

Serving the needs of children living in immigrant families

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Children of Immigrant Families

“Investing in the healthy development of all our nation’s children, including children of immigrants, is to invest in a brighter future – not just for these children themselves, but for our entire nation. All society benefits by providing this segment of our population with the education and supports they need today to become America’s productive, engaged citizens of tomorrow.”






Children of Immigrant Families

- 2000 Census: 1 of every 5 children in the U.S. was a child of immigrants or an immigrant
 - Children of immigrants are more likely to be born healthier and to live with two parents
 - Are more likely to be living in poverty and to be without health insurance
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Children of Immigrant Families

- Between 1998 and 2001, the share of non-citizens receiving benefits from TANF, Food Stamps, and Medicaid dropped significantly.
 - This is also seen in participation rates of citizen children.
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Illinois Landscape

- Leadership from the Executive Branch (Governor Blagojevich)
 - Strong advocacy movement (IL Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights)
 - Demonstrated commitment from the legislature (Joint legislative task force)
 - Committed private partners (Chicago Community Trust, Fry Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Chicago Council on Global Affairs, University of Notre Dame – Institute for Latino Studies)
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Significant Achievements

- New Americans Executive Order
 - All-access gubernatorial record
 - IL Department of Human Services best practices
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Governor's Record Serving Immigrants and Refugees

- All Kids: Affordable Healthcare for all kids
 - Preschool for All
 - Immigrant students access to in-state tuition rates for secondary education.
 - New Americans Executive Order
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New Americans Executive Order

- In November 2005, Governor Blagojevich declared a first in the nation “Illinois New Americans Immigrant Policy” Executive Order for Illinois State Government.
 - Policy Council – staffed by Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)
 - Office of New Americans
 - Interagency Task Force
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Illinois Department of Human Services

- One of Illinois' largest agency, with more than 14,000 employees and an annual budget of nearly \$5.4 billion, and operates through six program divisions:
 - 1) Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse,
 - 2) Division of Community Health and Prevention,
 - 3) Division of Developmental Disabilities,
 - 4) Division of Human Capital Development,
 - 5) Division of Mental Health,
 - 6) Division of Rehabilitation Services
- Over local offices statewide, 19 24-hour residential facilities.



Illinois Department of Human Services Best Practices

- LEP Workgroup formed in 2003
 - * strategic planning process
 - * increase access for LEP individuals
 - * provide improved service
 - Bilingual Pay Policy Development: 5%
 - Standardization of language preference data collection
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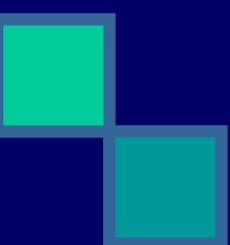


Three DHS Case Studies: Helping immigrant children

- Early Intervention
 - WIC
 - Refugee Children School Impact Initiative
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Early Intervention:




To help children (ages 0 to 3), with disabilities or delays, to learn and grow.

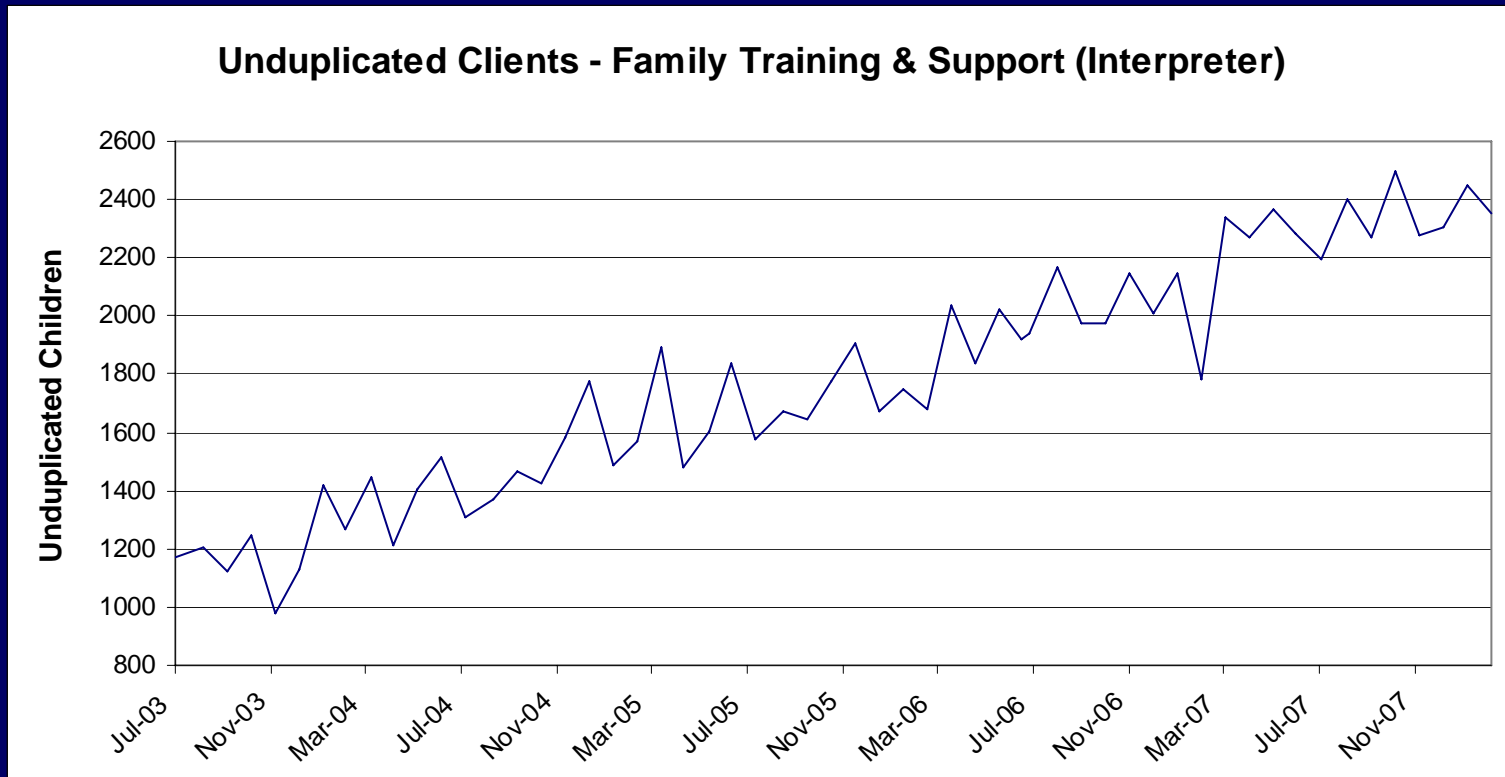
Infants and toddlers are tested to see if there is a delay in:

- Movement
- Learning
- Dealing with others
- Behavior
- Self-help skills

Families, with the support of service providers, help the infants and toddlers reach their goals.




Early Intervention Services -- Quantity





Early Intervention Services -- Quality


- Initiation of a interpreter testing and training requirements
 - Rollout statewide of training/testing: February 2008
 - All testing dates are posted on the EI training website --
written test and verbal tests
 - Costs to the participants for the tests will be \$65 for the
written test and \$65 for the verbal test (\$130 if taking
both). Training is free to participants
 - 75 interpreters have taken the test and passed it. Another
100 tests are being processed. All interpreters must pass
the tests and attend the training by September 1, 2008.
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Women, Infants, and Children


- WIC is a food assistance program for Women, Infants, and Children. It helps pregnant women, new mothers and young children eat well and stay healthy.

Women and their children who are:

- Pregnant, breastfeeding or just had a baby
 - Infants and Children under 5 years old (including foster children)
 - Families with a low to medium income
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Women, Infants, and Children

- Included WIC outreach in long-standing Outreach and Interpretation Program in 2005
 - Collaboration between collaborative partners (DHS, WIC, and ICIRR agencies)
 - Outreach and Public Benefit Information Events
 - Interpretation and Translation
 - Co-locations
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Refugee Children School Impact Initiative

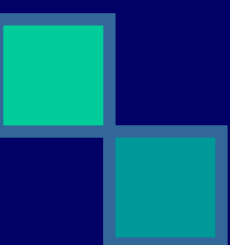
- This K-12 program provides bilingual services to support refugee students, their parents and the schools.
 - The goal is to help the parents, students and schools in the assimilation into the school system.
 - The students are provided with a range of tutorial, recreational, counseling, mental health and mediation services.
 - Parents are provided orientation to the education system and support with school communications and schools are provided with cultural orientation and interpreter services.
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Refugee Children School Impact Initiative

Tutoring/Homework Assistance	413
Orientation	265
Counseling	368
Academic Group Activities	426
Socialization, Recreation, and Acculturation Group Activities	311
Parent-child group activities	206
School Mediation/Interpretation	376
Interpretation/Translation	153
Case Management Services	137
Individual Parent Counseling	541
Group Parent Education	121
Other	89




Practical Challenges



Immigrant and Refugee Advocates

- Lack understanding of government complexities
- Lack of resources
- Lack of access

Government

- Lack of understanding of community complexities
 - Lack of resources
 - Bureaucracy
- 




Illinois – shift in paradigm



BOA

- Immigrants acting against and upon state government
- Us vs. Them
- Incremental expectations and actual growth

Now

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- Immigrants acting WITH state government
 - Us
 - Dramatic growth and increasing expectations



Overcoming the challenges

Overcome
by

- Lack understanding
- Lack of resources
- Lack of access
- Bureaucracy



- Partnership
 - Representation
 - Will
 - Leadership
- 



True Partnership

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- Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
 - Illinois Department of Human Services
 - Governor's Office
 - Foundation community support (MacArthur Foundation)
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FY'09 Initiatives

- Economic Integration
 - We Want to Learn English
 - Increase in Outreach and Interpretation
 - Continued support of the pilot Melrose Park Welcoming Center
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