

Immigration Services: Needs Assessment

The Community Fund of Darien

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Immigrants in Fairfield County

- In 2015, 1/5th of Fairfield County population or 191,300 are immigrants
- From 1990 to 2014, the number of immigrants in Fairfield County increased 89% (by 90,300)
- Foreign-born people make up ¼ of all residents of Norwalk and 1/3 of all residents of Stamford
- Number of immigrants born in Guatemala, India, Ecuador, or Mexico now residing in FFC grew the most

	Total Population (in 000s)	Foreign-Born Population (in 000s)	% Foreign Born	Entered US 2000-2014	Naturalized Citizens
United States	314,107	41,057	13.1%	38%	46%
Connecticut	3,592	490	13.7%	40%	48%
Fairfield County	934	191	20.5%	41%	43%

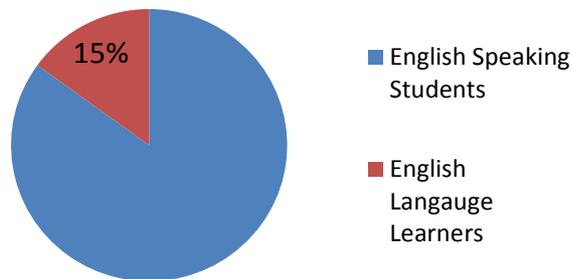
Immigrants and the Work Force

- 80% of immigrants are of working age
- Immigrants comprised 17.3% of the state's workforce in 2013
- Unauthorized immigrants comprised roughly 5.1% of the state's workforce in 2012
- Immigrants, including undocumented immigrants, are essential to Connecticut's economy as workers and tax-payers

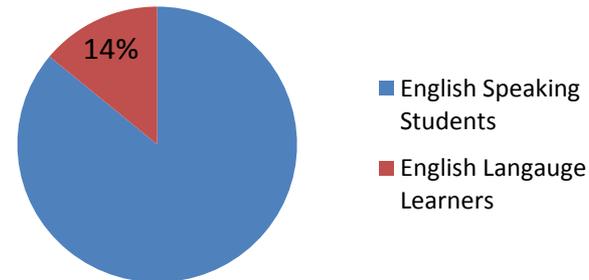
Limited English Language Skills

- Most significant barrier to successful integration: limited English language skills
- In 10% of FFC households and in 13% of Norwalk households, English is not the primary language
- Norwalk: as of January 2017: 1,750 ELLs students who speak a total of 36 languages and come from 39 countries
 - Increase from 1,580 in 2015 and 1,300 in 2013
- Children's Learning Centers in Stamford:
 - 68% of children come from families where English is not the primary language
 - CLC currently serves children that speak 28 different languages

Norwalk



Stamford



Challenges

- Refugees: In 2016, 900 refugees came to Connecticut
 - A "refugee" = someone outside the US applying for protective status because they fear persecution in their home country.
 - An "asylum seeker" is someone who is already in the US and is applying for refugee status
- Unaccompanied Minors: children emigrate without caretakers from their country of origin
 - 400 unaccompanied children now live with relatives in Connecticut
 - In Norwalk: most coming from three countries: El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras
 - Estimate that typical unaccompanied student is missing two to three years of education
- Trafficking: 201 child victims of sex trafficking were referred to DCF in 2016 (compared to 2 in 2008)
- In 2016, CT Institute for Refugees and Immigrants provided direct assistance to 46 victims of human trafficking in Fairfield County

Fears of Deportation

- Renewed Fears of Deportation: Local nonprofits (such as P2P and Americares) reporting decline in client visits; Kids In Crisis had fewer calls to crisis hotline
- Estimate: there are 7,000 DACA eligible individuals in Fairfield County
- In June 2017, concerned immigrant parents met with the Stamford Superintendent of Schools to understand the schools' policy should an ICE agent appear at the school
- In March 2017, Malloy issued a Family Preparedness Plan – detailed instructions for parents to have a plan in place for a friend or family member to take care of their children in the event they are deported