



National Immigration Summit: Centering the Needs of Children & Families

June 23, 2022 | 10:00 am to 1:00 pm (CT)

10:00-10:08 AM

Welcome

Guadalupe Fernández, Director, Children’s Immigration Network, C@R
Wendy Cervantes, Director, Immigration and Immigrant Families, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

10:08-10:15 AM

Data Overview

Dr. Bob Sanborn, President & CEO, CHILDREN AT RISK (C@R)
Mayra Alvarez, President, The Children's Partnership

Session One: Federal Policy

While a pathway to citizenship and other fixes to the immigration system were included as part of a major budget legislative package last year, the bill did not achieve final passage. This session will explore the federal immigration opportunities and challenges that the current landscape holds for kids and families, as well as how state and local advocates can help support federal advocacy efforts.

10:15-10:50 AM

Panel Discussion: Federal Policy

Moderated by: Juan Carlos Gomez, Policy Analyst, Immigration and Immigrant Families, CLASP
Bilal Askaryar, Communications Coordinator, Welcome with Dignity Campaign
Carolina Canizales, Senior Texas Campaign Strategist, Immigration Legal Resource Center
Miriam Abaya, Vice President, Immigration and Children’s Rights, First Focus Campaign for Children

Session Two: Basic Needs

Immigrant children and families are facing barriers to healthcare, stable housing, and food security that have deep implications for our communities. This session will explore how communities are organizing for innovative strategies and policies at the state and local level with a commitment to access and support for immigrant children and families, from which we can learn and elevate a proposed framework for state, regional and federal shifts that lead to creating healthy and safe communities.

10:50-11:25 AM

Panel Discussion: Basic Needs

Moderated by: Viviana Westbrook, State & Local Advocacy Attorney, CLINIC
Betzabel Estudillo, Senior Advocate, Nourish California (formerly California Food Policy Advocates)
Jasmine Rangel, Research Specialist, Eviction Lab
Jessie Mandle, Deputy Director and Senior Health Policy Analyst, Voices for Utah Children

Session Three: Mental Health

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated a mental health crisis in our country. Many individuals already faced barriers to accessing mental health care including cost, provider shortages, and stigma related to mental health issues. Immigrant families face additional challenges to accessing care as a result of cost, ineligibility for insurance and the dearth of linguistically and culturally concordant mental health services. Given the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on the health and well-being of immigrant communities and communities of color, this session will feature a discussion on mental health challenges facing immigrant families and their children and what healing looks like for immigrant communities at this time.

11:25 AM-12:00 PM Panel Discussion: Mental Health

Moderated by: Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola, MD, PhD, Director, UC Davis Center for Reducing Health Disparities (CRHD), and Director, Community Engagement Program, Clinical and Translational Research Center (CTSC)
Muleba Sumbwe, Wellness Resource Coordinator, Undocublack
Catherine Hinshaw, Policy Manager, Justice for Migrant Women
Evelyn Kuang, DNP, PMHNP-BC, Board Certified Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

Session Four: Education

Access to a K-12 education for all children regardless of immigration status is a right that was established in 1982 in the Plyler v. Doe Supreme Court ruling. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and other state policy efforts have helped expand access to education for undocumented students in postsecondary education. This session will feature a new episode by the Rational Middle that highlights the importance of education equity for immigrant students and families, as well as a conversation with the producers.

12:00-12:09 PM Video: How Educating Immigrant Children Benefits the US

12:10-12:20 PM A Rational Middle Conversation with the Producer
Facilitated by: Guadalupe Fernández, Director, Children’s Immigration Network, CHILDREN AT RISK
Melissa Brannan, Producer, Rational Middle Media

12:20-12:25 PM FIVE-MINUTE PROGRAM BREAK

Session Five: Narrative Change Panel Discussion

Immigrants and their families are often spoken about in a way that does not encompass the true diversity of experiences that make up the community. This session will feature a discussion on changing the narrative of how immigrant families are perceived, including by working with directly impacted families to share their own stories.

12:25-12:55 PM Panel Discussion: Narrative Change
Moderated by: Lynn Tramonte, Director, Ohio Immigrant Alliance
Elaine de Leon, Director of Communications, Tahirih Justice Center
Nekessa Opoti, Communications Director, Black Alliance for Just Immigration

12:55-1:00 PM Closing Remarks
Guadalupe Fernández, Director, Children’s Immigration Network, C@R

