

Resources to Assist Immigrant Families

In response to the summer crisis at the U.S. Border and its lingering effects, the CAMFT Board of Directors wanted to offer additional resources to members interested in getting more involved.

CAMFT is pleased to announce a new partnership with [Give An Hour](#), a wonderful nonprofit that pairs therapists willing to donate their time to help families facing difficult circumstances. [Give An Hour](#) has its roots in assisting veterans and their families, and their mission now includes providing assistance to people who are facing other situations, such as natural disasters and the humanitarian crisis now unfolding at the U.S. borders.

To donate your time and provide mental health services for refugees and immigrants who are being impacted, please sign up with [Give an Hour](#). The minimum volunteer commitment for licensed mental health providers is one hour per week for a minimum of one year for each pro bono client.



giveanhour[™]
Giving help and hope



Take Action

Connect with Members

CAMFT's online community listserv has a group page for members to engage in meaningful conversations related to developing mental health resources for immigrants. [Click here](#) to get started.

Contact Your Representatives

Contact your federal and state elected officials to make your voice heard about the border crisis. This takes only a few minutes, and every bit of pressure on elected representatives helps. You can find contact information for your [Congressional Representatives](#) and your [Senators](#). California state legislators can be found [here](#).

Donate Money

So much of the burden that these immigrant children and their families will face is going to be financial. Here are a few organizations making an impact on this crisis:

- [The Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights](#): This organization advocates for separated children and is trying to launch a new initiative specifically centered around children affected by the zero-tolerance policy. You can donate to them [here](#).
- [Border Angels](#): This nonprofit seeks to protect children and families crossing the Californian border through to the United States. Its volunteer-only model provides immigration help, as well as rescue and water stations. Donate [here](#).
- [The Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project \(ASAP\)](#): A project of the Urban Justice Center, this organization helps prevent wrongful deportations and is currently looking for donations to provide legal aid, as well as volunteer attorneys and translators. Donate [here](#).
- [The National Immigrant Justice Center \(NIJC\)](#): NIJC provides representation for immigrant parents and children who have been separated or are detained near the border and throughout the U.S., as well as advise federal defenders representing asylum-seekers. You can donate to them [here](#).
- [Kids In Need Of Defense \(KIND\)](#): This group aims to provide support for children that have crossed the border, whether they were separated from their parents before or after the journey. It provides legal help to children in need, and simultaneously advocates for countries to recognize immigrant children's rights. Donate [here](#).
- [Women's Refugee Commission](#): A global organization that fights for displaced women and children, the Women's Refugee Commission has turned its attention to the separation crisis at the border. Donate [here](#).
- You can also buy products like diapers to be sent directly to immigrant children through this [registry at Target](#).

Helpful Clinical Resources

In addition, if you are currently working with immigrant families, these resources may be useful for your practice:

- [Immigrant parent tool kit \(English\)](#)
 - [Immigrant parent tool kit \(Spanish\)](#)
 - [APA study on working with immigrants](#)
 - [APA guide, The Road to Resilience](#)
 - [Informed Immigrant \(resources\)](#)
- Last year, the Children’s Partnership and the [California Immigrant Policy Center](#) joined efforts to launch [Healthy Mind, Healthy Future](#), a research and policy project that aims to better understand the impact of heightened immigration enforcement activities and anti-immigrant rhetoric on the mental health and wellbeing of children in immigrant families in California, and identify what more California can do to support children in immigrant families.
- If you are aware of individuals or families in need of immigration-related legal assistance, there are multiple organizations offering free or low-cost legal services to people in the state:
- [First Five California](#) is compelled to provide additional support for all of California’s families, including our immigrant families.
 - [La Cooperativa's](#) five member agencies operate 66 service centers throughout 31 California counties, offering comprehensive service packages to rural, agricultural regions. In addition to securing and subcontracting funding to our members, they facilitate inter-agency cooperation and ensure compliance with federal and state grant guidelines.
 - [Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project](#) works to prevent the deportation of asylum-seeking families fleeing violence. The group accepts donations and asks people to sign up for volunteer opportunities here.
 - [The CARA Project](#) is currently recruiting attorneys, law students and paralegals with experience in asylum work. The group asks [volunteers](#) to be fluent in Spanish or willing to work with an interpreter.
 - [Kids In Need of Defense](#) partners with major law firms, corporations and bar associations to create a nationwide pro bono network to represent unaccompanied children through their immigration proceedings. Volunteers [don't need to have immigration law experience](#).

- The El Paso-based [Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center](#) provides legal representation to immigrants who might not be able to afford it otherwise and is accepting [volunteers](#) and [donations](#).
- American Gateways provides legal services and representation to detained parents. It's currently [seeking volunteers](#) to represent detained parents and is [accepting donations](#).
- [Immigration Advocates](#) offers a National Immigration Legal Services Directory, with nearly 200 organizations in California.
- [Justice for Our Neighbors](#) provides free and low-cost legal services to immigrant individuals and families and has one location in Imperial Valley, CA.

For additional general information on immigration, please visit these organizations:

- [Immigrant Legal Resource Center](#)
- [#StandWithImmigrants](#), Immigration 101
- [#StandWithImmigrants](#), Immigration and Healthcare
- [California Primary Care Association](#), Immigration Resources