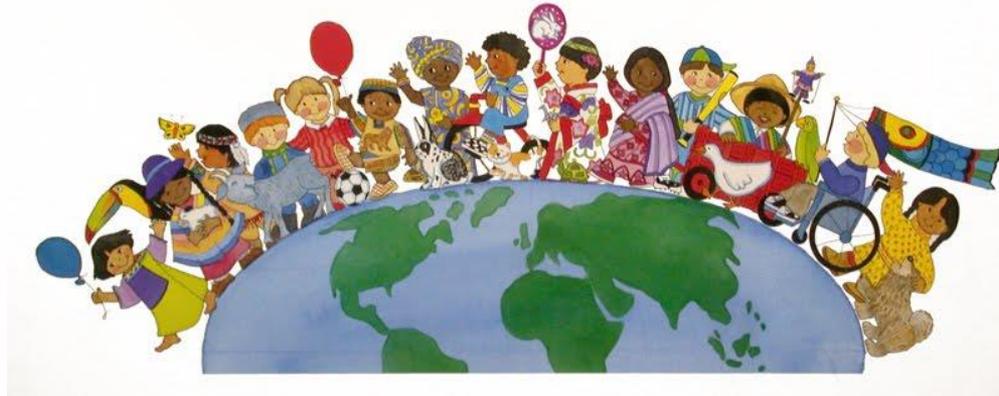


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Best Child Welfare Practices when working with Immigrant Children and Families



The case of Maria

- Maria, 16 years old, Honduran, female.
- Referred to help process migration story and abuse and neglect history.
- Her mother died when she was 9 years old
- Maria's witnessed DV by her biological father towards her mother for many years
- Maria experienced abuse and neglect by family friend and biological father and step mother
- Harassed and threatened by local gang member
- Decision to flee country included risk of potential of rape, death threats, history of abuse and neglect
- Migration
- Detention
- Transition into her new life in US



What do you think are some challenges Maria might face as she begins her new life in the US?



Challenges Include:

- Compounded trauma due to years of abuse and neglect, witness to domestic violence, gang violence, migration and detainment
- Language Access
- Adapting to new cultures, environments and systems
- Lack of support or community resources
- Fear of removal & Family separation
- Economic



What do you think are some protective factors in Maria's case example?



Protective Factors Include:

- Family (older brother and sister living in US), she was in her older sister's care while awaiting immigration trial
- Access to care (immigration attorney, therapist)
- Access to Education (counselor at school and group for immigrant children)
- She was raised by her biological mother until age 9, she had a strong bond with biological mother and siblings



Best Child Welfare Practices when working with Immigrant Children and Families

1. **Child Focused-** The safety, permanency and well –being of children are the leading criteria for the decisions
2. **Family centered services-** Children, parents and extended family members are involved in all phases, engagement, assessment, planning and implementation of case plans
3. **Strength-based-** Practices emphasize the strengths and resources of children, families and their communities
4. **Individualized-** Case plan address the unique needs of each family
5. **Practice Cultural Humility-** The National Institutes of Health (NIH) [defines cultural humility](#) as “a lifelong process of self-reflection and self-critique whereby the individual not only learns about another’s culture, but one starts with an examination of her/his own beliefs and cultural identities.”
6. **Community Based-** Planning and implementation of case plans are undertaken in partnership with formal and informal networks and systems

**The original information on this page is found on pgs. 8,9 in the “A Social Workers Toolkit When Working with Immigrant Families” Healing the Damage: Trauma and Immigrant Families In the Child Child Welfare System.



Case Management Needs:

1. Job as Navigators to connect client to different systems
2. Make appropriate legal referrals for family/parent/child
 - Immigration Law referrals
 - Family Law referrals for custody issues
3. Accompaniment to appointments when needed (ex: court, consulate)
4. Access to Health Care and Mental Health for family
 - Children have right to access healthcare
 - Provide referrals for healthcare providers/free mental health clinics to family regardless of status (ex: NYC Cares in NYC)
5. Access to Nutrition
 - Public Benefit eligibility
 - Providing information to local food banks, community programs that offer food assistance (ex: in NYC free food delivery services in certain boroughs to communities impacted by COVID)
4. Access to Education
5. Providing Advocacy letters on behalf of family/caregiver/parent/child to help assist in their immigration case
6. Safety Planning (ongoing)

Safety planning for Children and Families

Step 1:

Create a plan that the whole family knows about. Identify trusted adults that your child(ren) can turn to in the event of an emergency (like a teacher, mentor or extended family member) and have your child(ren) memorize their contact information. Choose someone you trust to care for your child(ren) in the event of an emergency, detainment or deportation. Talk to your child(ren) about this plan.

*This person should be over the age of 18, a US citizen or have LPR status, and ideally live close enough to pick up your child(ren) on short notice.

Step 2:

Update and collect important documents. Keep original documents together in a safe place. Make sure your emergency contact person knows where you keep these documents or has copies of them. This guide identifies the important documents that you should update and collect, and provides information on how to obtain documents you do not already have. * Keep in mind, setting up these documents does not guarantee your child(ren) will be placed with the emergency contact, but may guide the courts, law enforcement and others on your preference as the parent.

Step 3:

Seek the help of others to support and reunite your family. Consult a family law attorney to follow up on items like changing legal custody. Contact community groups about deportation defense. Work with advocates to Know Your Rights. And remember, if your child(ren) were born in the United States, he/she is a U.S. citizen and has the right to certain benefits.

** Original safety planning information obtained from pages 3,4 from “**Legal Counsel for Youth and Children: Immigrant Safety Plan for Youth and children**”

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/533dcf7ce4b0f92a7a64292e/t/5acf713e2b6a28b2996df75b/1523544386493/Immigrant+Safety+Plan+March+2018.pdf>



Impact of COVID-19 on Immigrant Children & Families

- **Lack of access to healthcare**
- **Lack of PPE and Basic cleaning supplies**
- **Lack of access to food**
- **Lack of access to child care**
- **Lack of access to technology, WIFI, tablets for children's remote learning needs**
- **Lack of employment due to illness (COVID)**
- **Lack of unemployment insurance (some not eligible due to status)**

How can you help as an advocate?

Violence Intervention Program, Inc.

vipmujeres.org



Contact Information:

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Violence Intervention Program

Ksalinas@vipmujeres.org

Violence Intervention Program
(NYC)-

Bi-lingual 24 Hour Domestic

Violence Hotline: **1-800-664-5884**



Resources:

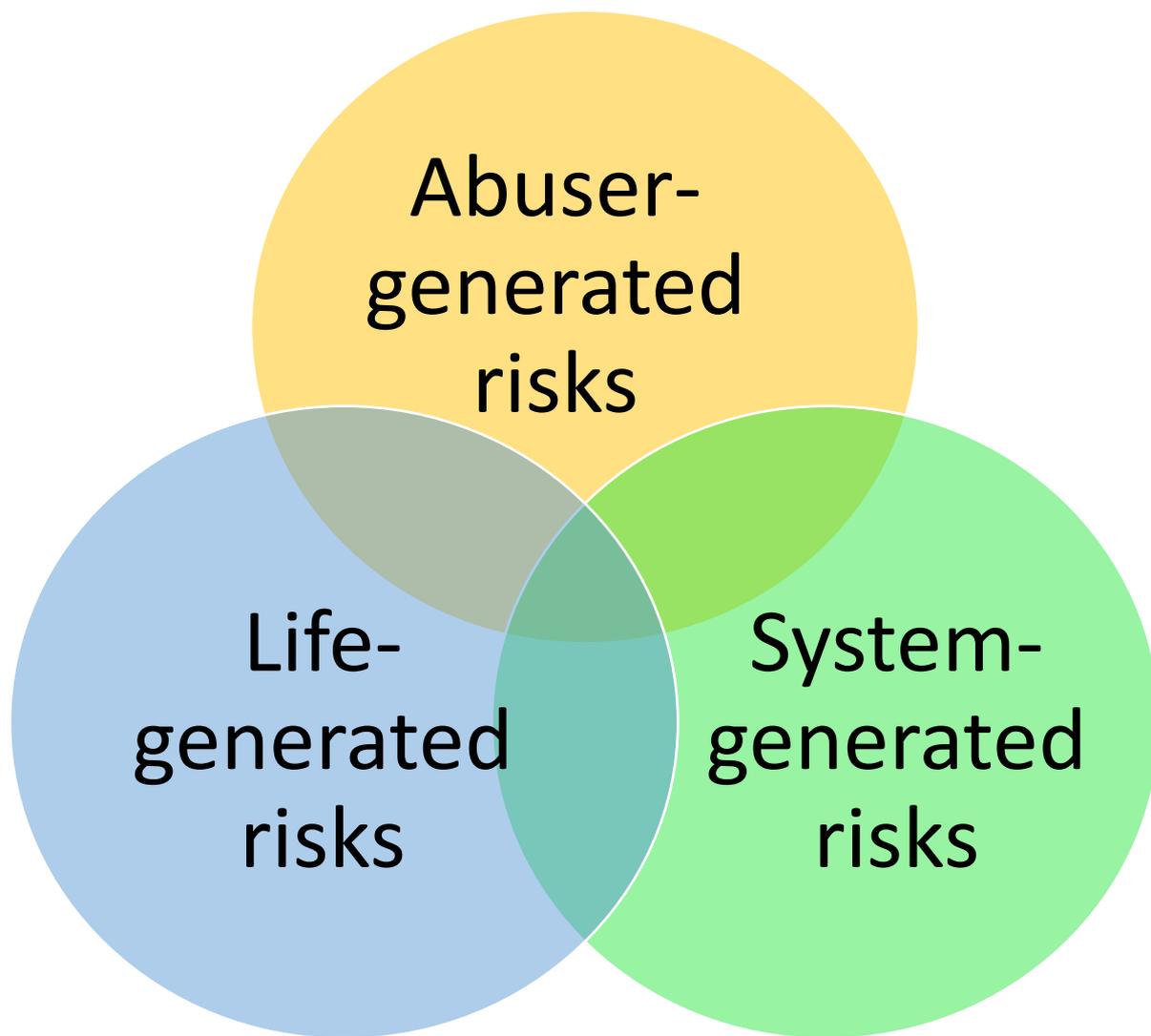
1. **“A Social Workers Toolkit When Working with Immigrant Families”
Healing the Damage: Trauma and Immigrant Families In the Child
Child Welfare System**
<https://bettercarenetwork.org/sites/default/files/A%20Social%20Worker's%20Toolkit%20for%20Working%20with%20Immigrant%20Families.pdf>
2. **“Family Safety Planning Toolkit for Enforcement Preparedness”**
https://www.acluak.org/sites/default/files/field_documents/family_safety_planning_toolkit.pdf
3. **“Legal Counsel for Youth and Children: Immigrant Safety Plan for Youth and children”**
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/533dcf7ce4b0f92a7a64292e/t/5accf713e2b6a28b2996df75b/1523544386493/Immigrant+Safety+Plan+March+2018.pdf>
4. **“3 Things to Know: Cultural Humility”**
<https://hogg.utexas.edu/3-things-to-know-cultural-humility>
5. **United Immigrants of New York** (YouTube Channel)
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvWhjXmUu9UPcTpr_w_gz6Q
6. **Make the Road (NY)**- Immigrant Rights non profit with location in various states with a plethora of information ranging from public benefits, employment, immigrant, health care rights and much more.
<https://maketheroadny.org/>

The National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities

- *The National Latin@ Network is a project of Casa de Esperanza and is a national resource center focused on ending domestic violence and sexual assault while promoting the health and well-being of Latin@ communities around the country.*
- The main goals of the National Latin@ Network are:
 - Education and awareness
 - Policy Advocacy
 - Capacity building and Training
 - Research

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What are the barriers a survivor faces?

In what category would you place them?

Some of the Legal Protections Available to Immigrant Survivors

The Constitution

- Due Process
- Right Against Self-Incrimination

Federal Law

- Civil Rights laws
- Access to services necessary for life or safety
- VAWA, FVPSA, VOCA, INA
- Wage Protection Laws

International law

- Int'l treaties re: refugees
- Convention Against Torture

State Law

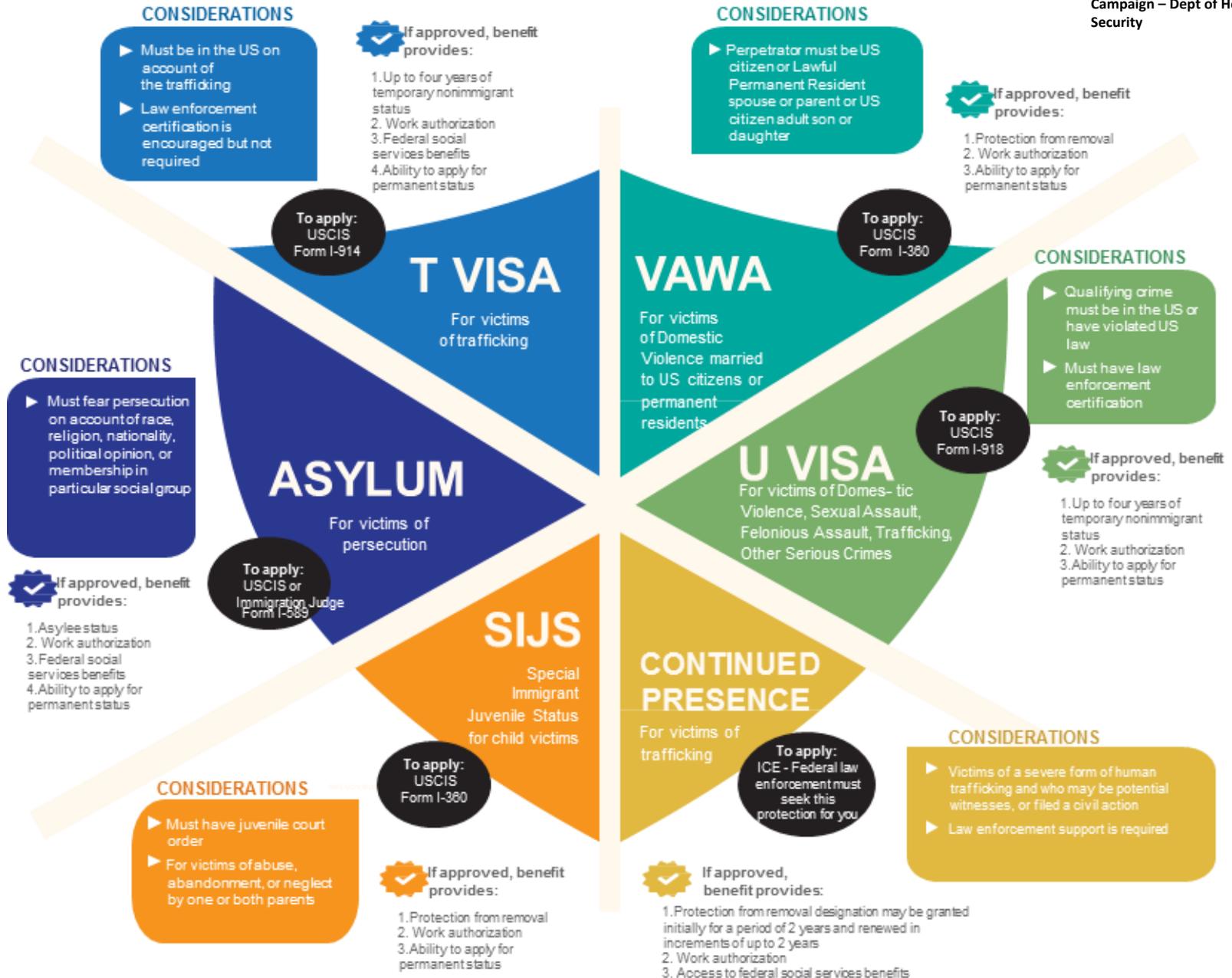
- Privilege, confidentiality
- Housing laws
- State and local services
- State U visa certification laws, etc..

Obligations of Service Providers

- **3-prong test:** All individuals are eligible for **emergency services necessary for protection of life and safety regardless of immigration status**, when services are also **in-kind**, and **not means tested** (PRWORA; 8 U.S.C. §§ 161 I(b)(I)(D))
- Joint HUD, DOJ, HHS letter on access to services necessary for life or safety <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/file/883641/download>
 - **Short-term shelter or transitional housing assistance (up to 2 years)**
 - Crisis counseling and intervention programs
 - Child and Adult Protection Services
 - Soup kitchens, community food banks
 - Medical and public health services necessary for life or safety
 - Assistance to help individuals during adverse weather conditions (e.g. during hurricanes)
 - Other services necessary to protect life or safety that meet 3-prong test

Protections for Immigrant Survivors

- Congress created important protections in a bipartisan manner
 - Violence Against Women Act (**VAWA**) (1994, 2000, 2005, 2013)
 - Trafficking Victims Prevention Act (**TVPA**)
- Recognize that abusers often exploit a victim's lack of immigration status as a tactic of abuse
- VAWA also includes important confidentiality protections for immigrant survivors



Immigration Relief-Elements

VAWA self-petition

- Spouse or child of USC or LPR or parent of adult USC son or daughter
- Suffered battery or extreme cruelty
- Joint residency with abuser
- Good moral character
- For petitions based on marriage: show good faith marriage

U visa

- Victim of Qualifying Crime –full list at INA 101(a)(15)(u)(iii)
- Suffered substantial physical or mental abuse as a result of victimization;
- Had information about the crime;
- Was, is, or will be helpful in the investigation or prosecution of the crime.
- Crime occurred in US or violated U.S law
- Admissible or eligible for a waiver under INA 212(d)(14) “national or public interest”

T visa

- Victim of severe form of trafficking
- Physically present in the U.S. on account of the trafficking;
- Complied with reasonable requests for help in the investigation or prosecution of trafficking
- Would suffer extreme hardship if had to return to home country.

Benefits of Immigration Relief

VAWA self-petition

Ability to apply for green card without remaining in abusive relationship

Can include minor children as derivative beneficiaries

Work authorization upon approval

U visa

Can include certain family members as beneficiaries (NOT abuser)

If in US, 2 year work permit based on deferred action while on the waitlist

Once issued full 4 year visa, can apply to become LPR after 3 years

T visa

Provides 4 year visa, after certain time or case posture can apply to become LPR

Can include certain family members as beneficiaries (more expansive than U visa)

Access to expanded public benefits (like refugees)

U visa Certification

- In order for a victim to file a U visa application, the victim of a qualifying criminal activity must obtain a U visa certification from a government official eligible under the U visa regulations to sign certifications.
- Government agency officials complete the U visa certification form (I-918B), which certifies the criminal activity that took place and that the applicant immigrant victim was helpful, is being helpful, or will likely be helpful in the detection, investigation, prosecution, conviction, and/or sentencing
- In addition to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and prosecutors, other government agencies that can certify include: **Child Protective Services (CPS)**, Adult Protective Services (APS), **Judges**, Department of Labor, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)

Provides certain children who have been subject to state juvenile court proceedings related to abuse, neglect, abandonment, or a similar basis under state law the ability to seek Lawful Permanent Residence in the U.S.

Eligibility criteria include:

1. The applicant must be under 21 years old
2. He/she must be unmarried;
3. S/he must be declared a dependent on a “juvenile court” in the U.S. or the court must have legally placed him/her under the custody of an agency or an individual or entity appointed by a state family court or juvenile court, while the child is in the US. (Note: the requisite court order usually needs to have occurred before the child turned 18);
4. The court must find that reunification with one or both of the child’s parents must no longer be a viable option due to abuse, neglect, abandonment or a similar basis under state law; AND
5. It is not in the best interests of the minor to return to his/her country of nationality or last habitual residence.

Overarching Principles for Protecting Rights of Immigrants in Child Welfare

- Federal law does not require child protective workers to contact immigration enforcement authorities when they encounter individuals without authorized immigration status.
- Immigration detention or deportation do not alone constitute grounds for termination of parental rights in child welfare proceedings.
- Parents who lack lawful immigration status have the same constitutional rights as U.S. Citizen parents in child welfare proceedings.
- Parents are entitled to participate in hearings while in detention or if they live abroad. Similarly, parents are entitled to reasonable efforts that support reunification goals even if they do not live in the United States.
- Federal law does not require foster parents to have lawful immigration status. State laws and requirements vary.
- Some states have explicit statutory or policy exceptions to federal and state timeliness requirements regarding termination of parental rights when cases involve a parent who has been detained or deported through immigration enforcement. Even in states without articulated exceptions, child, parent, and agency attorneys can advocate for such exceptions in individual cases.
- Excerpt from ABA Center on Children and the Law, “Immigrants in the Child Welfare System” See: https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/child_law/Immigration%20in%20CWS%20Case%20Studies_final.authcheckdam.pdf

ICE Policies and Procedures Involving Detained Parents and Legal Guardians

- **PLACEMENT:** Making appropriate initial placement and transfer decisions for detained immigrant parents and legal guardians who are identified as parties in ongoing family court or child welfare proceedings.
- **FACILITATING PARTICIPATION IN FAMILY OR STATE COURT PROCEEDINGS:** Arranging for transportation to family court or child welfare hearings if the location is within a reasonable distance and when doing so would not be unduly burdensome or present security and/or public safety concerns. If transport is impracticable, identifying alternative means for parents to participate in hearings, such as through video or teleconference technologies.
- **PARENT-CHILD VISITATION:** In addition to following relevant ICE Detention Standards on visitation, facilitating parent-child visitation where required by a family or dependency court or a child welfare authority.
- **COORDINATING CARE OR TRAVEL OF CHILD:** Accommodating detainees' efforts to make care arrangements for minor children in the U.S. Obtaining travel documents for detainees' minor children to accompany them to the country of removal, or to reunite in country of removal.

<https://www.ice.gov/doclib/detention-reform/pdf/factSheetDetainedParents.pdf>

ICE Policies & Procedures (Cont'd)

All Versions of ICE Detention Standards Require:

- **Phone Access**
- **Visitation for Minors**
- **Requests for Transfer of Detained Parents:** ICE will consider a request for transfer, when possible, to a facility that allows such visitation.

Additional Resources:

- **CALL CENTER:** The **Detention Reporting and Information Line (DRIL)** is a toll-free service that provides a direct channel for detainees and stakeholders to communicate with ERO to answer questions and resolve concerns, including separation from a child. To reach the DRIL, call: 1-888-351-4024
- **LOCATING A PARENT:** The **Online Detainee Locator System (ODLS)** is a public system available on the internet that allows family members, legal representatives, and members of the public, to locate persons who are in ICE detention. To use ODLS, visit: <https://www.ice.gov/locators>

How Can Advocates Help?

- Initial screening and identification of possible eligibility
 - Establish relationship of trust and confidentiality
- Identifying resources to improve access
 - Legal representation
 - Language access
 - Transportation, housing, benefits, community partners, etc..
- Assist with accessing documents and proof
 - Collaboration with consulates
- Supporting immigrant survivors through the process
 - Trauma-informed and strengths-based approach
- Individual advocacy and systems advocacy

Enhancing Safety Planning

- Collect important documents (identity, medical and financial information, etc to apply for relief)
- Survivor should carry name of attorney or advocate and phone number
- Survivors should know their and their children's "alien registration number" or A#
- Family Safety Planning
 - Child Care Plan/Who will care for children if parent is detained?
 - Financial Issues

Improving Access to Safety for Immigrant Survivors

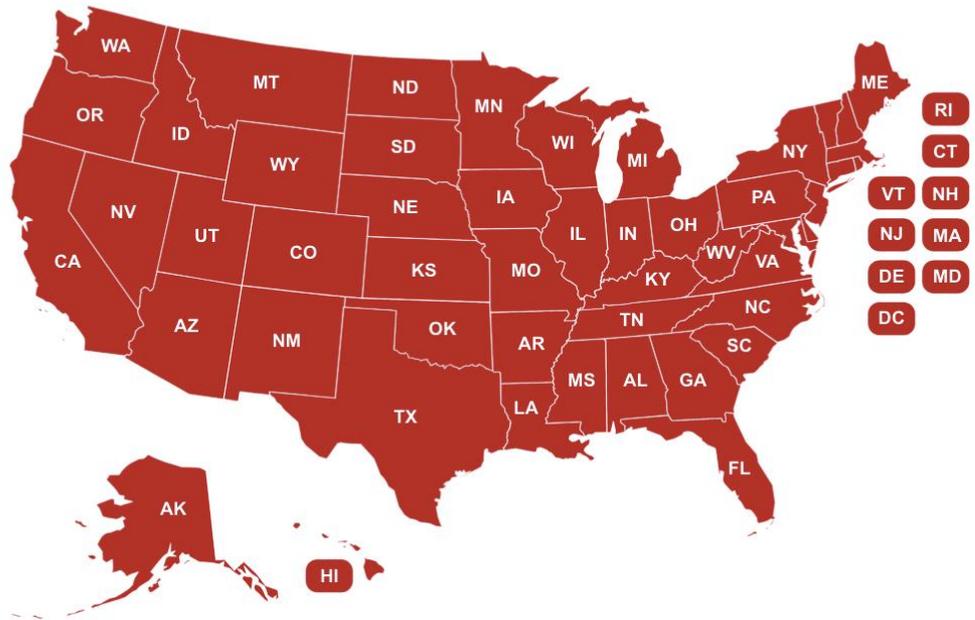
- Provide information and help raise awareness so immigrants know their rights
 - Share “Know Your Rights Materials” with survivors and advocates
- Improve access to survivor-based immigration relief and enhance access to services
 - Beware of “notarios” and others who commit fraud
- Include community-based organizations focused on marginalized communities and community leaders in community engagement efforts

NIWAP Public Benefits Map

- Emergency Medicaid
- Cash Assistance
- CHIP
- Driver's Licenses
- Emergency Housing Programs
- Housing
- State Benefits
- More

Emergency Medicaid

Home > Em



<http://map.niwap.org/>

Eligibility of Families with Mixed Immigration Status for HUD-funded Public Housing

- If at least ONE member of the household has eligible immigration status, then the family can receive prorated assistance.
- A minor can be the eligible household member
 - (e.g. child born in the U.S.).
- The non-eligible family member certifies that they do not wish to claim eligibility and can still live in the assisted unit.
 - The family member not claiming eligibility does not need to provide SSN or information about immigration status.

Note: A proposed rule by HUD is pending finalization that may eliminate access to Section 214 housing for non-eligible family members. But the rule has not been finalized yet.

Public Charge: Separating Myth from Fact

- The new rule took effect February 24, 2020 following Supreme Court decision on Jan. 27, 2020 that it can go into effect as the litigation continues
- **“Chilling Effect”** and much confusion
- Previously, public charge was defined as “primarily dependent on the government for subsistence by either the receipt of public cash assistance for income maintenance or institutionalization for long-term care at government expense.”
- Changes to the Public charge rule are **not retroactive**, but once it went into effect it expanded public benefits taken into consideration for public charge to include Food Stamps (SNAP), federal housing assistance, and Medicaid (with important exceptions, such as Emergency Medicaid or Medicaid for pregnant women). Also includes a “totality of the circumstances” test.
- Public charge rule (current and revised) **does not apply to survivor-based forms of immigration remedies** (VAWA self-petition, U and T visas, SIJS, Asylees/Refugees).
- Rule applies **only to applicant for LPR** who has received certain public benefits for 36 months (**not U.S. citizen children or other family members who are eligible for benefits; not applicable when someone who already has LPR (greencard) applies to be citizen**)

Access to Health Care for Immigrants

- “Emergency Medicaid” is available to individuals who are otherwise eligible for Medicaid, except for their immigration status (including those with TPS, DACA, LPR for less than 5 years, and undocumented)
- Immigrants and their families can continue to seek services at community health centers, regardless of their immigration status, and at a reduced cost or free of charge, depending on their income.
- To find the nearest health center: <https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/>
- Recent legislation provided a \$1 billion health care fund to pay for COVID-19 “testing” for the uninsured through the National Disaster Medical System
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) [posted an alert](#) clarifying that accessing testing, treatment, or preventive care, including vaccinations, related to COVID-19 will not be considered a negative factor in a “public charge” determination.

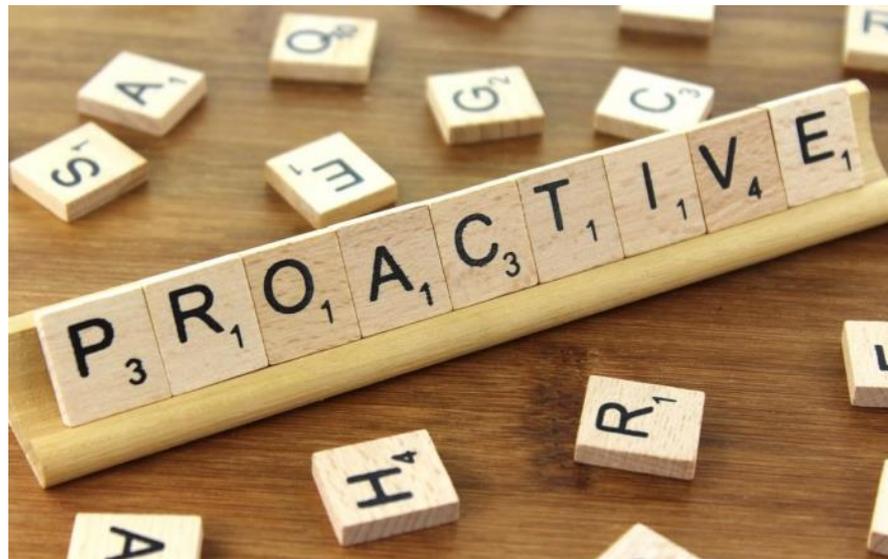
Language Access Requirements for Recipients of Federal Funds and Federal Agencies

If an organization receives any federal funds, then all aspects of that organization are obligated to take ***reasonable steps*** to ensure that individuals with LEP have ***meaningful access*** to the benefits and services provided by that organization under ***Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964***.



Enhancing Access to Safety and Well-Being through Language Access

By being proactive, we ensure that all individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP) have meaningful access to critical services.



Coordinated **Community** Response – not just **Systems** Response



Building Organizational Capacity

- Seek training from Culturally-Specific Organizations, Organizations working with Underserved Populations, and immigrant community leaders
- Adopt best practices for language access
- Seek regular training and updates on immigration issues for staff
- Build your culturally-specific referral list, “go-to” connections for immigrant survivors and strengthen meaningful collaborations, including funding and resource sharing

ALL ARE WELCOME.

Immigrant.

Refugee.

Undocumented.



**YOU CAN CALL US FOR HELP IF YOU ARE
LIVING WITH VIOLENCE.**



Do you feel unsafe in your relationship?

Domestic and sexual violence programs are non-governmental organizations that can provide shelter, advocacy, counseling, and legal assistance to **ALL** people experiencing domestic and sexual violence.

Our services are **free** and **confidential**.

We will **not** report you to immigration, ICE, or law enforcement.

**TO FIND A PROGRAM NEAR YOU,
CONTACT DAY ONE AT 1-866-223-1111
OR WWW.MCBW.ORG AND CLICK THE "GET HELP" BUTTON.**

MCBW Minnesota Council on Battered Women

Developed by
Violence Free MN:
<https://www.vfmn.org/immigration-resources>

Resources

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-based Violence:
www.api-gbv.org

ASISTA Immigration Assistance:
www.asistahelp.org

Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families
and Communities:
www.casadeesperanza.org
www.nationallatinonetwork.org
www.nationallatinonetwork.org/lep-toolkit-home

Tahirih Justice Center:
www.tahirih.org

National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (NIWAP)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/>

Additional Resources for Safety

- Ensuring Access to Shelter and Services for Immigrant Survivors by Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network
- Know Your Rights: A Collection of Resources, by the Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC)
<https://cliniclegal.org/resources/know-your-rights>
- Family Preparedness Plan, by Immigrant Legal Resource Center
- Protecting Immigrant Families – resources on public charge
<https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org>
- Appleseed Network – A Guide for Practitioners Assisting Immigrant Families
<http://www.appleseednetwork.org/deportationmanual/>



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THANK YOU

Please take a moment to complete a short survey regarding today's webinar and future webinars.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VN72V7C>

Futures Without Violence contact (Lilly): lvalore@futureswithoutviolence.org