

Immigration Policy & Impact on Health Clinics

BY SERVICES, IMMIGRANT RIGHTS, AND EDUCATION NETWORK (SIREN)

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Agenda

- ▶ Overview of Executive Orders and ICE Enforcement
- ▶ Potential Impact to Health Centers
- ▶ What Health Clinics Can Do?
 - ▶ Messages and Resources for Patients
 - ▶ Policies and Protocols to Protect Patients
 - ▶ Campaigns and Policies to Support
- ▶ Resources

About SIREN

- ▶ Mission: Empower low-income immigrants and refugees in Northern California
- ▶ Strategies:
 - ▶ Immigration Legal Services
 - ▶ Community Outreach
 - ▶ Community Organizing
 - ▶ Policy and Advocacy
- ▶ Further Information:
 - ▶ www.siren-bayarea.org
 - ▶ www.facebook.com/sirensj
 - ▶ Twitter: @SIREN_BayArea



Overview of Immigration Executive Orders

- ▶ 4 Signed Executive Orders:
 - ▶ Travel Ban on Muslims and Refugees (1.0 + 2.0)
 - ▶ Interior Enforcement
 - ▶ Border Wall
- ▶ Potential Draft Executive Orders
 - ▶ DACA/DAPA/Enforcement Priorities
 - ▶ Recipients of Public Benefits
 - ▶ Foreign Workers

Interior Enforcement Executive Order + DHS Memos

- ▶ Revamps enforcement priorities so anyone could be a priority
- ▶ Hiring of 10k additional deportation officers
- ▶ Punishes states and localities who have “sanctuary” policies
- ▶ Reinstates Secure Communities and 287(g) programs
- ▶ Making public crimes committed by noncitizens in sanctuary cities and creates office for victims of crimes committed by immigrants

Muslim/Refugee Travel Ban Executive Order

- ▶ Travel Ban 1.0 halted by litigation and revoked by President; Travel Ban 2.0 then signed
- ▶ Prohibits entry by immigrants and visitors from 6 predominantly Muslim countries for 90 days
 - ▶ Syria; Iran; Libya; Somalia; Sudan; Yemen
 - ▶ Does not apply to green card holders or dual nationals
 - ▶ Case-by-case waivers: undue hardship, no threat to national security, and in national interest
 - ▶ Applies to foreign nationals from these countries outside US on 3/16/17 and did not have valid visa on 1/27/17
 - ▶ Suspends refugee resettlement for 120 days and reduces refugees accepted from 110,000 to 50,000 annually

Border Enforcement Executive Order

- ▶ Expansion of detention and expedited removal
- ▶ Hiring of 5,000 border patrol agents
- ▶ Expanding programs allowing police to enforce immigration law at the border
- ▶ Study of border security
- ▶ Border wall construction and funding

Potential Impact to Health Centers

- ▶ Deportation and threat of deportation create climate of fear
- ▶ Health-seeking behaviors impacted by fear of law enforcement or deportation
- ▶ Stress, anxiety and hopelessness
- ▶ Affects children in the family even if US citizens
- ▶ Threat of deportation makes domestic violence/gender-based violence victims less safe
- ▶ Less likely to report crimes or cooperate as witnesses

What Can Health Clinics Do?

- ▶ Promote health agency policies to provide services to all and ensure all understand they are welcome
- ▶ Support local jurisdictions that provide sanctuary/safe spaces for undocumented residents
- ▶ Connect undocumented patients and their families with legal rights and community organizing groups
- ▶ Encourage sister agencies, including law enforcement, to protect people and their families
- ▶ Join/build alliances that cross issue areas and include immigration

What Can Health Clinics Do?

Messages + Resources for Patients

- ▶ Publicly state commitment that medical and social service agencies are sanctuaries for all regardless of immigration status
- ▶ Post signs in multiple languages welcoming to all
 - ▶ “You’re safe here!”
 - ▶ “You can continue to receive care here”
- ▶ Disseminate KYR information and flyers in clinic lobbies + co-sponsor KYR sessions at your clinics

What Can Health Clinics Do?

Policies + Protocols

- ▶ Review data policies to ensure patient data cannot be used to identify or deport patients
 - ▶ Work with epidemiologists, clinical staff, statisticians re what may be vulnerable to a subpoena and limit collection of data that could be used to identify undocumented people
- ▶ Train staff in identifying particular needs of undocumented patients or mixed-status families

What Can Health Clinics Do?

Policies + Protocols

- ▶ Adopt policies similar to safe schools resolutions
 - ▶ Do not inquire about immigration status
 - ▶ Require that any communication initiated by health clinics regarding patient information requires patient consent
 - ▶ Refuse all voluntary information sharing with immigration agents
 - ▶ If ICE appears at a clinic:
 - ▶ Deny entry → inform top-level administrator and counsel → request immigrant agent's credentials → ask for warrant signed by federal/state judge with written authority to enter and individual named
 - ▶ Train staff on written policies and procedures

What Can Health Clinics Do?

Policies + Protocols

- ▶ Adopt policies similar to safe schools resolutions
 - ▶ Remember DHS memos!
 - ▶ Personal information only used for eligibility purposes
 - ▶ Hospitals, doctor's offices, accredited health clinics, and emergent/urgent care facilities are “sensitive spaces” for conducting enforcement
 - ▶ Track/study number of un-enrollments to encourage undocumented people to continue seeking health agency support

Support Policies and Campaigns Protecting Immigrants

- ▶ Federal legislation defunding and nullifying executive orders
- ▶ State and local policies that ensure no communication between ICE and local law enforcement
- ▶ Lawsuits filed against federal government against executive orders
- ▶ Resolutions that healthcare facilities are safe zones for undocumented immigrants
 - ▶ Personal information will not be shared with ICE or DHS and will only be used to determine eligibility into California health programs
 - ▶ Enforcement activities will not be conducted in or around California health care facilities
 - ▶ Health care facility staff and personnel will abide by ethics code when working with undocumented patients

Resources

- ▶ Model Language for Safe Schools Resolutions: <https://www.nilc.org/issues/immigration-enforcement/campus-safe-zones-language-k-12/>
- ▶ ICE Memo re Sensitive Locations: <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf>
- ▶ Keeping Health Care Facilities Safe Presentation: <https://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Field-Call-12.13.16.pdf>
- ▶ Public Health Actions for Immigrant Rights: <http://publichealthawakened.com/guide-for-public-health-to-protect-immigrant-rights/>

STAY IN TOUCH!

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