

Immigration Policy Update for Adult Educators in NJ

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Make the Road New Jersey



TODAY'S SESSION



- Introductions
- State of Immigrant Rights Nationally
- New Jersey: Some Recent Wins
- What's Next?

MAKE THE ROAD NEW JERSEY



- Founded in late 2014, MRNJ builds the power of immigrants and working class communities to achieve dignity and justice.
- We engage 10,000 immigrant families per year in education legal services, civic participation, and leadership development in our centers in Elizabeth and Passaic
- 1,000 dues paying immigrant & working class, Latinx members



Photos by Dio @diocholula

TRUMP ADMIN'S ATTACKS ON IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

- January 2017: Muslim Ban; reprioritization of which immigrants are targets for deportation
- March 2017: Federal gov't threatens to pull funding from so-called "sanctuary cities"
- September 5, 2017: Announcement of End of DACA
- September 18, 2017: Announcement of End of TPS for individuals from Sudan (first of several announcements ending TPS for individuals from Haiti, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Sudan, Nepal, Honduras, Liberia)
- January 2018: Trump reportedly called Haiti and countries in Africa "shithole countries" while speaking about opposing including protections for people from those places in an immigration deal.

TRUMP ADMIN'S ATTACKS ON IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

- January 2018: ICE arrests increased 38% nationally since Trump took office
- June 2018: Family separation crisis at the border – three children die as a result, tens of thousands are separated from their parents.
- July 2018: AG Sessions instructs immigration officers not to consider claims of asylum based on status as a survivor of domestic violence or gang-based claims.
- October 10, 2018: Public Charge Rule Change Proposed
- December 2018: Trump shuts down federal government in an attempt to fund border wall.



Some Hope!

N.J. IS BECOMING GROUND ZERO OF ADMINISTRATION'S ATTACKS ON IMMIGRANTS

- 22,000 DACA recipients; 70,000+ eligible
- 10,000 TPS recipients vulnerable to deportation as program ends
- 42% increase in immigration arrests (national average is 38% increase)
- Arrests happening in courthouses, through criminal justice system, outside of schools, in homes and in the workplace.
- 2/3 Immigrants who are detained on civil immigration charges fight case w/o attorney; have 14% success rate.

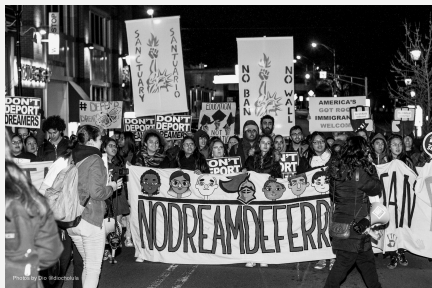
THESE NEW POLICIES HAVE HAD A HARSH IMPACT ON IMMIGRANTS' LIVES

- Fears of going to court
- Fear of accessing public benefits for U.S. citizen children
- ↓ enrollment in Head Start programs
- ↓ enrollment in community college

STATE HAD NOT YET PROTECTED IMMIGRANTS SUFFICIENTLY

- Cuts in ESOL classes
- Cuts in legal services
- No access to health insurance for undocumented immigrants or lawful residents (for first 5 years)
- No access to state financial aid (until now)
- Active collaboration between ICE/state

HOPE AT THE STATE LEVEL?



4 BIG WINS IN N.J. FOR IMMIGRANTS IN 2018

FINANCIAL AID FOR DREAMERS (MAY 2018)

- Undocumented and DACA recipients may receive in-state financial aid for college
- 3 years at NJ high school and graduate/get GED or equivalent
- Attend any public or private college in N.J.
- Meet income guidelines
- 500+ students have qualified!



Visit www.nj4dreamers.com for more info!

PILOT UNIVERSAL REPRESENTATION PROGRAM



- A investment of \$2.1 million for legal defense of detained immigrants facing deportation in New Jersey will begin a public defender style program for immigrants detained in N.J. who cannot afford an immigration lawyer.
- Read more here:
https://www.philly.com/philly/news/new_jersey/universal-representation-undocumented-immigrants-deportation-new-jersey-20180703.html

NEW JERSEY DIVESTS FROM PRIVATE IMMIGRATION PRISONS

- <https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/new-jersey/2018/08/24/nj-sells-stock-private-prison-contractor-ice-detention-centers/1082817002/>



IMMIGRANT TRUST DIRECTIVE (NOVEMBER 2018)



- Interactive Videos in multiple language:
www.nj.gov/trust
- Read more here:
<https://thinkprogress.org/new-jersey-limits-police-involvement-with-immigration-authorities-c5fa37d92956/>

WHAT'S NEXT?

LET'S DRIVE NJ! STATEWIDE DRIVER'S LICENSE CAMPAIGN

- Importance of Driver's Licenses
 - Driving w/o License = Pipeline to detention and deportation
 - Half a million potential drivers in NJ unable to obtain license because of immigration status
 - Legislation has been introduced for the past 5 years
 - Let's Drive NJ – new statewide, big tent coalition: letsdrivenj.org



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