



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](#).

Resources for Child Welfare Agencies & Service Providers

Resources from Wisconsin Department of Children and Family

[Serving Immigrant and Refugee Families in the Child Welfare System – A Report and Recommendations to the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families](#) (Workgroup on Safety and Well-Being for Immigrant and Refugee Children and Families, December 21, 2011, 31 pages).

[Benefits and Services Guidebook for Immigrant and Refugee Families](#) – This guidebook provides information to assist you in determining eligibility for families applying for various public benefits. The guidebook includes resources useful to both case workers and families including basic definitions, resources to determine eligibility for federal and state benefits, and federal and state organizations to help families access certain services.

[Immigration Status: Definitions and Resources](#) - Links contained in this section will connect you with information on how to: accurately define an immigration status; access applications for particular immigration statuses; obtain employment; bring your family to the United States; file for permanent residence.

[Benefits](#) - Links contained in this section will connect you to information regarding: eligibility requirements for federal and state benefits (SSI, Food Stamps, TANF, Medicaid and Emergency Medicaid, Housing, Energy Assistance, School meals, etc.); application processes; verification of immigrant status.

[Additional Resources](#) - Links in this section will connect you with information regarding how to: address language barriers; access an advocate; access civil surgeons, federally funded health care centers and free clinics. Links to additional website [Resources for Working with Immigrants and Refugees](#)

[New hotline a clearinghouse for advice for immigrants facing deportation](#) – in test phase, it received 173 calls from across the country (Chicago Tribune, Sept 19, 2011)

In response to an acceleration of deportations — nearly 400,000 people last year — immigrant advocates in Chicago on Monday plan to formally unveil a legal aid and assistance hotline that during a monthlong test period received calls for help from as far away as California from people who had learned of it through word of mouth. The hotline — 855-435-7693 or 855-HELP-MY-F(amily) — is modeled after ones for homelessness or domestic violence, where volunteers take calls around the clock and guide callers to help.

During a month long tinkering period, 67 volunteers fielded 173 calls, said Dagmara Lopez, who coordinates the phone network, created by the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.

"We've had calls from New York, New Jersey, California mostly, North Carolina," she said. "One morning, we got about 50 calls within an hour."

The number of calls and variety of locations speak to the confusion that surrounds federal deportation proceedings. Immigrants found to be here illegally are often shuttled among jails while families remain confused about the detainees' whereabouts and legal rights.

During the hotline's tryout period, a woman in Bolingbrook wanted to find out whether a boyfriend arrested two weeks earlier had been deported. A Chicago-area man was hoping he was ineligible for deportation to Mexico because he has sole custody of two children born in the U.S.

In each case, a volunteer walked the caller through a checklist of questions before referring that person to attorneys, social service agencies or the Mexican Consulate of Chicago, said Salvador Cervantes, a senior organizer at ICIRR who helped develop the hotline.

The phone line — which offers help in English, Spanish, Korean and Portuguese — was originally intended for people in Illinois who are facing deportation proceedings. But the majority of calls so far — 135 — have come from out of state, prompting a separate directory of services for those callers.

Many calls have been from people asking questions about the 300,000 deportation cases under review by Department of Homeland Security officials for possible reprieves, said Stephen Smith, director of organizing at ICIRR. In those cases, the hotline has served as a way to keep people from being scammed by unscrupulous attorneys or notary publics.

"Unfortunately, there's a lot of people out there who want to take advantage of immigrants," Smith said.

Study in the States - New student visa website (Department of Homeland Security, Sept 16, 2011). Designed to be a combined website for various federal agencies to make the visa and regulation process open and easy to use, this new "one-stop shop" is designed for student visas, visa renewals, and information about visa qualifications.

2011 National Adoption Month Website (Child Welfare Information Gateway/Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Sept 2011). Created in partnership with AdoptUSKids, the 2011 National Adoption Month website is designed to help adoption professionals build capacity to recruit and retain parents for the 107,000 children and youth waiting for permanent families in the U.S. foster care system. The site is built around five themes: Supporting and Retaining Families; Doing Diligent Recruitment; Working with Diverse Populations; Doing Proactive Family Finding; and, Facilitating Interjurisdictional Placements (in English/Spanish). www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/nam/index.cfm

Resources for Undocumented Immigrant Students (Educators for Fair Consideration). NOTE: While this is a California website, much of the information and resources on this webpage is relevant in any states.

<http://www.e4fc.org/studentresources/studentguides.html>

[Addressing the Social Work Needs of Older Immigrants and Refugee](#) (by Christina Reardon, Social Work Today, Sept 2011). Growing numbers of older immigrants and refugees are living in the United States. The number of foreign-born people living in the United States rose from about 31 million in 2000 to about 38 million in 2009, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, and roughly 11% of the foreign-born population is aged 65 or older. All older adults struggle at times with the challenges that accompany aging, such as health problems, cognitive decline, loss of independence, and social isolation. But what if you are confronting these issues when English is not your first language and you don't understand it well enough to navigate American culture or social services systems?

News and Opinions

[Super Committee: Don't Cut Kids](#) (by Bruce Lesley, The Hill, Sept 22, 2011). As the 12 members of the Congressional Super Committee begin their work, it's important to remember that in this country, we don't kick

people when they're down, particularly children. Millions of American children face the daily possibility that they won't have enough food to eat or the supplies needed for the new school year. The Super Committee members must affirm their support of children not through talk, but by protecting and not cutting kids.

[Protesters: ICE Deports Mothers, Students](#) (WAMU 88.5, Sept 22, 2011). Immigration enforcement officials are ignoring the June 17 directive from Homeland Security boss Janet Napolitano to place undocumented immigrants who pose a threat to national security at the front of the deportation line, according to activists from CASA de Maryland. Instead of deporting drug dealers and other violent criminals first, activists charge that some local ICE offices are still deporting people who aren't dangerous, like mothers and students. Among the protesters are two Prince George's County women who say they were turned over to immigration officials by Prince George's County police. In two cases, the women had called police to report they were being attacked: one by a roommate, the other by her husband.

[Reinterpreting the Automatic Conversion Provision of the CSPA to help DREAM Kids](#) (The Insightful Immigration Blog – Commentaries on Immigration Policy, Cases and Trends, Sept 16, 2011).

[Building a Safer Haiti United Nations forces need to stay on while Haiti builds a competent, nonpolitical police force](#) (New York Times, Sept. 20, 2011).

[Risk Seen for Children of Illegal Immigrants](#) (New York Times, Sept 20, 2011). Children whose parents are illegal immigrants or who lack legal status themselves face “uniformly negative” effects on their social development from early childhood until they become adults, according to a [study](#) by four researchers published Wednesday in the Harvard Education Review.

[For Adoptive Parents, Questions Without Answers](#) (Sunday New York Times, Sept 18, 2011). In almost any adoption, the new parents accept that their good fortune arises out of the hardship of the child's first parents. The equation is usually tempered by the thought that the birth parents either are no longer alive or chose to give the child a better life than they could provide. On Aug. 5, this newspaper published a front-page article from China that contained chilling news for many adoptive parents: government officials in Hunan Province, in southern China, had seized babies from their parents and sold them into what the article called 'a lucrative black market in children.' The news, the latest in a slow trickle of reports describing child abduction and trafficking in China, swept through the tight communities of families -- many of them in the New York area -- who have adopted children from China. For some, it raised a nightmarish question: What if my child had been taken forcibly from her parents?

[Child abuse rose during recession, research says](#) (Associated Press, Sept 19, 2011). An increase in child abuse, mostly in infants, is linked with the recent recession in new research that raises fresh concerns about the impact of the nation's economic woes.

[Two teens are back with their families thanks to change in deportation policy](#) (Chattanooga Times Free Press, Sept 19, 2011).

[Bills Seek to Make English Official Pa. Language](#) (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Sept 15, 2011). Two bills have been introduced in the Legislature to make English the "official" language of Pennsylvania, meaning there no longer would be any state government pamphlets or publications printed in any other language. The bills also could mean decreased state funding for English-as-a-Second-Language programs. It also could prevent truckers who don't speak English from getting a commercial driving license.

[Growing Child Poverty in America: There is Simply No Excuse](#) (by Bruce Lesley, President of First Focus, Huffington Post, Sept 15, 2011).

[Deportation Program Sows Mistrust, U.S. Is Told](#) (New York Times, Sept 15, 2011). A task force advising an Obama administration deportation program has sharply criticized immigration officials for creating confusion about its purposes and has found that the program had an “unintended negative impact” on public safety in local communities. In a report on the program, known as Secure Communities, the task force said that the program had eroded public trust by leading to the detention of many immigrants who had not committed serious crimes, after officials said its aim was to remove “the worse of the worst” immigration criminals from the United States.

[Tough Immigration Policies Push Latino Majority Into Federal Prisons](#) (Colorlines, Sept 12, 2011)

[Dueling driver’s license bills increase drama](#) (The New Mexican, Sept 9, 2011). Democratic House Speaker Ben Luján of Nambé introduced a bill to enable foreign nationals without Social Security numbers to receive state driver's licenses, but only for two-year increments. Luján's proposal sets up a battle of competing pieces of legislation in the House where Rep. Andy Nuñez already has introduced a bill that would prohibit the issuance of licenses to undocumented immigrants.

[Proposal to free inmates wanted by ICE gets flak](#) (WBEZ91.5 Chicago, Sept 7, 2011).

[Mother of four faces deportation after traffic stop in Araphoe County](#) (Colorado Public News, August 30, 2011)

[United Nations Refugee Office Receives \\$62 Million From Ikea Foundation](#) (UNHCR Press Release, Sept 3, 2011). The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has announced a three-year, \$62 million gift from the Netherlands-based Ikea Foundation to assist up to 120,000 Somali refugees recently arrived at Dadaab, the world's largest refugee complex, in Kenya.

[Corporations, Foundations Pledge \\$1.75 Million to Hurricane Irene Disaster Relief Efforts](#) (Lowe’s Press Release, Aug 31, 2011).

Research and Policy

[Global Movement for Children](#). (2010). Protecting and Supporting Children on the Move. 37 p. The International Conference on Protecting and Supporting Children on the Move was held in Barcelona on 5-7 October 2010. It aimed at analysing and debating the current status of the issue of children on the move and presenting some key recommendations on the way forward to initiating the revision of policy and programmatic responses to the protection and support of these children. The Conference Report is expected to be a road map for topics of debate initiated at the Barcelona meeting with a view to building national and international work agendas.

[Left Behind: The Impact of SB1070 on Arizona’s Youth](#) (by Nina Rabin and Tomas Lopez, Bacon Program/Southwest Institute for Research on Women, Sept 19, 2011). This report, based on over 70 interviews in 7 different schools in Pima County, summarizes the perspectives of teachers, parents, and students themselves on how young people have been impacted by the passage of SB1070. The law, designed to reduce the size of Arizona’s undocumented immigrant population through aggressive state enforcement of federal immigration laws has never been fully implemented due to a court injunction. However, the report’s findings reveal a disturbing picture of youth destabilized, disillusioned, and disadvantaged by the passage of SB1070.

[New Poverty Numbers Impact All Including Children](#) (from Insider on the Hill – American Humane Association Policy Updates, Sept 19, 2011). The official poverty numbers released last week revealed disturbing statistics. Some of the information in case you missed it:

- Overall poverty rate rose to 15.1 percent with children living in poverty increasing by two points to 22 percent (both figures the highest in 17 years)
- Number of people in poverty, 46 million (the highest since 1959)

- Deep poverty (people at half of the poverty level at \$11,157 for a family of four) over 20 million (the highest since tracking began in 1975)
- Since 2007, nearly 9 million more people have moved into poverty
- Black Americans the poverty rate rose to 24.7 percent
- Hispanic Americans (of any nationality) to 23.2 percent
- With the U.S. having a poverty rate of 15.1 percent, 22 states (including Washington DC) are above the national average. Only four states: Wisconsin, Wyoming, Connecticut, and New Hampshire are below 10 percent with Mississippi and Louisiana topping the list at 22.7 and 21.6 percent respectively.

For more information, go to: <http://www.census.gov/2011pubs/p60-239.pdf>

[My Mother's Story and Why I'm Going to Georgia](#) (by Wendy Cervantes, First Focus Blog, Sept 26, 2011).

This week I'm going to Georgia, and I'm excited and hopeful. I'm honored to be joining several other women from around the country as part of the We Belong Together delegation. We're tasked with documenting the impact of Georgia's new anti-immigrant law on children and families. Their suffering is very real, yet their voices are often not heard.

When I think of their stories, I'm reminded of my mother. Because of the extreme poverty in her hometown, she was forced to drop out of school at the age of thirteen in order to work and help my widowed grandmother support the family. She vowed that her own children would have the opportunity to finish their education. She eventually moved to Indiana from Mexico in her late teens as a nanny, and after my parents were married they decided to make the U.S. their permanent home and raise their family here. My mother continues to be a domestic worker today, and she is by far the smartest, strongest, and most determined woman I know. Thanks to the many sacrifices she and my father made, my sister and I both grew up believing we could be whatever we wanted to be, and we both obtained college degrees. It's also because of their sacrifices that I've become the passionate advocate I am today for immigrant families. Just like my parents, today's immigrants simply want a better life for their children.

Thus, it has been very difficult for me to see the tide of anti-immigrant laws that has rippled across the country. What is most troubling about these laws is that the policymakers who pass them seem to completely disregard the harm these laws have on the most vulnerable members of our society—our children. Like Arizona's SB 1070, Georgia's HB 87 threatens to tear families apart, puts children's health and safety in jeopardy, and prevents women from protecting themselves and their families from domestic violence and other dangerous situations.

While things like "immigration enforcement" may sound like they have nothing to do with children, the fact is that over 5 million children in America have at least one undocumented parent, and the vast majority are U.S.-born citizens. When a single mother is detained by immigration authorities without the opportunity to make care arrangements for her child, that child may be turned over to the foster care system without any idea of what happened to his mother. When an undocumented mother is scared to call the police when her husband abuses her, she is left powerless in defending her child's safety as well. And when critical safety net programs impose additional barriers to deter immigrant families from accessing basic services that their children are entitled to, those children go without things like food, housing, and healthcare.

In states like Alabama, the serious implications for children and families in the state's recently passed anti-immigrant bill are even more obvious. Alabama's HB 56, if fully implemented, would force schools to act as immigration agents by requiring them to document the immigration status of students and parents and by authorizing school officials to report families to federal immigration agents. In addition to violating a Supreme Court decision which has for decades protected the right of every child to access a K-12 education, this new law sends a heartbreaking message to children of immigrants. Rather than tell these students to strive for academic success, the message is that they are simply not welcome here.

The bottom line is that as a country we need all our children to thrive. Yet, 22 percent of America's children are now living in poverty, a child poverty rate that is shared by states like Georgia. Rather than passing anti-immigrant laws that weaken safety net programs designed to protect children in the greatest need, federal and state policymakers should be focused on strategies to improve the economic well-being of our nation's children. And that includes children of immigrants.

Thus, I'm going to Georgia because the stories of the parents and children who have been impacted by HB 87 are my story too. I want to make sure that their stories are heard around the country, not just by policymakers but by all Americans who believe that every single child deserves the opportunity to achieve her full potential. That is why I'm excited and hopeful. Because we all have a story to tell, and those stories have the power to impact change.

To learn more about the We Belong Together Delegation and receive updates, please visit

<http://www.domesticworkers.org/we-belong-together>

Call for Papers - Special Issue: Immigration and the Family Court (The Family Court Review). DEADLINE JUNE 1, 2012, <http://www.wiley.com/bw/journal.asp?ref=1531-2445>

The Family Court Review seeks submissions for an upcoming special symposium issue dedicated to the complex interplay between immigration issues and the family court's obligations to serve families and children. Family courts throughout the United States have explicit statutory duties to aid families in crisis, to maintain families whenever appropriate, to protect children and safeguard their well-being, and to provide children with permanency in their lives. These are not narrow obligations, and the judges, practitioners and agencies involved in family courts must constantly adapt to serve the individual needs of all the families which come before them. The purpose of this Special Issue is to examine the unique challenges presented by working with families and children who are immigrants – both documented and undocumented – and the complex interplay between immigration issues and the family court's obligations to serve the families and children. Contributions can be from scholars, practitioners, judges, public policy makers, and experts in all professional disciplines who work with children and families who are immigrants. We expect to publish a broad range of topics, including: whether immigration status should be a factor in basic family court legal standards; what responsibility family courts and related agencies have to tailor services for families with immigration-related issues; the duty of judges and attorneys to advise parties of immigration consequences of family court decisions; parental rights of detained non-citizen parents; the effect of undocumented immigration status on children's mental health and overall well-being; and educating family court judges, attorneys and administrative personnel on relevant immigration issues. A symposium highlighting these topics will follow in November 2012. To be eligible for publication, papers must be submitted by June 1, 2012. Submitted articles should be 15 – 20 double-spaced pages, including citations, notes, references, tables, and figures. Authors are requested to follow the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5th edition) or the Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (19th Ed.). Publication decisions will be made shortly following the submission date and the publication of this special issue is expected to be completed in October 2012. The Family Court Review is the quarterly research and academic journal of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC), edited at Hofstra University School of Law and published by Wiley Publishing. AFCC is an interdisciplinary association of approximately four thousand judges, academics, researchers, counselors, evaluators, mediators, attorneys and others concerned with the constructive resolution of family conflict. Please direct all inquiries to Professors Theo Liebmann and Lauris Wren, Special Issue Editors, by email at lawtsl@hofstra.edu and lawlpw@hofstra.edu.

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