



Tennessee Immigrant Access to Nutrition Safety Net

April 27th, 2023 | 1:00 PM



TENNESSEE
JUSTICE
CENTER



TJC and the Nutrition Team

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Anti-Hunger Advocate

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Nutrition Client Advocate

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Nutrition Attorney

TJC Anti-Hunger Advocacy

Our mission: End hunger in Tennessee by protecting and strengthening the federal nutrition programs: SNAP, WIC, Child Nutrition Programs

- Improve access and remove barriers to programs
- Advocate for solutions to systemic issues
- Educate and inform
- Provide policy expertise
- Direct client work



Federal Nutrition Programs

SNAP Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

WIC Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infant and Children

NSLP National School Lunch Program

SBP School Breakfast Program

SFSP Summer Food Service Program

CACFP Child and Adult Care Food Program

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children:



Reduces Food Insecurity



Improves Dietary Intake and Health



Protects Against Obesity



Boosts Learning and Development



Supports Economic Security



Lifts Families out of Poverty



Acts as Stimulus for Local Economies

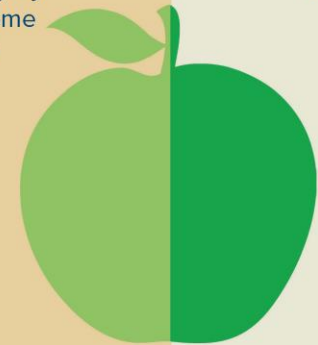
SNAP STRENGTHS

SNAP REDUCES HUNGER

and food insecurity by providing low-income people necessary food money.

SNAP IMPROVES DIETARY INTAKE

and health, especially among children and with lasting effects.



SNAP BOLSTERS LOCAL ECONOMIES

by increasing money spent for food at local retailers.

SNAP LIFTS MILLIONS OF PEOPLE out of poverty.



Immigrant Data

- **5% Tennesseans (1 in 20)** are immigrants¹
- **4% Tennesseans** are born citizens w/ one immigrant parent¹
- **Children of immigrants** are fastest growing demographic of American youth²
- **>40% poor children** (nationally) are children of immigrants²

Benefit Program Access Issues

- **5-year ban** to safety net programs, includes naturalized citizens
- **Mixed-eligibility household** status and income requirements
- Inadequate **translation services**
- **Cultural differences**

Available Programs

- **WIC** does not require proof of citizenship
- **School Meals** does not require proof of citizenship
- **Citizens and "qualified non-citizens"** can qualify for SNAP, WIC, CNP
- **Refugees and Asylees** can qualify for SNAP, WIC, CNP

Why We Care

- Immigrant/LEP issues are a priority of **TJC's casework, advocacy, and partner agencies**
- Food should be a **Human Right**
- Our clients speak **many languages**
- SNAP and safety net creates **growth** for families AND the economy

TIRRC

Luis Pedraza (he/him)

Resource Coordinator

Luis@tnimmigrant.org



TIRRC



TENNESSEE
**Immigrant
& Refugee
Rights**
COALITION



TIRRC Services & Resources

- English Classes
- Citizenship Classes
- Covid-19 Vaccine Resources
- Immigration Services & Legal Consultations
- Medical Services Referrals
- Food Bank Referrals

615-414-1030 | Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm CT

3310 Ezell Rd, Nashville, TN 37211

TNIMMIGRANT.ORG



TIRRC



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**BECOME
A CITIZEN
NOW!**

**Citizenship
Assistance
Workshop**

BASIC ELIGIBILITY

- BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD**
- BE A PERMANENT RESIDENT FOR AT LEAST 5 YEARS (OR 3 YEARS IF YOU ARE MARRIED TO A U.S. CITIZEN)**
- HAVE LIVED CONTINUOUSLY IN THE U.S. FOR AT LEAST 5 YEARS**
- BE ABLE TO READ, WRITE, AND SPEAK BASIC ENGLISH**

**CALL OR TEXT TO MAKE
AN APPOINTMENT
615-282-5544**

SATURDAY, JUNE 17TH, 2023

**Free citizenship screening will be done to verify eligibility*

TIRRC



TENNESSEE
Immigrant
& Refugee
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COALITION



MAY OPEN HOUSE

**JOIN US AND OUR COMMUNITIES FOR A FREE
& FUN ICE CREAM & SUMMER GAMES PARTY!**

**WE WILL HAVE FREE DIAPERS, COVID-19 VACCINES
FOR ALL AGES 5+, AND ASSISTANCE WITH
SNAP/WIC/OTHER BENEFITS ENROLLMENT.**

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 4-7PM
3310 EZELL RD., NASHVILLE, TN
(615) 414-1030



FRIENDS OF
MILL RIDGE PARK



TJC Casework

Anna Luttrell (she/her)

Nutrition Client Advocate

SNAP Caseworker for

Tennessee Justice Center



Citizenship Requirements



SNAP

Public charge does not apply

Who is eligible?

- Immigrants with Lawful Permanent Residency (LPR)/ a Green Card for 5+ years
- Children under age 18 with LPR/citizenship with no 5-year waiting period
- Cuban and Haitian entrants
- Most refugees with no waiting period

WIC

Public charge does not apply

Who is eligible?

- Tennessee residents
- No SSN necessary
- No proof of status necessary
- Pregnant/postpartum women, children under 5

Latino Memphis

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Latino Memphis



www.latinomemphis.org



Our impact model has 3 aspects:

We are empowering families and individuals

Through direct social and legal services. From making over 7,000 contacts for information and referrals, reuniting 351 migrant children, working with 300 current clients with affordable immigration legal services, human trafficking victims, and a new workforce development pilot, Latino Memphis is bridging service gaps. We pilot, innovate, and bridge gaps because everyone deserves an opportunity.

We were impacting systemic change

Through advocacy and engagement. According to the 2020 Census, the Latinx population was the solo group that showed growth by a significant 43% margin. Yet, we are still underrepresented in just about every table. Being a voice, a thought partner, and a critical friend essential to our mission: from voting registration and activation to educating policymakers and decision-makers about issues impacting the Latinx community.

We are scaling impact

Through strategic and meaningful collaboration. We know well that nobody can do this work alone. This is why we leverage our understanding and connections of the Latinx community with the expertise and focus of our government, companies and nonprofit partners. This work is about contribution rather than attribution, and it was particularly evident during our efforts to increase testing, vaccination, and resources during the pandemic.

8 programmatic areas:



EL CENTRO

Information & Resources



DERECHOS

Immigrant Rights Defense Center



JUSTICIA

Civil legal services



TU VOZ

Advocacy engagement and partnerships.



SENDEROS

Workforce Development



PUENTES

Unaccompanied minors and support for victims of trafficking



CONECTATE

Bridging the digital divide



TU SALUD

Community Health

EL CENTRO

Information & Resources

El Centro is the oldest and largest program at Latino Memphis. El Centro's work is two-fold: mission focused direct client services and collaborative community wide efforts towards that end.

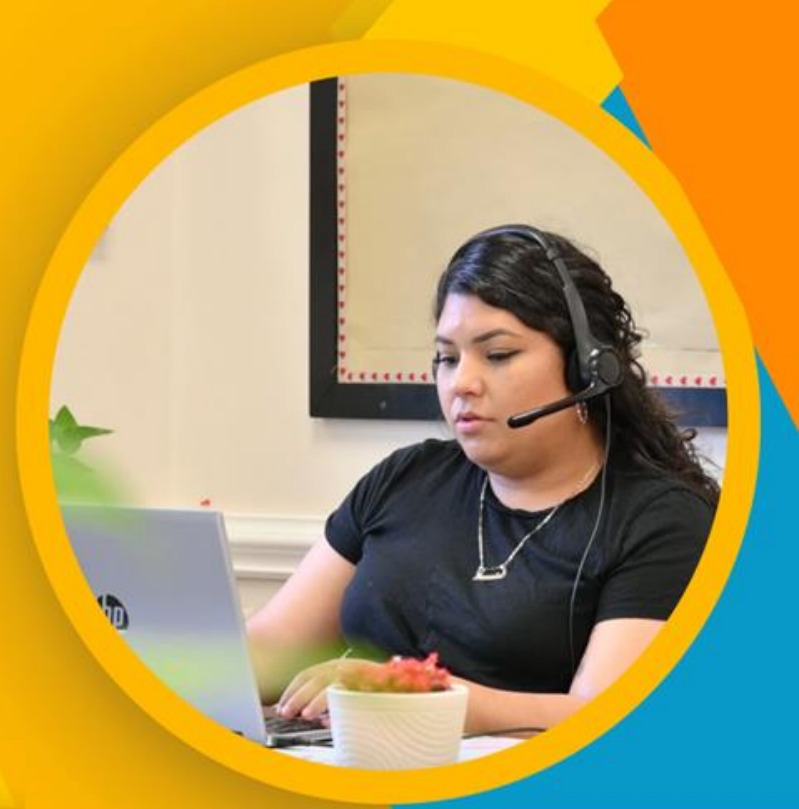
This center provides information and referral services connecting clients with in-house services as well as external agencies. This allows us to serve their critical needs in the areas of health, justice, education and clerical assistance among many others.

Latino Memphis seeks to ensure that Latinos are on a path to improved health and self-sufficiency. However, the majority of our clients are in extremely vulnerable situations and many who visit El Centro lack sufficient documentation and English language proficiency to access available services, and do not have the knowledge to reach out to alternative resources. The majority of our clients are women between the ages of 30-50, with 2-3 children, an equivalent of a middle school education and little to no English skills. Additionally, the rapid growth of this community has meant that regional nonprofits, healthcare providers and other social service agencies have struggled to keep up with the unique needs of this population. Latino Memphis works to bridge this gap and make meaningful services available to our community.

EL CENTRO

Information & Resources

We answer over **50 calls** and welcome
15 in-person visits daily



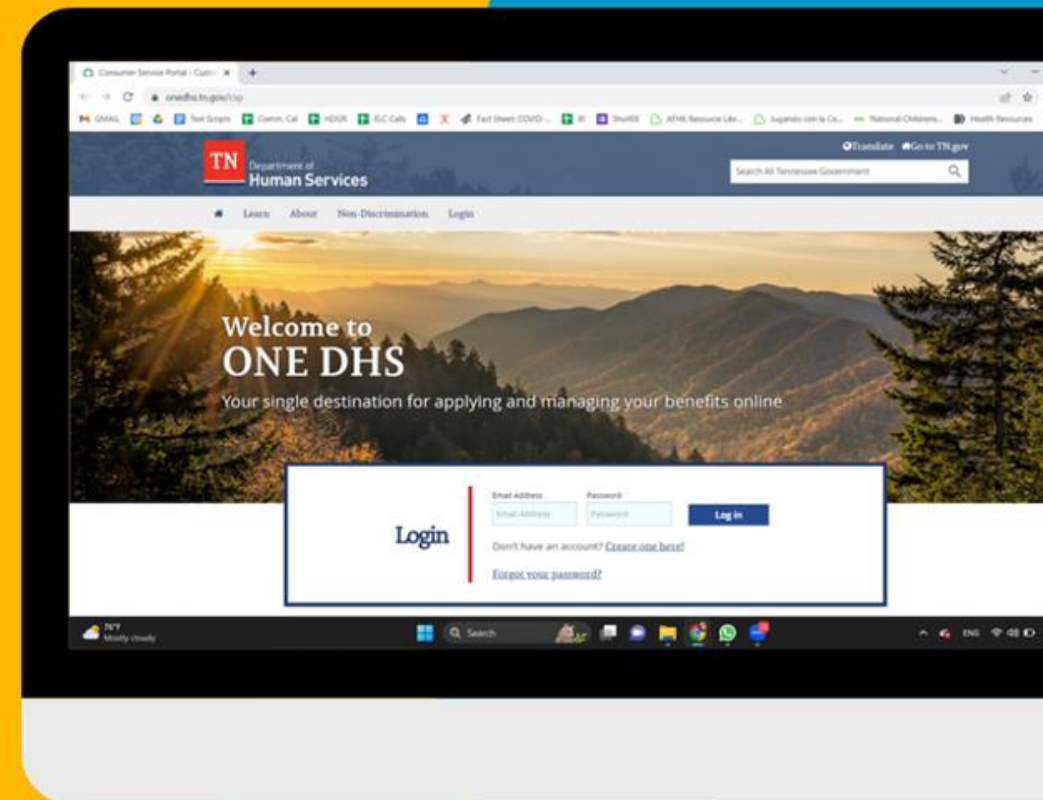
Last year we received more than

5,804 calls.

El Centro SNAP Services

- Helping apply via DHS portal
- Assistance with Renewal/Changes/Simplified form
- Faxing, uploading verification documents and forms

El Centro on average helps about 6-10 clients apply for benefits per week. We facilitated faxing docs or forms on behalf of clients between 2-5 times a day.



Challenges

- **Accessibility**

- No email
- Internet access
- Portal not smartphone friendly
- No more Faxes
- Drop offs (no transportation)
- Long phone wait times/language barriers
- Questions about benefits/how to apply

- **Education Barriers**

- Spanish is their second language (Speak home language like **K'iche'** and **Mam**)
- Digital Literacy
- Poor education

LM Support

- Digital Skills 4 Life
- Language Line Access
- Setting up portal for clients that don't have one
- Reading letters and documents from DHS
- Making sure client understand that DHS is mailing a few documents together to make sure they don't miss deadlines

ADVOCACY/ACTION
OPPORTUNITIES

Legislation

LIFT the BAR Act /Federal Legislation

- Reintroduced soon (by Rep. Pramila Jayapal)
- Potential legislation for 2023 Farm Bill
- Lifts 5-year bar on "Lawfully present non-citizens" to accessing safety net programs like SNAP
- If passed, 1.2 million people would benefit³

- LIFT the BAR Week

- May 1-5, 2023
- [Food Research and Action Center](#) and [Protecting Immigrant Families](#)
- [Sign up Now!](#)
- LIFT The BAR Act Webinar from PIF – Will be in follow up email

• LIFT the BAR Resources

- LIFT the BAR Act Fact Sheet from PIF in [Spanish](#) & [English](#)
- [Five-Year Bar Resource kit for agencies](#)
- [74% of Americans support expanding access](#)
- [Agency Letter of Support](#)
- Individuals: [Call your legislator!](#)

Information & Resources

- [New York Times Article](#)
- [Urban Institute Report](#)
- [USDA eligibility info for non-citizen SNAP Access](#)
- [SNAP/USDA/FNS Guidance on non-citizen eligibility](#)
- [Protecting Immigrant Families website](#)
- [CLASP – Lists of resources](#)
- [FRAC - Food Over Fear](#)
- [Migration Policy Institute Report](#)
- [American Immigration Council TN Facts Sheet](#)
- [Academic Pediatrics Article](#)
- Protecting Immigrant Families Webinar – In follow up email

QUESTIONS?

Tennessee Justice Center

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