WEBINAR

Immigrant Essential Workers, the COVID-19 Pandemic, and Community Responses

May 28, 2020

12pm PT
2pm CT
3pm ET
Featured Speakers

- **Donald Kerwin**, Executive Director, Center for Migration Studies
- **Michael Nicholson**, Researcher, Center for Migration Studies
- **Daniela Alulema**, Director of Programs, Center for Migration Studies
- **Zulma Maciel**, Director, Office of Immigrant Affairs of the City of San Jose
- **Juan Carlos Cerda**, Dallas-Fort Worth Business Outreach Manager, Texas Business Immigration Coalition
- **Dr. Laura González-Murphy**, Director of Immigration Policy and Research, NY State Department of State
Essential Workers, Federal Policies, and Charting a Better Course

- Trump administration immigration priorities

- COVID-19 migration-related developments: https://cmsny.org/cms-initiatives/migration-covid/


- “DACA and the Supreme Court: How We Got to This Point, a Statistical Profile of Who Is Affected, and What the Future May Hold for DACA Beneficiaries." https://cmsny.org/publications/jmhs-daca-alulema-122019/

- Charting a Better Course for Communities and the Nation: San Jose, Dallas-Fort Worth, New York State
Essential Workers in the United States

Michael Nicholson
Researcher
Center for Migration Studies
Methodology

- CMS matched “essential critical infrastructure” categories set forth by the DHS to 2018 Census industry codes (or occupation codes, where appropriate).

- Used 2018 1-Year data from the American Community Survey to estimate the number of foreign-born workers in each category.

- Some workers may have been furloughed or lost their jobs since 2018 – most recent data available.
Many Essential Workers are Immigrants

- 19.8 million immigrants work in “essential critical infrastructure” jobs
  - 9.6 million are naturalized citizens
  - 4.6 million are legal noncitizens (mostly LPRs)
  - 5.5 million are undocumented

- 69% of foreign-born labor force works in these jobs vs. 65% of the native-born labor force
18% of all workers in “critical essential infrastructure” categories

This share is higher in many states

- Immigrants make up 36% of all essential workers in California
- 31% of all essential workers in New York State
- 24% of all essential workers in Texas
Immigrants are Vital to Health Care

- Immigrants make up 16% of all US health care sector workers
- 24% in medical equipment manufacturing and 25% in pharmaceuticals mfg.
Immigrants are Vital for Sanitation

- Immigrants make up:
  - 28% of janitors and building cleaners
  - 23% of workers in disinfection
Immigrants are Vital to Food Supply Chains

- Immigrants make up:
  - 31% of US agricultural employees
  - 26% of US workers in food and beverage manufacturing and processing
  - 26% of grocery wholesalers
Immigrant Essential Workers in the San Jose Metro

- Immigrants make up 50% of essential workers in the San Jose metro, the highest share of any metro area in the nation.

- 20% of imm. essential workers are in computer-related and electronics manufacturing.

- Also concentrated in restaurants, construction, hospitals, and janitor/building cleaning jobs.
Immigrant Essential Workers in the DFW Metro

- Immigrants make up 27% of essential workers in the DFW metro
- 22% of imm. essential workers are in the construction sector
- Also concentrated in restaurants, transit, janitor/building cleaning jobs, and hospitals
DACA Recipients in the Front-line Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Daniela Alulema
Director of Programs
Center for Migration Studies
Profile of Active DACA Recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries of Origin</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>No. DACA Recipients</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>521,440</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>25,050</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>16,970</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>15,570</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>6,360</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>6,280</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>5,110</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>4,830</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>4,280</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>3,400</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other countries</td>
<td>39,780</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core-based statistical areas of residence</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>No. DACA Recipients</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA</td>
<td>80,540</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA</td>
<td>41,800</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX</td>
<td>34,980</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX</td>
<td>32,790</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI</td>
<td>32,550</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA</td>
<td>22,800</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ</td>
<td>20,920</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA</td>
<td>14,720</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA</td>
<td>13,710</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV</td>
<td>12,220</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other areas</td>
<td>342,040</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: [USCIS Report on Approximate Active DACA Recipients as of December 31, 2019](#)
### DACA Recipients in the Front Lines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Economic Activity</th>
<th>No. of DACA Recipients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essential Retail*</td>
<td>100,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>67,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Manufacturing</td>
<td>49,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Services</td>
<td>42,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Health Care Occupations</td>
<td>33,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Infrastructure</td>
<td>24,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Institutions</td>
<td>23,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Services Necessary To Maintain The Safety, Sanitation, And Essential Operations Of Residences Or Essential Businesses</td>
<td>18,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Wholesale</td>
<td>9,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providers Of Basic Necessities To Economically Disadvantaged Populations</td>
<td>3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>2,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News Media</td>
<td>1,400</td>
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</tbody>
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* Includes 76,500 restaurant workers

Source: Center for Migration Studies. Data collected in the 2018 American Community Survey.
The Two Battles Faced by DACA Recipients

Being a DACA recipient is really hard, honestly. It’s an anxiety I and others live with every day. DACA gave me hope and made me feel like we finally fit in. It has helped me and my family financially with jobs we wouldn’t be able to have if DACA ends. It helped us set goals and see beyond. I feel like I’m creating all of these memories with my family, but then I remember that it may all be over. It’s bittersweet.

- DACA recipient and mother of a 9-year-old US citizen child

Recipients I was already experiencing uncertainty before the pandemic started, so now I am just waiting it out. I’m just taking it one day at a time.

- DACA recipient working at a cancer treatment center in New York State
Recommendations from Advocates

● Submit DACA renewal applications as soon as possible before a decision is made by the Supreme Court

● Seek a full legal screening to find other possible avenues to adjustment

● Stay informed about progress and implications of the Supreme Court decision

● Know your rights and develop emergency preparedness plan

● Find ways to support staff who are DACA recipients, such as contracting options, covering renewal fees, and providing mental health resources
Population: over 1 million
Third largest city in CA, 10th largest in the US
Capital of Silicon Valley
40% of residents are foreign-born
Country of Origin
1. Mexico
2. India
3. Vietnam
4. China
90% of adult immigrants speak a language other than English at home
Est. over 200,000 undocumented people

Country of Origin
1. Mexico
2. India
3. Vietnam
4. China
SAN JOSE’S RESPONSE

1. Policies
   - Rent moratorium
   - Rent increase moratorium (apts and mobile homes)
   - Ban on evictions
   - Emergency Paid Sick Leave ordinance

2. Programs and Practices
   - Financial Assistance
   - Food and Necessities
   - Small Business Assistance
   - Virtual Local Assistance Center
   - Addressing COVID-19 related racism
Juan Carlos Cerda

DFW Business Outreach Manager, Texas Business Immigration Coalition

Member, City of Dallas Welcoming Communities & Immigrant Affairs Taskforce
64,737 immigrant healthcare workers in Dallas

- Immigrant workers: 18.8%
- Non-immigrant workers: 81.2%

Source: New American Economy
395,888 immigrant food sector workers in TX

- Non-immigrant workers: 73.4%
- Immigrant workers: 26.6%

Source: New American Economy
234,691 immigrant education workers in TX

- Immigrant workers: 16.8%
- Non-immigrant workers: 83.2%

Source: New American Economy
How does Dallas support its essential workers?

Work authorization renewal scholarships
In Dallas, there are 63,396 DACA-recipient workers. Scholarships from community organizations ensure doctors, food service workers, and teachers continue their critical service.

Legal representation
Dallas has $200K public-private deportation defense fund. 54% of its clients are essential workers.
How does Dallas support its essential workers?

**COVID-19 Testing**
Dallas expanded criteria to test essential workers and launched $660K city-funded mobile testing program for hardest hit zip codes.

**Small Business Relief**
29.6% of Dallas immigrant entrepreneurs are in construction. Dallas supports them with $5M small business loan program.
Responses from New York State

Dr. Laura González-Murphy
Director of Immigration Policy and Research
NY State Department of State
Governor Andrew M. Cuomo created the Office for New Americans (ONA) in 2013. ONA serves:

- 4.4 million immigrants and refugees
- Approximately 2.5 million New Yorkers with limited English proficiency (LEP)
ONA Programs Overview

- 26 Opportunity Centers across the state and 11 Navigators
  - Workshops/Wrap around support to community
- 20 Legal Counsels and over 45 Liberty Defense Legal Partners
- Cell-Ed – Remote English Language
- Golden Door - Mental Health Support to Families
- Ramirez June Developmental Disabilities Navigator
- New Americans Hotline: 1-800-566-7636
2020 ONA Response

- Supporting the ONA Network:
  - Adaptation of delivery of services
  - Best Practices Survey/Tools for Opportunity Centers
- Responding to the Community
  - Network Survey of Needs
    - Statewide Mutual Aid Resources List
    - Nourish New York Initiative
    - Job Skilling Tools
    - Digital Divide – Cell-Ed One Million Learner Campaign
Let's Reach - Teach - Elevate
I Million Learners Together!
Free English - Life - Work Skills
And COVID-19 information to keep everyone safe

On any cell phone - no internet required

Become A Partner Today! Cell-Ed/NYMillion
Questions, Comments and Resources

(Please type your questions in the question box on your screen)

Resources for DACA Recipients

- [DACA Updates During the Coronavirus Crisis](https://www.informedimmigrant.com) (Informed Immigrant)
- [Resources for Immigrants During the Coronavirus Crisis](https://www.informedimmigrant.com) (Informed Immigrant)
- [Preparing for the Future: Understanding the Rights and Options of DACA Recipients](https://www.ilrc.org) (ILRC)
- [Prepare Your Program for the SCOTUS Decision on DACA](https://www.clinic.org) (CLINIC)
- [Supporting DACA Recipients on Campus: Top 5 FAQs for Public and Private Colleges and Universities](https://www.presidentsalliance.org) (Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Ed and Immigration)
- [The Noncitizen’s Guide to Entrepreneurship](https://www.nysylc.org) (NYSYLC)
- [DACA and the Supreme Court](https://www.cms.gov) (CMS)