



The Migration and Child Welfare National Network (MCWNN) is a [FREE membership](#) coalition targeted for individuals and agencies focused on the intersection of immigration and child welfare. Have you missed a recent e-news? They are now [available online!](#) Follow the MCWNN on [Twitter](#).

News & Opinions

[US: Child Immigrant Detentions Up Sharply- More Central America kids crossing to U.S. after Mexico eases law](#) (National Journal, May 11, 2012). In recent years, the U.S. Department of Human Services' Division of Unaccompanied Children's Services has cared for as many as 8,000 children annually. In the first three months of this year, however, the agency has seen a 77 percent increase in the number of children in the program. The increase may be due to a change in Mexican law enacted last May, which lets some kids who enter Mexico remain there without visas as for humanitarian reasons, according to the Journal. That gives more children easier passage into Mexico, and from there more appear to be trying to cross the U.S. border.

[Immigrant Mothers To Be Deported Beg ICE To Let Them Stay In US With Their Children](#) (VIDEO, PHOTOS, Huffington Post, May 10, 2012). Article describing two deported immigrant mothers with US citizen children – one who was granted an extension but another ordered out of the country.

[Prosecutorial Discretion Victory in New York](#) (Associated Press/Fox News, May 7, 2012). An Ecuadorian woman facing deportation won a legal victory Sunday under guidelines from President Obama's administration that give immigrants some leeway. But Sara Martínez, a 47-year-old domestic worker with her six year old US citizen born daughter, won the battle only after three requests to ICE officials, the help of congresswoman, an immigration coalition and a pro bono attorney.

[Services Lacking at Shelters for Immigrant Kids](#) (Houston Chronicle, May 8, 2012). Hundreds of children and youths caught crossing the border without their parents or legal guardians have been housed on the Air Force base in San Antonio/Lackland in the makeshift emergency shelter - one of four now open in Texas - and served hot meals, allowed to play soccer and video games. But they are offered only one hour of education daily - not the six standard for government- contracted shelters, officials acknowledged. And they are not assigned mental health clinicians, which also is standard practice for those detained in regular shelters, though on-call mental health services are available, officials said. The sharp influx of undocumented children and teens - some 6,500 from October through the end of April - has forced federal officials to temporarily waive certain requirements outlined in a landmark 1997 legal agreement that has dictated the care of young illegal immigrants, including the amount of education services provided, according to Jesus Garcia, a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

[Utah Woman Faces Deportation After Losing Appeal](#) (Salt Lake Tribune, May 9, 2012). Kairi Shepherd was an orphan living in India when a Utah woman adopted her in 1982 — a seemingly good turn of luck

for the 3-month-old, which included her obtaining legal permanent resident status in the United States. But when she was 8, her adoptive mother died of cancer. When she was 17, she was arrested and convicted of felony check forgery to fuel a drug habit. Now 30, she is facing likely deportation after a 10th Circuit Court ruling Tuesday that upheld the federal government's right to remove her from the country.

[Revised Alabama Immigration Law Sent to Government](#) (Montgomery Advertiser, May 17, 2012). Amid protests that extended to both chambers, the Alabama Legislature approved changes to the state's controversial immigration law that keep most of the law intact. Unlike a version passed by the House of Representatives on April 19, the changes preserve a section allowing law enforcement to check the status of those they have "reasonable suspicion" of being in the country unlawfully; language banning undocumented aliens from renting property and a requirement for schools to ask for the immigration status of students at time of enrollment.

[The Criminal Cost of Talking to a Loved One Behind Bars](#) (Colorlines, May 14, 2012). On Mother's Day, a [campaign](#) launched by the Center for Media Justice, along with Prison Legal News and Working Narratives, are leading an effort to get prison phone rates onto the FCC's legislative to-do list. Last week, the groups encouraged supporters to submit stories about their hardships communicating with loved ones in prison to then be turned over to the Commission in hopes that it will finally move toward regulating the private companies that oversee prison phone calls. For the activists who are involved, it's an issue that falls clearly along racial lines. About 35 percent of prisoners are Latino and 37 percent are Black, according to March [statistics from the Bureau of Prisoners](#). And many of them are poor. About 88 percent of people awaiting trial or serving time in jail had no income or made less than \$1,200 a month, according to Bureau of Justice. While incarcerated, prisoners make only cents an hour.

[Undocumented Immigrants Losing Fight to Keep their US Citizen Children](#) (Ann Arbor News, April 15, 2012). Eleven-year-old Marcos will have been in foster care for two years in June, while his mother remains in a federal detainment facility in Texas for being in the country illegally. Already previously deported once, Gloria, an undocumented immigrant from Mexico, was charged with felony re-entry when she came forward seeking custody of her son. Marcos had been placed in foster care after being abused by his father here in Washtenaw County. When Gloria found out, she set out to reunite with her son. But it's been an impossible battle with her immigration status working against her, and there's little she can do now from the detainment facility she's in as she awaits deportation.

[Foundations Working to Increase Diversity, Equity, Inclusion in Philanthropy, Report Finds](#) (Foundation Center, May 18, 2012). A growing number of foundations and grantmaking organizations are launching efforts aimed at making philanthropy more diverse, equitable, and inclusive, a new report from D5, a coalition of philanthropic organizations working to help donors achieve greater impact, finds. The report, State of the Work 2012, examined the progress made by U.S. foundations in terms of recruiting new leaders who more closely reflect the country's demographic trends, increasing funding within diverse communities, and being more transparent about data collection with respect to diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.

[Deferred Action Granted in Vermont](#) (Associated Press, May 22, 2012). A married lesbian couple living in Vermont who were threatened with being separated by federal immigration authorities have been granted a reprieve. Japanese immigrant Takako Ueda and her American spouse, Frances Herbert, got word Tuesday that UUSCIS decided to defer action on deportation proceedings against Ueda, whose visa had expired.

Resources for Service Providers

[Attorney of the Month – Enrique Longton - Helping two children forced by abusive mother to come to US alone](#) (KIND Website, May 2012). Article describes KIND pro bono attorney who obtained Special Immigrant Juvenile Status for two abandoned Central American children ages 6 and 4.

[Cartels use students to smuggle drugs through busy New Mexico border crossings](#) (KVUE News, May 14, 2012). Customs officers along one stretch of border are seeing a spike in the number of minors caught trying to smuggle drugs into the country. Most are U.S. citizens, students who use the small Columbus, New Mexico border crossing. “We’re concerned that the criminal organizations are taking advantage of these kids, exploiting them.” said Robert Reza, Columbus Port Director.

[Resources for Families with children in Residential Programs](#) (Building Bridges, available in English/Spanish). Helpful resources families and youth in residential programs, including video, a peer youth advocate handbook, tip sheets, and guide for families with youth in residential programs.

[A Comparison of the DREAM Act and Other Proposals for Undocumented Youth](#) (Immigration Policy Center, June 1, 2012). This fact sheet explores the differences between these various DREAM Act proposals (i.e. Rep David Rivera ARMS Act, Rep Rivera’s STARS Act, and the DREAM Act proposal, focusing on the implications of a direct path to permanent residency.

[Tips and Strategies to Promote Culturally-Sensitive Care around Refugee Women's Health](#) (RHTAC). Includes tools to serve refugee women and identify their special needs.

[Somali Health Education materials and videos](#) (Wellshare International). Anatomy booklet, family planning pamphlet, and women's health fact sheets in English and Somali.

[Healthy Refugee Toolkit: Women's Health](#) (USCRI). Contains health education materials in refugee languages on women's health, including routine health exams, breast cancer, female genital cutting, and female anatomy

Reports and Research

[Built Environment Policy for Physical Activity in Mexican-American Children](#) (**Salud America, Dec 2011, 4 pages**). **Report** affirms that in order to create and promote environments that support physical activity, especially among children at high risk of obesity, public leaders must pursue strategies that include effective policy changes.

[Immigration Myth Buster](#) (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, May 2012).

[The Children's Law Advocacy Resources Online](#) (CLARO) website will help to facilitate these services by providing an effective means of communication between and among organizations trying to improve child protection processes within Louisiana. NOTE:MCWNN is listed under the section titled "Disproportionality and Child Welfare"

[Mas Respeto – Become a Citizen!](#) (Website) National allies have joined to launch a new resource website to encourage immigrants to start the process for US citizenship and the right to vote this November.

[A Practice Advisory on prosecutorial discretion](#) (American Immigration Council Legal Action Center).
which includes the ICE list of "low priority" cases at

[A toolkit to help unrepresented individuals request prosecutorial discretion](#) (National Immigration Law Center).

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