HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

As we reflect on what we accomplished within Immigration and Refugee Services during 2018, we are especially grateful for the opportunity to work alongside of all of you. We would also like to remind you about partnerships opportunities that are contributing to our efforts of supporting immigrant and refugee communities.

- **Sesame Street Trauma Informed Resources**
  If you have contact with young children who have experienced trauma these resources from the Sesame Workshop in both English and Spanish would be great to have on hand. These free resources are now available [here](#) with a video overview of the materials [here](#).
• **Miles4Migrants Partnership**
CCUSA is partnering with Miles4Migrants, enabling ministry to further assist with migrant family reunification. For more information, please visit the webinar recording and read our recent press release. If you are interested in participating, please fill out this form and a staff member at CCUSA will be in contact with you to initiate paperwork.

**Partial Government Shutdown Impact**
• With the partial-government shutdown extending into its 20th day, we continue to monitor the ever changing instructions from the administration on how programs are likely to be impacted. The agencies impacted by the shutdown are Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Justice, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, State, Transportation, and Treasury. While all of these agencies are impacted, specific effects vary greatly and continue to evolve as agencies begin to exhaust their existing program revenue. We are looking for information, stories or data on how the shutdown is or will impact your agency if it continues. Stories of federal workers turning to charitable care because of the shutdown, programs halted or just programs where your agency is carrying the costs are all useful in helping to make the case to congressional and administration leaders on the need for reopening the government. Please send an email with the explanation or story to Lucas Swanepoel in our Social Policy Department: lswanepoel@catholiccharitiesusa.org

**GRANTS/FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Bigglesworth Family Foundation: CYSTEM**
The Bigglesworth Family Foundation is dedicated to building a bridge for underrepresented communities to meaningful careers in the Interactive Software Industry. The Foundation’s CYSTEM grants support nonprofit organizations nationwide and are intended to accelerate and maximize diversity in schools and the workplace in the Industry. The
foundation has several competitive grant programs being offered. Letters of inquiry are due February 14, 2019; the application deadline is April 1, 2019. To learn more, visit the Foundation’s website.

**Steelcase Education’s Active Learning Center Grant**
Steelcase Education helps schools, colleges, and universities create inspiring learning environments through research and innovation in furniture, tools, and technology. Steelcase Education’s Active Learning Center Grant supports educators in 6-12 classrooms and higher education institutions in the United States, U.S. Territories, Puerto Rico, Canada, and Mexico who are ready to use their physical classroom space to advance learning in new and important ways. Visit their website to learn more about the 16 grants being awarded in 2019.

**Promoting Equity, Justice, and Human Rights**
The Arca Foundation is dedicated to advancing equity, justice, and human rights. The Foundation believes that the pursuit of economic and racial justice, an inclusive democracy, human rights, and a clean environment requires an engaged citizenry that has access to information and free expression. The Foundation supports nonprofit organizations working to advance greater economic and racial equity, specifically by addressing the impacts of financialization on an inclusive economy, democracy, and the environment. Visit the Foundation’s website for more information.

**WEBINARS/EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**Promising Strategies for Reintegration of Migrants**
**Wednesday, January 16 at 1:00 PM EST**
The highly politicized debate over a U.S.-Mexico border wall and intense focus on Central American caravans traveling across Mexico have elevated tensions about the best methods to manage regional migration while providing humanitarian protection to those who qualify. This MPI webinar will focus on reception and reintegration services for returning migrants, along with the heightened pressure policymakers in Mexico and Central America are facing to design systems and programs
that support both returnees and the communities in which they settle. Register here.

**Census 2020: Why Getting it Right Matters**  
**Wednesday, January 23 at 3:00 PM EST**  
Join the Coalition on Human Needs and the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights to learn more about the year-long countdown to the next decennial census begins. The demographic information gleaned by the Census Bureau is used to make critical decisions both by the government and the private sector, such as the allocation of funding for social services and where non-profits and businesses decide to expand their operations. The official count will be used for electoral redistricting and the reapportionment of Congress itself. Register here today.

**KIVA - Helping Refugee Entrepreneurs Access Capital**  
**Tuesday, February 26 at 3-4:00 PM EST**  
Small businesses create 2 out of every 3 new jobs in the United States, with immigrant entrepreneurs starting more than 25% of all US small businesses. Yet many refugee & immigrant entrepreneurs struggle to access capital to start and grow their business. To provide zero-interest financing to refugees and asylum seekers establishing businesses here in the US, Kiva.org has started partnering with local Catholic Charities members to pilot local loan programs. Are you interested in doing the same? Join our experts from KIVA to find opportunities to expand resources to local businesses in our communities. Register here.

**OTHER RESOURCES**

**National Migration Week 2019**  
National Migration Week is January 6-12. Visit the USCCB Justice for Immigrants website to find National Migration Week resources to educate yourself and your community, including a toolkit and more. See the faces of migration and read the stories of those who have come to the U.S. in search of a better life at Share the Journey website. What can you do to welcome migrants and refugees in your community?
Profile of Unauthorized Immigrant Population in the US
The Migration Policy Institute recently released a fact sheet and two data tools that provide rich detail on unauthorized immigrants in the United States, with statistics on everything from population size and origins to educational enrollment and attainment, employment, income, health care coverage, home ownership and much more. Alongside the fact sheet, MPI has updated its unauthorized immigrant data tool, which offers detailed sociodemographic profiles for the United States, 41 states, the District of Columbia and 135 counties with the largest unauthorized populations.

Does Undocumented Immigration Increase Violent Crime?
Despite substantial public, political, and scholarly attention to the issue of immigration and crime, we know little about the criminological consequences of undocumented immigration. As a result, fundamental questions about whether undocumented immigration increases violent crime remain unanswered. In an attempt to address this gap, we combine newly developed estimates of the unauthorized population with multiple data sources to capture the criminal, socioeconomic, and demographic context of all 50 states and Washington, DC. Learn more and read the full report here.

Invisible Lives and Hidden Realities of Undocumented
Explore the lives of Invisible Lives and Hidden Realities of Undocumented Youth in this Refuge Journal article.

Two-Generation Strategies in Refugee Integration
A webinar from Migration Policy Institute (MPI) explores promising practices to better serve refugee families, including innovative efforts to secure better jobs for adult refugees over time. In a conversation with state refugee coordinators, study authors discuss the potential for implementing and supporting two-generation approaches to refugee integration at a time when the system’s funding and capacity are in peril. Watch the webinar recording here.
Civics Test Updates
Following the 2018 elections and appointments, several answers on the naturalization test have changed. As you or your clients study for the test, make sure that you know the most current answers to the following questions: 20, 23, 28, 29, 39, 40, 43, 46 and 47. Answer the questions regarding elected or appointed officials with the name of the official who is serving at the time of your naturalization interview with USCIS. Learn more here.

CRS Rice Bowl focuses on Migrants and Refugees Overseas
Catholic Relief Services’ Lenten faith in action program, CRS Rice Bowl, will share the stories of migrants and refugees during the upcoming Lenten season. Young women like Annet, making new lives in the Bidi Bidi refugee settlement in Uganda. Fathers like Christyan, returning home to Sri Lanka after a brutal civil war. Teachers like Ona, unable to leave her home in Gaza in search of economic opportunities. Encounter these stories and more through free faith formation materials in English or Spanish available here.

Mental Health Care in Refugees and Migrants
World Health Organization published a document as part of a technical guidance series produced with the European Commission on the health of refugees and migrants. This report reviews the prevalence of disorders such as post-traumatic stress disorder and depressive and anxiety disorders in the context of migration. Based on the best available evidence regarding risk factors and areas for intervention, it identifies eight priority action areas for consideration by policymakers regarding the mental health of refugees and migrants. Read the full document here.

Refugee Resettlement Program: A Return to First Principles
This paper examines the integration, achievements and contributions of 1.1 million refugees resettled in the United States from 1987 to 2016. The report finds that refugees successfully integrate over time and contribute immensely to their new communities. Perhaps most dramatically, the paper shows that refugees that arrived between 1987
and 1996 exceed the total US population, which consists mostly of native-born citizens, in personal income, homeownership, college education, labor force participation, self-employment, health insurance coverage, and access to a computer and the internet. Learn more and continue reading here.

**IN THE NEWS**

**Welcome to the border, Mr. President**
“We welcome you to our community here in South Texas along the Rio Grande, which connects the United States to Mexico. I wish you could visit us. Our downtown Humanitarian Respite Center has been welcoming newcomers for the past four years.” Continue reading Sister Norma Pimentel’s letter to President Trump here.

**Trump Calls Wall only Solution to ‘Humanitarian Crisis’**
The president portrayed undocumented immigrants as murderers, rapists and drug smugglers in a dark Oval Office address. Democrats said he was stoking fear and governing by “temper tantrum.” Click here to access the article.

**How A Memphis Food Hall Is Transforming Refugee Lives**
Seven years ago, Nepal native Indra Sunuwar arrived in Memphis, Tennessee with her mom, dad and four siblings. They were seeking an opportunity for a better life. Her family was resettled in Memphis by Catholic Charities of West Tennessee, which showed them how to do things like buy groceries and take a bus. For the first few years, the transition wasn’t that smooth for Sunuwar, who struggled to connect with her peers at school. Continue reading to learn more about her journey and success.

**Proposed Work Requirements Changes for SNAP Recipients**
The Trump administration recently unveiled a plan to force hundreds of thousands more Americans to hold jobs if they want to keep receiving food stamps, pursuing through executive powers what it could not achieve in Congress. The country’s food assistance program already
requires most adults without dependents to work if they collect food stamps for more than three months in a three-year period. USDA regulations currently allow states to waive the requirement in areas with unemployment rates that are at least 20 percent greater than the national rate, but proposed changes may make waiving the requirements more difficult. Continue reading here.