

# **PROVIDING SUPPORT TO CHILDREN IN IMMIGRANT FAMILIES**

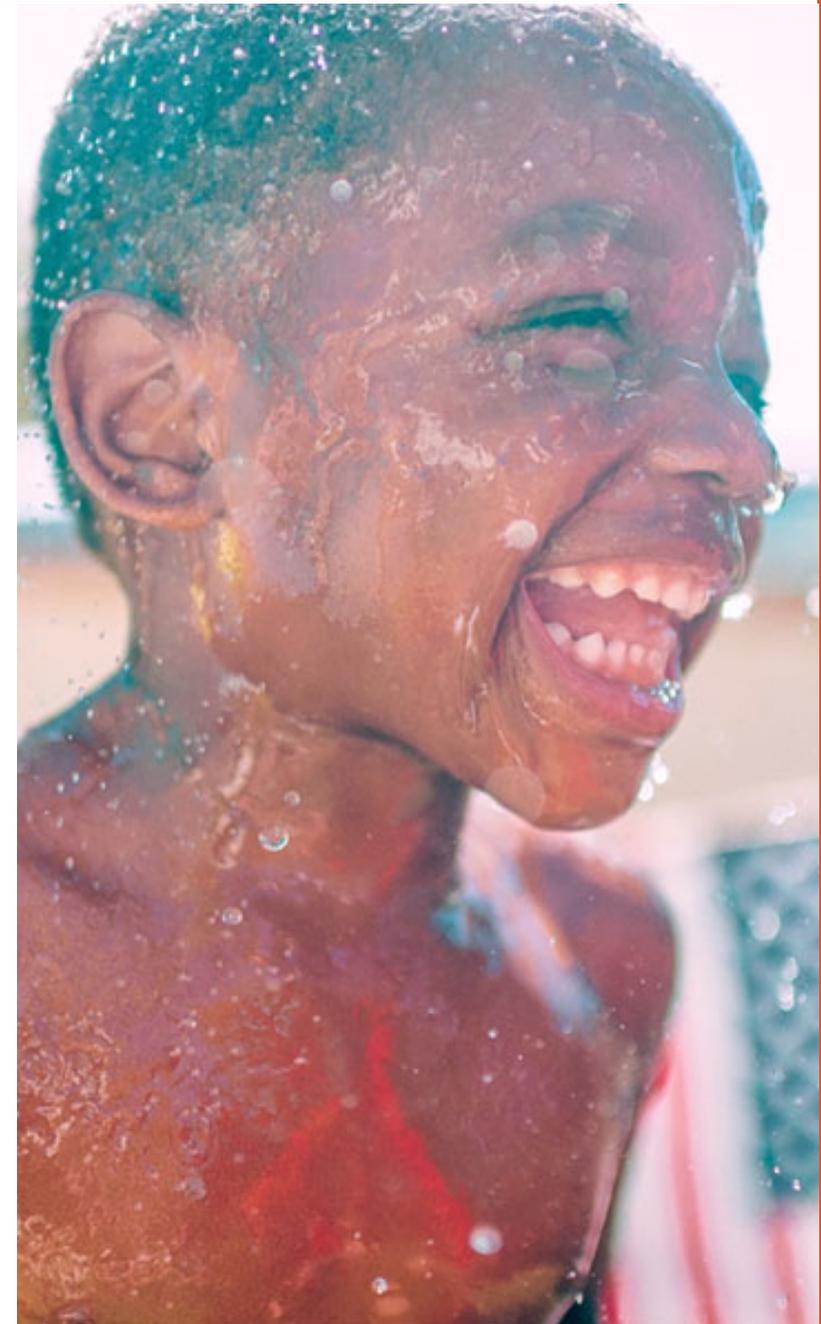
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# MITIGATING IMPACTS OF TRAUMATIC STRESS

- Facilitating supportive adult-child relationships;
- Building a sense of self-efficacy and perceived control;
- Providing opportunities to strengthen adaptive skills and self-regulatory capacities; and
- Mobilizing sources of faith, hope, and cultural traditions

Source: Harvard Center for the Developing Child



# **TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACHES TO ENGAGING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

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# EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACHES

- **Child parent psychotherapy**
  - Narrative building
  - Help the child use the parent as a stable and safe caretaker.
  - Support the parent's own feelings and history
- **CBT**
  - Identify a child's distortions i.e. "*It's my fault,*"
  - Support children to have a realistic appreciation of the situation
  - Identify and build coping skills
- **Mindfulness and Somatic-based approaches**
  - Creating awareness of thoughts and feeling without acting on them
  - Meditation, body-centered practices such as yoga, dance

# WHAT CHILDREN NEED



- Unconditional love, security and acceptance. Children need to know that love does not depend on his or her accomplishments.
- Self-confidence and high self-esteem: Praise, realistic goals, honesty
- The opportunity to play with other children
- Encouraging teachers and supportive caretakers
- Safe and secure surroundings
- Appropriate guidance and discipline

# THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

Helps children discover their strengths and weaknesses, develop a sense of belonging, and learn how to get along with others.

Helps children be creative, learn problem-solving skills and learn self-control.

Helps process what is going on in the outside world



# THE IMPORTANCE OF TALK



- Create safe space for conversation to occur
- Listen sensitively
- Give honest responses, providing enough information to address concerns, but not too much that they would be overwhelmed
- Encourage family safety planning

# THE IMPORTANCE OF A CARING ADULT

- A caring adult can help children respond adversity and heal, buffering from toxic stress
  - Resilience
  - Compliment, comfort, listen, collaborate, inspire



# HOW ELSE TO HELP CHILDREN

- Acknowledge reactions (yours and theirs)
- Regulate our fears, anxieties, wishes, disappointments
- Provide a space to talk about fears, anxieties, wishes
- Avoid making children retell their story multiple times
- Create a positive counter-narrative that competes with the negative, hateful messaging
- Identify allies, supports, and positives in immigration



# CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

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# CREATING SAFETY PLANS

Good plans include:

- ✓ Designated, safe emergency contact
- ✓ File of important documents and contacts
- ✓ Power of attorney for care of children, prior discussion with children, and immediate plan for child pick-up
- ✓ Power of attorney for assets and businesses
- ✓ Designated “sponsor” and assets for bond
- ✓ Prior consultation with immigration attorney re possible remedies/options
- ✓ Prior preparation of travel documents and/or dual citizenship for US born children
- ✓ Caregiver's affidavit for health and educational decisions

# ROLE OF THE MEXICAN CONSULATE IN SAFETY PLANNING

- CYFD has a duty to notify the Mexican Consulate when a “Mexican minor” is taken into CYFD custody in Abuse and Neglect cases per MOU
- Consulate interprets this to mean even US citizen children who have Mexican citizen parents
- Contact Mexican Consulate for preparation of travel documents and/or dual citizenship for US born children
- For adults, the Mexican citizen has to request consular services
- Consulate explores viability and best interests of the child for reunification
- If reunification not viable, Consulate works to ensure due process rights are protected

# ADVICE FOR PARENTS IF APPREHENDED:

- Exercise right to remain silent. You have the right to speak to an attorney and to make a phone call.
- To prevent immediate removal, do not sign removal or voluntary departure (which waives right to fight case in Immigration Court), and if you have a prior removal order express fear of return to country of origin.
- Contact your designated emergency contact to set your safety plan into motion.
- Contact your consulate to ask for assistance.



KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
KNOW  
YOUR  
RIGHTS



# SENSITIVE LOCATIONS

Policy Number: 10029.2 – Enforcement Actions at or Focused on Sensitive Locations

- Stipulated locations include pre-schools, primary schools, childcare and early education programs
- Churches, courthouses



# SAFE ORGANIZATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS

- Ensure that all personnel and parents are familiar with the ICE sensitive locations policy and other internal safety procedures. English and Spanish factsheets on sensitive locations are available on CLASP's website.
- Place signs and banners in multiple languages in agency buildings announcing and explaining agency policies.
- Distribute cards explaining the agency policies and related to a "Know Your Rights" campaign to parents, children, and agency staff.
- Send automated phone messages to clients explaining the agency policies.
- Work with trusted community partners to reach out to families/clients.
- Coordinate with families in which parents may be detained to prepare power of attorney and guardianship forms. This may require more intricate partnerships with local community groups.
- Hold agency or community events meant to explain the agency policies.

# AGENCY BEST PRACTICES

- Be aware of and incorporate ICE Sensitive Locations Policy (Policy Number: 10029.2) and Detained Parents' Directive (Policy Number 11064.2) into agency policy
- Commit to ongoing policy review and development to improve responsiveness to these families.
- Develop clear policies on confidentiality and sharing info with immigration authorities
- Have a process/mechanism for and equip workers to screen for SIJS, U Visas, VAWA
- Have specific staff members trained on immigration-related issues e.g., immigration liaison
- Ensure that all documents and forms are language accessible to clients
- Listen to and learn from families and caseworkers about the needs and experiences of families

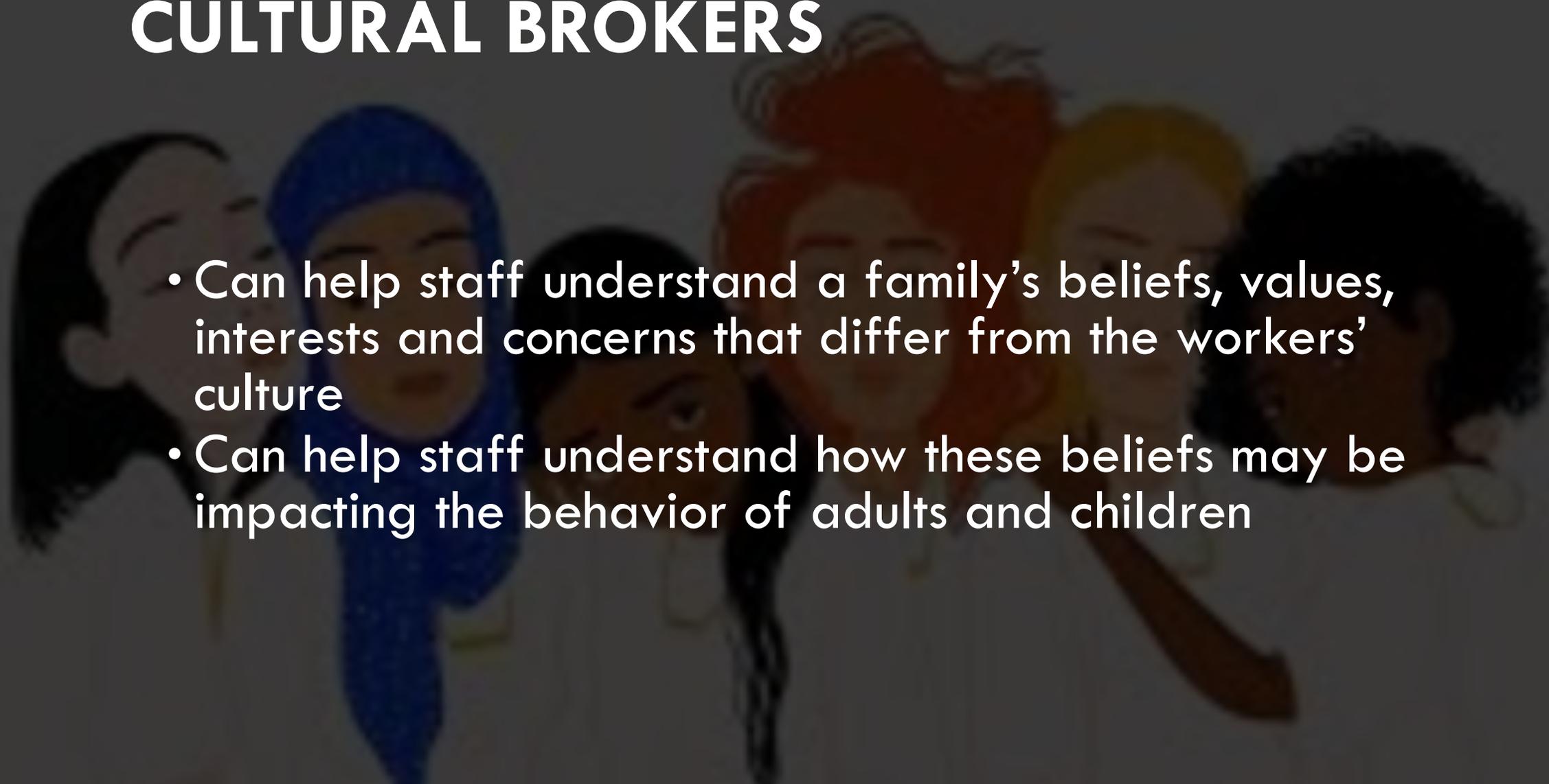
# TRAUMA-INFORMED AGENCIES

- Screen and assess child's and caregivers' violence and trauma experiences throughout the lifetime
- Maximize the child's sense of safety- in physical environment and emotionally
- Help children make new meaning of their trauma history and current experiences
- Address the impact of trauma and subsequent changes in the child's behavior, development, and relationships
- Support and promote positive and stable relationships in the life of the child
- Provide culturally appropriate guidance and resources to the child's family and caregivers
- Involve an array of organizations in services and planning, including culturally-based healers and spiritual leaders



# CULTURAL BROKERS

- Can help staff understand a family's beliefs, values, interests and concerns that differ from the workers' culture
- Can help staff understand how these beliefs may be impacting the behavior of adults and children



# WORKING ACROSS BORDERS

- Effective permanency practices at the intersection of child welfare and immigration
- Casey Family Programs Practice Model: A Safe and Permanent Family for Every Youth



## Organizational Support

### Practice

## Youth *and* Family *in* Community

### Outcomes

Youth and family well-being is evident in health, relationships, school and work

Youth are safe and feel safe

Youth are legally connected and feel connected to their family, community and culture

#### Values

- Family-centered
- Relationship-based
- Participatory
- Culturally responsive
- Stewardship

#### Approach

- Urgent
- Relentless
- Trauma- and healing-informed
- Innovative and evidence-informed
- Integrated

#### Process

- Individualized
- Accurate, ongoing assessment
- Effective planning
- Efficient service delivery

Qualified workforce

Data-driven accountability and continuous quality improvement

Leadership

# WORKING ACROSS BORDERS



## Implementation Successes

- Relationship and Teaming
- Engagement and Collaboration
- Work with Consulates
- Transnational Practice
- Advocacy and Education
- Leadership Support



# ADVOCACY

- Copycat CA's SB1064
- Writing/calling local officials
- Hold press accountable
- Social media and letters to the editor
- Volunteer/partner with local groups

# GROUP REFLECTION

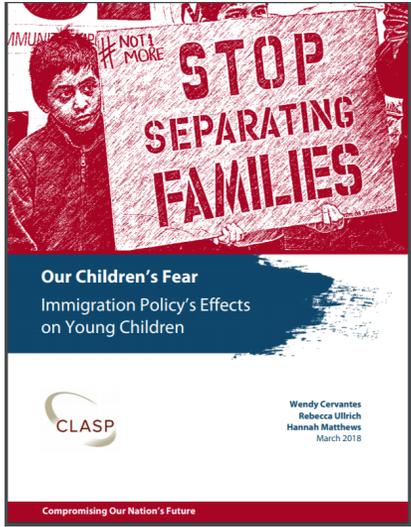
- What are you currently doing in your work to support immigrant children and families?
  - What are you doing to ensure that immigrant children and their families are treated fairly in your court?
- What can you do in your work to improve support of children in immigrant families and their parents?
- What relationships/partnerships might you need to develop to achieve this?

# RESOURCES

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# RESOURCES FOR PROVIDERS: WWW.CIMMCW.ORG

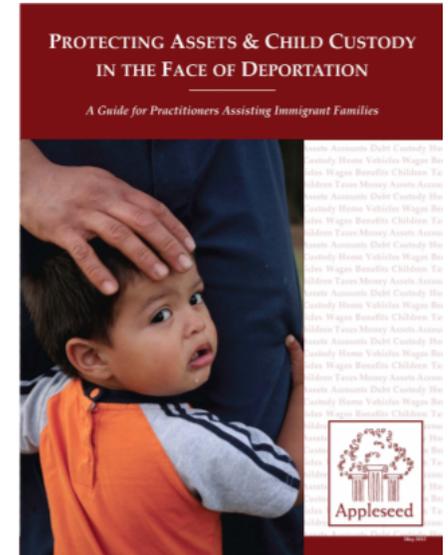


Based on a 6-state study including NM, this report from CLASP includes recommendations to help professionals in the early care and education community support immigrant families.



The CICW website and monthly 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.

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



## ROUNDTABLE REPORT

### Mitigating Risks of Child Welfare Involvement for Children and Families Affected by Immigration Enforcement

Hosted by the Center on Immigration and Child Welfare

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO  
NOVEMBER 6, 2017

Hotel Albuquerque  
800 Rio Grande Blvd. NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87104

New Mexico State University  
School of Social Work  
4700 Morris Street Northeast  
Albuquerque, NM 87111



THE CENTER ON  
IMMIGRATION  
AND CHILD WELFARE



# RESOURCES CONTINUED



Frequently Asked Questions About Separated Children and the Child Welfare System

**NCTSN** The National Child Traumatic Stress Network



**SELECT NCTSN RESOURCES RELATED TO TRAUMATIC SEPARATION AND REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT TRAUMA**

**Serving Separated and Reunited Families:  
Lessons Learned and the Way Forward to Promote Family Unity**

**The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services  
and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service**



# RESOURCES CONTINUED

## Kids in Need of Defense



## The American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law



## Women's Refugee Commission



Make a Plan:  
Migrant Parents' Guide to Preventing Family Separation

## Immigrant Legal Resource Center



Family Preparedness Plan