

ADVOCATING FOR
VIRGINIA'S LOW INCOME
HISPANIC IMMIGRANTS

Northern Virginia Family Service

NVFS is an 81 year old non-profit serving the residents of Northern Virginia.

PROGRAMS:

- Health Care Access
- Employment Training
- Eviction Prevention
- Special Foster Care
- Early Head Start
- Medication Access
- Counseling
- Transitional Housing
- Financial Management
- Vehicles for Change

Virginia's Low Income Hispanic Immigrants

- ✓ Who Are They?
- ✓ What Are Their Needs?
- ✓ Why Do They Need Advocates?
- ✓ Can They Get Public Benefits?
- ✓ What Are Private Sources of Help?
- ✓ What Will Result From the Current Political Debate Over Denying Services to Undocumented Immigrants?

Who Are They?

- By 2050 24% of the U.S. population will be Hispanic.(U.S. Census)
- 63% are from Mexico.
- 37% are from Central & S.America, Puerto Rico & Cuba

IN Virginia Hispanics Account For 6.2 % of the Population.

Virginia is 1 of 8 “New Settlement States” (Pew Hispanic Center).

Some Estimates:

- 20% in some Northern VA. Counties
- 10% in the City of Roanoke

% of Foreign Born in These Counties(all ethnic groups).

- Fairfax-26.8%
- Frederick-6.1
- Montgomery-7.8
- Roanoke-4.1
- Rockingham -5.4%
- Stafford-8.1

They Work In Virginia's...

- Hotels, Restaurants,
- Other Service Industries
- Chicken Processing Plants
- Construction, Farms

For Low wages, no insurance, and often holding 2 jobs

WHAT DO THEY NEED?

- Health Care
- Food
- Clothing
- Housing
- Transportation
- Child Care
- Information/Legal Aid/ESL Classes
- Jobs

Their Needs Are Much the Same as
Any Client, But Helping Them is
More Difficult If They:

- Don't speak English;
- Don't know what help is available;
- Don't know where to find us;
- Get paid in cash;
- Have fears about their legal status.

Be Their Advocate

Because:

- You may be their best chance for help.
- You may be the most important person they meet this year. And,
- You may really be their last chance for help.

Know Where To Refer Them

- Be knowledgeable. Have a master list in Spanish of all resources.
- Network with all relevant area groups. Hold quarterly meetings.
- Be assertive in linking clients to other services. Personally make the referral, assure them it is safe, provide directions, and follow up.

Show Concern/Impart Hopefulness

- Hispanics like a warm welcome. Smile, shake hands, introduce yourself, and ask their name.
- They respect professionalism and respond well to a confident and competent manner.
- They have experienced hardship and, no doubt, ethnic prejudice. Let them know you and others are there to help.

All Qualify for Some Public Benefits (Even Undocumented)

Qualified Immigrants* are Eligible For:

SSI

Medicare

Food Stamps

HUD Programs

TANF

SCHIP

Medicaid

Medicare

Title XX Grants

Social Security

* See Handout for Definition

Undocumented Immigrants are Eligible For:

Emergency Medicaid

Disaster Asst.*

Hospital Charity Care

School Meal Programs.

WIC

Health Dept*.

Head Start

* Limited

Remember: children of undocumented parents qualify for Medicaid & Food Stamps if born in the U.S.

Private Sources of Help

Lion's Club

Holiday Drives

Salvation Army

Catholic Charities

Univ. VA Clinics

Other Univ. Clinics

Health Screenings

Senior Center-AAA

Religious Groups

Free Clinics

PPARX*

Private Sources of Help

Health Charities*

Hispanic Advocacy Groups*

Legal Aid*

Thrift Stores

* See handout on web resources

Resolutions to Deny Services To Undocumented Immigrants

- Issues in the debate
- What it means for non-profits
- What it means for public agencies
- What it means for clients

Handouts

- Helpful Phrases in Spanish
- Referral Cards in Spanish
- Immigrant Eligibility for Federal Programs
- Web Resources for Specific Services