

IMPACT REPORT

2022-2023



Keep on walking.
Credit: North Carolina Asian Americans Together

STAY CONNECTED



PIFCOALITION.ORG



Credit: Seguro TX

MISSION AND VISION

The Protecting Immigrant Families Coalition brings together leading advocates for immigrants, children, education, health, anti-hunger, anti-poverty groups, and faith leaders to the foundation for a future where everyone has access to the respect and care that they need, regardless of who they are or where they were born.

OUR VISION

A nation where all are truly equal, immigration is recognized as a strength, and no one in America is denied the essentials of life because of where they were born.

OUR MISSION

Unite to protect and defend access to health care, nutrition programs, public services, and economic supports for immigrants and their families at the local, state, and federal level.



Credit: El Centro, Inc.



Credit: Nashville International Center for Empowerment



Credit: El Centro, Inc.

DEAR PARTNERS, SUPPORTERS, AND FRIENDS,

Together we are building a country where immigrant families have the essentials they need to thrive. In its first full fiscal year (July 2022–June 2023) as a fiscally sponsored project, PIF grew in membership, solidified its campaigns, subgranted over \$1.5 million to partners, and initiated three new projects to ensure the inclusion of immigrant families in our nation's safety net.

In fall 2022, we welcomed the publication of the new public charge rule. This was a major victory for immigrant families. The Biden rule aimed to ensure that immigrants could access necessary services without fear of jeopardizing their immigration status. It's a testament to the hard work and dedication of our partners who have fought tirelessly for this change. Nonetheless, this fight is far from over. The idea that immigrants should be denied entry or residency based on their likelihood of becoming dependent on public assistance programs unfairly targets low-income people of color and perpetuates systemic inequality.

In this last year, we focused on solidifying our strategic approaches of power building, policy and systems change, coalition building, narrative building, and communications strategy to address racial equity in social support systems that are vital toward creating a caring and inclusive society. We focused on:

- Supporting our local and state partners with over \$1.5 million in subgrants
- Addressing the unwinding of Medicaid's pandemic-era continuous coverage
- Building support to remove the five-year waiting period for legal permanent residents to apply for benefits
- Working with partners to advance policies that expand immigrant access to healthcare

These efforts could not have been possible without the engagement of our partners across the nation, our Executive and Steering Committee members, and our funders and supporters.

We appreciate your unwavering support and your willingness to work together as we fight for a future where immigrant families get the help they need, when they need it, and where our nation embraces the rich diversity of immigrant communities.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Cadena'.

Adriana Cadena
Director

2022–2023 BY THE NUMBERS

660

active member organizations

1,454

webinar registrants

419K

accounts reached on X (formerly Twitter)

424

organizational sign-ons for letter to Department of Health and Human Services advocating for healthcare expansion

176K

individuals reached through

475+

in-person and virtual events

POWER BUILDING

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

PIF's subgranted partners conducted extraordinary power-building efforts in immigrant communities through outreach, education, and organizing. The growth and adjustments our partners made as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in diversified, multiformat campaigns that combined in-person, virtual, digital, and multimedia reach. PIF's subgrant funds helped partners reach 176,611 individuals through over 475 in-person and virtual events.

“Thanks to you, Black immigrants in Illinois know their rights related to public charge. Moreover about 500 Black immigrants in Illinois have health insurance for the first time. They can see a doctor, get medication and feel healthier.” —United African Organization (IL)

PIF's community-centered outreach messages were adapted into social media campaigns, flyers, websites, community presentations, front-line staff training sessions, and more. While the majority of subgrantees used PIF's materials in English and Spanish, many subgrantees used the materials available in seven other languages, as well. Central to PIF is putting clear information in the hands of immigrants so they can make the best decision for their families and take ownership of their right to access our nation's safety net. Accordingly, PIF worked to pair grassroots partner organizations with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for a series of community outreach events aimed at thawing the public charge chilling effect. Events took place in cities across the country—from California, to Florida and Michigan, to Texas.

“Nowhere else in NYC have we seen any information similar to PIF's and which is targeted to French-speaking immigrants. As such, the impact of this information's dissemination has been very important and highly valued.” —African Services Committee (NYC)

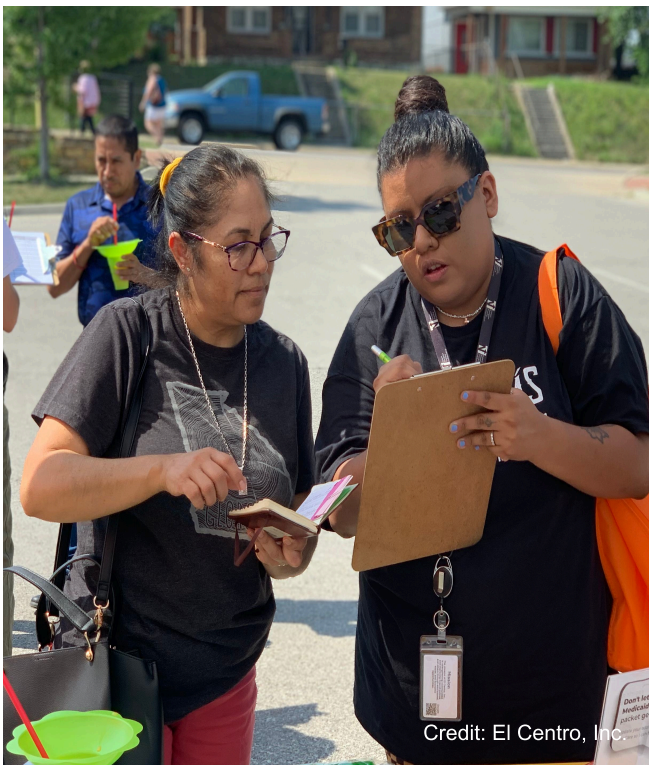


STORIES OF IMPACT

“One story that is both extraordinary in its potential impact but also common and emblematic of the results this grant has achieved occurred during the winter when working with the parent of a client receiving immigration legal services. The mother expressed concerns about making ends meet and the advocate working with her was able to share in Spanish that she may be able to access some public benefits that would assist her at this difficult time. The mother said that she had heard that immigrants should never do that, and even cited the term ‘public charge’ in English. The advocate was able to share PIF-MI adapted materials from the website, as well as PIF national items online, to help her see that in her case and for the benefits that she would be eligible for, it was unlikely that her family would ever see a negative impact from public charge.” —Michigan Immigrant Rights Center (MI)



Credit: North Carolina Asian Americans Together



Credit: El Centro, Inc.

“Our public benefits case manager ... did a benefits information session using PIF resources and materials. At this session, he met with one of IAC’s former clients. ... This former client hadn’t connected with or utilized any of our services in seven years. She scheduled an appointment with our case manager where he helped her further understand eligibility. Ultimately, our case manager helped our client apply for food stamps, senior bus pass, and look into affordable senior housing! Our client has been in the U.S. for over 40 years, working a number of jobs from babysitter to substitute teacher, but had never thought to apply for public benefits before, fearing it would ‘look bad’ in a culture that maintains a ‘pick yourself up from the bootstraps’ mentality.” —Indo-American Center (IL)

POLICY AND SYSTEMS CHANGE

PIF's Federal Advocacy Working Group, with over a hundred members, was instrumental in educating decision-makers on federal barriers to immigrants' access to public benefits. Hundreds of national, state, and local organizations joined PIF in educating policymakers on the impact of the five-year bar that prohibits legal permanent residents from applying for public benefits by joining an organizational sign-on letter, participating in a May 2023 Week of Action. Notably, the LIFT the BAR Act was reintroduced in June 2023 with 103 cosponsors in the House of Representatives—already surpassing the number of cosponsors in previous years—and 11 cosponsors in the Senate.

PIF mounted an emergency campaign in defense of the Biden public charge rule when a Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution to rescind the Biden rule was introduced in Congress. PIF quickly mobilized to create tool kits, materials, and an organizational sign-on letter.

In April 2023, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a proposed regulation to provide health coverage to more than 100,000 people granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals status (DACA). The rule would also clarify health coverage for other noncitizens. PIF drafted and organized a comment letter, with nearly 425 organizations signing on, and advocated for HHS to issue the final rule in time for open enrollment on November 1, 2023.

COALITION BUILDING

As a coalition, PIF's strength lies in its partner organizations. National partners are central to advance federal policy and lend their expertise to local and state campaigns. Our local and state partners keep PIF grounded in the needs of communities and drive policy change at the local and state level. In addition, PIF's unique multisectoral composition allows for collaborations across silos to advance access and expansion of public benefits for immigrant communities.



Our partners engaged in administrative and legislative advocacy in their respective states. Partners trained community members to educate policymakers and take part in state-level advocacy days. They advanced in-state tuition, expansions of state-funded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), language access, and continuous Medicaid coverage for children.

PIF's State Policy Working Group, with close to 300 members, continued to create a space for state advocates from across the country to share their successful strategies and campaigns to expand immigrant access to public benefits, while also diving more deeply into policy issues that could be

enacted in their states. The working group shared strategies on a wide range of topics, including Medicaid unwinding, Medicaid expansion for prenatal and postpartum immigrants, race and ethnicity categorization in state data collection, language access, and immigrant inclusion in state disaster response.

“With support from PIF ... COPAL’s legislative engagement with community members led to a powerful presence at the Capitol, which helped to secure critical legislative wins for immigrant families in Minnesota, securing driver’s licenses for all, access to affordable healthcare, and increased support for ITIN users.”
—COPAL (MN)

PIF’s state partners achieved many policy milestones for immigrant communities, such as postpartum coverage expansion in Maryland, language access in Michigan, expansions in state health coverage in Washington, and food access in Massachusetts, while battling challenging state budget conditions and fighting back against proposed anti-immigrant restrictions. PIF’s state partners engaged with their state benefits administrations, providing training for front-line staff, seeking greater accessibility, and advocating for immigrant-inclusive planning for the Medicaid unwinding in each state.

NARRATIVE BUILDING AND COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

PIF is passionate about shifting the narrative on how our country sees immigrants and public benefits as well how immigrants themselves view the use of benefits.

PIF developed pitches for health, immigration, and other beat reporters on issues like Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) access and Medicaid unwinding, public charge, and the potential of safety-net access to improve immigrant families’ ability to contribute to their communities. We tracked more than 500 news articles on related issues since July 2022, including placements in [The New York Times](#) and the [Los Angeles Times](#).

PIF engaged local partners in immigrant-rich states like Florida and Illinois for outreach to media outlets serving immigrant communities, pitching stories on improved safety-net access for immigrant families.

PIF released a set of research-informed [“words that work”](#) on public charge in April. With support from No Kid Hungry, the messages are informed by a series of focus groups and a survey of people in immigrant families, and represent the best available guidance for outreach to immigrant families to thaw the public charge chilling effect.

As part of our May LIFT the BAR Week of Action, we co-hosted an X “tweetstorm” with First Focus Campaign for Children, National Immigration Law Center, National Low Income Housing Coalition, Coalition on Human Needs, Feeding America Action, and Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO) and were joined by local and state partners from across the country.

NEW INITIATIVES

MEDICAID UNWINDING TASK FORCE

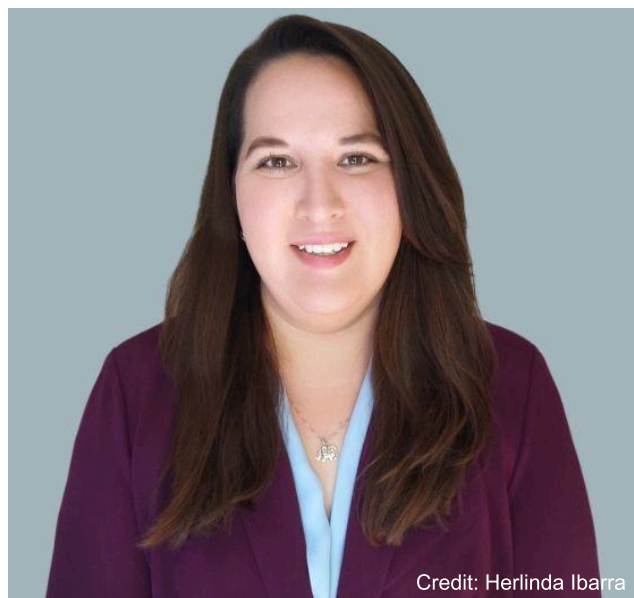
In March 2023, state advocates from nearly 20 states and national experts came together to form the Medicaid Unwinding Task Force (MUTF) to identify potential problems, successes, early observations, and concerns for immigrant families during the unwinding; share steps that state Medicaid agencies and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) can take to remove re-enrollment barriers for immigrants and their families; report problems to federal agencies; and provide support for community education/earned media. In partnership with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the MUTF published an [Unwinding Checklist for State Advocates](#) that shared state-level advocacy strategies to keep immigrants and their families covered when Medicaid renewals restarted. PIF's Community Education Working Group collaborated with the MUTF to create [community educational materials](#) in eight languages.

HERLINDA PROJECT

PIF initiated the Herlinda Project, supported by Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry campaign, to educate immigration attorneys that it is safe for immigrants and their families to enroll in most public benefits programs. The Urban Institute found that [an attorney or legal aid organization is among the most trusted](#), second only to the government. However, immigration attorneys are not well informed on eligibility of public benefits programs. Through the Herlinda Project, PIF will provide educational materials that families can share with their attorneys, state-specific benefits

pages on www.keepyourbenefits.org, and training modules for legal service providers.

Why Herlinda? Herlinda Ibarra was a health enrollment eligibility manager in Texas who worked to enroll immigrants and their family members in health and nutrition programs. After the Trump administration's public charge changes were leaked, many of her clients began sharing that their immigration attorney told them not to enroll in public benefits programs. But Herlinda was on a mission. Not only did she counsel her clients with accurate information, she also personally followed up with every attorney who told a client not to enroll in health and nutrition programs to educate them about the facts.



Credit: Herlinda Ibarra

LOCAL TABLES

PIF launched local "silo-busting" tables projects to assess capacity and power-building infrastructures that could enhance the ability to increase enrollment in public benefits among immigrant families, expand access to benefits, and increase the power of immigrant communities.

The projects were launched in cities with a diversity of immigrant populations, a strong local PIF partner, and the organizing infrastructure to bring



Credit: Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina (COPAL)



Credit: Hola Carolina

together immigrant rights organizations, safety-net providers, and advocates together to coordinate outreach and organizing efforts to improve immigrant families' health and well-being. The research and assessments are ongoing in the following cities: Houston, Texas; Des Moines, Iowa; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Atlanta, Georgia.

Through this project we anticipate having important insights on building local silo-busting tables to increase the power of immigrant communities and access to support systems.

YOUR ITIN, YOUR MONEY

Building upon the lessons learned in the Child Tax Credit (CTC) promotion activities and immigrant parents' need for Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs) so that they could take advantage of the opportunity to receive the CTC or other tax benefits, PIF partnered with Steering Committee members—National Immigration Law Center, Center on Law and Social Policy, and UnidosUS—to initiate an ITIN project. PIF and partners created a suite of ITIN promotional materials and a tool kit with background information, links to supportive explainers, and more that community-based organizations (CBOs) could use to educate their community outreach workers, community members, and clients.

PIF also provided subgrants to further the ITIN promotion work. Two subgrants were issued to nonprofit community media organizations that creatively adapted the materials to reach audiences beyond their states, including a Facebook Live broadcast in Mam, a Mayan language. Two other subgrants were issued to CBOs allowing them to actively engage in tax preparation, ITIN filing promotion, and client tax navigation for immigrant families in Tennessee and Florida.



WHATSAPP

2,200+

**PEOPLE REACHED
EACH MONTH**



INSTAGRAM

1,000+

**PEOPLE REACHED
OVER 3 MONTHS**



FACEBOOK

3.3K–4.8K

**PEOPLE REACHED
EACH MONTH**

LEADERSHIP

It is through our 600-member cross-sector coalition of child welfare, housing, health, anti-hunger, and anti-poverty groups; legal service providers; community organizers; and faith leaders forging unprecedented, united action in 43 states and Washington, DC, that PIF has the power to advance our mission. Thank you, partners, for your continued engagement and expertise.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Texas

Kica Matos

President,
National Immigration Law Center
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STEERING COMMITTEE

Asian & Pacific Islander American
Health Forum (APIAHF)

Association of Asian Pacific
Community Health Organizations
(AAPCHO)

California Immigrant Policy Center
(CIPC)

Center on Budget and Policy
Priorities (CBPP)

Center for Law and Social Policy
(CLASP)

Children's Defense Fund – Texas

Community Catalyst

Food Research and Action Center
(FRAC)

Immigrant Legal Resource Center
(ILRC)

Massachusetts Immigrant &
Refugee Advocacy Coalition
(MIRA)

MamásConPoder/
MomsRising

National Health Law Program
(NHLP)

National Immigration Law
Center (NILC)

Shriver Center on Poverty Law

UndocuBlack Network

UnidosUS

LOOKING FORWARD

In the next year, we will continue to focus our efforts to defend and promote the rights of immigrant families to access health, nutrition, housing, and economic supports. We will also finalize our “re-visioning” process—a journey we started to renew our long-term strategic approach to address our nation’s legacy of structural racism that has denied immigrant families essential public benefits and social services. This journey is necessary to align our purpose, mission, and values in our network, ensuring a strong coalition that is equipped to fully engage our partners in our vision and approach.

We are consciously engaging directly impacted communities, local grassroots organizations, state coalitions, and national partners from across the spectrum of services and areas of work. Our intention is to leverage their insight and expertise in order to build people and organizational power to tear down systemic cultural barriers so immigrant families can get the help they need, where they need it, and to create a society where every person can thrive, regardless of where they were born.

We invite you to join us in advancing our mission. Please send any questions, media requests, or expressions of interest in funding our vital work to pif@pifcoalition.org.

In solidarity,
The PIF Team