IMMIGRANT HEALTH ACCESS IN ILLINOIS

Luvia Quiñones
Health Policy Director, ICIRR
lquinones@icirr.org
OVERVIEW

• Background: ICIRR, Illinois Perspective and HC3

• ACA: Successes and Barriers

• Healthy Communities Cook County (HC3) Coalition and Task Force
WHO IS ICIRR?

- ICIRR is dedicated to promoting the rights of immigrants and refugees to full and equal participation in the civic, cultural, social, and political life of our diverse society.
- In partnership with our member organizations, the Coalition:
  - educates and organizes immigrant and refugee communities to assert their rights;
  - promotes citizenship and civic participation; monitors, analyzes, and
  - advocates on immigrant-related issues; and
  - informs the general public about the contributions of immigrants and refugees.
ICIRR’s Health and Human Services Programs

- The Immigrant Family Resource Program (IFRP)
  - a network of 37 ethnic community-based organizations across Illinois dedicated to providing equal access to health and human services for immigrant families. IFRP is a partnership between the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR).

- The Immigrant Health Access Initiative (IHAI)
  - Health Access for the Uninsured
  - Easing Access to ACA Marketplace and Adult Medicaid
  - Language Access within Health Care
  - Health Literacy
IN ILLINOIS

- Undocumented: 525,000
- LPRs*: 540,000
- Eligible for Citizenship: 351,000
- Naturalized Citizens: 700,000
- Foreign-born Parents: 1,500,000

* LPRs: Legal Permanent Residents
ACA YEARS 1 & 2: BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES

- Reoccurring barriers: erroneous referrals to Medicaid, case management and lack of language access
  - **Erroneous Medicaid Referrals**: clients need to get a denial (i.e. for 1st enrollment, a mailed letter was required) before being able to buy insurance on the Marketplace
  - **Case Management**: if an IPC has a client with incorrect eligibility based on income or immigration status now needs to complete a Federal Casework Request Form
**Barriers Continued**

- **Language Access**
  - Medicaid notices are only sent in English and sometimes Spanish
  - There are no policy or procedures for limited English proficient clients/individuals besides a language line
  - Marketplace website is only in English and Spanish (with some fact sheets in other languages)

- **Small Policy Win**
  - Outside of envelope:
    - *IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR COVERAGE (in 4 languages)*
  - Language Notice included with redetermination letter:
    - *Important! This material contains information about your Health benefits. If you need help translating it, call 1-855-458-4945 (written in 15 languages).*
Most of Illinois’ Uninsured Live in Cook County
OVERVIEW OF OPTIONS FOR UNINSURED ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

- All Kids
- Moms and Babies
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
- Charity Care, Financial Assistance Programs, Carelink
- Access to Care
- Emergency Medicaid
- Emergency Room
- Kidney Transplants
Who are the Remaining uninsured in Cook County?

Source: Center for Tax and Budget Accountability Analysis of data from the 2014 American Community Survey, using IPUMS USA, Department of Homeland’s 2013 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, and Center for Migration Studies’ “Estimates of the Unauthorized Population for States.” Note: estimates for U.S. citizens are restricted to adults aged 18-64, but not for undocumented and legal residents.
73% of the remaining uninsured live in Cook County
**Cook County: Creating a Local Policy Solution**

- **Healthy Communities Cook County (HC3) campaign**
  - Over 35 community organizations, labor unions, providers and worker rights organizations
  - Need support of at least the support of at least 9 county commissioners (total 17)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Supporting Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian Americans Advancing Justice</td>
<td>Hanul Family Alliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access Living-Cambiando Vidas</td>
<td>Health &amp; Medicine Policy Research Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Care</td>
<td>Heartland Alliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFIRE</td>
<td>ICIRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFSCME</td>
<td>Illinois Primary Care Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apna Ghar</td>
<td>Korean American Community Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARISE Chicago</td>
<td>Mujeres Latinas en Accion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brighton Park Neighborhood Council</td>
<td>NAMI Chicago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centro Autonomo</td>
<td>Northside Community Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centro de Trabajadores Unidos</td>
<td>P.A.S.O. - West Suburban Action Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago Coalition for the Homeless</td>
<td>Salud sin Papeles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago Irish Immigrant Support</td>
<td>SEIU Healthcare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communities United</td>
<td>Shriver Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Anthony Hospital/Comm Wellness Program</td>
<td>Mount Sinai/Holy Cross Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENLACE</td>
<td>South West Organizing Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fight for 15</td>
<td>Target Area Development Corporation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**HC3 Task Force**

- Created by HC3 in partnership with Commissioner Garcia and Gainer
- Over 16 appointed members
- Goal: produce policy and programmatic recommendations for President Preckwinkle
Direct Health Access Program
Our Proposed Solution: HC3 Direct Health Access Program

- a care coordination program (sometimes also called a direct access program) similar to the ones in Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York City

- The main objective of the program is to better coordinate resident’s access to the services and resources already available
Elements of the HC3 Program

• Proactive outreach and enrollment assistance
• An integrated computer system to manage enrollment information and some basic health information
• A referral management system to track the available appointments in Cook County for various services
• Care coordination staff
HOW DOES CARE COORDINATION ENHANCE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE?

• Professional support in accessing community health services such as:
  
  ● Scheduling appointments
  
  ● Communication with the different health care providers
  
  ● Applying for benefits and other programs
  
  ● Accessing all available financial assistance
  
  ● Providing basic health education and support managing health conditions
HOW DOES CARE COORDINATION IMPROVE HEALTH CARE SERVICE DELIVERY?

• Creates a medical home and a usual source of care

• Creates opportunities to screen for other state/federal benefits

• Creates a reimbursement structure for safety net providers currently serving the uninsured

• Reduces disparities in coverage, access, and health status

• Reduces long-term health care costs
ELEMENTS OF THE HC3 ACCESS PROGRAM

• Proactive outreach and enrollment assistance
• An integrated computer system to manage enrollment information and some basic health information
• A referral management system to track the available appointments in Cook County for various services
• Care coordination staff
FINANCING THE PROGRAM

• Target existing charity care and other financial assistance resources towards the program
• Obtain contributions from nonprofit hospitals as part of their required community health benefit
• Obtain in-kind donations of services, particularly specialty care, inpatient care, and dental
• May require some upfront allocation of County resources but will result in long-term benefits and savings for the County
THE CHALLENGE: FINANCING THE PROGRAM

• Target existing charity care and other financial assistance resources towards the program

• Obtain contributions from nonprofit hospitals as part of their required community health benefit

• Obtain in-kind donations of services, particularly specialty care, inpatient care, and dental

• May require some upfront allocation of County resources but will result in long-term benefits and savings for the County
RESOURCES

- www.icirr.org
- https://www.facebook.com/healthycommunitiescookcounty/
- www.getcoveredillinois.gov
- http://www.povertylaw.org/
- http://www.everthriveil.org/
THANK YOU!