PROJECT C.A.R.E

(COVID-19 ACTION FOR RACIAL EQUITY)

Immigrant Welcome Center
A legacy of Albert G. and Sara I. Reuben

Project CARE (COVID-19 Action for Racial Equity) Toolkit

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Summary

COVID-19 has struck our local immigrant communities hard. According to recent data from the Marion County Public Health Department, Hispanic/Latinx residents have had the highest COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population compared to white residents. In comparison, black residents have experienced the highest number of deaths per 100,000 population cumulatively.

- Largest – Latinx (2,240 cases per 100,000 population)
- Second largest – African Americans (1,380 cases per 100,000 population)
- Third largest – Asian Pacific Islanders (1,000 makeup cases per 100,000 population)

Inequities in our social services and healthcare systems have put communities of color, immigrants, and refugees at an increased risk of exposure to the COVID-19. These community members are also more likely to test positive with a serious case and suffer from the economic impact of the illness due to loss of earnings.

Our vision for this toolkit is to inform local organizations, leaders, and policy makers about the hardships facing our immigrant and refugee communities due to COVID-19. This toolkit aims to provide culturally sensitive solutions that can improve existing services and policies to serve our immigrant and refugee neighbors better.

What's Included

- An overview of the barriers that contribute to health and wellness inequities among immigrant and refugee communities
- Relevant COVID-19 resources for all immigrants regardless of their status
- Tools for organizations to build their capacity to work with diverse populations

Identifying Major Barriers

Documentation Status

In Marion County alone, foreign-born immigrants make up 9.2 percent of our population. Of those residents, approximately 37.7 percent are undocumented. Being undocumented creates serious barriers to obtaining services like affordable healthcare and safe housing.[1]

English Language Proficiency

Nearly one-third of immigrants living in Marion County have limited English language proficiency. Of those, the top three languages spoken at home besides English are Spanish, Burmese dialects, and Chinese. Public health

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[1] (New American Economy, 2020)

efforts to curb and control COVID-19 are only useful if emergency communications are improved to include those who speak languages other than English.[2]

COVID-19 Resources for Immigrant and Refugee Populations

Financial Resources

Mission Asset Fund
Mission Asset Fund has launched their *Immigrant Families Fund* which provides support to immigrants who were left out of the CARES Act relief. Immigrants may be eligible to receive a $500 grant to help cover whatever is most pressing in their lives. Click here to learn more.

Healthcare Resources

Most healthcare and insurance providers require personal identification information that prevents immigrants and refugees, especially those without documentation, from accessing critical healthcare services. The list below contains links to local providers that work with undocumented individuals and provide multilingual services.

Eskenazi Health
Eskenazi Health provides medical care to immigrants living in Marion County through its *Health Advantage* insurance program. Individuals looking for assistance should call Eskenazi's financial counseling department for more information. Click here to visit their website.

- Eskenazi's *Health Advantage* program also covers prescription medications, but they must be filled at a pharmacy inside the Eskenazi network.

NeedyMeds
NeedyMeds is an online, national database connecting people to programs to help them afford their medications and other healthcare costs. Their Free/Low-cost/Sliding Scale medical clinic listing provides vital information about eligibility requirements such as income, accepted insurance, fees, and languages spoken. Click here to learn more.

Housing and Utility Resources

Nationwide Eviction Moratorium

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[2] (LUNA, 2020)

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention issued a nationwide eviction moratorium that offers protections to most renters from eviction until the end of the year. Individuals must have earned less than $99,000 per year, and couples must have earned less than $198,000, or had received a stimulus check. Click here to learn more. *If a landlord refuses to acknowledge the eviction ban, tenants should seek immediate legal help.*

Indiana Legal Services (ILS) Eviction Hotline
ILS has launched a legal assistance hotline to provide renters and tenants with information about their housing rights, protections, and elections. Click here to learn more.
- Tenant line (Marion County residents): 317-973-1673
- Tenant line (All Indiana Counties): 844-243-8570

Community Centers
Many local community centers provide cash assistance to individuals experiencing difficulties in paying their rent and utilities. Individuals seeking help should be directed to their nearest community center. Click here to view the COVID-19 Emergency Services Areas Map.

Dayspring Center
Dayspring Center provides emergency shelter, clothing, and three nourishing meals a day for homeless families with children in central Indiana. Click here to learn more.

Food Resources

Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana, Inc.
Gleaners Food Bank supplies items to hunger relief agencies and schools throughout 21 counties in central and southeastern Indiana. Delivery is available for residents in Marion County. Click here to locate a food pantry.

No Questions Asked Food Pantry
No Questions Asked is a grassroots food pantry that provides groceries, hot meals, and hygiene and cleaning supplies to anyone in need. They do not require identification and offer delivery options for individuals with limited transportation. The organization operates out of the Church Within located in Fountain Square. Click here to visit their Facebook page or here to access their food delivery request form.

Community Compass App
Community Compass, developed by the Indy Hunger Network, is a free, quick, and easy app designed to show people where they can find food assistance in Marion County. The app provides information about where to access free meals, groceries, and food-related events. Users who don't have a smartphone can text the word "hi" to 317-434-3758 to find assistance. Click here for more information.

Mental Health Resources

To view a list of local mental health resources, please refer to our internal document here.

Low-cost/Free Immigration Legal Resources

Mariposa Legal | Specializing in ICE and deportation cases

Flores Law Group | Specializing in personal injury and worker's compensation cases

Indiana Legal Services | Specializing in free legal help for low-income residents

Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic | Specializing in free legal help for low-income residents

Catholic Charities | Specializing in immigration cases and offers free/low-cost assistance

Shepherd Community Center | Offers immigration legal through a contracted Department of Justice representative

For a listing of private immigration attorneys, please contact our Naturalization and Legal Coordinator.

Capacity Building Tools for Social Service Agencies and Non-profits

Translation and Interpretation Resources

In 2018, over 30 percent of immigrants living in Marion County had limited English language proficiency. For this reason, emergency materials that are both culturally sensitive and language accessible are in high demand. Non-profits and social service agencies that work with diverse populations should assess their current capacity to provide their constituents with multilingual services and consider implementing a language access line to meet community needs.

LUNA Language Services
Luna provides numerous language services in more than 200 spoken languages and American Sign Language (ASL). Staff is available 24/7 to assist with any language-related needs, including interpreting, translation, localization, transcription, and video voice-over. Click here to learn more about their COVID-19 resources.

Cultural Training Resources

Navigating Culture and Bias Training

The Immigrant Welcome Center has launched a highly interactive and engaging workshop that provides teams with an opportunity to unpack the layers of culture, privilege, and power while identifying how these concepts create opportunities to work effectively with immigrants and refugees. The workshop also aims to create a safe space for organizations and institutions to examine their ideas and biases while learning tools to implement cultural humility practices when working with a diverse and multicultural community. Click here to learn more.

Aunt Bertha

Aunt Bertha connects people seeking help and verified social care providers that serve them. Navigating the system to get help has often been difficult, time-consuming, and frustrating. Too many Americans are suffering, and they don't need to. Aunt Bertha makes it easy for people to find social services in their communities, for nonprofits to coordinate their efforts, and for customers to integrate social care into the work they already do. Click here for more information or contact our Resources Coordinator.