CCUSA Refugee and Immigration Services
Purpose of the Monthly Presentation

Support Immigration & Refugee Programs
Share Resources
Strengthen Agency Networks
CCUSA is continuing to deploy staff and vetted volunteers to assist at asylum seeking shelters on the southern border.

Deployment has been limited to only Tucson, AZ in response to shifting border policies.

If you have any questions, please contact Brigid McKeon at bmckeon@catholiccharitiesusa.org.
While refugees and asylees represent similar populations, it is important to clarify the differences between procedures to provide protection and support for these different groups.

In an effort to help to better appreciate these differences, USCCB/MRS has developed a backgrounder that will clarify common misunderstandings.

Please use this tool to inform lawmakers about the difference between refugees and asylees.

Download the backgrounder [here](#).
On November 25th, USCCB/MRS along with Catholic Relief Services voiced concerns over new asylum rules that undermine U.S. moral leadership in protecting vulnerable populations and risk further destabilizing the Central American countries of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.

Read the statement [here](#).

On December 13th, Most Reverend Mario Dorsonville and Most Reverend Paul Coakley applauded legislation passed by the United States House of Representatives that would improve conditions for immigrant farmworkers and their families, as well as ensure the stability of the U.S. agricultural industry.

Read the statement [here](#).
National Migration Week 2020 provides us an opportunity to focus on the most vulnerable of migrants, including DACA and TPS holders, who remain in precarious and uncertain situations.

It is also a time to reflect on threats to migrant and refugee children, the littlest ones among us, particularly children who are detained or otherwise separated from their parents, unaccompanied migrant children, and those who are stuck waiting in Mexico for asylum in the United States.

The Catholic Church in the U.S. is celebrating National Migration Week from January 5 – 11th.
CCUSA joined an amicus brief arguing for a preliminary injunction against the President’s Executive Order requiring state and local governments to provide consent before welcoming refugees into their communities. A ruling could arrive as early as January. Read the Amicus Brief [here](#). Read the Motion for Leave [here](#).

CCUSA is working with USCCB and CC Portland, OR on providing information and materials to state advocates interested in pursuing state funding for refugee networks. CC Portland Oregon successfully advocated for funds in their state and hope to replicate their “Oregon Model” in other interested states.

CCUSA joins Catholic partners in opposition to USCIS fee increases, including a fee charging asylum seekers. Read the comments [here](#).
What’s Happening in January

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**CCUSA Innovation Challenge**
Deadline: January 31st, 2020 at 11:59pm EST

The purpose of the CCUSA Innovation Challenge (Challenge) is to encourage member agencies to develop and implement innovative solutions that have the potential to alleviate, reduce, or eliminate poverty. The Challenge celebrates the long history of innovative, transformative poverty programs within the Catholic Charities ministry and encourages precedent-setting initiatives.

Learn more about CCUSA’s Innovation Challenge [here](#).

**AmeriCorps VISTA Request for Proposals**
Deadline: January 10th, 2020 at 11:59pm EST

CCUSA is taking applications for our Family Strengthening AmeriCorps VISTA program! The Family Strengthening program focuses on the foundational services that Catholic Charities provides, allowing it to be a broad-based program rather than our VISTAs supporting a specific type of intervention. These VISTAs can do anything related to strengthening families, such as volunteer management or fundraising for your agency at large, program development for a fatherhood intervention, 2Generational model cohort, financial literacy program development, and much more.

Please review the recorded webinar [here](#). If you are interested in applying, request an application by emailing AmeriCorps@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org.
WEBINARS AND TRAININGS

FAQs about Trauma Informed-Care Webinar

January 16th at 2:00pm

Recently we completed a webinar series on Trauma Informed Care focusing on the migrant population: adults, children and adolescents and care of professionals and volunteers working with immigrant and refugee populations. We are pleased to see so many staff taking this important topic seriously, wanting to learn more and making an effort to change how they work every day with this population as they protect themselves. We have received a number of thoughtful and insightful questions related to the topic after the webinars which deserve to be addressed. Join us for a follow-up webinar to address questions such as: What is resilience? How early in life can trauma impact someone? What does “trauma-informed skill” mean for non-clinical staff? Bring your questions to this unique Q&A session focused on trauma responsive care with migrant populations. Register here.

Build Your Fundraising Plan Now Course

January 13 – February 9, 2020

Get the fundraising plan off your to-do list and into action with this four-week course that walks you through every step needed to create an effective and comprehensive fundraising strategy. You’ll learn how to assess where you are, look ahead to see where you want to be, create a comprehensive fundraising plan, and then receive an entire toolkit of sample materials and resources to help you execute on that plan. Length of Course: Five weeks. Type of Course: Self-paced (during a five-week course run); Instructor-led. (Alliance partners and CNPs use code NONPROFITPARTNER for a 20% discount) Register here.
WEBINARS AND TRAININGS Cont…

USCCB and CLINIC: Changes to USCIS Fee Waivers

Recorded Webinar
This webinar covers the USCIS fee change proposals and their implications on vulnerable, low-income immigrants. You will hear about how CLINIC and other advocates are responding, how your program can join in the fight and how to prepare your programs and communities for the changes ahead. Access recording here.

Comprehensive Overview of Immigration Law

Jan. 14 - Feb. 28, 2020
CLINIC’s Comprehensive Overview of Immigration Law e-learning course provides an overview of core immigration law concepts and legal skills to enable new practitioners to quickly learn the fundamentals of immigration law and gain the training background necessary to support an application for Department of Justice accreditation. Register here.

CLINIC: Debrief on Mississippi Raid - Lessons Learned and Improved Responses

January 23, 2020 2-3pm EST
ICE arrested approximately 680 people at seven chicken processing plants across Mississippi on Aug. 7, 2019. This was the biggest workplace immigration raid ever carried out in a single state. The Mississippi Center for Justice responded immediately with a local coordinated effort. CLINIC and Lawyers for Good Government Project Corazon partnered to offer pro bono bond representation to victims of the raid. Representatives from these organizations will describe their response efforts to the Mississippi raid and share the lessons learned from responding to ICE’s actions and the Executive Office for Immigration Review’s processing of the bond motions. Register here.
Have anything RIS related you would like to include in the monthly presentation?

Any questions or feedback?

Email bmckeon@catholiccharitiesusa.org
Thank you!