IMMIGRANT HEALTH ACCESS IN ILLINOIS

Luvia Quiñones
Health Policy Director, ICIRR
lquinones@icirr.org
OVERVIEW

• Background: ICIRR, Illinois Perspective and ACA eligibility

• Healthy Communities Cook County (HC3) Coalition and Task Force
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

UNDOCUMENTED: 525,000
LPRs*: 540,000
Eligible for Citizenship: 65% = 351,000
Naturalized Citizens: 700,000
Foreign-Born Parents: 1,500,000
THE ACA AND IMMIGRANTS

Naturalized Citizens
Legally present immigrants
Undocumented
## U.S. Citizens and Immigrants under the ACA

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Organizations</th>
<th>Labor</th>
<th>Policy Groups</th>
<th>Providers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access Living – Cambiando Vidas</td>
<td>Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)</td>
<td>American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employee (AFSCME)</td>
<td>Community Wellness Program/St. Anthony Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment</td>
<td>Indo American Center</td>
<td>Service Employees</td>
<td>Holy Cross Hospital/Sinai Health System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apna Ghar</td>
<td>Korean American Community Services</td>
<td>International Union Local 1 Service Employees</td>
<td>Illinois Association for Free and Charitable Clinics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arise Chicago</td>
<td>Korean American Resource and Cultural Center</td>
<td>International Union Health Care (SEIU-Healthcare)</td>
<td>Illinois Primary Health Care Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian American Advancing Justice</td>
<td>Logan Square Neighborhood Association</td>
<td>Service Employees</td>
<td>Illinois Transplant Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brighton Park Neighborhood Council</td>
<td>Mujeres Latinas en Accion</td>
<td>International Union Doctors Council</td>
<td>National Alliance on Mental Illness-Chicago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago</td>
<td>Northside Community Resources</td>
<td>South Asian American Policy and Research Institute</td>
<td>St. Joseph Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centro Autonomo</td>
<td>P.A.S.O- West Suburban Action Project</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VICTORY!

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

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

The program will, in its 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
- https://www.facebook.com/healthycommunitiescookcounty/
- www.getcoveredillinois.gov
- http://www.povertylaw.org/
- http://www.everthriveil.org/
THANK YOU!
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