June 20th is World Refugee Day!
June 20th is the day around the world on which we commemorate the strength, courage and perseverance of millions of refugees, including families and unaccompanied refugee children. In commemoration of this important day, [join Catholic Charities USA](http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org) and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to learn more about the dire circumstances that compel refugees to flee. Join us for a discussion on June 20, 2019 from 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM at B-208 Longworth House Office Building, about the stringent vetting process for those being considered for U.S. resettlement, how refugees are settled in the U.S., and the ways refugees contribute to local communities and to our nation. Also, download the [USCCB/MRS World Refugee Day 2019 Toolkit](http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org) to learn more how you can participate in #WRD19.

Share the Journey
June 16- 23 marks the final week of the Share the Journey campaign in the United States, which promotes solidarity with our immigrant brothers and sisters. Click [here](http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org) for activities and resources to promote this observation.
**GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

**Support For Environmental And Financial Literacy Programs**

The Cornell Douglas Foundation is dedicated to advocating for environmental health and justice, encouraging stewardship of the environment, and furthering respect for sustainability of resources. The Foundation provides grants ranging from $10,000 to $50,000 to nonprofit organizations throughout the U.S that address one or more of the following areas of interest: environmental health and justice, land conservation, sustainability of resources, mountaintop removal mining, watershed protection, and K-12 financial literacy. Visit the [Foundation’s website](#) for information.

**Cities for Citizenship (C4C) Announces the Year Two Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Cities for Citizenship is a campaign by 74 cities and counties that promote U.S. citizenship among eligible immigrants. Last year alone, the entire Cities for Citizenship network reached 1,049,280 people through naturalization outreach and communication campaigns; 17,003 people were assisted with their citizenship application via workshops; and, 4,462 people were assisted with financial empowerment services. Recently, the NPNA & C4C announces the opening of C4C America is Home Request for Proposals (RFP) for Year Two! If your community-based organizations or municipality is interested in applying for the C4C America is Home Initiative, please complete the Community-based organizations and municipalities interested in submitting a RFP go here and submit it via [this form](#) by Friday, July 19th, 2019 at 5:00 PM ET.

**Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program**

Partnership opportunity from HHS, encourages the development of agricultural and food systems related services that will improve the livelihoods, physically and economically, of refugee families. Applications are due by June 26, 2019.

**Literacy Program Grants**

Grant opportunity from the Loia Lenski Covey Foundation, encourage literacy programs that engage children in activities that foster a lifelong love of reading. Programs may introduce or assist pre-school children in the enjoyment of books or increase school-age children’s reading skills. Innovative, positive approaches are desired.

**Culture, Education, Health and Social Service Program Grants**

Grant opportunity from the Hearst Foundation, supports well-established nonprofit organizations that address significant issues within their major areas of interests – culture, education, health and social service – and that primarily serve large demographic and/or geographic constituencies.

**WEBINARS/EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**Caring for Children Moving Alone: Protecting Unaccompanied and Separated Children**

Join FutureLearn for an [online course](#) that explores the risks and vulnerabilities migrant children face.

**Special Immigrant Juvenile Status – Avoiding Pitfalls in Light of Changing Government Practices**

Join June 28, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. ET for a webinar. For the last several years, the federal government has implemented policies and practices that make it more difficult for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status-
eligible children to successfully access this important protection. This webinar will cover recent trends in U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services adjudication of SIJS petitions, as well as current federal court litigation related to SIJS. Register here.

The FEER Survey on the Effects of US Immigration and Refugee Policies on Faith-Based Organizations
Tue, Jun 18, 2019 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM EDT
Join the CMS for a webinar to discuss the report, “The Effects of Immigration Enforcement on Faith-Based Organizations: An Analysis of the FEER Survey.” The report analyzes the Federal Enforcement Effect Research (FEER) Survey, which describes the impact of US policies on faith-based organizations (FBOs) that serve and advocate with immigrant and refugee populations. The survey finds that US immigration policies in the Trump era have created an increased demand for services from FBOs, but negatively impacted the ability of immigrants to access their services and to participate in their programs and ministries. Register here.

Mitigating the Effects of Trauma among Young Children of Immigrants and Refugees: The Role of Early Childhood Programs
The Migration Policy Institute (MPI) produced a brief to explore the types of trauma that may affect young children in immigrant families, what the effects of those experiences may be, and what can be done to protect children against them. A related webinar on addressing trauma is also available.

OTHER RESOURCES

Catholic Charities of Atlanta’s “Refugee Camp Immersion Project”: Fostering Awareness and Inspiring Service to Refugees in Greater Atlanta
Catholic Charities of Atlanta (CCA) organizes “mock refugee camps” in order to teach children and teenagers about refugees and the resettlement process. The students in participating schools walk through simulated refugee camps and learn about refugees’ lives and what caused them to seek asylum. They also learn about the conditions in camps and the resettlement process. Prior to the immersion experience, CCA staff members also visit schools to educate students and raise awareness.

Urban Institute: Due To Fear, One In Seven Adults In Immigrant Families Forgoed Public Benefits
A new briefing paper released recently by the Urban Institute shows that one in seven adults in immigrant families did not participate in a noncash benefit program in 2018 out of fear of risking future green card status. The Trump Administration is pushing a proposed rule that would consider an immigrant’s past use of noncash public benefit programs, such as SNAP or Medicaid, as a negative factor in applications for green cards (i.e., permanent residency) or temporary visas. But even before the rule has taken effect, new evidence suggests that it is having a substantial “chilling effect” on people who qualify for public benefit programs. Read More.

Fixing What’s Most Broken in the US Immigration System: A Profile of the Family Members of US Citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents Mired in Multiyear Backlogs
This paper profiles the 1.55 million US residents potentially eligible for a family-based immigration visa based on a qualifying relationship to a US citizen or lawful permanent resident (LPR) living in their household. It finds that this population – which is strongly correlated to the 3.7 million persons in family-based visa backlogs – has established strong roots in the United States, via US-born citizen
children, mortgages, health insurance, and median income and labor force participation rates that exceed those of the overall US population.

**DHS Needs to Address Dangerous Overcrowding Among Single Adults at El Paso Processing Center**
DHS published a report from the OIG recommends that the DHS take immediate steps to alleviate dangerous overcrowding at the El Paso Del Norte Processing Center (PDT). Overcrowding and prolonged detention represent an immediate risk to the health and safety not just to the detainees, but also to DHS agents and officers.

**Memorandum on Enforcing the Legal Responsibilities of Sponsors of Aliens**
Recently, President Trump signed a memorandum directing the USDA and HHS to develop procedures which would hold sponsors of immigrants responsible for reimbursing certain means-tested benefits used by those immigrants. The memorandum also directs the USDA and HHS to assess sponsors’ income and resources in order to determine whether sponsored immigrants were eligible for benefits in the first place, and to collaborate with the DHS to inform sponsors about how these procedures will be enforced.

**IN THE NEWS**

**Border Bishop Addresses A Different Kind Of Crisis Involving Children**
While the sex abuse crisis consumed the June meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore, prelates who work on the border, such as Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas, have been facing a different crisis also involving children. Full report here.

**Trump Drops Tariff Threat on Mexico After Migration Deal Reached**
Mexico committed to stronger enforcement along its southern border but didn’t give in to all of Trump’s demands. The president on Saturday slammed media coverage of the deal. President Trump tweeted that he “indefinitely suspended” the tariffs he threatened to impose against Mexico if it did not do more to stem the flow of Central American migrants to the US-Mexico border. The change came about after Mexico reportedly agreed to send 6,000 troops to its border with Guatemala to help stop Central American migrants bound for the United States. Full article here.

**A Catholic Approach To Immigration**
“We need a new imagination on migration, one informed and inspired by a faith vision. I think most people right now are just going on political dualisms. It’s not just a political issue; it’s a human issue, and it’s a spiritual issue.” Read more here.

**Study: Federal Judges Give Steeper Sentences To Hispanic Immigrants In Places With Less Immigration**
Hispanic immigrants face harsher federal sentences than whites in regions of the country that have newer Hispanic immigrant populations or have not experienced a significant influx of them, according to a new study.

**U.S. Unauthorized Immigrants Are More Proficient in English, More Educated Than a Decade Ago**
Recent estimates by the Pew Research Center indicate that unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. speak better English and are more educated than 10 years ago. Based on 2016 government data, they report
that the share of unauthorized immigrants between 25 and 64 years of age who have a college degree increased from 15 percent to 17 percent between 2007 and 2016.

**Integrating Immigrants Into Maine's Workforce Benefits Us All**
"Ben Waxman made the role of this immigrant workforce in their business' success ... These programs can pay for themselves in economic growth". Read full story [here](https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/)

**'No Other Option': Climate Change Driving Many To Flee Guatemala**
Juan de Leon Gutierrez, 16, left his eastern Guatemala home due to years of drought. He died in US custody weeks later. Eastern Guatemala and western Honduras are part of a region known as the dry corridor. Over the last two years, farmers have seen near-complete losses during harvests as the effects of climate change take hold in the region, with 2018 being among the worst years in recent memory.” More causes [here](https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/).

**Central American Exodus" Will Continue As Long As Underlying Causes Remain Unaddressed**
The U.S government continues to restrict and erode our asylum system, while ignoring the underlying causes of the Central American exodus. Independent researchers and journalists continue to document human rights violations and other factors driving forced migration in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. Until these causes are addressed with concrete solutions for the short, medium, and long-term, the migrant exodus will continue. [Full article](https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/).

**El Paso Immigration Center is Dangerously Overcrowded, Inspector General Warns**
"Investigators found 155 people in a cell that was supposed to hold 35, and 41 people in a cell that was supposed to hold eight. Nine hundred people were being held at the center on one day in May — far exceeding its capacity of 125.”

**Trump Administration To Send DHS Agents, Investigators To Guatemala-Mexico Border**
“The DHS personnel will work as advisers to Guatemala’s national police and migration authorities,’ the report notes. ‘The U.S. and Guatemala are formalizing a number of initiatives to improve the lives and security of our respective citizens by combating human trafficking and the smuggling of illegal goods, helping to limit ‘push’ factors that encourage dangerous irregular migration to the U.S., perpetuating the ongoing crisis at our border,’ [Full article](https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/).

**3 Myths About Mexico And Migration, Debunked**
“Deportations from Mexico have been on the rise in recent months, and the country has launched several new efforts in response to the situation. Central American families make up the largest numbers of people apprehended after illegally crossing the US border. Public opinion about immigration is divided in Mexico.” [Full article here](https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/)