



Tips for Advocates: Immigration

Working with Immigrant Survivors

- Immigrant survivors can face additional barriers to services. These survivors should know and assert their rights in encounters with immigration and government officials. Check out the [National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project](#) for extensive resources on immigrant rights.
- Regardless of status, immigrant survivors have the right to:
 - police assistance and protective orders;
 - an attorney or agency specializing in immigration law;
 - a hearing before an Immigration Judge;
 - contact with their country of origin's Consulate;
 - an interpreter at every level of the court system; and
 - file a suit addressing financial support and custody of their children.
- Regardless of status or when they entered the country, immigrants may access emergency benefits including:
 - family violence services and shelter;
 - emergency medical care;
 - mental health & substance abuse services
 - Medicaid;
 - immunizations and diagnosis/treatment of communicable diseases;
 - summer food programs and school lunch programs;
 - WIC benefits; and
 - any program necessary to protect life and safety that is not income conditional (ie. food banks).

Immigration Options

- Domestic violence survivors & their families may have immigration options available to them including:
 - VAWA self-petition
 - U Visa: Crime Victim Visa & T Visa: Trafficking Victim Visa
 - Gender Based Asylum
 - Deferred Action
- Immigrant survivors interested in applying for any of these legal remedies should speak with an attorney or certified legal services advocate. Find a list of immigration legal services under the 'More' tab on TCFV's [Resources for Legal Advocates](#) page.
- Check out [TCFV's Immigration Resource page](#) for more in-depth information on a variety of topics about working with immigrant survivors including a webinar on [Working with Immigrant Survivors](#).



Additional Topics and Resources

- [Casa de Esperanza](#) – National organization that provides technical assistance when working with domestic violence and the latin@ community. Check out their [webinar resources](#) for great resources in working with this population. Call: 651-646-5553.
- [ASISTA – Clearinghouse](#) of resources for working with immigrant survivors
- [National Immigrant Women’s Advocacy Project](#) – Information and tools to use when supporting immigrant women and children with immigration options, access to legal services, and more. Call: 202-274-4457.
- [Texas Civil Rights Project](#) – Provides free immigration services to immigrant survivors of abuse (physical, psychological, sexual, or economic abuse) living in rural and underserved areas. Call: 1-888-855-8292.