

Dallas County Children in Immigrant Families

Policies should keep immigrant families together and out of poverty

With one in four Dallas County kids living in immigrant families, supporting immigrant families is critical for Texas' future. Unfortunately, there has been an increase in anti-immigrant rhetoric and a hostile reversal of support of immigrant families in Texas and nationally. The separation and detention of families at the militarized U.S.-Mexico border (including separation caused by increased deportations), forced local enforcement of federal immigration laws, and attacks on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program threaten the well-being of Dallas County immigrant families.

CHILDREN IN IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

One in four Dallas County children live with at least one parent who is not a U.S. citizen (including legally authorized residents).

Immigrant families face the same challenges as all Texas families but can encounter additional barriers that affect economic stability. These barriers include difficulty in accessing jobs that pay a family-sustaining wage and public programs such as food assistance, housing, child care, or children's health insurance.

Dallas County families living in poverty by type of family

- No immigrant parents: **19%**
- At least one immigrant parent: **26%**

DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA)

The DACA program grants certain qualified immigrant youth who were brought to the U.S. as children temporary relief from deportation and gives them authorization to work lawfully.

Nearly 50,000 youth who are eligible for DACA live in Dallas County.

The future of the DACA program—and the futures of these children and young adults—remains uncertain following federal and state challenges.

SOLUTIONS



Common-sense policies put children first:

- Keep children in immigrant families together with their parents.
- Remove barriers to accessing educational, medical, and nutritional resources for U.S. citizen children living in immigrant families (and don't create new barriers).
- Pass a national Dream Act to provide a pathway to citizenship and work authorization for immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children.

[Learn more at CPPP.org](http://CPPP.org)

#TXkidscount

1. Approximately 146,000 Dallas County children live with a parent who is not a U.S. citizen (including legally authorized residents).
 **What policies do you support to ensure equitable access to food, education, and health care for children in immigrant families?**
2. Immigrants in Dallas County represent a diverse and complex group with differences in English-speaking proficiency, education levels, and racial and ethnic backgrounds.
 **What will you do to ensure educational opportunity for children in immigrant families, including children who speak English as a second language or who are bilingual?**
3. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program provides protection for young people who were brought to the U.S. without documentation as children. The approximately 50,000 DACA eligible youth in Dallas County have lived here most of their lives.
 **What policies do you support to secure the future of DACA recipients?**
4. Immigration functions as both a cause and effect of growth: growing cities attract workers, and new workers bolster economic growth.
 **What is your opinion about immigration as a way to grow Dallas County's economy?**
5. When families are fearful of immigration policies, they may hesitate to access the medical, educational, and nutritional resources for which they or their children legally qualify, even if their children are U.S. citizens.
 **What strategies do you support to ensure that children in immigrant families have access to resources to promote healthy development?**
6. Children who are separated from their parents through detention and deportation may suffer psychological trauma, instability, and material hardship after the family's breadwinner is no longer in the household.
 **How will you protect children whose families are under threat of or actively experiencing separation?**