

Funding for Immigrant Communities Post-Disaster

July 11, 2019



Center for Disaster Philanthropy

The when, where and how of informed disaster giving

Thank You to Our Co-Hosts

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HOUSTON IMMIGRATION
LEGAL SERVICES COLLABORATIVE



GRANTMAKERS CONCERNED WITH
IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Moderator

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Regine A. Webster

Vice President

Center for Disaster Philanthropy

How to Participate

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- ❑ Use **#CDP4Recovery** to tweet along during the webinar
- ❑ Submit questions using Q & A box at the bottom of your screen.
- ❑ Look for webinar recording and summary at disasterphilanthropy.org

Speakers

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Sally Ray
Director, CDP Hurricane
Harvey Recovery Fund,
*Center for Disaster
Philanthropy*



Kevin Douglas
Director of National Programs,
*Grantmakers Concerned with
Immigrants and Refugees*



Kate Vickery
Executive Director,
*Houston Immigration
Legal Services
Collaborative*

CDP: A Focus on Vulnerable Communities

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Sally Ray

Director, CDP Hurricane Harvey
Recovery Fund

Center for Disaster Philanthropy

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Matters to CDP

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- ❑ CDP is a leader in funding disaster recovery for vulnerable populations.
- ❑ CDP must lead by example in helping connect the stark reality of vulnerabilities and disasters for the broader philanthropic world.
- ❑ CDP's Hurricane Harvey Recovery Fund is leading by example.
- ❑ When CDP focuses our grantmaking on supporting recovery for the most vulnerable, we support a holistic community recovery.

La Grange, Texas – Feb. 2018

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An “Aha Moment”

La Grange, Texas – Feb. 2018

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La Grange, Texas – Feb. 2018

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Aransas Pass, Texas – Jan. 2018

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What that “Aha” Meant

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- ❑ Building an equity lens into our grantmaking by strategically funding organizations working with vulnerable populations, especially immigrant, refugee, migrant and undocumented people.
- ❑ Seeking out experts in the field to help with this focus and provide capacity-building funds to support their work (HILSC, Equal Justice Works, GCIR).
- ❑ Using available tools to help identify which organizations TRULY are focused on this work and support them.
- ❑ Funding those who wish to support these communities and are willing to put in the work to learn how to do it.

Key Takeaways

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- When we focus on holistic and inclusive recovery, the whole community recovers.
- Inclusive recovery is not easy, but it's critical.
- Private philanthropy can help where government agencies can't or won't.
- When in doubt, ask the experts!



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Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees

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Kevin Douglas

Director of National Programs

*Grantmakers Concerned with
Immigrants and Refugees*



GRANTMAKERS CONCERNED WITH
IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

About GCIIR

*For nearly 30 years GCIIR has
galvanized philanthropy to advance
justice for immigrants, refugees,
and asylum seekers*



Intersection of Philanthropic Goals and Community Demographics



- Members of community to include in philanthropic theories of change
- Diverse population with varied needs, potential, and barriers



Continuum of Entry Points



- Immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers as a **community**
 - Social Services (health, education, training, legal support, etc.)
- Immigration as a **policy issue**
 - Change Work (organizing/advocacy, leadership development, narrative change etc.)



Specific Immigrant Considerations



- Eligibility for relief
- Impact of hostile climate
- Limits to social service infrastructure
- Potential for exploitation & unique challenges



Supporting Immigrants in a Disaster Context



- Positioning *before* disaster strikes
- Consider equity in support
- Ensure differentiated approach



Supporting Immigrants in Post-Disaster Context



- Bolster capacity of immigrant-serving organizations
- Consider underlying issues exacerbated by disaster
- Assess response effectiveness and adjust



GCIIR Learning: 2017 Northern California Wildfires



- October 2017 fires had extensive impact
- UndocuFund established
- \$6m distributed to community
- Key Lessons



Summary & Next Steps



- Understand your community
- Commit to inclusive response
- Address underlying challenges
- Build long-term capacity

Questions: Kevin Douglas, kevin@gcir.org; www.gcir.org



Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative

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Kate Vickery

Executive Director

*Houston Immigration Legal Services
Collaborative*



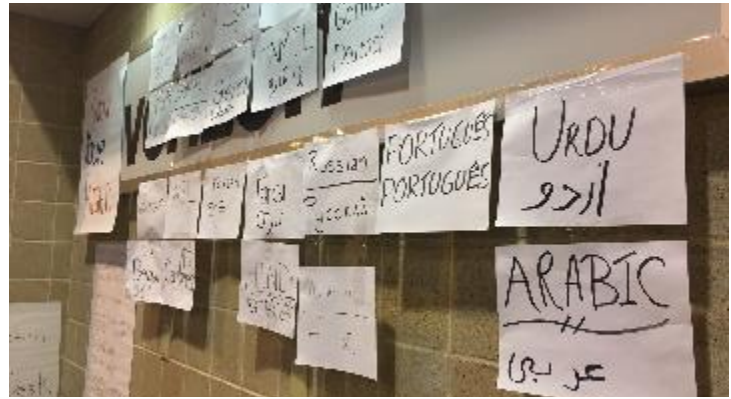
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Barriers to Disaster Relief for Immigrants

Houston's Lessons From the Field

HOUSTON IMMIGRATION
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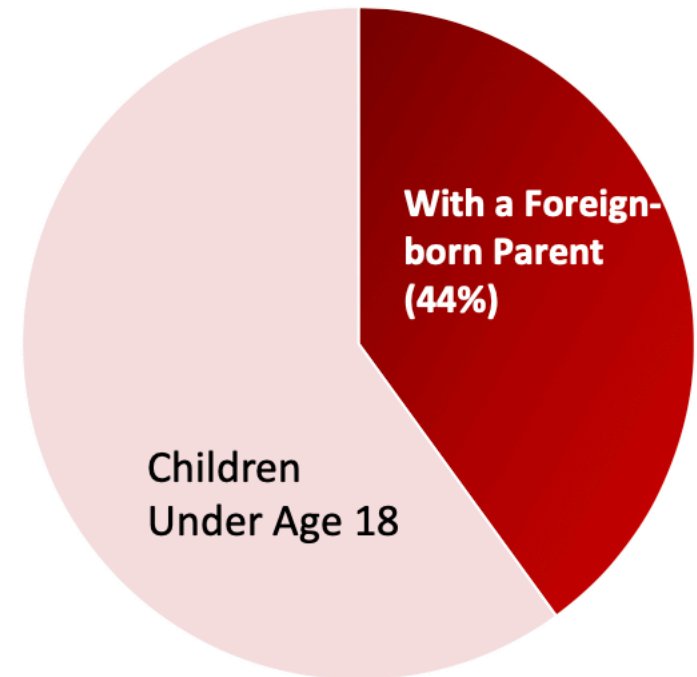
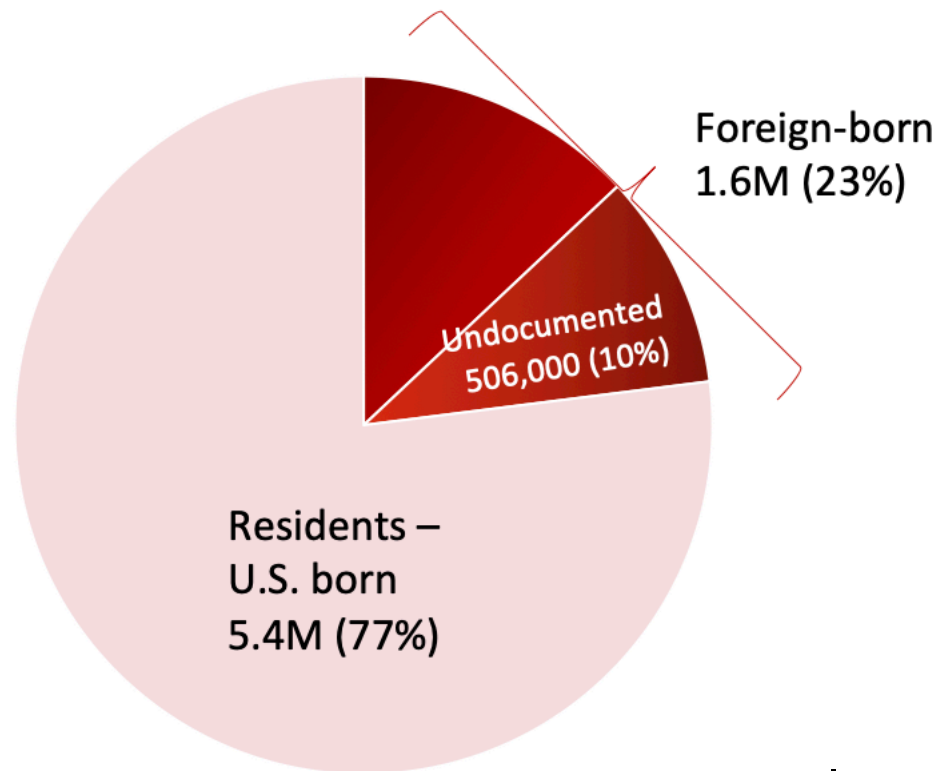
Kate Vickery,
kate@houstonimmigration.org



Houston Context

Immigrant resilience is foundational to the Houston region's resilience.

Almost one quarter of 2017 residents were foreign-born.

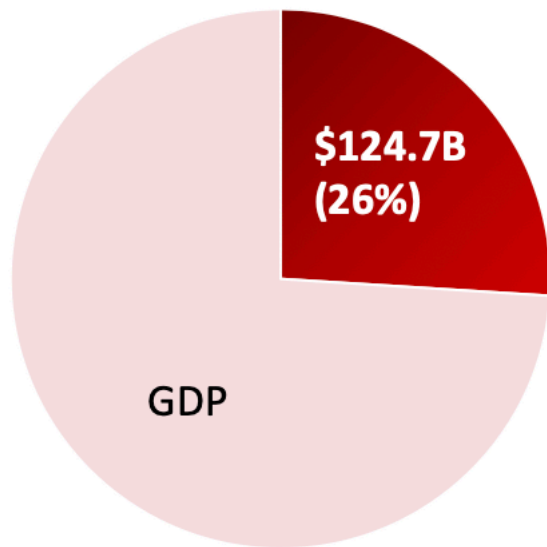


Almost half (44%) of 2016 children had at least one foreign-born parent.

Houston Context

Immigrant resilience is foundational to the Houston region's resilience.

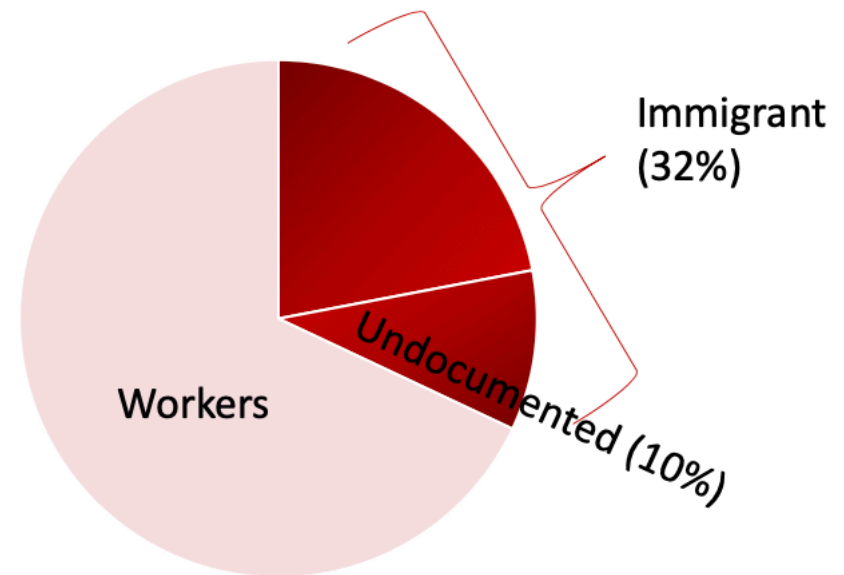
26% of GDP was contributed by foreign-born residents.



Foreign-born households also:

- Hold \$38.2B in spending power
- contribute \$3.5B in state & local taxes

32% of workers were immigrants, and 10% were undocumented.



More than half of construction workers are foreign-born.

Practically speaking

Questions we saw on our listserv and Hotline during Harvey.

- My home is flooding, but I am an asylum seeker with an ankle monitor. Can I leave?
- Is it safe for me to go to a shelter or food bank if I am undocumented?
- My loved one is in a detention center. How can I find out if they are safe?
- How can I find out when my immigration court appointment will be rescheduled? Will I be deported if I miss a court date?
- I lost my green card when my home flooded...what do I do if I'm pulled over by police?
- Do I qualify for FEMA benefits?
- Will accepting FEMA benefits affect my immigration status or my immigration application?
- What are the consequences of sharing the identity of my family members and myself with FEMA or states agencies that distribute FEMA benefits?

Policy - FEMA

Who is eligible for FEMA?

Programs for immigrant disaster victims have different requirements and definitions regarding who may apply. A person must be a “qualified alien” to be eligible:

- Legal permanent residents (green card holder),
- Individuals who have been granted asylum or admitted as a refugee
- Individuals who have been granted humanitarian parole for a period of one year,
- Individuals whose deportation have been withheld due to their status as a political refugee,
- Alien granted conditional entry (per law in effect prior to April 1, 1980)
- Individuals who was a Cuban or Haitian entrant under the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980, or
- Adults or children in the US who have been abused, subject to battery or extreme cruelty by a spouse or other family/household member, or have been a victim of a severe form of human trafficking with an approved *or pending* petition

Policy - FEMA

Who is NOT eligible for FEMA?

Individuals are not eligible for disaster benefits if they have:	In Houston region:
A non-immigrant visa, such as work, student, or travel Visa	<u>Appx. 83,000</u>
Temporary Protected Status (TPS)	<u>Appx. 21,000</u>
Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)	<u>Appx. 36,000</u>
A pending asylum application (with a temporary social security number)	<u>Appx. 30,000</u>

Policy – Public Charge

What is public charge?

Immigration officials can keep a person out of the U.S. or deny them a “green card” if they believe the person may depend on the government as their main source of support.

Officials can consider certain benefits that the applicant has used in the determination

Current rules → officials can consider only two types of public benefits in this analysis:

1. Cash support for income maintenance (SSI, TANF)
2. Long-term institutional care at government expense

Policy – Public Charge

When does the “public charge” test come up?

A public charge assessment is made when a person is:

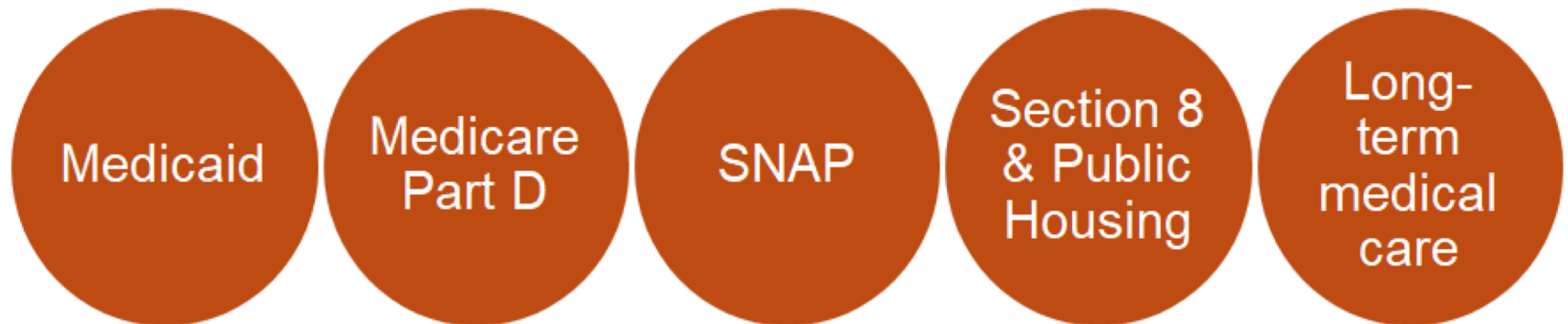
- Applying for Lawful Permanent Residence (LPR, green card)
- Applying for entrance to the U.S. from abroad, such as when:
 - A family member petitions for a relative living abroad.
 - LPR leaves U.S. for 180+ days and seeks to reenter

Policy – Public Charge

How is the public charge test changing?

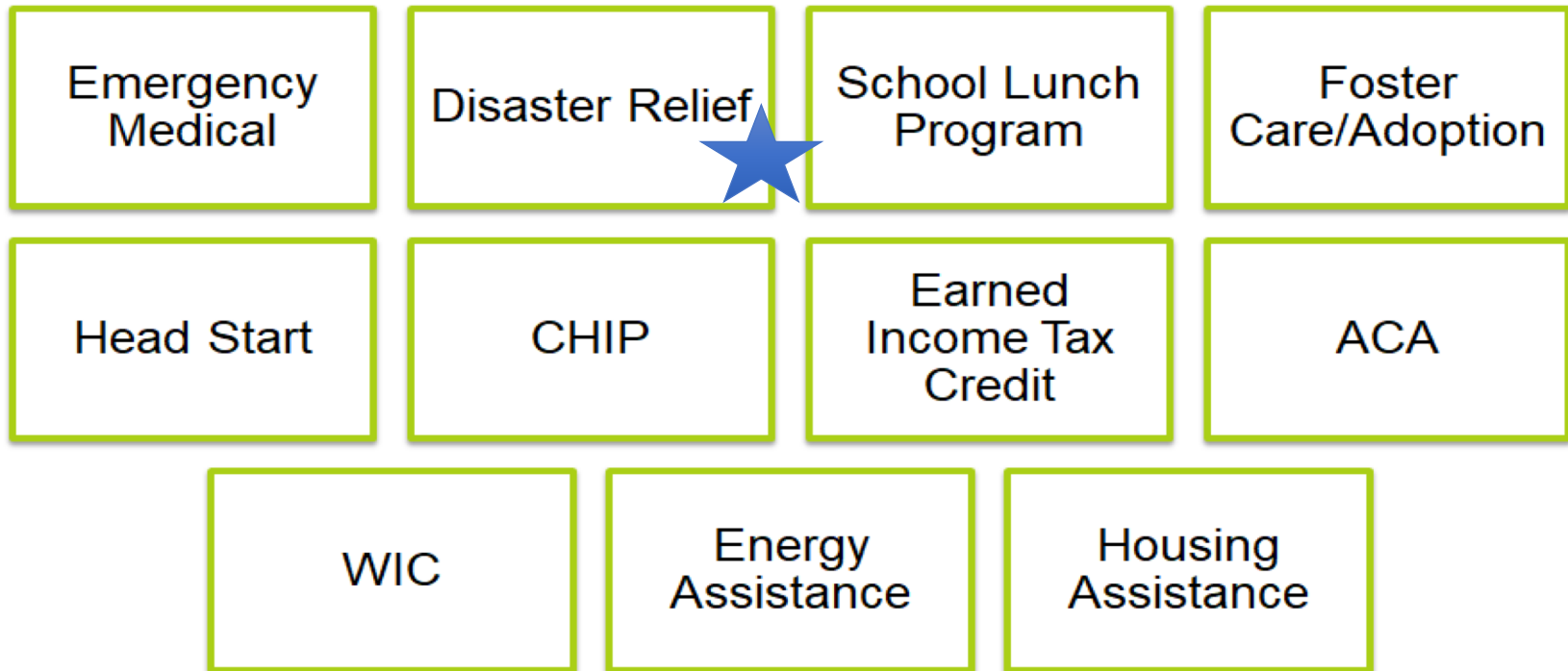
It hasn't changed yet, BUT, the administration is working on expanding assessment of "public charge" to include those who use additional public benefit programs.

Non-cash benefits that would be affected by rule:



Policy – Public Charge

Non Cash Benefits that are NOT affected by rule



Policy – Public Charge

Immigrants exempted from public charge (can obtain waiver)

**Refugees &
Asylees**

**U Visas,
VAWA, T Visa
Holders**

**Special
Immigrant
Juveniles**

**Lawful
Permanent
Residents***

**Cuban
Parolees**

And others*

Policy – Impact

How these policies play out in practice

Health centers, food banks, and hospital districts all across Texas have already reported widespread dropping of Medicaid and SNAP in 2018 by U.S. citizens who fear jeopardizing a loved one's ability to lawfully immigrate.

“At ECHOS...applications for government-funded health care programs for children are down 23 percent from a year ago. Renewals for Children’s Medicaid, the federal health insurance program for the poor, are down 28 percent. Renewals for food stamps have plunged by one-third, although that doesn’t necessarily mean people are no longer in need. The number of families using the agency’s food bank have nearly tripled.”

[Houston Chronicle \(October 12, 2018\)](#)

About one in seven (13.7 percent) adults in immigrant families reported that they or a family member did not participate in—meaning they did not apply for or dropped out of—a noncash benefit program in 2018 out of fear of risking future green card status. Among adults in low-income families earning less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level, this rate was one in five (20.7 percent).

[Urban Institute Report \(Published May 22, 2019\)](#)

Policy – Impact

Impossible choices

Client Story: We had a client who had a total of six people in her household, including very young toddlers. The trailer she lived in had a mold infestation and the smells of mold was dominating. After talking with her about mold dangers and mold remediation, she asked us a question: **“Should I spend the cash stipend you gave me to get rid of the mold or to pay a lawyer to help get my husband out of detention?”** We found out that a few days earlier her husband had been detained by ICE. She now knew the dangers of mold, especially for the children, but she was conflicted because her husband was the sole worker in the house, and she knew the children needed their father. She wanted to get a lawyer to help with her husband’s case, but she had children that she needed to make sure were living in a healthy and safe environment. We advised her to use the cash stipend in the way she thought best. We advised her of organizations that could possibly help her with her husband’s legal situation. It’s a horrible choice to have to make: mold or legal representation.

Humanitarian Action Plan

Opportunity themes for improved response and recovery

1

Inclusive communication

Accurate, timely and actionable information in accessible language.

2

Accessible resources

Preparedness, response and recovery assistance – particularly private funds.

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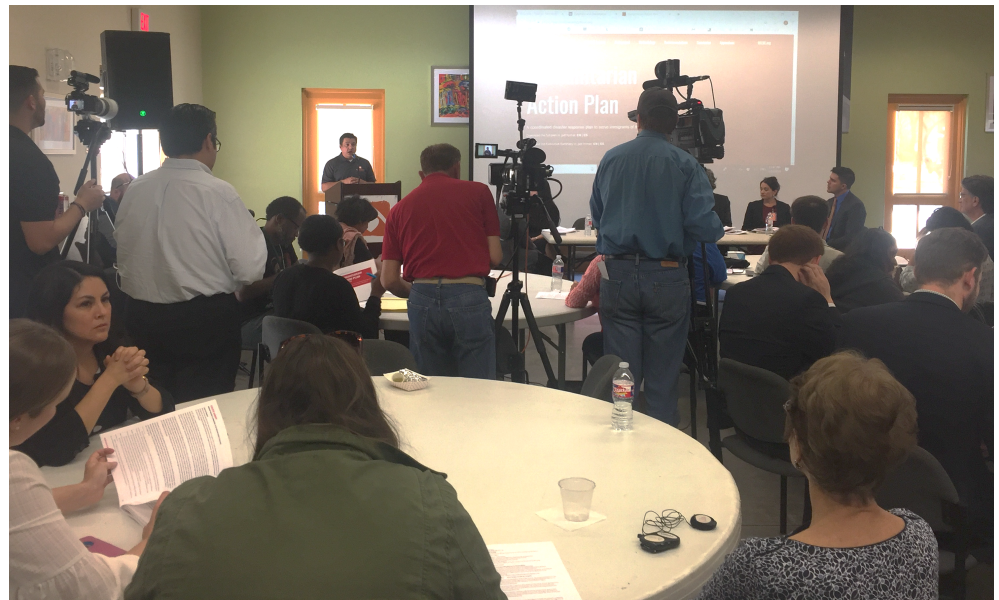
Culturally competent approaches

Strategically design policies, services and materials to meet needs.

Humanitarian Action Plan

Prerequisites to immigrant resilience

1. Ensure that the data informing policy and funding decisions includes immigrants:
Migration Policy Institute
Center for Migration Studies.
2. Inform policy and funding decisions with immigrants' experience.
3. Consult with immigrant-serving organizations and constituents in emergency planning.



Humanitarian Action Plan

What we can do as funders

1. Providing private funding to organizations that are deeply rooted in immigrant communities, are trusted, and have a track record of serving immigrants.
2. Get educated about what the barriers are to immigrant recovery and do everything you can do break those down for your region.
3. Fund culturally competent case management.
4. Provide capacity building to immigrant-serving organizations so they are fully prepared for disaster (e.g. Continuation Of Operations Planning)
5. Fund legal services as part of recovery preparation and response to help families achieve more security through legal status.

HOUSTON IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES COLLABORATIVE

 www.houstonimmigration.org

Kate Vickery

kate@houstonimmigration.org

Be in touch with questions about:

- Humanitarian Action Plan

 hap.houstonimmigration.org

- Funding mixed-status and undocumented families
- Public Charge
- Participatory Grantmaking
- Immigrant Accessibility Index (tune in to our next webinar!)

Q & A

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- ❑ Submit questions using the Q & A box at the bottom of your screen.
- ❑ Use **#CDP4Recovery** to tweet insights.





DISASTER PHILANTHROPY **PLAYBOOK**

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- The Disaster Playbook has a number of toolkits and resources to guide the philanthropic community in responding to future disasters.
- Learn more at www.disasterplaybook.org



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Key Takeaways for Funders

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- ❑ Take the long view.
- ❑ Build internal understanding of community demographics and specific challenges immigrants face even before disaster.
- ❑ Being without legal status is a barrier to recovery and when service providers have unnecessary hurdles for immigrants seeking services, recovery is even more difficult.
- ❑ Recognize there are places private philanthropy can help that government agencies might not.
- ❑ Learn more about disaster giving:
<http://disasterphilanthropy.org/resources-2/basic-tips-for-disaster-giving/>

Questions?

Mission: Transform the field of disaster philanthropy to increase donor effectiveness throughout the lifecycle of disasters through our educational resources, fund opportunities and strategic guidance.

For additional information, contact:

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