



California Immigrant Welfare Collaborative (CIWC)

The California Immigrant Welfare Collaborative (CIWC) is a statewide partnership of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California (APALC), Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA), National Immigration Law Center (NILC), and Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN). CIWC was formed in 1996 in response to the passage of comprehensive federal immigration and welfare laws that profoundly affected immigrants.

CIWC works directly in immigrant communities and with community based organizations, service providers and policy makers to advocate for the rights of low-income immigrants in California and to provide an integrated response to changes in laws and policies affecting immigrants' access to public benefits. CIWC has three program areas: (1) policy analysis and advocacy; (2) technical assistance and training to service providers and community based organizations; and (3) community education. CIWC addresses issues that affect immigrants' access to Medi-Cal, Healthy Families and other health care programs, California Food Assistance Program (CFAP), the Food Stamp Program, Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and CalWORKs. CIWC policy coordinators advocate for state and local policies that protect immigrants' access to public benefits and services, including those addressing the needs of immigrants who speak little or no English.

CALIFORNIA IMMIGRANT WELFARE COLLABORATIVE

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