



2019 National Community Action Immigration Summit

**Building Opportunities for Immigrant Families:
The Role of Community Action Agencies**

April 3-5, 2019

El Paso Community Foundation, El Paso, TX

SUMMIT OBJECTIVES

- ***Learn, Explore, and Uncover*** how individuals access legal residence status, existing immigration issues, and the role that Community Action Agencies can play to meet the needs of immigrant families
- ***Experience*** the realities of individuals and families who are navigating immigration process
- ***Spotlight*** what Community Action is currently doing
- ***Motivate*** a national policy response

PRESENTED BY

*The national Community Action Partnership with support from
Project Bravo El Paso Community Action Program*



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Building Opportunities for Immigrant Families:
The Role of Community Action Agencies
April 3-5, 2019
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PRELIMINARY AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3RD

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM

BREAKFAST (PROVIDED)

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Welcome, Objectives, and Agenda Overview

Presenters: *Denise Harlow*, MSW, CCAP, NCRT, Chief Executive Officer, Community Action Partnership – National Office; **Commissioner David Stout**, El Paso County Commissioner's Court, Pct. 2 (*Invited*); **Senator José Rodríguez**, District 29, The Texas State Senate (*Invited*)

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Understanding Immigration in the US and the Current Crises (Panel)

Learn about immigration history, myths, and facts impacting refugee families. An overview of the immigration crisis from the national and local levels will be provided. Key advocates in the work and resources will be highlighted.

Presenters: *Mark Greenberg*, Senior Fellow, Migration Policy Institute; *Laura Vazquez*, Senior Program Manager, Immigration Initiatives, UnidosUS

Moderator: *Laura Ponce*, Executive Director, Project Bravo El Paso Community Action Program

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM

BREAK

- 10:45 AM – 11:30 AM** **Deriving a Legal and Policy Perspective (Panel)**
 During this session, a team of legal experts will provide a survey of immigration law and policies which provide opportunities and barriers for families. The panel will also discuss how people can immigrate legally to the US or get legal status and the changing dynamic of the deportation policies on vulnerable persons.
Presenters: *Connie Choi*, Protecting Immigrant Families Campaign, National Immigration Law Center; ***Veronica H. Zhang***, Assistant Counsel, Community Action Program Legal Services (CAPLAW); ***Legal Aid (Invited)***
- 11:30 AM – 11:45 AM** **Lunch (*PROVIDED*)**
- 11:45 AM – 1:00 PM** **Community Action Immigration Stories (Panel)**
 Community Action leaders from around the country will share their stories of supporting families, best practices for navigating “systems” and lessons learned.
Presenters: *Dawn Hommer*, Executive Director, Community Action Agency of Southern New Mexico, Inc.; ***Arlene McAtee***, Executive Director, Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc.; ***Elizabeth Jonasson***, Communications and Strategy Officer, Fresno Economic Opportunity Council; ***Ann Awalt***, Executive Director, Community Action Corporation of South Texas (*Invited*);
- 1:00 PM – 1:15 PM** **Special Remarks**
Presenter: *David Bradley*, Co-Founder, Chief Executive Officer, National Community Action Foundation (NCAF)
- 1:15 PM – 1:30 PM** **Break**
- 1:30 PM – 11:00 PM** **Crossing the Border, Dinner, and Cultural Experience**
 This emersion experience includes crossing of the U.S. Border by bus into Mexico and learning about life and business south of the US border. ***Bring passports, government issued ID, birth certificate (if you don't have a passport)***. Plan to wear comfortable shoes. All participants in this activity must remain with the group at all times.
DINNER AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCE IN MEXICO (*PROVIDED*)
NOTE: *Participants should plan to return to Hotel Indigo El Paso Downtown by bus late evening - approximately 11:00 PM MT.*

THURSDAY, APRIL 4TH

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BREAKFAST (PROVIDED)

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM

What We Know Now

Engage in a recap of learning and resources thus far and review the upcoming summit agenda objectives.

Presenter: Denise Harlow, MSW, CCAP, NCRT, Chief Executive Officer, Community Action Partnership – National Office

9:15 AM

What Happened at Tornillo? (Plenary)

This session will explore the impact of displacement, particularly on children. Tornillo was a “tent city” detention center which recently closed. While in operation, it housed hundreds of children who were separated from their families. Experiences from Tornillo will be shared to deepen participant perspectives about the urgent needs of immigrant families.

Presenter: Bob Moore, Journalist

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM

BREAK

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Education: An Opportunity Pathway for Families (Panel)

This session will highlight barriers to accessing education and feature transformation stories related to early childhood education and Models for increasing access to college/trade school for adults

Presenters: Yvette Sanchez-Fuentes, Director of the Children, Youth, and Family Services Division, Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo, Inc.; **Weldon T Beard**, President, Texas Head Start Association (Invited); **Lucia Rodriguez**, Office of Student Success, University of Texas at El Paso; **Ivette Savina**, Outreach and Student Access, El Paso Community College

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

LUNCH (PROVIDED)

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

In Our Own Words (Panel)

Families will share their real displacement narratives along with their dreams for their future. They will provide insight on what is the most helpful response to meet their needs at this time.

3:00 PM - 3:15 PM

BREAK

3:15 PM - 4:30 PM

Making the Case & Changing the Narrative (Plenary)

This session will highlight the impact of living in a community without legal status, barriers facing immigrant families, and the case for a humanitarian response to the immigration crisis. Additionally, racial bias and cultural stigma and culturally informed strategies for navigating institutional barriers and social isolation will be highlighted.

Presenter: Dr. Angel Gallardo, Scholar and Activist (*Invited*)

FRIDAY, APRIL 5TH

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

BREAKFAST (PROVIDED)

8:30 AM – 8:45 AM

A Call to Action

Presenter: Denise Harlow, MSW, CCAP, NCRT, Chief Executive Officer, Community Action Partnership – National Office

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

Making the “Count” Count (Plenary)

This session will highlight the role that data plays in understanding the needs of families and strategies for effective data collection, reporting and analysis.

Presenter: Pauline Nunez, Partnership Coordinator, U.S. Census Bureau – Denver Region

9:45 AM – 10:30 AM

Resources for CAA Toolboxes (Plenary)

This will be an interactive session to highlight practical tools and information on how to connect families to resources.

Presenter: Tiffney Marley, CCAP, NCRT, Director of Practice Transformation, Community Action Partnership – National Office

10:30 AM

ADJOURN

THE PROMISE OF COMMUNITY ACTION

Community Action changes people’s lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live.

We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.