



2017 State Legislative Asks

Maintain the Immigrant Services Line Item (ISLI) in the Illinois Department of Human Services budget, administered by ICIRR, which funds:

- **New Americans Initiative:** citizenship and DACA assistance, English and citizenship classes
- **Immigrant Family Resource Program:** immigrant self-sufficiency, outreach, and interpretation
- **We Want to Learn English/Uniting America:** immigrant integration through volunteerism and local partnerships

Fully fund adult education through the Illinois Community College Board to provide English, GED, and citizenship education at community colleges and community-based organizations

Enact the Illinois TRUST Act (HB 3099) to limit local police cooperation with ICE and set standards for handling U visa certification requests

Pass the Immigrant Safe Zones Act (HB 426) to shield schools and medical facilities from immigration enforcement actions

Pass the Student Access bill (HB 2394) to allow Illinois students to receive university-based scholarships, grants, and other assistance regardless of their immigration status

Enact automatic voter registration (SB 1933/HB 3695) legislation to ensure that US citizens interacting with state agencies are placed on voter rolls while protecting noncitizens from inadvertent registration

Building Immigrant Power

Promoting civic engagement through US Citizenship

- **Our New Americans Initiative (NAI) has directly assisted 105,394 immigrants to become U.S. citizens!**
- **The New Americans Initiative has provided information on citizenship to more than 535,000 immigrants** through direct outreach, toll-free phone number and our website www.icirr.org
- The New Americans Initiative held **1,400 citizenship workshops!**
- **For FY17 we are on track to process 6700 citizenship & DACA applications**

The State of Illinois is **home to 1.8 million immigrants, the tenth largest immigrant population** of any state in the nation. Immigrants make up **13.5% of our state's population and 17.5% of our state's workforce**. Of these immigrants, **850,000** are US citizens, and another **370,000 are currently eligible to become US Citizens**.

Illinois is also home to roughly **68,000 immigrant youths** who are eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and **18,000** who would be eligible if they meet the education requirement.

NAI is a partnership between the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) and the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS). This integrated citizenship campaign uses grassroots and media outreach in **25 languages** to provide free legal screening, application processing, and free English and citizenship test preparation services to immigrants throughout Illinois.

Immigrants who have become U.S. citizens earn, on average, \$6,888 more per year.

Repeated studies confirm that naturalization **increases the capacity of immigrants to succeed while simultaneously helping immigrant communities and the economy to grow**. In fact, the annual median salary increases 55% when a person becomes a citizen, **increasing income taxes by \$34.1 million**. Naturalized citizens are also twice as likely to speak English as noncitizens.

NAI ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

NAI's 50 partner agencies have worked with 28,143 Illinoisans who volunteered 168,858 hours in outreach, legal services and tutoring.

NAI has provided information and citizenship services to more than 535,000 people in 25 different languages.

In 2010, NAI led a campaign to increase the Census return rate by knocking on 107,833 doors in 26 immigrant communities. The increases of 2-18% in census forms returned will bring \$348 million in additional dollars to Illinois over the next 10 years.

Our New Americans Democracy Project registered almost 200,000 new IL voters in the last 10 years; 29,545 last year alone!

Immigrant Family Resource Program

The Immigrant Family Resource Program (IFRP) is a network of **35 ethnic community-based organizations operating in 54 different languages** across Illinois dedicated to providing **equal access to health and safety-net services** for immigrant communities. IFRP is a partnership between the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR). In 2010, IFRP was integrated into the **federally funded Illinois SNAP Outreach Plan**.

Impact and Effectiveness at Integrating Immigrant Communities

- **Big impact:** IFRP has been instrumental in improving the lives of over 500,000 immigrants and refugees in the past 12 years by connecting them to valuable and essential front line services
- **Cost Effective:** In FY15, **IFRP partners assisted 70,000 individuals** to access essential safety net programs, at a **low average cost per case**
- **Meeting federal and state mandates:** By **providing assistance in 54 languages**, *IFRP helps IDHS meet obligations of Title VI / 1964 Civil Rights Act as well the Quinones Consent Decree.*



The Strength of Our Network

Arab American Action Network
 Arab American Family Services
 Bosnian & Herzegovinian American Community Center
 Cambodian Association of Illinois
 Centro de Información
 Centro Romero
 Chinese American Service League
 Chinese Mutual Aid Association
 East Central Illinois Refugee Mutual Assistance Center
 Family Focus Aurora
 FEDECEMI/Casa Michoacán
 Hispanic American Community Education Services
 Hanul Family Alliance
 Indo-American Center
 Instituto del Progreso Latino
 Interfaith Leadership Project
 Iraqi Mutual Aid Association
 Korean American Community Services
 Latino Organization of the Southwest
 Mano a Mano Family Resource Center
 Muslim Women Resource Center
 Northside Community Resource
 Pan African Association
 Polish American Association
 Puentes de Esperanza
 St. Anthony Hospital
 South East Asia Center

Spanish
 Community Center
 Syrian Community
 Network
 United African
 Organization
 Vietnamese
 Association of
 Illinois
 World Relief—Moline
 Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley
 University YMCA – La Voz

For more information on the Immigrant Family Resource Program please contact:
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Illinois TRUST Act HB3099 (Hernandez)

The Illinois TRUST Act seeks to protect and build trust between law enforcement agencies and immigrant communities by limiting local police involvement in federal immigration enforcement.

The problem: Police entanglement in federal immigration enforcement

As the federal government ramps up immigration enforcement, it has increasingly entangled state and local law enforcement agencies. ICE received information from police and sheriff's departments through shared databases and data-sharing mechanisms like the controversial "Secure Communities" program. The Trump Administration is also trying to enlist law police through such programs as 287(g) that deputize officers to carry on immigration enforcement work, and through requests to participate in or coordinate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations.

When police engage with immigrant authorities, ***the trust that police must rely upon to effectively catch and prosecute wrongdoers gets undermined***. Nearly half of all Latinos (regardless of status) are less likely to report crimes for fear of being questioned about their status.¹ Already many survivors of domestic violence end up being arrested alongside their abusers and as a result get fed into the deportation pipeline. The President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, noting the need to build trust between police and immigrant communities, specifically recommended "decoupl[ing] federal immigration enforcement from routine local policing for civil enforcement and nonserious crime."²

Trust also gets undermined when law enforcement agencies refuse to assist immigrants who do come forward. In particular, many immigrant victims and witnesses who cooperate with law enforcement qualify for ***U visas***, which provide temporary legal status. However, too often law enforcement agencies ***delay or ignore requests to certify that the immigrants are cooperating***, thus leaving these immigrants vulnerable to deportation and undercutting their incentive to come forward.

Engaging in immigration enforcement also ***imposes costs on local law enforcement***, including the costs of holding immigrants in jails who should otherwise be released—or who refuse to pay bond fearing that they will be turned over to ICE. Local law enforcement agencies ***have been sued for cooperating with ICE requests that violate the US Constitution's requirement for warrants based on probable cause***.³ ***ICE does not cover these costs***.

Immigration enforcement disrupts our economy. Undocumented immigrants, who make up 4% of our state's population, represent 7.8% of all Illinois entrepreneurs. The undocumented earned \$7.8 billion

¹ *Insecure Communities: Latino Perceptions of Police Involvement in Immigration Enforcement* (University of Illinois Chicago Center for Urban Economic Development, May 2013).

² Final Report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing (May 2015)

³ *Galarza v. Szalczyk* (US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, 3/4/2014); *Miranda-Olivares v. Clackamas County* (US District Court, District of Oregon, 4/11/2014).

in 2014, and paid \$916 million in federal, state, and local taxes. Deporting these immigrants would severely damage many sectors of our state's economy, such as manufacturing, hospitality, and construction.⁴

Immigration enforcement destroys families. Two-thirds of undocumented immigrants have lived in the US for at least 10 years.⁵ In Illinois, 90% of households with at least one undocumented immigrant also has at least one member who is lawfully present—in most cases a US citizen relative.⁶ Deporting the undocumented would wreck hundreds of thousands of Illinois families and in particular damage a generation of children of immigrants.

The solution: Illinois TRUST Act

The Illinois TRUST Act builds on policies developed in other communities to set reasonable, constitutional limits on local police interaction with ICE enforcement, and foster trust between local police and immigrant communities. This legislation would

- Bar law enforcement agencies in Illinois from complying with any ICE detainers or warrants that are not supported by a court-issued warrant
- Limit arrests based solely on immigration-related information included in federal databases
- Bar 287(g) agreements to deputize local police to execute immigration enforcement and limit other cooperation and information sharing with immigration enforcement (without a court-issued criminal warrant)
- Bar the use of private prisons to house immigration detainees
- Forbid use of immigration-related threats or verbal abuse by law enforcement agents
- Set deadlines and standards for law enforcement agencies to respond to requests for certifications needed to process U visa applications
- Establish an Illinois TRUST Act Compliance Board to train law enforcement agencies regarding this law and identify and research further issues regarding the impact of detainers
- Provide a private right of action for anyone to sue any agency that violates this Act
- Amend the Illinois Criminal Procedure Code to clarify provisions that probation officers and judges have used to ask about immigration status
- Allow certain individuals (including immigrants) to reopen prior criminal cases based on inadequate counsel or successful completion of probation. For immigrants, this provision could help them avoid deportation.

Nothing in this legislation stops ICE from operating in Illinois. Nothing in this bill stops local police from working with ICE if ICE goes to court to get a warrant.

For more information, please contact Fred Tsao at ICIRR, 312 332-7360 x213 or ftsao@icirr.org.

⁴ *The Contributions of New Americans in Illinois* (Partnership for a New American Economy, August 2016)

⁵ Overall Number of U.S. Unauthorized Immigrants Holds Steady Since 2009 (Pew Research Center, September 2016)

⁶ Illinois' Undocumented Immigrant Population: A Summary of Recent Research by Rob Paral and Associates (ICIRR, February 2014)

Immigration Safe Zones Act (HB0426)

benefits:

- ALL immigrants, regardless of race, gender, religion, and/or previous interactions with the justice system
- ALL Illinois residents, institutions, and businesses that would continue to benefit from the contributions that immigrants make to Illinois' diversity, culture, and economic success

bars:

- institutions of higher learning, schools and high schools from asking about the students' or the student's family's immigration status, with few exceptions
- immigration officials from entering the following places without a valid, court issued warrant
 - state funded elementary school, high school or institution of higher learning
 - state funded health care centers and clinics

requires:

- The ~~IL~~ Department of Human Services provide training to schools and medical treatment or health facilities on immigration issues and how to respond to immigration officials

**Stand up against anti-immigrant hate, help us pass a bill that will
keep children and families safe in Illinois!**

IMMIGRATION SAFE ZONES ACT (HB0426) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What will the Immigration Safe Zones Act do? State funded schools, universities and healthcare facilities may not grant access to Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) or agencies working on behalf of ICE without a valid court-issued warrant. It also prevents schools and universities from asking students or their families about immigration status, with some exceptions.

Why is this important? Over the last eight years, nearly 3 million people were deported. The current administration has shown it intends to surpass those record deportation numbers. Recent executive orders have made all immigrants a priority for deportation.¹ At a time when vulnerable communities are under attack, the state of Illinois must demonstrate its commitment to protecting the most vulnerable, as well as standing and acting in solidarity with the immigrant community.

Who will this benefit? This bill will benefit ALL residents of Illinois, including ALL immigrants, regardless of race, gender, religion, and/or previous interactions with the justice system. There are nearly 2 million immigrants in Illinois, half a million who are undocumented.² Millions of Illinois families will feel safe to worship, attend school or seek necessary medical attention without fear of deportation or family separation.

The fear of deportation can harm children's brain and health, potentially for life.³ This bill will also benefit all school age children and their families. Approximately 43,000 undocumented children are enrolled in school in Illinois.⁴ Children should feel safe at school. The Immigration Safe Zones Act will ensure that immigration officials are not allowed on any school campus unless they have a valid, court issued warrant that is reviewed by the appropriate personnel at the school.

Studies show that communities or institutions with sanctuary or welcoming policies have lower crime rates, lower unemployment and higher incomes.⁵ These policies make communities better and safer for all residents. This bill will ensure Illinois families continue to benefit from the contributions that immigrants make to its diversity, culture, and economic success.

How is this bill different from a sanctuary/welcoming city? Sanctuary or welcoming cities are local laws or ordinances that prevent cooperation and information sharing between local law enforcement and immigration officials. This bill is only focused on preventing immigration from entering state funded school campus or health care centers without a valid, court issued warrant.

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/25/presidential-executive-order-enhancing-public-safety-interior-united>

² <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15pawLD8TtsTYlnGqfOhqQ20qRi22VqVLoQW9saVJc7A/edit#gid=1>
http://www.robparal.com/downloads/Key_Facts_Illinois_Immigrants.pdf

³ <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2017/01/the-toxic-health-effects-of-deportation-threat/514718/>

⁴ <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/unauthorized-immigrant-population/state/IL>

⁵ <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/reports/2017/01/26/297366/the-effects-of-sanctuary-policies-on-crime-and-the-economy/>

What does this mean for safety? Collaboration with ICE endangers safety. When immigrant communities think that city officials, police, schools, hospitals collaborate with ICE, they are less likely to seek access to resources, or even to report a crime. *In addition, the bill does NOT prevent officials from complying with valid, legal warrants issued by a court.*

Studies demonstrate that crime is significantly lower in sanctuary jurisdictions. Economies are also stronger in sanctuary jurisdictions—from higher median household income, less poverty, and less reliance on public assistance to higher labor force participation, higher employment-to-population ratios, and lower unemployment.⁶

But why wouldn't we want to deport "criminals"?

The rhetoric is untrue: For years, President Obama's administration has claimed to target "criminals." However, two-thirds of President Obama's more than two million deportation cases have involved people who had committed minor infractions, including traffic violations, or had no criminal record at all.⁷

People of color are more likely to be arrested or stopped by police. In Chicago and some suburbs police, for example, place more DUI checkpoints in Black & Latino neighborhoods despite conviction rates comparable and sometimes lower to that of predominantly white neighborhoods⁸

For a President who is eager to continue to tap into the rhetoric of deporting "criminals," mass deportations will be an easy thing as long as local governments continue to aid and abet in the criminalization of immigrant communities and collaboration with ICE.

And it is unfair: When a citizen makes a mistake or breaks the law, they respond to the criminal system, pay their fines/fees, serve time, etc. However, the way our immigration system is set up now immigrants are often meted with double punishment through deportation. **Bottomline: it's time to end the double standard.** The criminal and immigration system are two different systems and they should be kept separate.

If Illinois passes the Immigration Safe Zones Act, won't we lose federal funding? Several hundred cities and jurisdictions, including major cities like Chicago and San Francisco, have declared themselves Sanctuary cities. The federal government cannot remove funding from all of them. Moreover, the law is on our side:⁹

- The 10th Amendment to the Constitution bars the federal government from forcing non-federal entities from doing their bidding. This means that the federal government cannot force local or State officials to cooperate or to serve as de-facto deportation officers.
- The Supreme Court recently ruled that threats to remove funding can't be "coercive." Threats become coercive when you threaten to take away everything.

This bill is an important first step towards Illinois becoming a safe and welcoming state for all immigrants!

⁶ <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/reports/2017/01/26/297366/the-effects-of-sanctuary-policies-on-crime-and-the-economy/>

⁷ https://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/07/us/more-deportations-follow-minor-crimes-data-shows.html?_r=0

⁸ <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/watchdog/ct-dui-checkpoints-chicago-met-20150507-story.html>

⁹ <https://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/20170127/civic-center/trump-sanctuary-city-executive-order-federal-funding-de-blasio>



Senators Manar, Harmon
Reps Gabel, Currie

Support Automatic Voter Registration

SB1933/HB3695

Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) means using reliable information in state agency databases to register eligible citizens to vote or update their voter registration status. When an eligible voter interacts with a state agency like Driver Services, they would be automatically registered to vote or have their registration updated unless they opt out. Non-eligible individuals would be removed from the registration process. This year's proposal gives individuals the opportunity to opt out while interaction with the state agency.

Reasons to Support Automatic Voter Registration

Strengthen Our Democracy

Every American – Democrat, Republican, or independent – has a fundamental right to have their vote counted. A recent national study estimated AVR could add over a million eligible Illinois voters to our rolls.

Make our voter lists more secure

Our outdated system of registering voters has led to 1 in 8 registrations in America being either invalid or containing significant errors. By using reliable information to automatically register only eligible citizens and by more frequently updating our voter list, this proposal will reduce the chance that anyone will be able to take advantage of insecurities within our system.

Save taxpayers money

While there will be some initial implementation expenses, AVR should save

taxpayers money over time. Of the 29 states that tracked cost savings of electronic and online registration, there was unanimity that electronic and online registration reduces costs.

Reduce Election Day Registration

In the March 2016 primaries, Cook County found that 75% of Election Day registrants used an ID that matched the address at which they were registering to vote. These voters would be on the voter list and out of the election day registration line with AVR.

Only eligible voters registered

The Just Democracy Coalition will only support an AVR process that has the strongest protections to ensure ineligible individuals are not registered to vote. SB1933 does this by utilizing reliable citizenship information to screen persons ineligible to vote from the program.



Automatic Voter Registration Campaign Endorsers

A broad and diverse collection of organizations support Automatic Voter Registration.

AARP IL
Action Now Institute
AFSCME Council 31
Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights & Empowerment (AFIRE)
American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Chicago
Better Government Association
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council
CAIR Chicago
Cambodian Association of Illinois (CAI)
CHANGE IL
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Chicago Teachers Union
Chicago Votes
Chinese American Service League (CASL)
Chinese Mutual Aid Association (CMAA)
Citizen Action Illinois
Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community (CBCAC)
Common Cause IL
DuPage County Building & Construction Trades
Equality Illinois
Equip for Equality
Faith Coalition for the Common Good
Gamaliel of Illinois
Grassroots Collaborative
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group
IBEW Local 15
IBEW Local 196
IBEW Local 9
IRON
Illinois Campaign for Political Reform
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Illinois Environmental Council
Illinois PIRG
Indo-American Center
Japanese American Service Committee (JASC)
Korean American Community Services (KACS)
Korean American Resource & Cultural Center (KRCC)
Laborers Midwest Division
Lao American Association of Elgin
Latino Policy Forum
League of Women Voters IL
Muslim Women Resource Center (MWRC)
National Council of Jewish Women - State Policy Network
National Council of Jewish Women Chicago North Shore Section
National Nurses Organizing Committee
National Nurses United
One Northside
Painters District Council 14
Planned Parenthood IL
Rainbow Push Coalition
SAAPRI
SEIU Health Care II
SEIU Local 73
Sheet Metal Workers State Conference
Sierra Club Illinois
SMART Transportation Division
SOUL
South Asian American Policy & Research Institute
Springfield & Central Illinois Trades & Labor Council
The People's Lobby
The Reclaim Campaign
The Women of Reform Judaism Midwest District
United Congress of Community and Religious Organizations
Workers Center for Racial Justice

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN • CHICAGO • SPRINGFIELD

SUPPORT HB 2394 - THE STUDENT ACCESS BILL & STRENGTHEN ACCESS TO FINANCIAL AID

House Sponsors: Hernandez • Gordon-Booth • Pritchard • Ford • Mah

The Student ACCESS bill would do two things: 1) Provide 4-year public universities with the legal authority to provide financial aid to undocumented students who qualify for in-state tuition, and 2) Protect and affirm scholarship eligibility for students convicted of possessing or selling illegal drugs.

Financial aid is severely limited for undocumented students.

Undocumented students are currently ineligible to receive federal student aid, Pell grants, Illinois' MAP grant and other forms of state-based financial aid. However, federal law allows individual state legislatures to offer undocumented students eligibility for state financial aid. Passage of the Student ACCESS bill would allow 4-year public universities to offer financial aid to every student enrolled at their institution on a competitive basis. The legislation will not, however, make undocumented students eligible to apply for the MAP grant.

Students convicted of a drug offense lose eligibility for federal financial aid for at least 1 year.

The minimum penalty for a drug conviction is a year of ineligibility for federal financial aid. Protecting state-based financial aid for students who are convicted of a drug offense will ensure that these students have a pathway towards completion of their degree when they lose federal financial aid eligibility. If students are denied both federal and state based financial aid, it is unlikely that they are going to be able to continue their education and earn a degree.

The Student ACCESS bill is revenue neutral!

The legislation does not have a fiscal impact because it does not require the state to appropriate additional resources for higher education or increase spending for state-funded scholarship programs. Moreover, the proposal does not create an entitlement, a new state scholarship program or provide either category of students with a competitive advantage when applying for financial aid.

How many students would this legislation apply to?

The University of Illinois at Chicago estimates that the Student ACCESS bill would provide new scholarship opportunities for roughly 1,500 undocumented students across all 4-year public universities in Illinois. These students account for 1 percent of total enrollment at 4-year public universities, which serve more than 144,000 students.

Doesn't the Illinois Dream Fund provide financial aid to undocumented students?

Undocumented students currently have access to in-state tuition and they may apply for scholarships provided by the privately funded Illinois Dream Fund. In 2014, 1,720 students applied for a scholarship through the Illinois Dream Fund. However, the Illinois Dream Fund was only able to award 26 students a scholarship ranging from \$2,000-\$6,000. Over the last three years, the program has been unable to assist 98 percent of applicants due to insufficient private resources.

Which other states have similar laws?

There are 5 states that provide some form of state-based financial aid to undocumented students: California, Minnesota, New Mexico, Texas and Washington. There are 18 states that provide undocumented students who meet certain criteria with access to in-state tuition, including Illinois.