

Moving Inclusive State and Local Policies in the U.S.

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Strategic Approaches to Migrants with
Irregular Status

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Immigrant Eligibility for Services in the U.S.



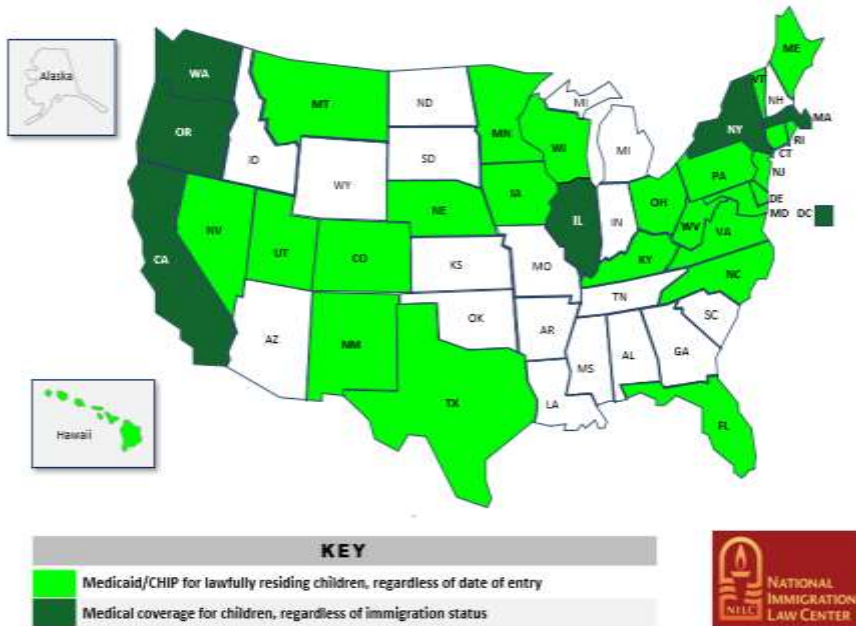
- **Most lawfully residing immigrants** must wait five years or longer to receive the major cash, nutrition, and health programs
- **Undocumented immigrants:** only services such as emergency medical, school lunch, community clinics, and programs necessary to protect life or safety
- **States & localities** - can expand or restrict access to services for immigrants

States & Localities: Inclusive Policies

- 30+ states cover lawfully residing children or pregnant women without a waiting period; 16 offer prenatal care and 6 cover children, regardless of status; some localities offer care to all residents
- 20+ states offer in-state tuition; 8+ offer financial aid to eligible students regardless of status;
- 12 states + DC offer driver's licenses to all residents; Municipal IDs issued in many cities.
- Hundreds of localities and some states limit entanglement with federal enforcement efforts



Health Coverage for Immigrant Children | August 2017



Health Coverage for Pregnant Women | January 2015



State Laws on Driver's Licenses for Immigrants | July 2015



Current State Laws & Policies on Access to Higher Education for Immigrants | April 2017



California over Time



- **Expanded access to health care and essential services for** immigrants ineligible for federal programs
- **Improved access to** higher education and professional licenses
- **Restored access to** driver's licenses
- **Strengthened** workers' rights and anti-discrimination laws
- **Limited** local entanglement in federal immigration enforcement
- **Began to address** criminal justice reforms with an impact on low-income immigrants



Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) An Organizing Victory – Under Threat



Ongoing State and Local Advocacy

- Limit entanglement with federal enforcement
- Increase access to counsel
- Protect privacy; Safe Zone policies
- Expand access to health care & other services
- Improve access to education and careers
- Protect workers' and tenants' rights
- Criminal justice, civil rights, detention reforms
- Driver's licenses, municipal IDs





Lessons from Health Care Campaigns

Strategies



Civic Participation

- Support & coordinate with affected communities
- Strengthen alliances while supporting immigrant leadership
- Build power and accountability of elected officials

Local Advocacy

- Local policies can build support for state policies, and can help shape national conversation on immigration
- Opens opportunities even in hostile states

Communication

- Document broader benefits of inclusive policies, and harm of restrictive policies
- Send message that investing in the country's residents pays off economically, socially and politically

Policy and Advocacy



- **National Immigration Law Center** www.nilc.org
- **Immigrant Legal Resource Center** www.ilrc.org
- **ACLU Immigrant Rights** www.aclu.org/issues/immigrants-rights
- **Center for Popular Democracy** populardemocracy.org
- **Local Progress** localprogress.org
- **Cities for Action** www.citiesforaction.us
- **U.S. Conference of Mayors** <https://www.usmayors.org/mayors-stand-for-all/immigration/>
- **Partnership for a New American Economy**
www.newamericaneconomy.org
- **Welcoming America** www.welcomingamerica.org

Research on Immigrant Coverage



- **California Coverage and Health Initiatives Studies**
<http://cchi4families.org/research-and-reports/>
- **Undocumented and Uninsured** <http://undocumentedanduninsured.org/>
- **Fulfilling Pennsylvania's Promise to Cover All Kids** <http://www.pccy.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/PCCY-DreamCareReport-June2015.pdf>
- **Expanding Health Coverage in the District of Columbia**
https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/1210_dc_healthcare.pdf
- **Immigration Status as a Social Determinant of Health**
<http://www.consumerhealthfdn.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Focus-on-Health.pdf>
- **Unauthorized Immigrants Spend Less Than Other Immigrants and US Natives On Health Care**
<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/32/7/1313.full.pdf+html>
- **Trends in Emergency Medicaid Expenditures for Recent and Undocumented Immigrants**
<http://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/206014>
- **Unauthorized Immigrants Prolong the Life of Medicare's Trust Fund**
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4699990/>