

# Partnering with "Hard to Connect" Families

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2019 NTACT Capacity Building Institute

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Center for Parent Information  
& Resources



Resources for Access,  
Independence, Self-Advocacy  
& Employment

# OBJECTIVES

Explore models and best practices to reach underserved families

Learn strategies for bridging cultural, racial, and linguistic differences

Learn approaches for overcoming challenges

Learn resources targeting Spanish-speaking families, Native American families, Black families, and foreign born families



# Our Demography-The Facts

**44.5 million** immigrants resident in the United States as of 2017. They comprise **13.7 percent**—of the overall U.S. population (325.7 million people)

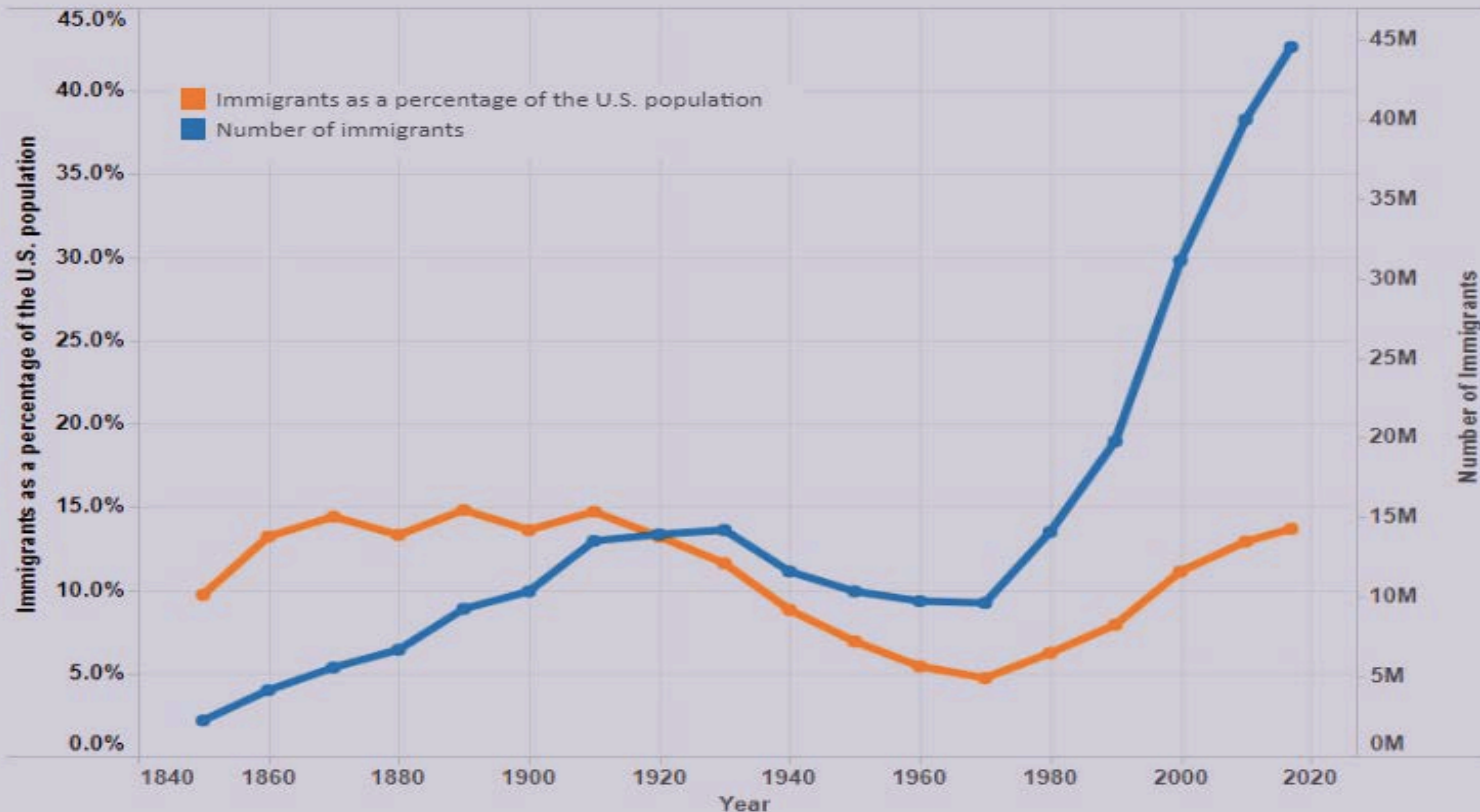
One in seven U.S. residents is foreign born

22 percent of the US population (66.5 million) reported speaking a language other than English at home

Of the top languages, Spanish was by far the most common (62 percent)

# Size and Share of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States, 1850-2017

Figure 1. Size and Share of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States, 1850-2017



Source: Migration Policy Institute (MPI) tabulation of data from U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-17 American Community Surveys (ACS), and 1970, 1990, and 2000 Decennial Census. All other data are from Campbell J. Gibson and Emily Lennon, "Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-Born Population of the United States: 1850 to 1990" (Working Paper no. 29., U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 1999).



## Our Demography-The Facts (Continued)

In 2017, 48 percent (21.2 million) of 44.2 million immigrants ages 5 and older were Limited English Proficient (LEP).

In 2017, 31 percent (12 million) of the 39 million immigrants ages 25 and older had a bachelor's degree or higher

In 2017, there were 27.4 million children under age 18 living in low-income families; 8.8 million (or 32 percent) were children of immigrants.

## Top Five States by Absolute Growth in Immigrant Population, 1990-2000 and 2000-17)

### Absolute Growth

Rank	1990-2000		2000-2017	
1	California	2,410,000	Texas	1,950,000
2	Texas	1,380,000	California	1,790,000
3	New York	1,020,000	Florida	1,710,000
4	Florida	1,010,000	New York	670,000
5	Illinois	580,000	New Jersey	580,000

Source: Migration Policy Institute

## Top Five States by Percent Growth in Immigrant Population, 1990-2000 and 2000-17)

### Percent Growth

Rank	1990-2000		2000-2017	
1	North Carolina	274%	North Dakota	156%
2	Georgia	234%	Delaware	119%
3	Nevada	202%	Tennessee	119%
4	Arkansas	196%	South Dakota	118%
5	Utah	171%	Kentucky	111%

Source: Migration Policy Institute

## Our Demography-The Facts (Continued)

11.3 million undocumented immigrants resided in the United States in 2016

In 2018 approximately 1.3 million people met all criteria to apply under the original DACA program

As of August 30, 2018, according to most recent data from USCIS, 699,350 individuals were current DACA recipients

\* **Source Migration Policy Institute** <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/frequently-requested-statistics-immigrants-and-immigration-united-states#ChangeOverTime>





# Understanding Barriers that Immigrant Families Face

Discrimination

Formal education level

Differences in language and culture that inhibit communication

Limited English Skills

Fear and Distrust of Government



# Understanding Barriers that Underserved Families Face

Disproportionality in Special Education

Incarcerated Parents- 2 million children in the US have  
an incarcerated parent

Parents of children in foster care

# Getting started...

## Relationships are the key





# Parents as Partners- "Recruitment"

Identifying potential diverse parent leaders is the responsibility of everyone:

- Family organizations
- State agencies & their grantees
- Disability organizations
- Community-based, immigrant, & other organizations who work with underserved families even if their focus is not families of CSHCN
- Other partners

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# “Leaderful” Organizations

Clear & compelling mission & vision “set the stage” for an organization that values parent leadership

What does your vision/mission statement tell:

- Parents about your expectations for their leadership?
- Parents about the opportunities for leadership?
- Your staff about their role in identifying, recruiting, preparing, & supporting diverse parent leaders?
- Others about the value you place on parent leadership?

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## Activity:

Who might be your potential allies to help you partner with “Hard to Connect” families?



## Identifying/recruiting potential diverse parent leaders

Encouragement of diverse parents participating in:

- Support groups
- Workshops
- Trainings
- Focus Groups
- Other events?

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# Leadership Engagement

Critical supports are provided:

- Multiple opportunities for participation
- The level of participation can vary as needed
- Families receive sufficient advance notice
- Family participation is facilitated
- Families are listened to
- Families do not experience retribution as a result of their participation
- Family participation is consciously & visibly appreciated





# Engaging Spanish Speaking Parent Tips

- Plan to be flexible with time
- Hold conferences and trainings at locations where families feel safe to meet
- Use text & phone calls in addition to email
- Apps like WhatsApp are very popular
- Social Media (Facebook) is also effective
- Ask staff who speak Spanish to present training/classes or facilitate meetings
- Know that face-to-face contact works best for Hispanic parents.

# Engaging Spanish Speaking Parent Tips (Continued)

- Arrange for appropriate & accurate translations.
- Use interpreters at outreach sessions.
- Enlist bilingual and bicultural individuals who are native speakers and are aware of cultural implications.
- Know which Latino subgroup you are working with.
- Where to find them: churches, community centers, Hispanic associations, cultural centers

# Tips to Engage “Hard to Connect” Parents

- Conduct events that are easily accessible via public transportation.
- Schedule training times to fit day care providers' schedules.
- Repeat invitations and calls.
- Convince participants that they are welcome.

# Tools- OSEP English Spanish Glossary

## OSEP English to Spanish Translation Glossary

Feb 13, 2019

This 2nd edition of the *OSEP Glossary of Spanish Translations of Common IDEA Terms* includes over 400 terms related to IDEA Parts B and C (the parts of IDEA that cover special education and early intervention services, respectively). The terms were selected by experienced translators from Parent Centers who have worked with families with children with disabilities representing the majority of Spanish-speaking cultures in Latin America and Spain.

Parents' thoughts and perceptions of the translations were of major importance in the glossary's development. Through a series of focus group, the project received input from ninety (90) parents/caregivers of children receiving services under IDEA. Families from a diversity of Spanish-speaking cultures participated in the focus groups.



Online tool

Contains over 300 terms from Part B and Part C

Printable version

<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/osep-spanish-glossary/>

# Tools That Empower Spanish-Speaking Parents

## Tools That Empower Spanish-Speaking Parents

Jul 13, 2017

Links updated, July 2017

*A resource page for Parent Centers*

*Compiled by Myriam Alizo, CPIR*

[Download this page as an adaptable, accessible Word document](#)

Many Parent Centers provide information and training to Spanish-speaking parents of children with disabilities. In fact, in the last year, more than 27% of the families served by Parent Centers received their services in Spanish. CPIR is pleased to share with Parent Centers this “starter” list of tools that can empower Spanish-speaking parents and support the bilingual work that so many Parent Centers do.



<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/tools-for-spanish-speaking-parents/>

# Best Practices in Outreach

## Best Practices in Outreach

June 2017

The Parent Center network shares a common list of priority topics from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) at the U.S. Department of Education. **This Hub page focuses on the priority topic of best practices in outreach.** It's divided into the following sections:

- [Why These Resources?](#)
- [Culture Matters](#)
- [Using Technology in Outreach](#)



<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/best-practices-in-outreach/>

# Questions?



# Reaching and Engaging “Hard to Connect” Families

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- How are you working with diverse families?

## Activity

- Discovering what your organizations/agencies are already doing



# Reaching and Engaging “Hard to Connect” Families

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- What can we do to assist your efforts moving forward?

Thank You!

# Contact Information

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