

# Empowering Immigrant Clients to Build Welcoming Communities

**November 14, 2014** 

# Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)

- National network of charitable legal service providers
- More than 260 affiliates serve hundreds of thousands of immigrant clients each year
- Established in 1988 by the USCCB
- Provides training, technical support, legal services for religious workers, flow-through funding, and advocacy



## **Our Presenters**

### Allison Posner

Director of Advocacy
Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)

# Jen Riddle State and Local Advocacy Attorney CLINIC

# Robin Murphy Chief Counsel, Civil Programs National Legal Aid & Defender Association



# **Workshop Outline**

- The role of city and county policymakers in immigrant integration
- Local pro-immigrant initiatives
- Supporting your clients' civic engagement
- Questions and answers



# Measures to INTEGRATE and INCLUDE Immigrants

1. Welcoming Unaccompanied Children

- 2. Resisting Immigration Enforcement
- 3. Protecting Communities Against Immigration Fraud



### **City/County Governments & Immigrants**

- City Council
- Board of County Commissioners
- Mayor
- Police Chief and Sheriff
- City/County Office of Education and School District
- Health Department
- Other City and County Service Providers



# Welcoming and Protecting Unaccompanied Children

Who Are Unaccompanied Children (UACs)?

### What Are the Numbers?

- 68,541 children in FY2014

### Why Are Children Coming?

- Widespread gang violence
- Domestic violence/abuse

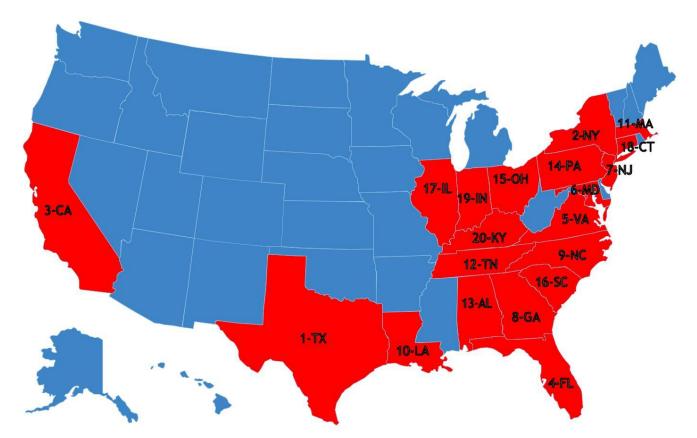


How Do Children Get to my Community?



# **Statistics by State**

Children Released to Sponsors Jan 1 to Sep 30, 2014







### What Can Local Governments Do...

To facilitate access to **existing** legal services, education, healthcare, & other social services?

To **expand access** to much-needed services?

- Conduct outreach
- Create a task force
- Fill the gaps in services
- Pass a resolution of welcome
- Issue calls to action
- Fund services
- Coordinate & connect



# A Local Success in San Francisco, CA

- Board of Supervisors Ordinance
- \$2.1 million funding for pro bono legal services to represent unaccompanied children & families







### **Advocacy Resources**

#### **ADVOCACY IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

#### 10 Ways to Welcome the Children at Our Border

10 suggestions on how to show support for unaccompanied children.

### The Impact of Unaccompanied Children on Local Communities - Frequently Asked Questions

Answers to questions about when and how unaccompanied children may come to live in your community and what impact they might have on local schools, healthcare services, and public safety.

#### Webinar – Advocating to Protect Unaccompanied Children in Your Community

This webinar addresses advocacy on behalf of unaccompanied children residing with sponsors and relatives across the United States as they await their immigration hearings.

#### **GOVERNMENTAL ADVOCACY**

State and Local Resolutions in Support of Unaccompanied Children (Aug 25, 2014)

Review examples of state and local resolutions seeking to meet the housing, legal services, healthcare, and educational needs of young migrants in your community.

https://cliniclegal.org/resources/unaccompanied-migrant-children-toolkit

# **Resisting Immigration Enforcement**

### ICE Reliance on Partnerships with Local Law Enforcement

#### Secure Communities ("SComm")

- Fingerprints and database checks on every single person arrested in the entire country
- Participation is mandatory

### Criminal Alien Program

- Booking lists, interviews, and notifications to ICE
- Participation is voluntary

### 287(g)

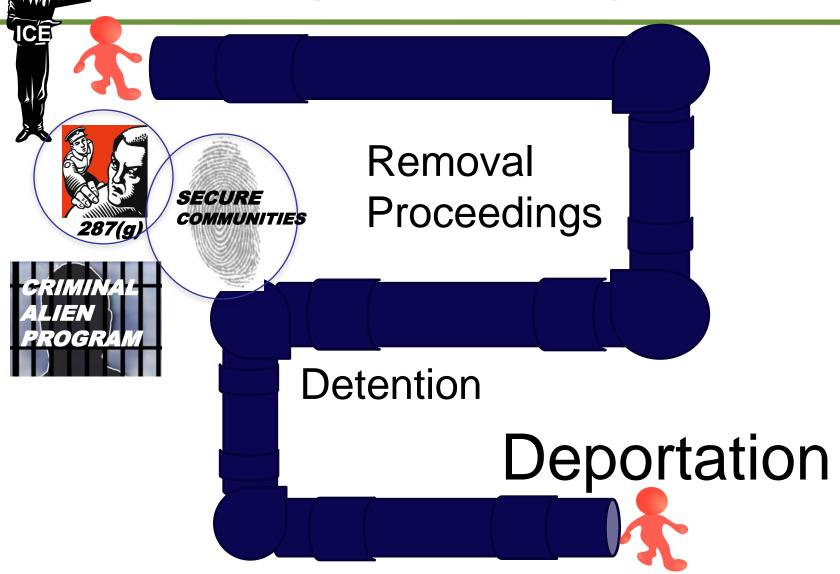
- Local law enforcement agents are permitted to perform ICE agent duties in jails
- Currently, ICE has agreements with 35 law enforcement agencies in 18 states
- Participation is voluntary

### ICE's Primary Tool = Immigration Detainers

- 48-hour hold request allows transfer of custody from local jail to ICE
- Have enabled hundreds of thousands of deportations



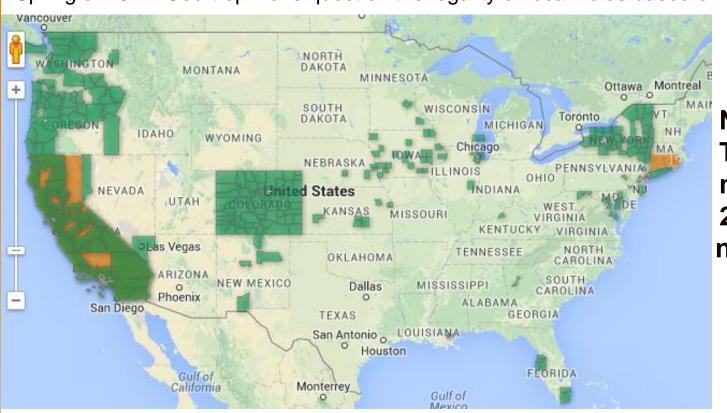
# The Deportation Pipeline



# Advocacy to Limit Cooperation with ICE: Immigration Detainer Policies

2011-2012: Ordinances & resolutions limiting compliance with immigration detainers in a small number of localities.

2013: Approximately 20 localities have anti-detainer policies (plus California and Connecticut). Spring of 2014: Court opinions question the legality of local holds based on ICE detainers.



Nov 2014: There are more than 260 policies nationwide!

### What might a detainer policy look like?

- A State Law
- A City/County Ordinance, Resolution, or Policy
- A Mayor's Executive Order
- A Sheriff or Police Dept. Policy, Directive, Procedural Order, Announcement, or Memorandum

A City/County Detention Center/Dept. of Corrections

Policy





# A Local Detainer Policy Win: Doña Ana County, New Mexico







www.bnhr.org



### **Advocacy Resources**

### https://cliniclegal.org/programs/advocacy/state-and-local

- Webinar Communities Resisting Immigration Enforcement: Detainer Policies and Local Advocacy
- States and Localities That Limit Compliance with ICE Detainer Requests
- The Cost of State & Local Involvement in Immigration Enforcement
- Talking Points: Why States Should Separate Local Policing From Immigration Enforcement
- A Tool Kit for Communities to Advocate Against ICE Partnerships with Local Law Enforcement Agencies

www.ilrc.org/enforcement

https://www.aclu.org/affiliates

http://www.ice.gov/secure\_communities/

http://www.ice.gov/287g/

http://www.ice.gov/criminal-alien-program/

https://www.ice.gov/news/library/factsheets/detainer-faqs.htm



# What Do We Mean by Administrative Relief?

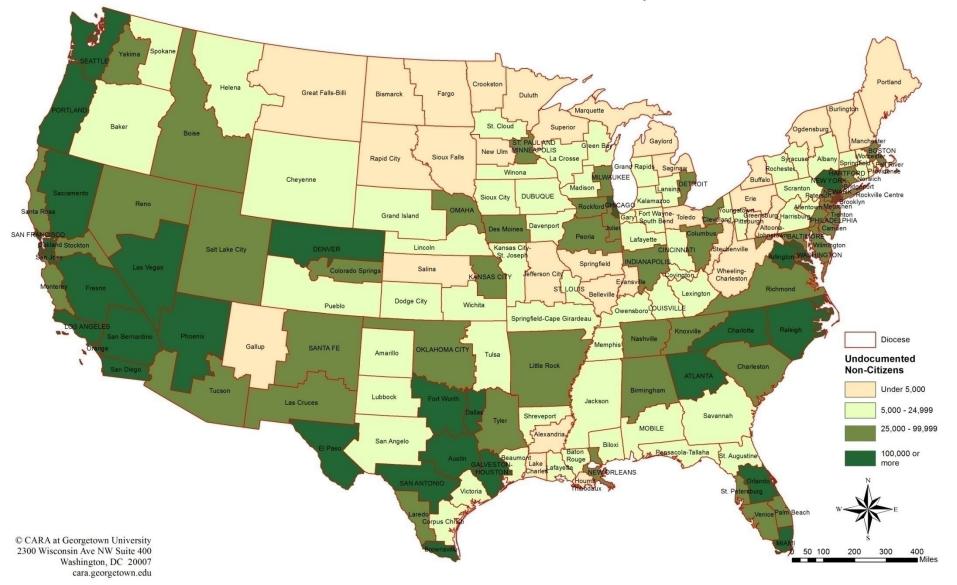
Changes to existing *policies* that cover several aspects of immigration law -- including:

- Family
- Enforcement/detention
- 11 million undocumented





#### **Estimated Number of Undocumented Non-Citizens by Diocese**







19

# Who May Provide Legal Advice?

Attorneys

 Accredited Representatives of DOJapproved non-profit religious, charitable, or social service organizations



# What is a Notario?

- NOT qualified or authorized to provide immigration legal services.
- Often targets immigrants from his/her own ethnic community.
- A notario or a notario público cannot provide legal services or advice on immigration matters.



# Where and How to Report Immigration Scams

- State Bar Association
- The Federal Trade Commission (FTC)
- State Attorney General's Office
- State Consumer Protection Agency
- Better Business Bureau (BBB)
- Non-Profit Immigration Legal Service Providers
- Local Police Department/Sheriff's Office
- Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR)



# **Empowering Immigrant Clients to Protect Themselves Against Fraud**

- Establish/facilitate relationships
- Educate clients about (and provide referrals to) qualified immigration legal service providers
- Encourage reporting and help alleviate fears
- Encourage clients to join local coalitions



# A Local Success Story

### Washington D.C. Metro Area's **Notario Working Group**

- DC and federal govt representatives
- Nonprofits
- Law firms

Sharing of information/expertise

Public awareness

Wednesday, October 01, 2014













#### Silver Spring man pleads guilty to immigration fraud

'Notario' scheme promised help with paperwork, led to deportation

By Daniel Leaderman Staff Writer

A Silver Spring man pleaded guilty Wednesday to two charges relating to an immigration fraud scheme that left his victims facing deportation.

Ramon O. Escarfullet, 61, was sentenced to six months in jail and ordered to pay restitution of \$8,341.85 to four victims he defrauded between August 2012 and September 2013.

He pleaded to one count of operating an immigration fraud scheme and one count of operating an unauthorized law practice scheme, both misdemeanors.

Escarfullet, who ran a tax preparation service on University Boulevard in Silver Spring, advertised that he could provide

immigration services despite the fact that he was not a lawyer, Montgomery County Assistant State's Attorney Curtis L. Zeager said as he outlined the scheme to the court.

Escarfullet's flyers claimed that immigrants who had been living in the country illegally or with only a work permit were automatically eligible to become permanent residents if they had been living in the country for 10 years — a claim with no legal merit, Zeager said.

Victims were told that the entire process would cost them \$4,500. Escarfullet told them that if they were asked in

#### More News

- "The Addams Family" musical snaps to life in
- After serving country, Lanham Marine served fellow
- Hyattsville man found dead in Laurel apartment
- Prince George's police investigate bank robbery in Hyattsville (washingtonpost.com)
- County to seek audit of voter registrations



### **Advocacy Resources**

### http://www.uscis.gov/avoid-scams

Descriptions of common scams, form filing tips, and info on how to report fraud

### www.stopnotariofraud.org/

FAQs, PSAs and warnings, how to find help

http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public\_services/immigratio n/projects\_initiatives/fightnotariofraud.html

Resources for victims, volunteer opportunities for attys

https://cliniclegal.org/sites/default/files/notario\_fraud\_flier\_4-23-13.pdf

Public education fliers



### What Do Pro-Immigrant Initiatives Look Like?

- Resolutions
- Budgetary measures
- Ordinances
- Executive orders
- Working groups
- Immigrant affairs offices or integration task forces

All measures start with public education and relationship building!

### Do's and Don'ts...

# ... for LSC Attorneys in LSC Federal Regulations

- Lobbying
- Training
- Organizing
- Political Activities



### Supporting Your Clients' Civic Engagement

- Consider clients' immigration status and that of their families
- Encourage them to share their own stories
- Remind them they can visit elected officials, though they may not be voters
- Connect them with a local immigrant rights or advocacy coalitions
- Be creative in suggesting community resources



# Thank you for learning with us!

CLINIC envisions a country where every immigrant has access to affordable, quality immigration legal services.

Stay involved, build your expertise, and empower your community.

For the latest immigration happenings, CLINIC trainings, and newest resources, we invite you to sign up for <u>e-news updates</u>.

Follow us on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u>, visit our homepage for featured <u>blogs</u> and <u>resources</u>, and check our <u>calendar of events</u> to stay informed.

#### **Support CLINIC.**

To support CLINIC's mission and foster welcoming communities, make a donation at cliniclegal.org/donate.

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