



Toolkit: Protecting Immigrant Families Facing Deportation

Updated January 23, 2025

The Trump administration is expanding the "[expedited removal](#)" policy, which permits immigration agents to arrest and deport individuals anywhere in the U.S. without a court hearing. Immigrants should carry copies (not originals) of documents proving they have lived in the U.S. for over two years. A document list can be found on page 7 of this [Toolkit](#).

Help immigrants learn their rights in the United States and how to protect them

Printable resources about immigrants' rights under U.S. law are available in [Amharic](#), [Arabic](#), [Bangla](#), [Burmese](#), [Chinese \(Simplified, Traditional\)](#), [Congolese](#), [Creole \(Haitian\)](#), [English](#), [English Farsi](#), [French](#), [Gujarati](#), [Hebrew](#), [Hindi](#), [Hmong](#), [Indonesian](#), [Karen](#), [Khmer](#), [Korean](#), [Maya Mam](#), [Nepali](#), [Pashto](#), [Portuguese](#), [Punjabi](#), [Somali](#), [Spanish](#), [Swahili](#), [Tagalog](#), [Tigrinya](#), [Urdu](#), [Vietnamese](#), and [Yoruba](#).

The Children Thrive Action Network (CTAN) created this [Toolkit](#) to

- Help service providers and community members advocate against harmful immigration enforcement.
- Support families at risk of separation due to aggressive immigration actions.

Below, in the following pages, you will find additional resources pertaining to four areas:

1. Help children with family members who are facing deportation
2. Share resources for child care and health care providers
3. Distribute resources for early childhood and K-12 educators and school districts
4. Educate the public and policymakers about the impact of immigration enforcement on children



Help children with family members who are facing deportation

- This [tool](#) from the National Immigration Legal Services Directory allows families to search for legal services by zip code.
- The Immigrant Legal Resource Center also has a [Know Your Rights Toolkit](#), including resources for creating a family preparation plan, printable red cards in multiple languages and local resources.
- National Immigrant Justice Center's [Know Your Rights](#) resources help families plan to ensure the safety of children and other dependents following the deportation of a parent or caretaker.
- CLINIC has an [emergency preparedness web tool](#) with information to assist families in all fifty states. They also have a [Rapid Response Toolkit](#) based on best practices from communities conducting rapid responses during ICE raids.
- The National Immigrant Justice Center published an [explainer](#) on what mass deportations might look like and includes how to protect yourself and your family.
- Recognizing that deportation and family separation is a major traumatic event in the life of a child, Zero to Three put together [these resources](#) for parents, providers, and others involved in protecting children's mental health.
- Appleseed Network created a [manual](#) to help immigrants and allies develop plans to deal, such as child custody, in the event of a deportation.
- The Women's Refugee Commission published a [series](#) of resources on parental rights, family separation due to immigration, child welfare, and related issues.
- CLASP's [webpage](#) contains resources related to immigrant mental health

Share resources for child care and health care providers:

- CLASP's [guide](#) on resources for providers on protecting locations from immigration enforcement contains several resources which will be continually updated.
- CICW drafted [these tips](#) for child welfare agencies preparing for or dealing with immigration enforcement that impacts their clients and communities.
- Medical and health care providers will benefit from [this guide](#).
- The Greater New York Hospital Association also posted [this Q&A](#) on immigration enforcement for hospitals.

Distribute resources for early childhood and K-12 educators and school districts:

- American Federation of Teachers created [these resources](#) for educators to help families at risk of deportation. It includes steps families can take to be prepared.
- CLASP's [guide](#) to creating "safe spaces" helps early childhood care providers learn how to set up their facilities they are not subjected to immigration enforcement on their grounds.



- NILC’s [Practice Advisory on the Legal Authority for “Sanctuary” School Policies](#) outlines how schools can legally protect their students.
- The Department of Education’s [Dear Colleague letter](#) to educators, school leaders, and families includes an explanation of school districts’ responsibilities to serve immigrant students and provides a link to a [directory of resources](#).
- For academics and those in higher ed, visit our [resource page for academics](#).

Help my community prepare or respond to a workplace raid

- The National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights has a [list](#) of immigration enforcement helplines by state as well as other hotlines and ways to receive help.
- [Guide for Employers: What to Do if Immigration Comes to Your Workplace](#).
- CLASP’s immigration raids [resource page](#) features materials focused on protecting children’s wellbeing when parents are arrested in an immigration raid.
- AILA has a [web page](#) of raids resources (last updated in 2018) that includes guidance for both lawyers and community members.

Educate the public and policymakers about the impact of immigration enforcement on children

- Write a Letter to the Editor or Op-Ed and submit it to your local newspaper. Click Talking points from the 2016-20 administration are available [here](#).
- Read and share this [report](#) with your Members of Congress.
- Tell your Members of Congress to prevent mass deportations. Read and share this [factsheet](#) on the impact of parental deportations on children, and this [report](#) on the harm of immigration enforcement on children.
- Join us at the Children Thrive Action Network! Organizations who want to work as a network to further this goal can join CTAN [here](#).