



MULTI-LEVEL STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANTS

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ABOUT THE CICW

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
- Find us on Facebook and Twitter
- Sign up for FYI E-News!



**THE CENTER ON
IMMIGRATION
AND CHILD WELFARE**

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





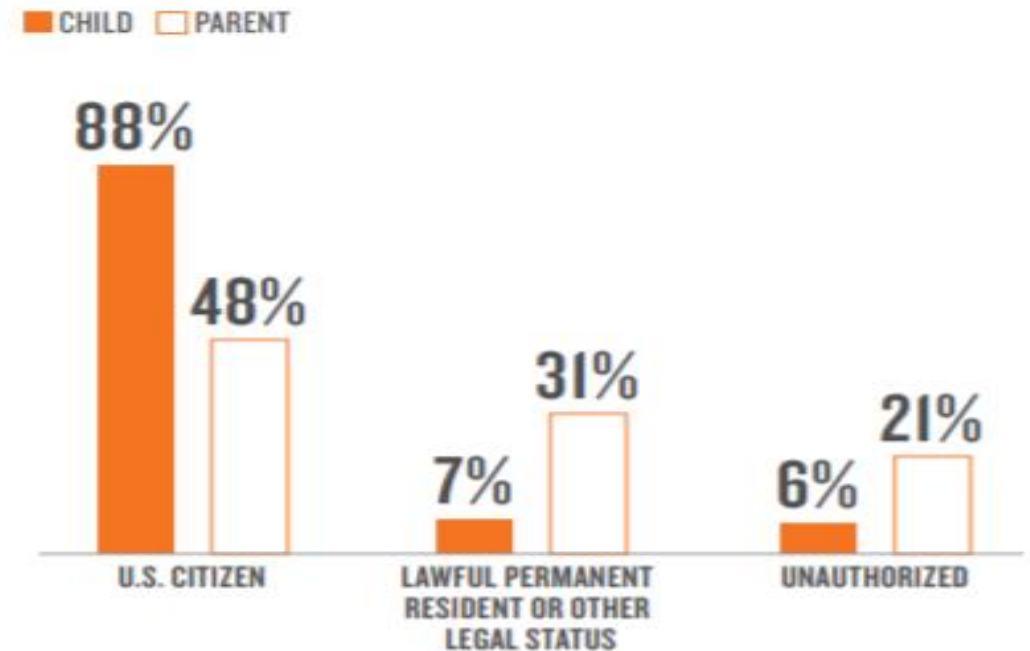
WHO ARE CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANTS?

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



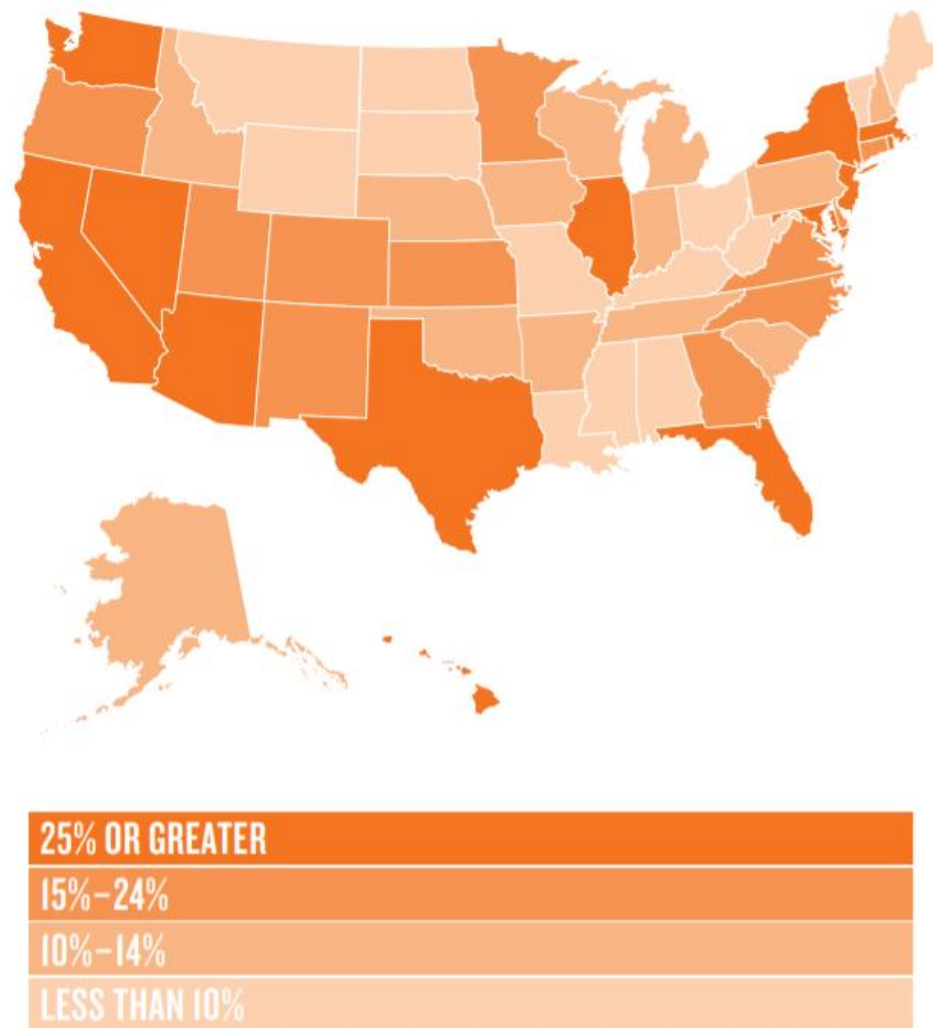
SOURCE: Migration Policy Institute analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau 2014 American Community Survey and 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation by Bachmeier and Van Hook.

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.

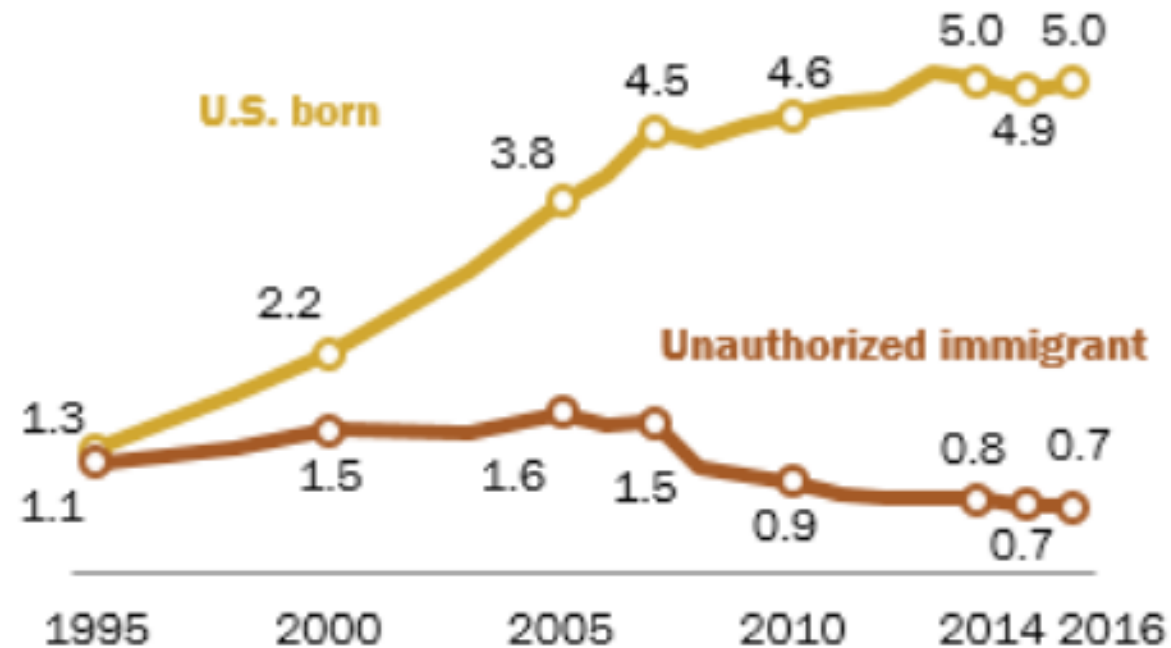
PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN IMMIGRANT FAMILIES, BY STATE



CHILDREN LIVING WITH UNDOCUMENTED PARENTS

Most children living with unauthorized immigrant parents are born in the U.S.

In millions



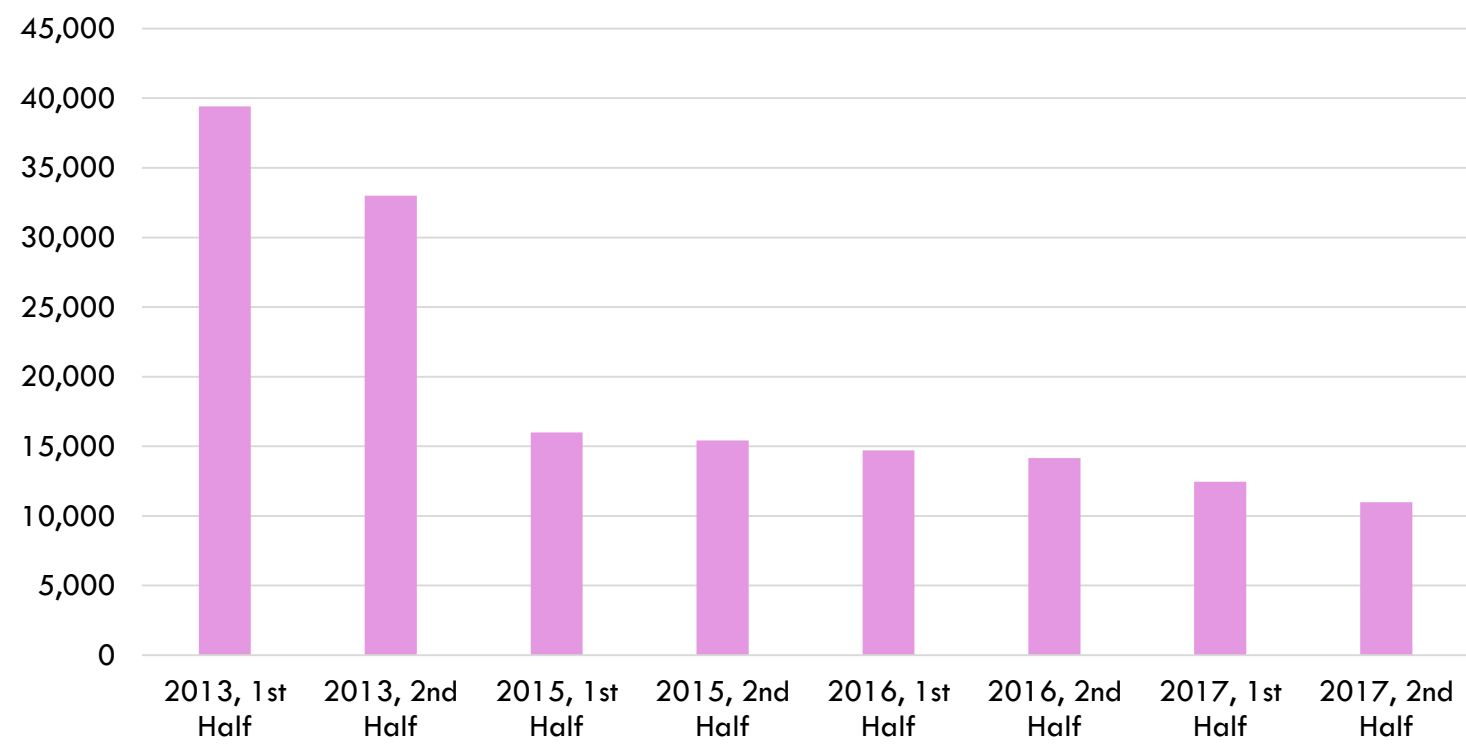
Passel, J. & Cohn, D. (2018). U.S. Unauthorized Immigrant Total Dips to Lowest Level in a Decade. *Pew Research Center*. Retrieved from <https://www.pewhispanic.org/2018/11/27/u-s-unauthorized-immigrant-total-dips-to-lowest-level-in-a-decade/>

U.S. CHILDREN AFFECTED BY DEPORTATION

Deportation Orders for Parents with U.S.-Born Children

YEAR	# OF DEPORTATION ORDERS
2010-2012	200,000
2011-2013	500,000
2013	72,410
2015	31,411
2016	28,860
2017	23,445

Number of Removals of Aliens Who Claim to Have US-Born Children



FAMILY SEPARATION DURING TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

← PRIOR TO "ZERO TOLERANCE"

SUMMER 2017 - APRIL 2018

1000s

Jordan, M. (2019). Family Separation May Have Hit Thousands More Migrant Children Than Reported. *The New York Times*.

DURING "ZERO TOLERANCE"

APRIL 2018 - JUNE 2018

2,654

2,363
reunited

125 waived
reunification

46 UAC

120 still
separated

50 parents
deported

70 parents
in U.S.

ACLU. (2019). Family Separation By the Numbers.

→ SINCE "ZERO TOLERANCE"

JUNE 2018 - JANUARY 2019

245

KIND. (2019). FAQs on Continuing Family Separations.

CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT

- 5,100 children involved with the child welfare system as a result of parental detention and deportation.
- An estimated 15,000 more children will face the same situation.
- Children end up in foster care and experience long periods of family separation.
- Sometimes, these children are never see their parents again e.g., when a court terminates parental rights (Wessler, 2011).





FEDERAL POLICY IMPACTING IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

ENFORCEMENT DURING OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

- Obama administration oversaw more deportations than in any previous administration
 - Ramping up of fugitive operations, worksite raids, 287g agreements, Secure Communities
- 2014 border deterrence policy increased border apprehension
- A few policies that protected families
 - Prosecutorial Discretion
 - ICE Sensitive Locations Memo (Policy Number: 10029.2 – Enforcement Actions at or Focused on Sensitive Locations)
 - Locations include pre-schools, primary schools, childcare and early education programs
 - Transfer Memo
 - Limits ICE transfers away from attorneys and family

FEDERAL POLICY INCREASING FAMILY SEPARATION

- Executive Orders on Border and Interior Enforcement (Jan. 2017)
- End to Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, and Haiti (Nov 2017-Jan 2018)
- Zero Tolerance Policy
 - Flores Settlement proposal
 - Asylum proceedings changes
 - “Migrant Protection Protocols”



SILVER LINING?

- Detained Parents Directive
 - Policy Number 11064.2: Detention and Removal of Alien Parents or Legal Guardians (August 29, 2017)
- Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act Safeguards Children (TVPRA)
- California's SB 1064 - Child custody: immigration

THE IMPACT OF IMMIGRATION POLICIES ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES





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 worried about for M in this situation?
- What are you most concerned about in serving children in immigrant families?

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
- Loss of work authorization and income
- 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

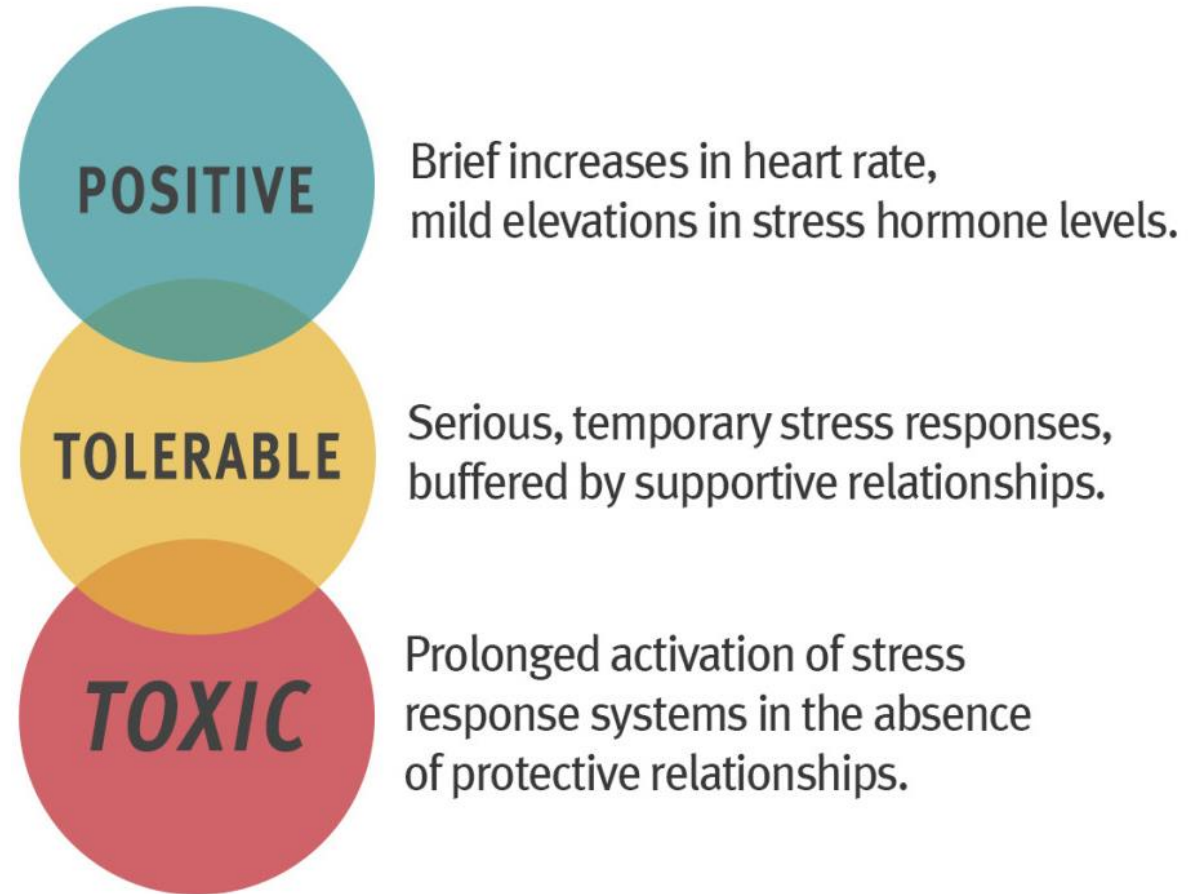


IMPACT ON CHILDREN

- 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

WHAT IS CHILD TRAUMA?

- Witnessing or experiencing an event that poses a real or perceived threat.
- The event overwhelms the child's ability to cope.
- Child traumatic stress refers to the *physical and emotional responses* of a child to threatening situations. (NCTSN)
- Traumatic events overwhelm a child's capacity to cope and elicit feelings of terror, powerlessness, and out-of-control physiological arousal. (NCTSN)
- Bruce Perry: "an experience, or pattern of experiences, that impairs the proper functioning of the person's stress-response system, making it more reactive or sensitive"



Center on the Developing Child. (n.d.). Toxic Stress. [Photograph]. *Harvard University*.
<https://developingchild.harvard.edu/science/key-concepts/toxic-stress/>

SYMPTOMS OF TRAUMA IN CHILDREN

- 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



BEYOND ACEs

- Unique trauma challenges for immigrant children
- Under-identification of immigrant children's trauma experiences
 - Trauma instruments like the ACEs inventory are less likely to identify the types of experiences that immigrant and refugee children have because they focus more on experiences within the household environment as opposed to external factors e.g., acculturation, resettlement, political environment
 - Many mental health screening tools used to assess incoming migrants are not designed for young children

ACTIVITY

Pair & Share/Group Reflection

- Have you seen these situations/scenarios/challenges with the families you serve?
- What's your biggest concern around how immigration enforcement policy is impacting families in your community?



Source: Kugelmass. (2017). A difficult conversation gets back on track, even at harvard, of all places.[Photograph]. <https://kugelmass.wordpress.com/2017/05/26/a-difficult-conversation-gets-back-on-track-even-at-harvard-of-all-places/>

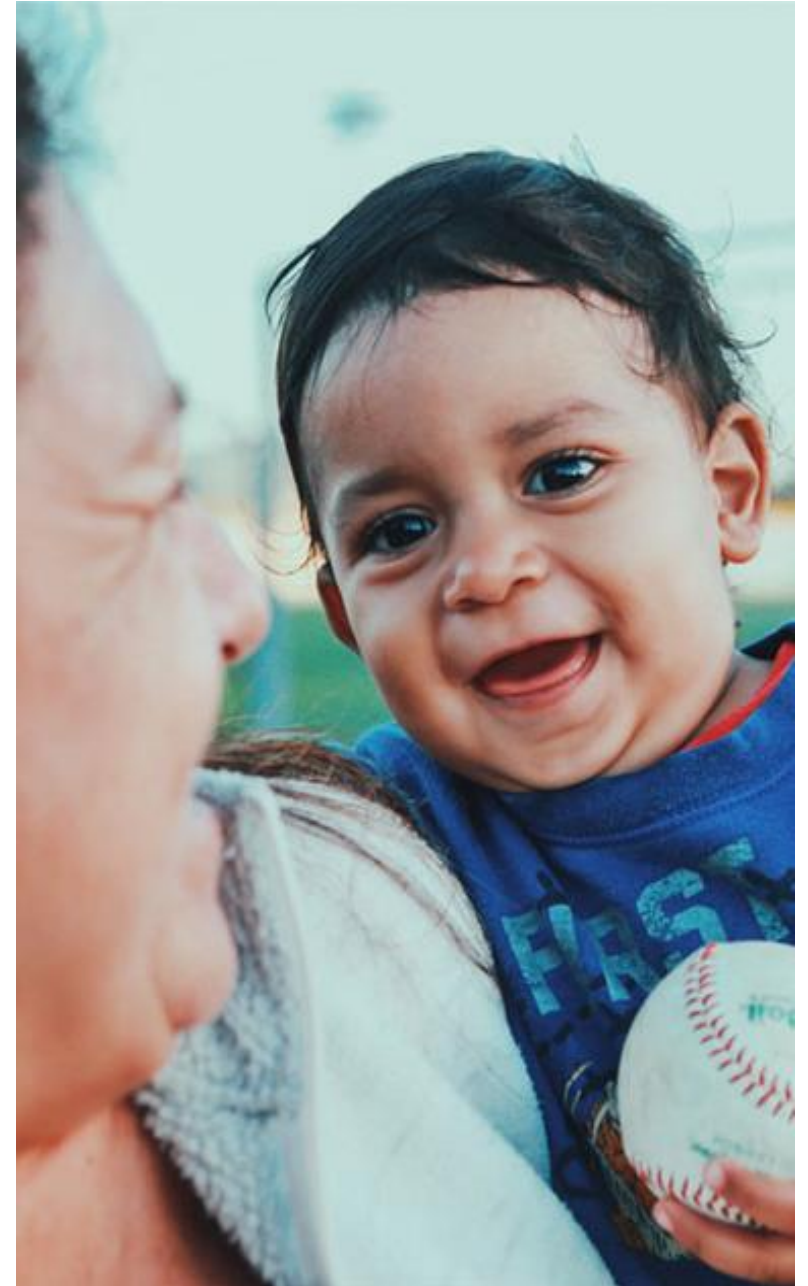


PROVIDING SUPPORT

What can I do?

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



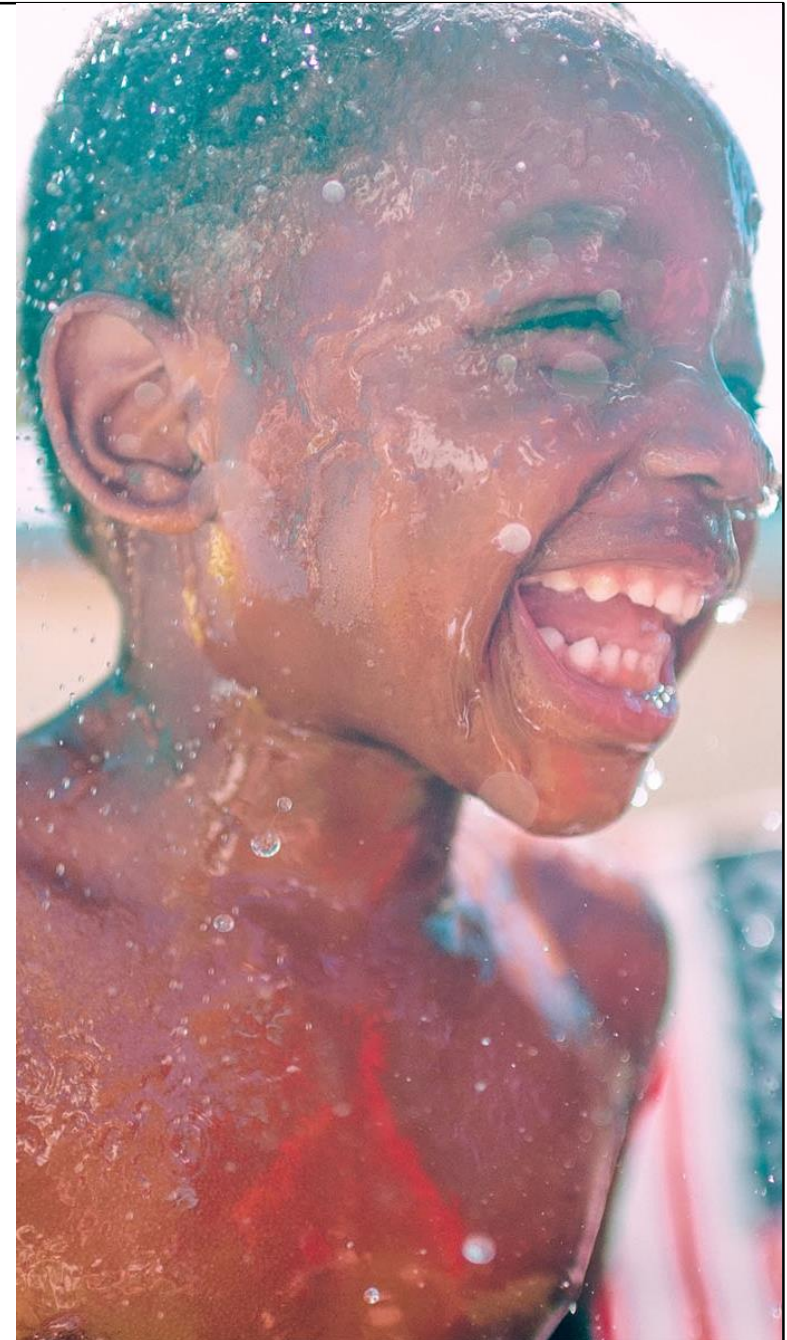
BEST PRACTICES AT THE AGENCY LEVEL

- Incorporate ICE sensitive locations policy & Detained Parents Directive into agency policy.
- Specialized staff for immigration-related issues.
- Trauma-informed & culturally sensitive practice.
- Community partners & cross-systems collaboration (including with ICE, consulates, nonprofits, etc.)
- Create clear policies on confidentiality and information sharing.
- Pre-employment and ongoing training.
- Screen for immigration relief options.



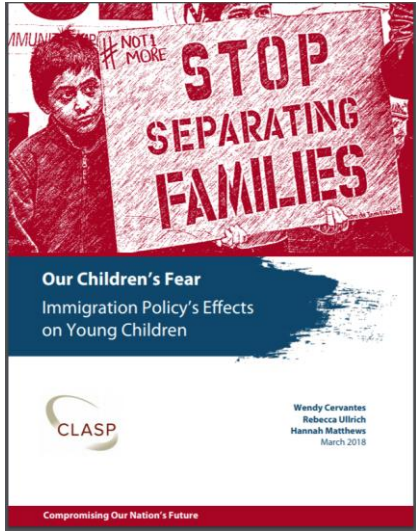
BEST PRACTICES AT THE POLICY LEVEL

- Advocate for policies that protect children in immigrant families e.g., CA's SB1064, Detained Parents Directive
- Writing/calling local officials
- Hold press accountable
- Social media and letters to the editor
- Volunteer/partner with local groups





RESOURCES



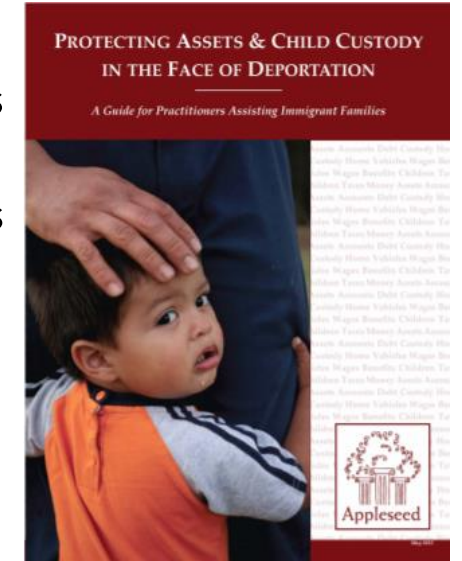
Based on a 6-state study including NM, this report from CLASP includes recommendations to help professionals in the early care and education community support immigrant families.

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.

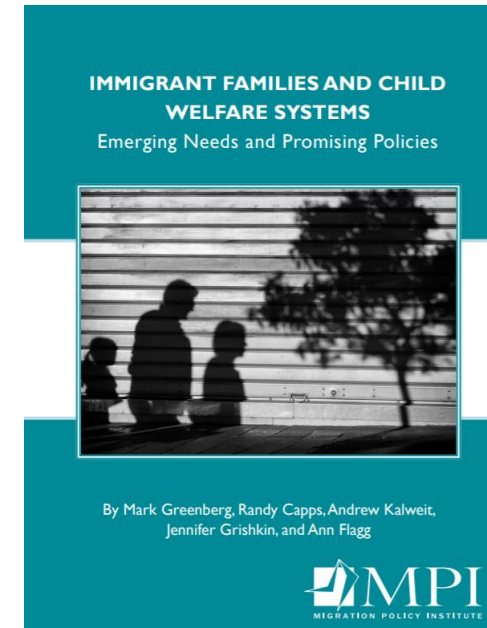


**THE CENTER ON
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This Appleseed manual contains information on issues like school safety, child custody, psychological issues for children, and much more.



This report presents key policy issues for child welfare agencies with respect to working with immigrant families as well as promising best practices and agency approaches.





QUESTIONS?

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