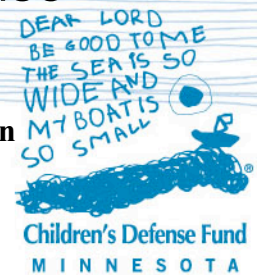


10-10-10 March for Children and Youth Because *Immigrant Children Need Opportunities*

In order to maintain Minnesota's high standard of living, it is crucial to invest in children in immigrant families so they have equal opportunities for success.

Children in immigrant families are the fastest growing segment of the nation's child population. In Minnesota, one in seven children come from immigrant families. Most children in immigrant families are U.S. citizens and speak English proficiently.



Children in immigrant families are disproportionately likely to live in poverty.

- Children in immigrant families make up 14% of the total child population, but represent nearly 30% of children living in poverty in Minnesota.
- Immigrant parents have high workforce participation, but often earn lower wages than the native-born.
- Few immigrant families with children receive public assistance due to complex eligibility rules and language barriers.

Children in immigrant families are at significant risk of being uninsured.

- Immigrants in Minnesota make up 17% of the uninsured population although they comprise less than 8% of the state's total population.
- Immigrants are more likely to work in jobs that do not offer employer-sponsored coverage.

Immigrant families have lower participation in early education programs.

- 25% of children in immigrant families are enrolled in preschool programs at age three compared with 31% of children in native-born families.
- Socioeconomic factors largely contribute to lower preschool enrollment rates among immigrant families; cultural preferences for early care and education and language barriers might also play a role.

Immigrant students face many barriers to pursuing higher education.

- Students in immigrant families are more likely to be unfamiliar with postsecondary options and admission processes and need additional counseling and exposure to opportunities as they complete high school.

Minnesota can do better to give children of immigrant families the opportunities they need to thrive and succeed. Many offer international experiences and perspectives. By age eight, half are bilingual. Cultural competence in public institutions as well as active outreach to immigrant communities are necessary to connect these families and children to the resources they need for success.

Questions for Candidates:

If elected, how will you ensure that children in immigrant families have the same opportunities for healthy development and long-term success as all children?