

# Fiscal and Policy Supports for Refugee Families and Young Children

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# Speaker



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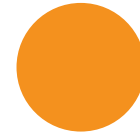
# Agenda



Welcome



Setting the Stage



Policy Impacts

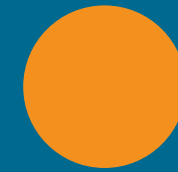


Program and Policy  
Opportunities



Resources





## *Setting the Stage*

# Setting the stage

1. Refugee families and young children are an asset to their communities as they bring a variety of valuable lived experiences, knowledge, cultural/linguistic diversity, strength, and resilience.
2. Systemic racism, anti-Blackness, colorism, and anti-Muslim sentiment are the basis for the myths and misconceptions that permeate public perception of refugees and continue to influence policy and national sentiment.



3. Strategies and the system components supporting refugee families must be in place and coordinated to respond to their diverse needs and meet the needs of each and every child.



# Setting the stage

4. To be effective and culturally responsive, strategies for working with refugee families and young children must be informed by and created in partnership with them (including key decision making). Use of beneficiary voice and responsive feedback loops are key to this process.

5. Strategies and system components for refugee families and young children must support retaining home language and culture for these children to thrive.

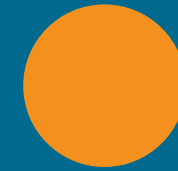


# Defining the terms

**Refugees** are people outside their country of origin because of feared persecution, conflict, violence, or other circumstances that have seriously disturbed public order, and who, as a result, require 'international protection'.

**Asylum-seeker** are people whose request for sanctuary has yet to be processed. Every year, around one million people seek asylum.

**Internally Displaced People (IDPs)** People are displaced inside their own countries due to armed conflicts, generalized violence or human rights violations continue to constitute most of the forcibly displaced population globally. Known as internally displaced people, or IDPs, they account for some 60% of all people displaced.



# *Policy Impacts on Refugee Families and Young Children*



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# Supporting Refugee Families with Young Children: Policy Opportunities

Maki Park, Senior Policy Analyst, Migration Policy Institute

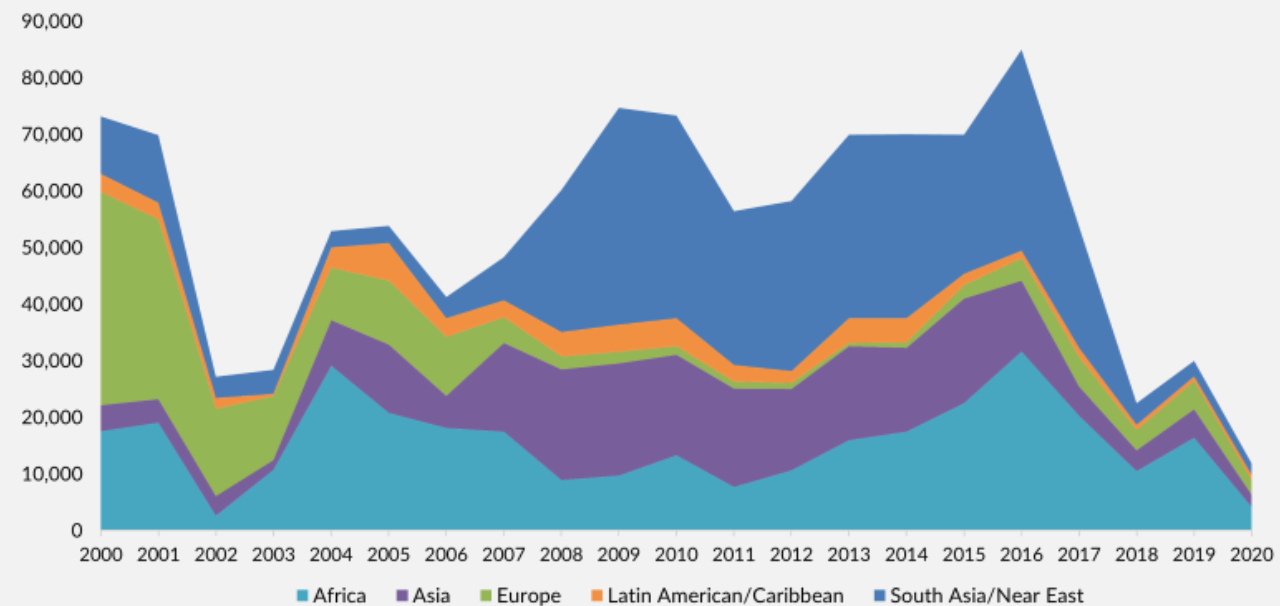
December 2022, BUILD Initiative



# Demographics

- 1 in 4 of all young children in the United States are children of immigrants
- 1 in 3 are Dual Language Learners
- United States remains world leader in refugee resettlement despite declining numbers in recent years
- High level of cultural and linguistic diversity among refugees resettled in the U.S.





Country	Refugee Admissions	Share of Total Admissions
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,814</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Democratic Republic of Congo	2,868	24.3%
Myanmar (Burma)	2,115	17.9%
Ukraine	1,927	16.3%
Afghanistan	604	5.1%
Iraq	537	4.5%
Syria	481	4.1%
Eritrea	475	4.0%
El Salvador	365	3.1%
Moldova	364	3.1%
Sudan	254	2.1%



# Policy Context

- Trump Administration's new Public Charge Rule under Trump Administration in 2019
- Many non-citizens reduced use of benefits in response – including many who were exempt, e.g. children in mixed status families
- Effectively ended in March 2021
- Chilling effects of the policy remain
- Pervasive fears around providing documentation for participation & enrollment





# Key Issue Areas



# Language Access

- Relevant for all immigrant families: refugee families in particular are also very linguistically diverse
- Implications for definition of quality
- An issue for both families and providers
  - Example of CCDBG services and state CCDBG plans
  - Implications for workforce diversity





# Workforce Diversity

- The early childhood workforce IS diverse! However...
  - Sectors of the workforce are stratified by race, ethnicity, language spoken
- Many barriers to entering and advancing in the system
- Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) caregivers are a critical part of the early childhood workforce, but remain largely invisible



# Trauma and Refugee Families

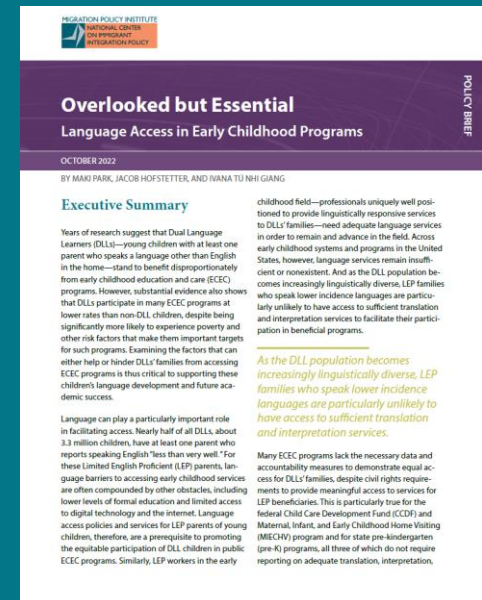
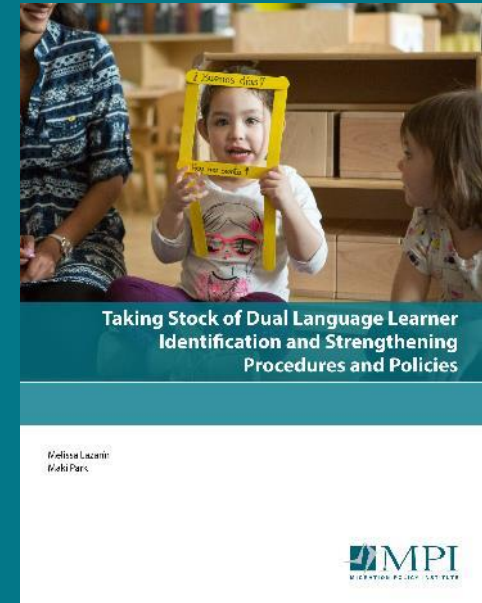
- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) gaining increasing visibility, but intersection with immigrant issues often overlooked
- We lack appropriate instruments to identify trauma in this population
  - Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) screen does not identify many types of trauma most commonly experienced by many refugee and immigrant families
  - Screening for refugees (RHS-15) is not designed for use with children
- Limited services and support available for trauma-informed care for this population of young children



# Policy Opportunities

- Data Advocacy: identification of home language(s) spoken
- Improved accountability and resources for language access
- Simplification of enrollment and registration processes and removal of legislative barriers (example of CO)
- Realistic pathways for immigrant and refugee workers to enter and advance in the early childhood field

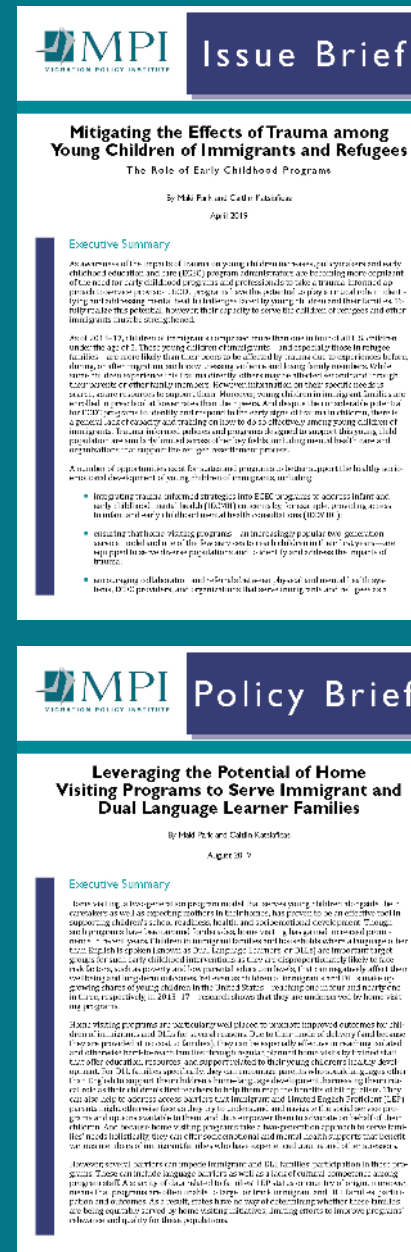
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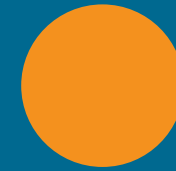


# Policy Opportunities, cont'd

- Accessible two generation approaches that can address language/culture barriers that parents face
- Support for linguistically and culturally responsive infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH) services
- Coordination between refugee resettlement and early childhood systems
- Resource: [State DLL fact sheets](#) including top languages spoken

Sources(s) / Note(s): [insert]





## *Program and Policy Opportunities in Practice*

# Spotlight on Practice: CDF Action

- CDF Action
- Based in Clarkson, GA, home to over 60,000 refugees
- Community based organization focused on
  - Community building
  - Refugee engagement
  - Equitable access to early learning
- CDFAction.com



# Spotlight on Practice: CDF Action

- CDA program
  - Recruits refugees and helps them get a CDA and employment with a Head Start grantee
  - Braids workforce development, Head Start, and private funding
  - Increased employment and size of the labor pool as well as linguistic and cultural equity
- Zoning Law Advocacy
  - Community-based effort to create zoning laws that allowed broader use of homes for family child care.
  - Provides new opportunities for refugee entrepreneurs as well as families who shy from
  - Used local public and private funding
- Early Learning Navigators
  - To help refugees find and register in publicly supported child care programs such as Pre-K.
  - Connected with resettlement agencies and churches which often lack information on the early learning system
  - Braids resettlement and CCDBG funds

# Spotlight on Practice: State of Texas

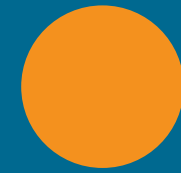


## State of Texas

- Statewide support for over 15,000 providers
- Between 2010 and 2019 resettled almost 10% of all US refugees
- [Childcare.Texas.gov](https://Childcare.Texas.gov)

# Spotlight on Practice: State of Texas

- Child Care Stabilization Funds
  - Greater linguistic and cultural access
  - Includes written guidance, coaches, and call-in center
  - Relies on ARPA Funding
- Child Care Expansion Initiative
  - \$116M effort using ARPA funds to expand care
  - Linguistic access, but also family care friendly policies to support new entrepreneurs and help exiting ones better support families.
  - Provides support for infant care, new family care or centers, partnerships with business, care in deserts, and “conversion” of family care from registered to licensed.



*Thank You*

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