

# IMMIGRANT HEALTH ACCESS IN ILLINOIS

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Healthy Communities  
Cook County



HC3

# OVERVIEW

- Background: ICIRR, Illinois Perspective and ACA eligibility
- Healthy Communities Cook County (HC3) Coalition and Task Force

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**ICIRR**

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights



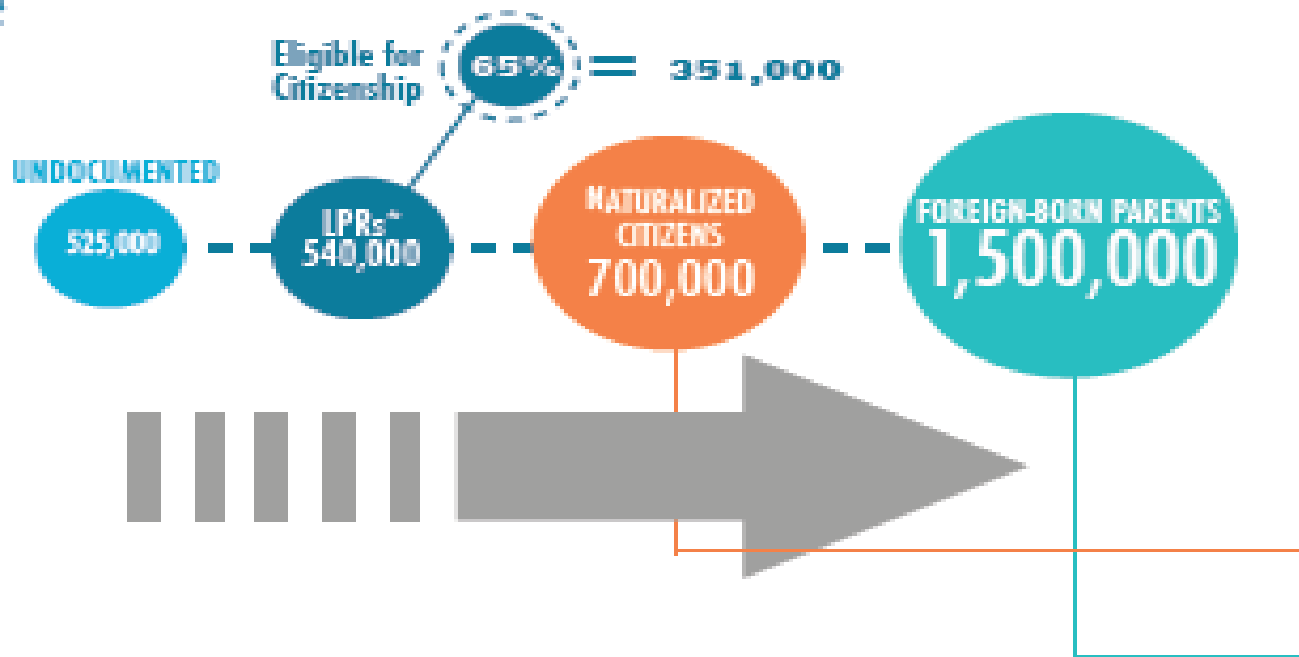
# WHO IS ICIRR?

- ICIRR is dedicated to promoting the rights of immigrants and refugees to full and equal participation in the civic, cultural, social, and political life of our diverse society.
- In partnership with our member organizations, the Coalition:
  - educates and organizes immigrant and refugee communities to assert their rights;
  - promotes citizenship and civic participation; monitors, analyzes, and
  - advocates on immigrant-related issues; and
  - informs the general public about the contributions of immigrants and refugees.





# IN ILLINOIS





# THE ACA AND IMMIGRANTS

Naturalized Citizens

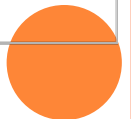
Legally present immigrants

Undocumented

# U.S. CITIZENS AND IMMIGRANTS UNDER THE ACA

	U.S. Citizens	Legal Immigrants	Undocumented
<b>Subject to Individual Mandate</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Eligible for Medicaid</b>	<b>YES; Incomes w&lt;138% FPL</b>	<b>YES; Incomes w&lt;138% FPL who have surpassed 5 year waiting period. With some exceptions.</b>	<b>NO (except emergency Medicaid)</b>
<b>Access to Health Insurance Marketplace</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Eligible for Premium Tax Credits &amp; CSRS</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES; if meet income requirements</b>	<b>NO</b>

www.icirr.org



# REVIEW OF “NON-CITIZEN”

- Legally present immigrants
- Undocumented
- Refugees
- Human Trafficking
- Victims of a crime
- Domestic violence
- Asylees
- Fiancées of U.S. Citizens



*47% of Cook County residents are  
uninsured*

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# OUR PROPOSED SOLUTION: HC3 DIRECT HEALTH ACCESS PROGRAM

- a care coordination program (*sometimes also called a direct access program*) similar to the ones in Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York City
- The main objective of the program is to better coordinate resident's access to the services and resources already available



# OUR KEY PARTNERS

Community Organizations	Labor	Labor	Policy Groups	Providers
<p>Access Living – Cambiando Vidas                      Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment                      Apna Ghar                      Arise Chicago                      Asian American Advancing Justice                      Brighton Park Neighborhood Council                      Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago                      Centro Autonomo                      Centro de Trabajadores Unidos- Immigrant Workers Project                      Chicago Coalition for the Homeless                      Chicago Irish Immigrant Support                      Communities United                      Compassionate Care Network                      ENLACE Chicago                      Fight For 15!                      Hanul Family Alliance</p>	<p>Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)                      Indo American Center                      Korean American Community Services                      Korean American Resource and Cultural Center                      Logan Square Neighborhood Association                      Mujeres Latinas en Accion                      Northside Community Resources                      P.A.S.O- West Suburban Action Project                      Polish American Association                      Salud Sin Papeles                      Southwest Organizing Project                      TARGET Area Development Corporation                      United Congress of Community and Religious Organizations                      Young Invincibles</p>	<p>American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employee (AFSCME)                      Service Employees International Union Local 1                      Service Employees International Union Health Care (SEIU-Healthcare)                      Service Employees International Union Doctors Council</p>	<p>Health and Medicine Policy Research Group                      Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights                      Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law                      South Asian American Policy and Research Institute</p>	<p>Community Wellness Program/St. Anthony Hospital                      Holy Cross Hospital/ Sinai Health System                      Illinois Association for Free and Charitable Clinics                      Illinois Primary Health Care Association                      Illinois Transplant Fund                      National Alliance on Mental Illness- Chicago                      St. Joseph Services</p>

# VICTORY!

## A NEW COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE OPTION FOR 40,000 UNINSURED RESIDENTS!

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, Cook County Commissioners Voted unanimously to establish the Cook County direct access program .

The program will, in it's first year, provide access to coordinated health care to 40,000 low income, uninsured Cook County residents.



# WHAT OUR COMMUNITIES WON

A direct access program includes:

- Comprehensive preventive primary, specialty, emergency and hospital care at an affordable cost
- A health network membership card used as a tool to share patient's medical information across network providers
- An assigned "medical home" where patients will see the same doctor and provider on a regular basis



## ISSUES AND BARRIERS



**44%** unaware of **low-cost services** for the uninsured



**28%** had **unpaid hospital bills**, often for over \$5,000



**65%** of those with bills **unaware of financial aid**



**70%** of those who applied for aid were **unsuccessful**



**51%** had a **chronic health condition**



# DIRECT ACCESS PROGRAM'S ELIGIBILITY

## Eligibility:

- Uninsured
- Cook County residents
- At or below 200% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- Not eligible for public insurance

In the first year about **40,000 individuals** will benefit from this program. Moving forward, anyone that meets the eligibility requirements can apply.



# DIRECT ACCESS PROGRAM'S BENEFITS

- centralized system of administration and information sharing
- a single enrollment application
- a membership card
- assignment of a medical home and primary care provider
- an affordable cost structure for services, and more



# RESOURCES

- [www.icirr.org](http://www.icirr.org)
- <https://www.facebook.com/healthycommunitiescookcounty/>
- [www.getcoveredillinois.gov](http://www.getcoveredillinois.gov)
- <http://www.povertylaw.org/>
- <http://www.everthriveil.org/>





THANK YOU!

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# COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE CLINIC

- Post-ACA clinic population shift
- Local changes in immigration population
- Remaining gaps in our local healthcare system
- Long-term trusted provider



# Community Health Care Clinic

- Do you care for illegals at your clinic?



# COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE CLINIC

## What we do well

- Friendly, welcoming environment for everyone
- Flexible with “required” documents for services
- Bi-lingual services at all levels
  - Reception
  - Paperwork
  - Prescription labels
  - Anything they come to us with
- Medication access



# COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE CLINIC

## What to watch for in your clinic

- Team tension
- Remove all barriers that you can with everyone you serve
- Staff acceptance
- Your own personal bias



# COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE CLINIC

## What CHCC can do better

- Specialty offices and hospital services
- Other immigrant populations
  - French Congolese
  - Middle Eastern

