IMMIGRATION 101 FOR HOUSING ADVOCATES

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October 26, 2017
WHO WE ARE:

• Mission: to provide access to affordable, high quality immigration legal services in downstate Illinois

• Legal Team: 3 attorneys, 2 D.O.J. representatives

• Main office in Bloomington, satellite office in Champaign

• Serve 86 counties in central and southern Illinois

• Regular clinics in Bloomington, Champaign, Kankakee, Carbondale, Peoria, and Springfield
WHO WE ARE:
Immigrant Population in Illinois

- Approximately 13.7% of IL residents are foreign born
  - 6% in McLean County (14th highest in the state)

The role of immigrants in the economy, Illinois and United States, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Immigrant population share</th>
<th>Immigrant workforce share</th>
<th>Immigrant share of entrepreneurs</th>
<th>Immigrant share of STEM workforce</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States average</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Source of graphic: Illinois Science & Technology Coalition

## 10 of 12 Illinois metro areas have shrunk due to large migration losses


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Population change</th>
<th>Births</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>International migration</th>
<th>Domestic migration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights, IL metro division</td>
<td>-19,430</td>
<td>91,950</td>
<td>56,161</td>
<td>22,691</td>
<td>-77,959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake County-Kenosha County, IL-WI metro division</td>
<td>-351</td>
<td>9,683</td>
<td>5,931</td>
<td>1,809</td>
<td>-5,838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peoria, IL metro area</td>
<td>-1,706</td>
<td>4,806</td>
<td>3,859</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>-3,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockford, IL metro area</td>
<td>-1,282</td>
<td>4,179</td>
<td>3,101</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>-2,685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elgin, IL metro division</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>7,958</td>
<td>4,081</td>
<td>895</td>
<td>-2,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Champaign-Urbana, IL metro area</td>
<td>714</td>
<td>2,751</td>
<td>1,713</td>
<td>1,802</td>
<td>-2,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomington, IL metro area</td>
<td>-289</td>
<td>2,135</td>
<td>1,415</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>-1,566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springfield, IL metro area</td>
<td>-935</td>
<td>2,311</td>
<td>2,256</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>-1,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur, IL metro area</td>
<td>-827</td>
<td>1,317</td>
<td>1,171</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>-1,026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kankakee, IL metro area</td>
<td>-787</td>
<td>1,278</td>
<td>1,140</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>-993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbondale-Marion, IL metro area</td>
<td>-379</td>
<td>1,510</td>
<td>1,240</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>-899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danville, IL metro area</td>
<td>-879</td>
<td>918</td>
<td>940</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>-886</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
ECONOMIC IMPACT OF IMMIGRANTS IN ILLINOIS

In 2014, undocumented immigrants in Illinois earned $7.9 billion.

- $400.2 million went to state and local taxes.
- $57.0 million went to federal taxes.

Leaving them $6.9 billion in spending power.

Source: http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/locations/illinois/
FRIENDLY REMINDERS:

• Being undocumented is not a crime! Language matters.

• People might not be open about their immigration status.
  • Before asking, consider & explain:
    • Why do you need to know? How is that information stored? Who can access that information?

• Not all people of color are immigrants

• Not all immigrants are undocumented

• Not all undocumented immigrants are Mexican/Latino/Hispanic/etc.

• People live in mixed status families

• Be careful about eligibility for programs/benefits

• When in doubt, ask an expert!
What Part of Legal Immigration Don’t You Understand?

Mike Flynn and Shikha Dalmia
Illustrated by Terry Colon

Opponents of illegal immigration are fond of telling foreigners to “get in line” before coming to work in America. But what does that line actually look like, and how many years (or decades) does it take to get through? Try it yourself!
BECOMING A U.S. CITIZEN:

• Ways to become a citizen:
  ● Birth – Parent’s Naturalization – Naturalization

• Naturalization Requirements:
  ● 3 or 5 years as a **lawful permanent resident**
  ● At least 18 years old
  ● Good moral character
  ● Physical & continuous residence
  ● Pass English and Civics tests

• Benefits

• Myths

Source: Getty Images
**Naturalization in Downstate Illinois**

- Approximately 344,621 individuals eligible for naturalization in Illinois in 2013
  - 27,788 are downstate – 9,202 of whom are low income
  - **2,943** in McLean County – **843** if whom are low income
    - Data from IL Department of Human Services (2014)

- Economic benefits of naturalization:
  - Individual annual earnings increase average 8.9%
  - Employment rate rises 2.2%
  - Homeownership increases 6.3%
  - Increase in tax revenue for the city. In some cities, causes a decrease in public benefits spending.
    - Data from the Urban Institute (2015)
STATEWIDE CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM: THE NEW AMERICANS INITIATIVE

Citizenship Workshops

- Screen individuals to see if they are already citizens, if they are eligible for citizenship, and if they need more in-depth attorney representation
- File citizenship applications with the assistance of pro bono attorneys
- Check with ICIRR or Immigration Project to find the next workshop
Status that does not lead to Citizenship or becoming a Lawful Permanent Resident

1. Nonimmigrant visas such as tourists and student visa holders
2. Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
3. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
4. Out of Status / Undocumented / Visa Overstay
5. Employment visa, if not sponsored by employer
DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS “DACA” TERMINATION

Nationally:
- Started 2012, termination started 2017, fully terminated by mid-2020
- Number of “DACAmented”: 690,000
- Average recipient: 24 year old single woman
- Benefits: employment authorization, protection from deportation

Illinois:
- Number of “DACAmented”: 42,400
- Economic Benefits:
  - DACA increased average hourly wages by 32%
  - 70% accessed educational opportunities,
  - 57% secured their first credit card
  - 85% obtained a driver’s license and/or state ID
  - 28% purchased their first car
  - 72% changed jobs or secured their first job
  - 68% became financially independent

The U.S. stands to lose 685,000 workers and $460.3 billion in the next 10 years if DACA ends.

Illinois stands to lose $2.3 billion annually if DACA ends without a permanent solution.

Source: Nicole Prchal Svajlenka and others, “A New Threat to DACA Could Cost States Billions of Dollars.”
Source: National Immigrant Justice Center survey
Ways to become a Lawful Permanent Resident

- Family-based petition
- Employment-based petition
- Refugees and Asylees
- Diversity lottery program
- Other categories including humanitarian relief: U visa, SIJS, relief in removal
**Family-Based Immigration:**

- U.S. citizens over 21 years old can apply for their:
  - Spouses
  - Children (of any age or marital status)
  - Parents
  - Siblings

- Lawful Permanent Residents can apply for their:
  - Spouses
  - Children (of any age, must be unmarried)

- There is no category for:
  - Brothers and sisters of Lawful Permanent Residents
  - Married sons and daughters of Lawful Permanent Residents
  - Grandchildren, grandparents, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, friends
**Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence**

- Immigration status shifts power dynamics in families

- There are special protections for survivors of abuse / trauma (U visa, VAWA, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, Asylum)

- **Our Services:**
  - Consultations and full case representation
  - Partnerships with University of Illinois Law School Domestic Violence Immigration Clinic & local domestic violence shelters
  - Commitment to trauma-informed representation
  - Advocacy with police departments, prosecutors, and judges
KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR POTENTIAL IMMIGRATION RELIEF OPTIONS:

When should you refer your client to an immigration legal representative?

Non-permanent residents:
• ANY FORM OF ABUSE of the individual, their parents, siblings, or children
• Individual has witnessed a violent crime or workplace crime
• Individual’s parent, spouse, or child (over 21) is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident
• Individual is afraid to return to their home country

Permanent residents:
• Individual has been a lawful permanent resident for at least 3 years
• Individual’s parents were citizens before they turned 18
• Individual has been arrested/any criminal history
Ways to Get Involved: Help Link Immigrants to Legal Services

- For Downstate Illinois: Any potential client can call (309) 829-8703 to be placed on our consultation waitlist.

- Clients must be income eligible. All case fees are based on a sliding scale.

- New potential clients come for a consultation with an attorney and pay $25.
DON’T GET TOO INVOLVED: UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW

Unauthorized practice of law includes:
• Representing others in court
• Holding oneself out as a “notario” or lawyer
• Selecting and preparing legal documents
• Advising others on legal rights or remedies
• Any situation where you are applying the law to specific facts

Unauthorized practice of law does not include:
• Telling an individual or community about a program in general
• Encouraging someone to talk with an attorney about what they may be eligible for
Other Ways to Get Involved with I.P.:

- **Community Navigators** are community members who receive specialized training to provide quality immigration services for their communities in an empowering and effective way.
- **Volunteers** are the backbone of our organization.
- **Donations** allow us to support our staff and operations.
The Immigration Project
www.immigrationproject.org

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