



# New Jersey Consortium for Immigrant Children

## June 2023 Newsletter

Dear NJCIC Friends and Supporters,

It has been an amazing few months here at NJCIC. In the newsletter below, you will learn about some of the progress we have made since the start of the year. Much work still lies ahead. As many of you know, recent changes to immigration law and policies, such as the end of Title 42 and the implementation of ICE's Family Expedited Removal Management (FERM) program in Newark, New Jersey, have made our work all the more crucial. Through our legal services and policy advocacy work, we continue to change the landscape for immigrant children here in the Garden State.

We are excited to share that NJCIC recently became an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We are so grateful for the support we have received since 2020 from our fiscal sponsor, the Community Foundation of New Jersey (CFNJ). Our growth and success is in large part due to their continued commitment to immigrant children and underserved communities in our state. Thank you so much, CFNJ!

Finally, we are very excited to share the launch of our 2nd Annual Immigrant Children & Youth Walk, NJCIC's annual fundraiser, which will be held on October 1st at the South Mountain Recreational Complex in West Orange, NJ. We hope to see you there! As we move to respond to new challenges facing NJ's immigrant children, we continue to keep our mission and vision at the heart of everything we do. I thank you for your support, and I hope you will continue to follow all of the great work we do here at NJCIC.

In solidarity,

Priscilla Monico Marín, Esq.  
Executive Director

## NJCIC Updates

NJCIC Congratulates Sarah Nolan and Josephine Herman on being admitted to the New Jersey Bar! New Jersey gained two amazing lawyers and advocates for immigrant children this past May, when Legal Director Sarah Nolan and Staff Attorney Josephine Herman were admitted to the New Jersey State Bar Association. Sarah and Josephine were sworn-in by our very own Priscilla Monico Marín, Executive Director of NJCIC.

NJCIC is excited to announce our 2nd Annual Immigrant Children & Youth Walk! This year's walk will again be held at South Mountain Recreation Complex in West Orange, NJ, on October 1st, 2023. The Walk's on-site check-in will be held from 8:30-9:30 am, and the Walk will commence promptly at 9:30 am. Join us to show your support for immigrant children!

**Register or donate today at [www.myevent.com/njcic](http://www.myevent.com/njcic).**



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## NJCIC Updates

We are continuing to look for sponsors and community partners to help us make this year's Walk a success. We have a variety of different sponsorship levels to choose from, so organizations and businesses of all sizes can support the event. Those interested in a sponsorship should reach out to Mark Lauterbach, Development & Communications Manager, at [mlauterbach@njcic.org](mailto:mlauterbach@njcic.org).

**One of our early sponsors, Tito's Burritos, will be hosting a fundraising night for us at their South Orange location at 6 W South Orange Ave., South Orange, NJ, on July 3rd! 15% of all sales from 5pm-9pm will go towards our event, so be sure to show up hungry!**

We are also looking for fundraising teams - student groups, coworkers, friends, and families all make great fundraising teams! Raise money as part of a group to help immigrant children and youth across NJ.

NJCIC also welcomed its newest staff member Mark Lauterbach as its new Development & Communications Manager. Mark comes to NJCIC after spending the last 6 years at a community mental health agency in Essex County, NJ, first as a grant writer and later as Associate Director. Mark is very excited to join the NJCIC team and hopes to help NJCIC continue to grow to serve more immigrant children and youth throughout NJ.

NJCIC is also excited to welcome Hunter Marrero, our first-ever Legal and Policy Intern. In this role, Hunter will assist with representation in SIJ and asylum matters, take calls on our intake line, and contribute to our advocacy work. Hunter is a rising 2L from Georgetown Law School and a Brooklyn native.



Staff Attorney Josephine Herman,  
Executive Director Priscilla Monico  
Marin, and Legal Program Director  
Sarah Nolan



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## Updates from NJCIC's Legal Team

The NJCIC Legal Team held a successful Know Your Rights workshop at Dover Public High School in May, which was attended by over 225 students! This presentation was led by NJCIC's Senior Paralegal Erio Rosario-Perales and Lady Jimenez-Torres, our Policy Director.

NJCIC closed out this fiscal year with another Know Your Rights workshop in Asbury Park at the Ocean Family Success Center, through a partnership with New Jersey Natural Gas in early June.

Other KYR workshops held since launching the program include events in Newark, Camden, Lakewood, and New Brunswick. These presentations provide information on forms of immigration status for young people in a format accessible to children and their caregivers. We also take the opportunity to share important policy updates, like the Cover All Kids coverage expansion, and information on additional resources.

We are incredibly proud to share that we now have a full caseload, with 35 clients on retainer! The Legal Team continues to work with clients toward securing their legal immigration status through applications for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and asylum. NJCIC legal staff has also successfully secured OTIP letters for several clients that were victims of human trafficking, which entitles them to a range of federally-funded benefits including food support, cash assistance, support with education and job training, and health insurance enrollment.

We also recently expanded our intake line hours and developed a web-based intake form, which makes accessing our services much easier for our clients and community partners. We have received well over 700 referrals through the intake line and web form since the start of the year.

**“Before I reached out to NJCIC, I felt very lonely and was worried about my safety and possible deportation. I felt hopeless. I thought about all of the sacrifices I had made and I wondered whether my journey was in vain... (Now,) I feel very safe with NJCIC Staff and I feel ready to move forward with legal assistance.”**

**-Client Testimony**



**Dover High students at a recent  
KYR workshop**



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## Highlighting NJCIC's Policy Work

NJCIC thanks outgoing Policy Intern Juan Castaneda, a recent graduate from New York University, for all of his great work this spring semester. One of Juan's biggest accomplishments was creating an incredibly in-depth Special Education Guide for parents, which will be released in the coming months.

Our Immigrant Youth Advocates closed out this year's semester with a celebratory get-together at the Amazing Escape Room in Bloomfield. Our team accomplished a great deal this year and celebrated with some fun team-building activities. Check out the advocates' recent podcast episodes on Migrants with Migraines at: <https://open.spotify.com/show/43HppAHI4JkHjHI5hPv2E>



Policy Program Director Lady Jimenez-Torres with some of our Immigrant Youth Advocates at the Amazing Escape Room

Our Policy Program also added a great new feature to our website—a [call to action](#) page that connects constituents with their representatives. Through this site, NJCIC is continuing to advocate for increased funding for legal representation for unaccompanied children. As the budget preparation season comes to a close, we hope to secure an increase in support from the state for this crucial work.

In January, NJCIC co-hosted a roundtable with the Latino Action Network Foundation and drafted recommendations to achieve greater equity in education throughout NJ.

In March, NJCIC was invited to present at the Guilford Dialogues, a project of Guilford College in North Carolina. This 2-day event was attended by over 100 participants who heard from NJCIC's Policy Director discuss the challenges immigrants face.

Following our successful advocacy for an expansion of Cover All Kids, we continue to identify potential barriers to coverage and fight for increased accessibility. Recent changes to Cover All Kids that are due in large part to our advocacy, include improved language accessibility on the enrollment website and the removal of the Social Security number requirement.

Over 15,000 children have enrolled in NJ Family Care thanks to this expansion of coverage eligibility!

Also in March, NJCIC provided testimony in support of the Language Access Bill, currently being considered in the state legislature. This bill, if enacted, would make all publicly-facing state government agencies publish vital documents in the top 15 languages spoken in New Jersey.

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[www.njcic.org](http://www.njcic.org)

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