

Texas Children in Immigrant Families

Policies should keep immigrant families together and out of poverty

Like all Texans, immigrants deserve human rights. With one in four Texas kids living in immigrant families, supporting 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 U.S.-Mexico border (including separation caused by increased deportations), forced local enforcement of immigration laws, and attacks on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program threaten the well-being of Texas immigrant families and their children.

CHILDREN IN IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

One in four Texas 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, childcare, or children's health insurance.

Families living in poverty:

- No immigrant parents: **18%**
- At least one immigrant parent: **30%**

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 in the U.S.

**Nearly 111,700
DACA recipients
live in Texas**

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 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), and
- 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)

#TXVotes4Kids

1. Approximately 1.8 million Texas children live with a parent who is not a U.S. citizen (includes lawfully 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 Texas 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. Texas' nearly 111,700 DACA recipients 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 Texas' 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 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?**