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# THE IMPACT OF CHANGING IMMIGRATION POLICY ON CHILD WELL-BEING

MEGAN FINNO-VELASQUEZ, PHD, LMSW

DIRECTOR, CENTER ON IMMIGRATION AND CHILD  
WELFARE

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, NEW MEXICO STATE  
UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

SOPHIA SEPP

MSW/MPH STUDENT

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL  
WORK



THE CENTER ON  
IMMIGRATION  
AND CHILD WELFARE

# ABOUT THE CICW



**THE CENTER ON  
IMMIGRATION  
AND CHILD WELFARE**

The Center on Immigration and Child Welfare (CICW) is a national professional network with the mission to improve programs and policies related to immigrant children and families involved in the public child welfare system to achieve positive outcomes of safety, permanency and well-being. We envision a world where children of immigrants thrive in their families and communities.

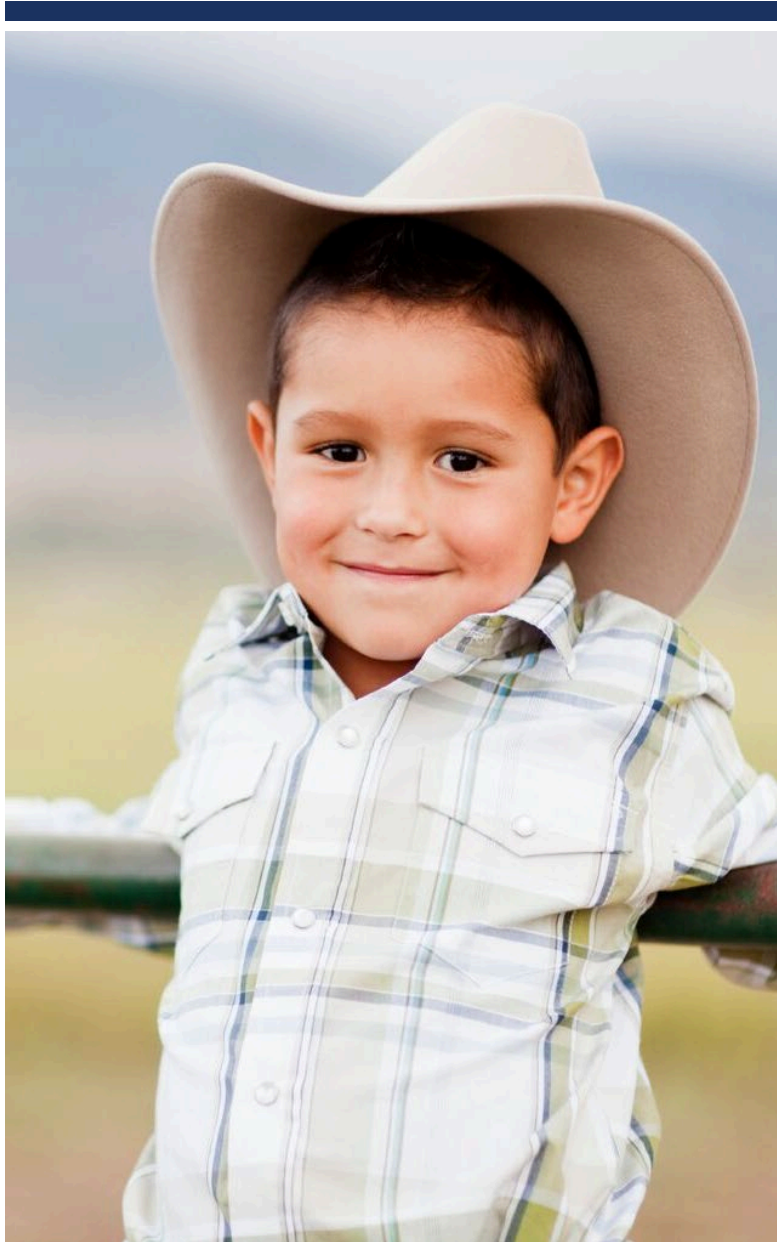
For more information about our mission and work:

- visit our website at [www.cimmcw.org](http://www.cimmcw.org)
- find us on Facebook and Twitter
- sign up for FYI E-News!

# OVERVIEW

- Children of Immigrants in the U.S. & New Mexico
- Relevant Immigration Policies
- Impact on Children and Symptoms of Trauma
- Recommendations and Opportunities to Support





## CASE VIGNETTE

M is an 8 year-old boy whose father was detained and deported from the U.S. two years ago. Over the past month, M has been absent from school more days than not. When the school social worker called the mother asked what was going on with M, the mother stated that M has been waking up at night crying and has been refusing to go to school lately. Although the mother couldn't identify any new stressors for M, she did share how worried she herself has been because she had been getting phone calls from ICE agents who are looking for her niece. She worries about her niece and about ICE agents showing up at her house. The social worker is concerned because M's academic performance is suffering.

- Does any of this resonate with your experience?
- What are you most concerned about in serving children in immigrant families?



WHO ARE CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANTS?



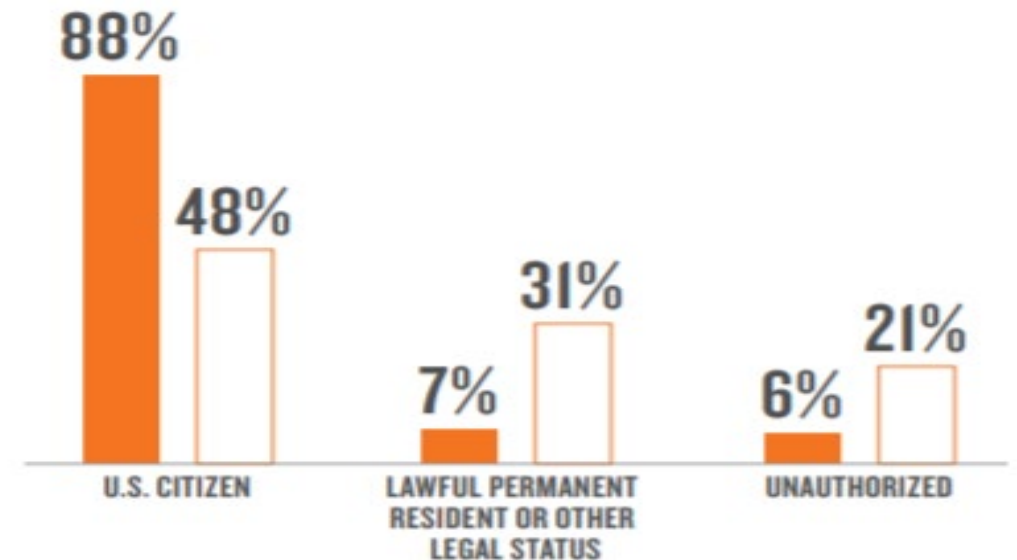
# CHILDREN IN IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

18,413,000 children in immigrant families

- 88% are US Citizens
- 14% are foreign born
- 6% are unauthorized
- 40% non US Citizen parent
- 21% have at least one unauthorized parent

## IMMIGRANT STATUS OF CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS

■ CHILD ■ PARENT



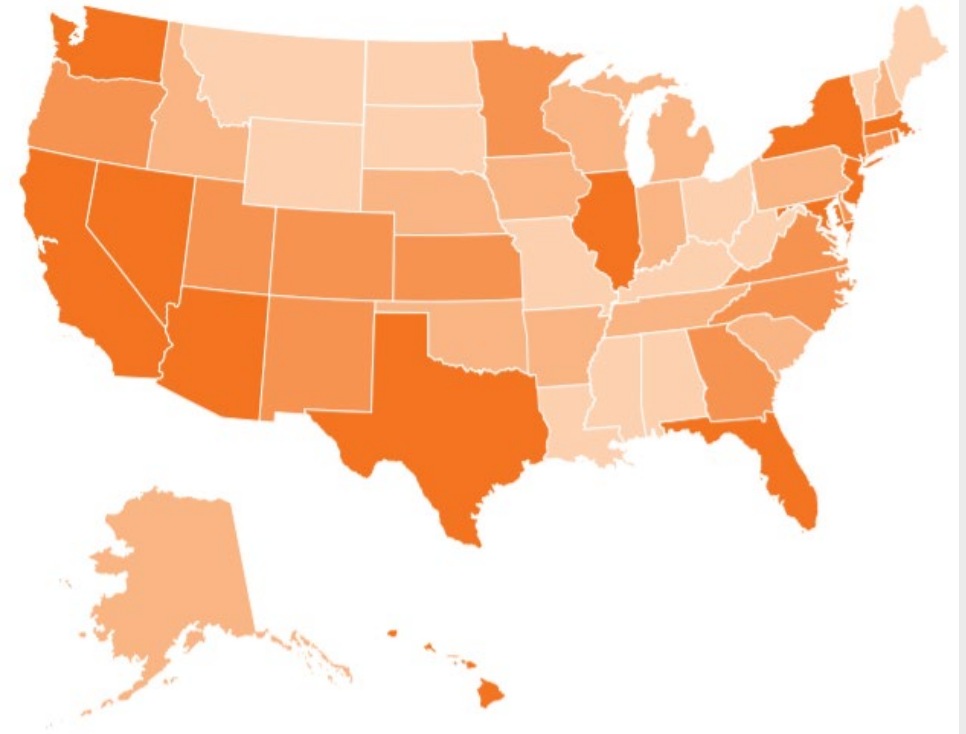
**SOURCE:** Migration Policy Institute analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau 2014 American Community Survey and 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation by Bachmeier and Van Hook.

**NOTE:** Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

# CHILDREN IN IMMIGRANT FAMILIES IN NEW MEXICO

- 21% of children (102,000) in New Mexico are children of immigrants
- 1 in 9 is a U.S.-born citizen with at least one immigrant parent
- 1 in 11 (44,653) was a U.S. citizen living with at least one undocumented family member (2010-2014)
- About 6,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients live in New Mexico.

## PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN IMMIGRANT FAMILIES, BY STATE



25% OR GREATER

15%–24%

10%–14%

LESS THAN 10%

## U.S. CHILDREN AFFECTED BY DEPORTATION

- ICE issued more than 200,000 deportation orders between 2010 and 2012 for parents who report having U.S. citizen children
- Roughly half-a-million U.S. citizen children experienced the apprehension, detention, and deportation of at least one parent between 2011 and 2013.
- The number of deportation, exclusion, and removal orders sought or obtained by ICE for parents of at least one U.S.-born child
  - 2015: 31,411
  - 2016: 28,860
  - 2017: 27,080







# IMMIGRATION POLICIES & IMPACTS ON CHILDREN

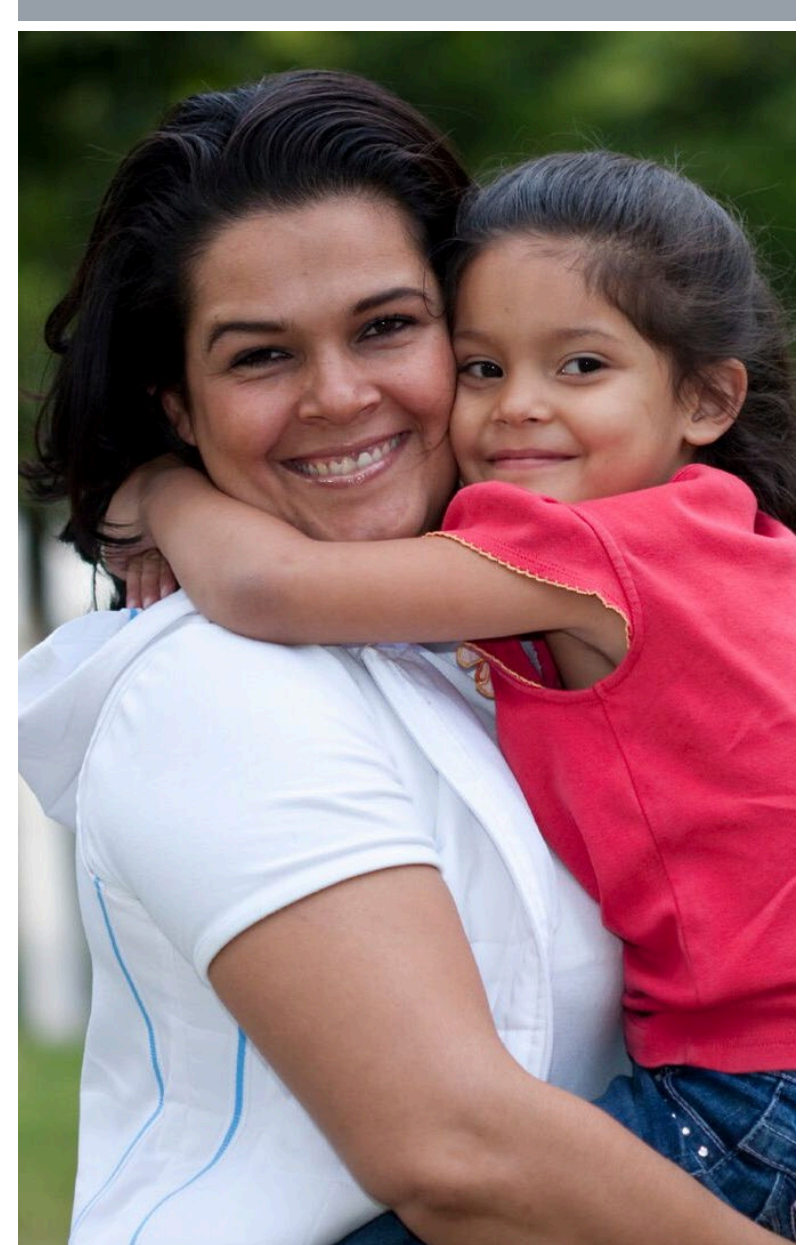
## FEDERAL POLICY INCREASING FAMILY SEPARATION

- Executive Orders on Border and Interior Enforcement (Jan. 2017)
- End of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals [DACA] (Sept. 2017)
- End to Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, and Haiti (Nov 2017-Jan 2018)
- Zero Tolerance Policy
- Flores settlement proposal
- Public charge proposal



# ISSUES FOR PARENTS

- Daily concerns about detection by authorities, deportation and separation from family members: “trust no one”
- Fear of retribution if voice concerns about unfair conditions
- Unmet needs for physical and mental health, lack of access to needed services
- More likely to have experienced some form of trauma (physical or sexual assault, robbery, threats, extortion, witness to murder through process of immigration)
- Acculturative stress, loss and adaptation



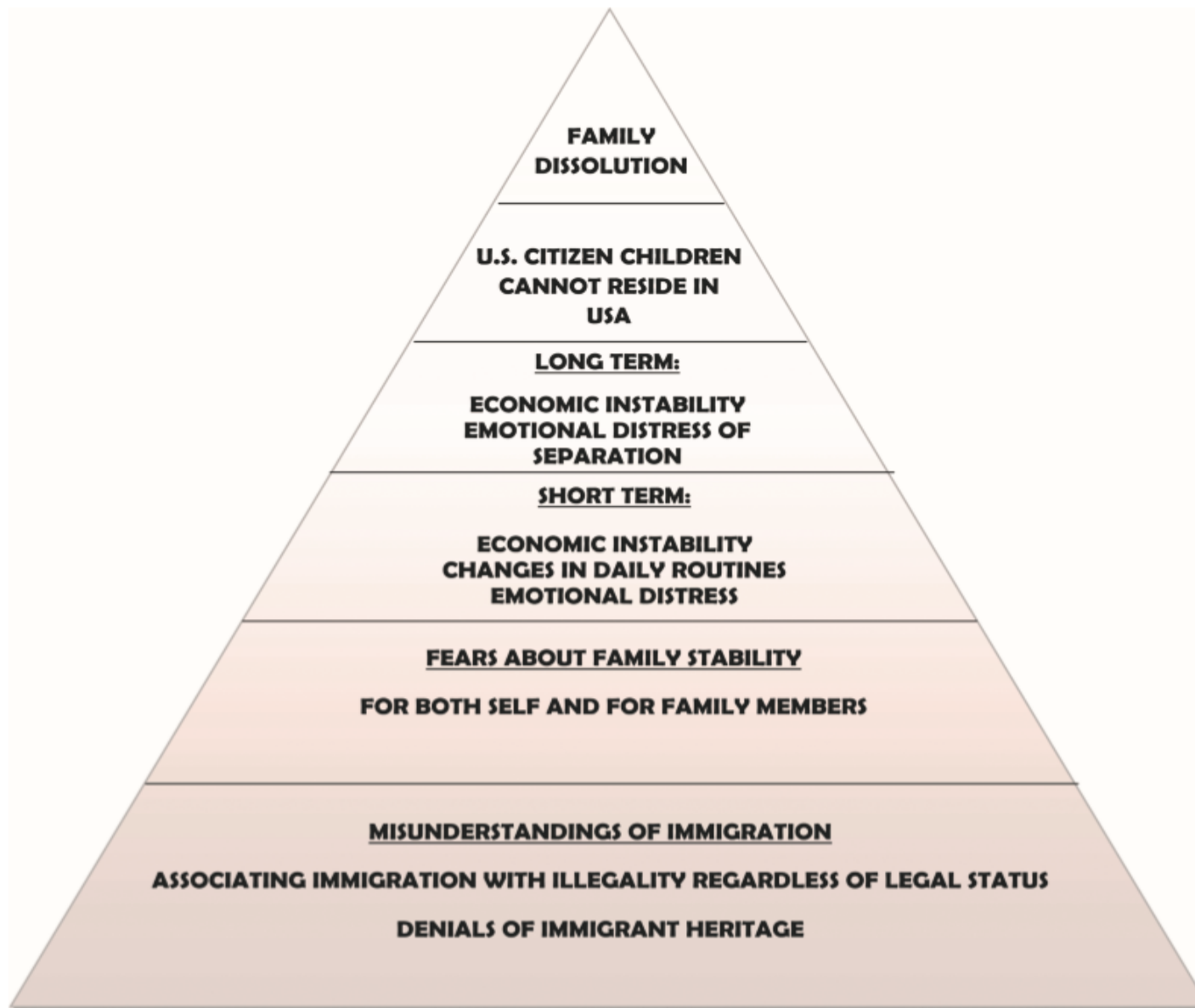
## IMPACT ON CHILDREN

- Family economic hardship
- Difficulty accessing social services due to language barriers, difficulty documenting eligibility, mistrust and fear
- Family separation, child welfare involvement, termination of parental rights.
- Internalizing problems, negative moods and emotions
- Fear, shame, secrecy, confusion → impact on identity, self-esteem
- Traumatic/Toxic Stress





FIGURE 1. A DEPORTATION PYRAMID TO ASSESS THE BURDEN OF DEPORTATION POLICIES ON CHILDREN.



# BURDEN OF DEPORTATION ON CHILDREN

# ISSUES FOR CHILDREN-TRAUMATIC STRESS

- Difficulty sleeping and nightmares
- Refusing to go to school
- Lack of appetite
- Bed-wetting or other regression in behavior
- Interference with developmental milestones
- Anger
- Play that includes recreating the event
- Getting into fights at school or fighting with siblings
- Difficulty paying attention to teachers at school and to parents at home
- Avoidance of scary situations
- Withdrawal from friends or activities
- Nervousness or jumpiness
- Intrusive memories of what happened

# PAIR AND SHARE

- GET IN TO PAIRS. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:



- 1) Have you seen any of these situations or scenarios in your community and/or with the families you serve? What have you seen or experienced?
- 2) What's your biggest concern about immigration enforcement policies in your community?



# PROVIDING SUPPORT

WHAT CAN I DO?



# GROUP REFLECTION

- GET INTO GROUPS OF 3 OR 4.

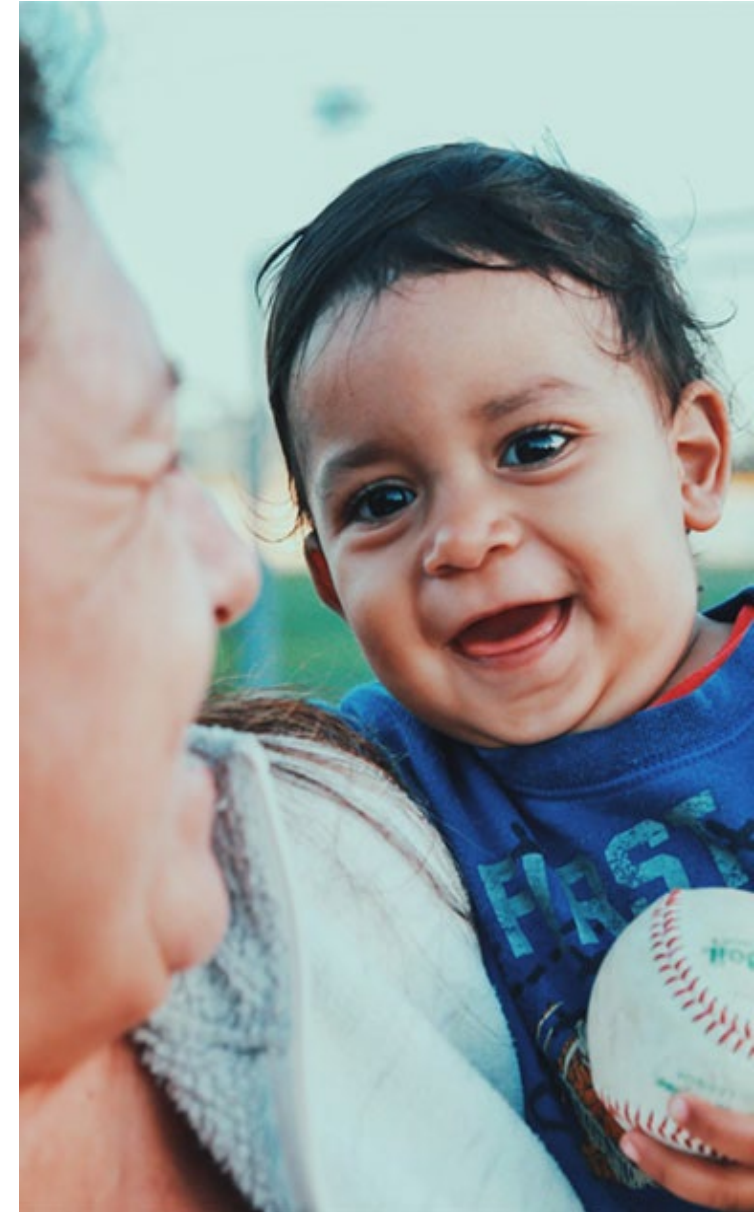
ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.



1. How have these policy changes and the political environment affected you personally?
2. What do you do to take care of yourself?
3. Any challenges you could use support with?

# BEST PRACTICES AT THE INDIVIDUAL LEVEL

- Acknowledge reactions --- yours and theirs
- Regulate -- our fears, anxieties, wishes, disappointments etc.
- Provide a space to talk about these things
- Create a positive story that competes with the negative, hateful messaging.
- Identify allies, supports, and positives in immigration.
- Support safety plans – coping mechanisms, contingency planning, protections for children



## BEST PRACTICES AT THE AGENCY/MEZZO LEVEL

- Ensure that all personnel and parents are familiar with the ICE sensitive locations policy and other internal safety procedures. English and Spanish factsheets on sensitive locations are available on CLASP's website.
- Place signs and banners in multiple languages in agency buildings announcing and explaining agency policies.
- Distribute cards explaining the agency policies and related to a "Know Your Rights" campaign to parents, children, and agency staff.
- Work with trusted community partners to reach out to families/clients.
- Coordinate with families in which parents may be detained to prepare power of attorney and guardianship forms. This may require more intricate partnerships with local community groups.
- Hold agency or community events meant to explain the agency policies.

## BEST PRACTICES AT THE POLICY/MACRO LEVEL

- CA's SBI064
- Public charge comments
- Writing/calling local officials
- Hold press accountable
- Social media and letters to the editor
- Volunteer/partner with local groups

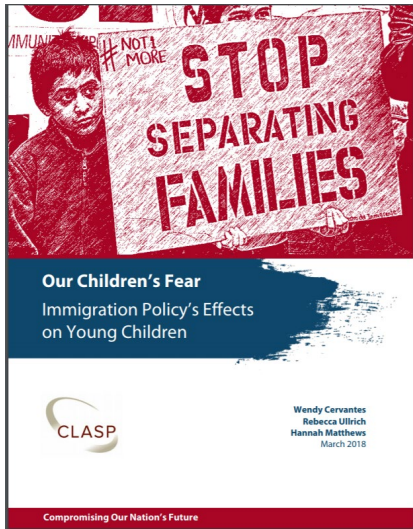






## RESOURCES

# RESOURCES FOR PROVIDERS: [WWW.CIMMCW.ORG](http://WWW.CIMMCW.ORG)

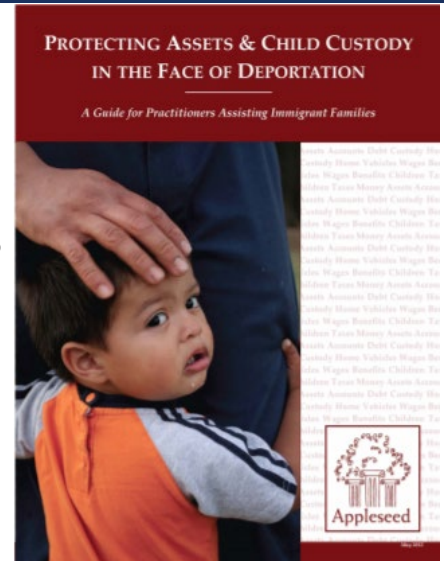


Based on a 6-state study including NM, this report from CLASP includes recommendations to help professionals in the early care and education community support immigrant families.



The CICW website and bi-weekly E-newsletter provide updates and highlights of the most relevant news, practice, policy, and research resources related to the intersection of immigration and child welfare.

This Appleseed manual contains information on issues like school safety, child custody, psychological issues for children, and much more.



## ROUNDTABLE REPORT

### Mitigating Risks of Child Welfare Involvement for Children and Families Affected by Immigration Enforcement

Hosted by the  
Center on Immigration and Child Welfare

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO  
NOVEMBER 6, 2017

Hotel Albuquerque  
800 Rio Grande Blvd. NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87104

New Mexico State University  
School of Social Work  
4700 Morris Street Northwest  
Albuquerque, NM 87111



# RESOURCES CONTINUED



WOMEN'S  
REFUGEE  
COMMISSION

Make a Plan:

Migrant Parents' Guide to Preventing Family Separation

NCTSN

The National Child  
Traumatic Stress Network



**SELECT NCTSN RESOURCES RELATED TO TRAUMATIC  
SEPARATION AND REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT TRAUMA**



AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION  
Center on  
Children and the Law  
Access to Justice for Children & Families



WOMEN'S  
REFUGEE  
COMMISSION



THE CENTER ON  
IMMIGRATION  
AND CHILD WELFARE

Frequently Asked Questions About Separated Children and the Child Welfare System

**Frequently Asked Questions About Separated  
Children and the Child Welfare System**

**Serving Separated and Reunited Families:  
Lessons Learned and the Way Forward to Promote Family Unity**

**The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services  
and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service**



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