Immigrant Poverty Alleviation Efforts

Safety-Net Programs and Self-Sufficiency in Santa Clara County

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Acknowledgments

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Background

• The US has immigration policies, but no *immigrant* policies

• A higher proportion of immigrants live in poverty than non-immigrants

• Immigrants face obstacles accessing public benefit programs
Figure 1: U.S. Residents below Poverty Level
Immigration in Santa Clara County

Santa Clara is a VERY diverse county...

- Located in the heart of Silicon Valley
- Top 3 places SCC immigrants come from....
  - Mexico (23%)
  - Vietnam (14%)
  - India (12%)

... with a LARGE immigrant population:

- Immigrants comprise 37% of the population
- Noncitizens make up 18% of the population
- 1/10 children are immigrants
- 60% of children have an immigrant parent
Figure 2. Rate of SCC Residents below Poverty Level, by Citizenship Status

- Non-Citizens
- US Citizens
Figure 3: Overall Public Assistance Participation Rates

Citizen participation rates increased from 71.0% in July 2006 to 76.6% in July 2014.

Non-citizen participation rates decreased from 29.0% in July 2006 to 23.4% in July 2014.
Figure 4: CalWORKs Participation Rates

Table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Citizen</th>
<th>Non-citizen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jul 06</td>
<td>92.6%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 07</td>
<td>94.1%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
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<td>Jul 08</td>
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<td>Jul 09</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 10</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 11</td>
<td>95.1%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 12</td>
<td>95.5%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
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<td>Jul 13</td>
<td>96.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 14</td>
<td>95.8%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
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</table>
Figure 5: Medi-Cal Participation Rates

- **Citizen**
  - 2006: 65.2%
  - 2007: 66.6%
  - 2008: 67.5%
  - 2009: 67.1%
  - 2010: 69.8%
  - 2011: 69.1%
  - 2012: 69.5%
  - 2013: 70.7%
  - 2014: 72.2%

- **Non-citizen**
  - 2006: 34.8%
  - 2007: 33.4%
  - 2008: 32.5%
  - 2009: 32.9%
  - 2010: 30.2%
  - 2011: 30.9%
  - 2012: 30.5%
  - 2013: 29.3%
  - 2014: 27.8%
INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY: Naturalization Programs and Benefits

Immigrant Relations and Integration Services (Program of County)
- Established as Citizenship Initiative in 1996 in direct response to Welfare Reform
- Offers free citizenship days, educational forums, resource guides, database of ESL & citizenship classes to promote full inclusion of immigrant communities

South Bay Legal Immigration Services Network
- Collaborative of CBO’s providing citizenship, DACA, other legal services
- Funded by County Measure A, Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Conclusion

• Address service access barriers at multiple levels (individual, institutional, system, societal)

• Build capacity for cross-sector collaboration and partnership

• Promote integration and citizenship initiatives
References

- Santa Clara County Social Services Agency (2006-2014). Quarterly Statistic Data of Public Assistance Families in the County of Santa Clara. San Jose, CA: Department of Employment and Benefit Services Decision Support and Research Section.