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CENTRAL
VALLEY
IMMIGRANT
INTEGRATION
COLLABORATIVE

THE DAY AFTER: IMPLEMENTING
COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM
IN CALIFORNIA'S CENTRAL VALLEY
(SUMMARY)

Submitted by: Manuel Pastor, Rachel Rosner, and Anthony Perez

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The Day After: Implementing Comprehensive Immigration Reform in California's Central Valley

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Introduction and Context

California's Central Valley has a significant stake in comprehensive immigration reform (CIR), partly because the reform will benefit agriculture by securing future flows of labor but mostly because legislation will create a path to legalization and citizenship for the region's 332,000 undocumented residents and their families. Just as significant as the raw numbers: about half of the Valley's undocumented employed adults work in agriculture, a sector whose workers are slated to have their own special and accelerated path to citizenship. The San Joaquin Valley is the richest agricultural valley in the U.S. and, Fresno County is the richest agricultural county within the Valley. If CIR implementation efforts are successful here, the rest of the State would stand to benefit due to the demand for a prepared workforce and by reducing other costly services.

This presents opportunities as well as challenges. The foreign-born comprise 23 percent of the region's total population. We estimate that undocumented immigrants comprise 9 percent of the total population, and 38 percent of the total immigrant population. This means that more than 81,000 people in the Fresno region are without legal documentation. One-fifth of the children in the Valley have at least one undocumented parent (with over ninety percent of those children U.S. citizens). Of real concern is that fully three-fourths (79 percent) of children with at least one undocumented parent are living in poverty in the Fresno region – which we define as 150 percent of the federal poverty level, a more realistic understanding of poverty for a state with a very high standard of living. This rate declines when parents become naturalized. The high levels of poverty make sense – workforce opportunities and mobility are limited for the undocumented. There is a \$21,000 difference in median annual earnings between full-time workers without lawful status (\$20,000) and U.S.-born workers (\$41,000).

The median age of undocumented immigrants is 31 years – prime working age (as compared to 47 years for naturalized immigrants and 45 years for non-citizen immigrants with documentation). The typical undocumented resident living in Fresno migrated to this country at the age of 19 and has been here for ten years. So contrary to popular misperceptions, we are talking about a fairly settled population. Put another way, slightly over 50 percent of undocumented immigrants have been in the country for more than 10 years. In Fresno County there are approximately 96,000 legal permanent residents (LPR), about 35% of which are eligible to naturalize but haven't. This group of LPR's represents about 12 percent of the share of the voting eligible population in 2010 in the County (which is relatively high compared to other counties). All of this speaks to a population that is here to stay – as are their children (See appendix for more demographic data).

Documented or not, these families in their entirety will be affected by any federal policy changes. How the nation does by its immigrants, will help determine the trajectory of our state and regions. History warns us that reform can be done well or not so well. During the implementation of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, many residents fell through the cracks – the majority never became naturalized citizens and weren't able to benefit from the opportunity. The extent to which the region is

able to effectively implement the pending reform legislation, will determine exactly how many people will be able benefit now. Therefore it is important to start having conversations about implementation upfront, especially in areas that have traditionally lacked resources and attention to serve their immigrant populations.

The Central Valley leadership knows that gearing up to serve this population – particularly given the potential accelerated path – means that capacities and coalitions need to be developed to consider what happens the day after reform, when the task will not be lobbying for law but actually implementing immigrant integration. And it is therefore important to build off existing collaborations (such as the closely related

Race	Fresno County	%
White	303,916	32.7%
Black or African American	44,497	4.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native	5,007	0.5%
Asian	87,152	9.4%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	1,122	0.1%
Other	20,865	2.2%
Latino	467,958	50.3%
Total¹	930,517	

DACA collaborative) to advance conversations about implementation upfront, especially in areas that have traditionally lacked resources and attention to serve their immigrant populations. The Fresno region, often thought of being behind in the state, is ahead of the curve in its thinking, and organizing themselves for reform.

Planning Process

A core group of community leaders, convened by Hugo Morales of Radio Bilingue, met regularly since the summer of 2013 to think about what a CIR implementation plan would look like in the Central Valley. They were careful to frame their strategy based on several scenarios: a more immediate CIR, a delayed reform, and other potential administrative reforms. They understood that the reforms will trigger other opportunities—fewer family separations through deportations, an increase of health care coverage, and also requests for other services (such as drivers’ licenses), further increasing the scope of the demand.

The purpose of the implementation plan is to create a means for coordinating and maximizing resources (capacities, money, services, etc.) to reach, inform, and service eligible applicants in the Central Valley. For additional guidance they reached out to Manuel Pastor of the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII) at USC, who asked his longtime collaborator Rachel Rosner to take the lead on the project. The plan addresses the capacities needed for meeting the increased demands for legal and social service supports in response to comprehensive immigration reform. To be most effective, it strives to reach as many people as possible and avoid the duplication of services. In addition to a series of meetings with the core group, the consulting team interviewed 5 key informants who have a deep understanding of the regional infrastructure, and facilitated a convening of stakeholders on the topic.

The stakeholder convening had several purposes: 1) to inform the attendees about the planning and CIR processes, 2) to benefit from the resources and perspectives in the room and 3) to build the

¹ 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

collaboration that will be needed for implementing the plan. The October 25, 2013 event hit its limit of 70 attendees made up of a diverse group of stakeholders including representatives from community based organizations, legal service providers, educators, faith based, commercial bilingual media, , an immigration tax consultant, a large contingency from the DACA collaborative, and others. Having Dreamers present added tremendous energy and making it an intergenerational space. The meeting, facilitated by Manuel Pastor, conveyed a strong sense of community and mutual respect. A positive outcome is a willingness to collaborate around the common purpose.

A survey of distributed at the convening (with more than half the respondents identifying as community based organizations), showed that the capacities they would be able to provide were: training so that groups are aware and ready for CIR, civic engagement, organizing, as well as education and outreach and getting people ready to naturalize. They emphasized that outreach through cultural and community events will be an effective medium in this region. Given that the majority of the organizations were not legal service providers, the survey showed a gap of legal services—however, this is representative of the landscape². Nonetheless, some organizations identified that they could provide screening and processing legal support.

The Plan Framework

The table below lists the priority areas of work for implementing and preparing for reform that were identified, along with the overarching goals to guide the more specific objectives. A longer version of the plan shows 2-5 objectives for each priority area of work, providing greater detail on the strategies, timing, and who is responsible for leading the activities (See appendix for the more detailed objectives).

Priority Areas of Work	Overarching Goal
I. Outreach and Education	Widely distributing accurate and accessible information and managing expectations about opportunities.
II. Immediate Service Needs	Coordinating and expanding available resources, eligibility, application assistance, and advising/referring.
III. Regional Capacity Building	Developing and expanding the skills and capacities needed for meeting the requirements and optimizing benefits (including accreditation, training, expanding the numbers of who can provide quality services)
IV. Continued Advocacy	Advocacy for those who need support and for moving the reform agenda and related policies forward.

Key Messages and Investments

Throughout the planning process, several themes emerged that have significant implications for the work ahead. One of the main concerns expressed almost immediately was all the fraud that took place during IRCA legalization – and many believe that *notarios* are lying in the wait to take advantage of those that could potentially benefit from federal legislation. To avoid the predatory *notarios*, Fresno needs to bolster its ecosystem of accredited institutions as well outreach service providers that can provide legal help to the undocumented. People will need also to know their rights, the correct procedures, and who are the reliable providers of legal services.

² More detailed survey responses are in the full plan.

The rural nature of the Central Valley, even with Fresno as its urban hub, calls for engaging harder to reach communities. Going out to places in non-threatening and accessible ways was seen as a central part of the implementation plan. To do so, any proposal to funders for outreach and engagement should involve an emphasis on culture, arts, community festivals, etc. (think of the way in which Radio Bilingue has contributed to outreach on numerous issues) as a means for reaching everyone.

Clearly, a major issue is the absolute need for much deeper capacity in the Fresno area, ranging from legal services to immigrant organizing. Too often, the region depends on Bay Area lawyers to come and assist; but Fresno really needs is complementary capacity. While reform may or may not come quickly, we know the demands will be ongoing which calls for building local/regional infrastructure to meet the needs in a sustainable way.

Next Steps

There is a need to prepare for whatever is going to happen, reform or no reform. There are many new services that will be available in California from drivers' licenses to protection against being handed over to ICE—with the California Trust Act—to protection of workers' rights. Furthermore, there will be DACA renewals happening soon on top of efforts to get Fresno eligible youth DACA-mented. All this points to one simple fact: Fresno needs to be prepared for the future. There may be a tendency to hold off on preparing for reform, partly because of the stalemate in Congress, but reform *will* happen sometime and given the lack of capacity, investing now is key.

In addition to ramping up capacity in the region, the capacities that exist can be better networked to make the most of what's available. Building on existing relationships and collaborations, people are ready to collaborate, but networking requires coordination, a leadership body, and resources. There have been discussions already about developing a centralized website that will have a list of trusted service providers for community members to access. The leadership for implementing this plan should have enough content knowledge to understand the legal systems, but more importantly be able to play a connective role to keep the broader group of providers and communities working together.

The DACA collaborative has been an exemplary group for moving this work forward. Tapping into their experience and expanding it to include more stakeholders is an important next step. It's always best to make the case with unexpected allies – having law enforcement in favor of drivers licenses for undocumented is more impressive than having undocumented advocates in favor of the same, having business on board for reform is more persuasive than having immigrant rights folks in favor. Reaching out to sympathetic county and city staff could be helpful. Whatever emerges as a network should consciously seek unlikely allies.

Finally, it will take dedicated leadership, ongoing communication, and discipline to shift from planning to implementation. The work should be approached as a long-term endeavor to build the infrastructure needed. The plan serves as a guide for initiating and moving the work forward, and will likely require sequencing of the objectives based on current capacities. Changes in legislation may also affect the plan and will need to be considered and incorporated as they come up.

Conclusion

The Central Valley presents a unique opportunity to reach out to some of the most vulnerable and hard to reach immigrant populations in the state. Fresno is ahead of the curve with its planning for comprehensive immigration reform: the core group and convening participants have demonstrated a proactive stance. Even without the immediate passage of CIR, there is plenty that can be done to support the undocumented for a more positive future. It's also the case that inland California is the future (politically and socially) of the state and so investing now moves the needle on California's civic society. And the changes are happening now—the time has come for Fresno to lead the shifting changes and shape its infrastructure to match the demand and composition of its communities.

APPENDIX 1: Key Data Central Valley

2009-2011 DATA PROFILE: CENTRAL VALLEY (Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare Counties)

Total Population		3,989,754
US- Born	666,602	78%
Immigrant	890,335	22%
Naturalized	298,460	7%
Non-Citizen, Documented	260,291	7%
Non-Citizen, Undocumented	331,584	8%
Median Years in Country...		
Immigrant, Citizen		28
Immigrant, Non-Citizen, Documented		22
Immigrant, Undocumented		10
Adults who are undocumented	292,439	10%
Workforce who are undocumented	160,206	11%
Total Child Population		1,189,031
US- Born	1,128,296	95%
Immigrant	60,734	5%
Children with Immigrant Parent	506,549	43%
Children with Undoc. Imm. Parent	224,958	19%
Of whom,		
Citizen Children w/ Undoc. Imm. Parent	185,813	83%
Non-Citz. Children w/ Undoc. Imm. Parent	39,146	17%
Child Poverty (below 150% of poverty line)		
With US-Born Parent		38%
With Immigrant Parent		58%
With Undocumented Parent		76%
Race/Ethnicity ^{^*}		
Non-Hispanic White		1%
Black		N/A
Latino		93%
Asian/Pacific Islander		6%
Other		N/A
Top 5 Countries/Regions of Origin for Undocumented Residents		
Mexico		88%
Central America		4%
India		3%
Philippines		2%
South America		0.5%

Benefits of Authorization, with Roadmap to Citizenship		
Aggregate Earned Income for Undoc.	\$3,270,849,308	
CSII Estimated Annual Gains	\$474,273,150	
CAP Estimated Annual Gains	\$820,983,176	
Median Annual Earnings, Full-time Workers ^{^+}		
US-born	\$41,939	
Undoc Imm	\$20,631	
Speaks English Well ^{^#}		
Citizens (US-born & Imm)	97%	
Non-Citizen Documented Immigrants	50%	
Undocumented Immigrants	35%	
	Undoc Imm	All
Educational Attainment ^{^±}		
No School or Less than High School	60%	11%
Some High School	18%	11%
High School Grad	17%	26%
Some College or AA Degree	3%	34%
BA or Better	2%	18%
Top 5 Industries ^{^¥}		
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	47%	12%
Retail Trade	14%	14%
Manufacturing	8%	9%
Construction	8%	7%
Wholesale Trade	6%	4%
Top 5 Occupations ^{^¥}		
Farming, Forestry, and Fishing Occupations	48%	11%
Helpers in Construction and Extraction, and Freight, Stock, and Transportation Occupations	9%	4%
Food Preparation and Service Occupations	6%	4%
Machine Operators, Assemblers, and Inspectors	6%	4%
Cleaning, Building and Household Service Occupations	5%	3%
Labor Force Participation (share of working age pop.) ^{^§}		
Males, in Labor Force	72%	76%
Employed (as a share of the labor force)	93%	84%
Females, in Labor Force	87%	87%
Employed (as a share of the labor force)	54%	67%
	75%	86%

	Median Age	Age at Migration	Living in Poverty ^{^£}	Health Insurance ^{^φ}	Home Ownership	Self Employment	Full-Time Employment	Burdened Renters ^{^~}	Overcrowded Housing ^{^**}
US-Born	26	N/A	33%	79%	60%	10%	63%	53%	1%
Imm., Citizen	48	19	27%	76%	71%	13%	64%	51%	3%
Imm., Non-Citizen, Documented	46	20	43%	55%	48%	10%	54%	49%	6%
Imm., Undocumented	31	19	64%	41%	23%	6%	43%	62%	11%

Notes
 All data calculated by USC CSII using IPUMS 2009-2011 American Community Survey (ACS) data (Ruggles et al. 2011).
^{^*} Latino includes all who marked "Hispanic," all other categories are Non-Hispanic
^{^+} For full-time workers, age 16+, not in group quarters
^{^#} For ages 5+, respondents who speak English well or better
^{^±} 25 and older, not in group quarters
^{^§} Employed workers ages 25-64, not in group quarters
^{^§} Workers (employed and unemployed) ages 25-64, not in group quarters
^{^£} Poverty is calculated at below 150% of the federal poverty line because of California housing costs
^{^φ} Ages 25-64
^{^~} Renter-occupied households that spend more than 30% of household income on rent
^{^**} Defined as more than 1.5 people per room in household

APPENDIX 2: Priority Work Area Objectives and Potential Outcomes

To Note:

- The priority areas are not ordered in terms of importance or in sequence.
- The tables are a means for identifying where leadership is needed, who will take responsibility and when the work will be completed.
- The areas of work are related and there is overlap within the plan and with other related efforts
- Many of the actions and deadlines are dependent on funding resources, and therefore may be adjusted in the future.

Priority Area 1: Outreach and Education				
Overarching Goal				
Widely distributing out accurate information and managing expectations about opportunities.				
OBJECTIVES	ST OUTCOMES	LT IMPACTS	Primary responsible/ supporting	Connections to other efforts
1) Select accessible, accurate information and messaging on state and federal laws to garner support and awareness in the immigrant and mainstream audiences by March, 2014.	# of forums (media, 4 live interactive talk shows per month by RBilingue) # and mix of people reached (RB will reach 10,000 in Fresno County, 65,000 in SJV) LATINO pop in general every month in Spanish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater awareness in targeted communities of resources of immigrant communities • Benefits for future Californians understood by most communities 		
2) Disseminate materials in multiple mediums and outlets in relevant languages by ???.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of speakers bureaus • # of forums (cultural, media, etc) • # and mix of outlets and geographies (ACA, churches, CBOs, soccer leagues etc.) • # and mix of people reached • Beneficiaries are more prepared to apply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities reached and aware of resources available. • Buzz in social and other media follows CIR process 		
3) Offer monthly educational opportunities to learn about the process in key localities beginning May, 2014. (ex. Apt complexes and migrant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of orgs hosting educational workshops, • # of workshops and attendees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities reached in Fresno County; Fresno metro and beyond by CBOs. 		

camps).

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Priority Area 2: Immediate Service Needs

Overarching Goal

Coordinating and expanding available resources, eligibility, application assistance, and advising/referring.

OBJECTIVES:	ST OUTCOMES	LT IMPACTS	Primary responsible/supporting	Connections to other efforts
1) Identify and develop a network of stakeholders for optimizing the use of resources through a website and monthly meetings by May, 2014.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of regularly participating groups • Establish common goals and vision for the process. • Monthly meetings working towards and accomplishing agreed upon outcomes. • DACA collaborative expanded in March, 2014. • Website created directing people to meet their needs (# of hits) by May, 2014. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community infrastructure coming together to support the influx of demand. 		DACA collaborative
2) Establish a monitoring committee and process for combating fraud, beginning in March, 2014.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process for tracking fraud implemented on regular basis • # of fraudulent practices identified and terminated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trusted referral network for applicants • A place to report and check for fraudulent practices 		
3) By Date? the network of qualified service providers is assisting (up to #) applicants per week/month. <i>Pending Congressional Action</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of referrals made • # of applications submitted • # of follow up visits • Flow chart of services • Certification criteria agreed on by coalition • Coalition meeting regularly to ensure optimal service provision and no redundancies • Quality control of who is providing services—reports on those not qualified to provide services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater coordination among agencies • Reporting system for legal service providers who abuse the system 		

Priority Area 3: Regional capacity building

Overarching Goal

Developing and expanding the skills and capacities needed for meeting the requirements and optimizing benefits (including accreditation, training, expanding the numbers of who can provide quality services)

OBJECTIVES:	ST OUTCOMES	LT IMPACTS	Primary responsible/supporting	Connections to other efforts
<p>1) X# of training programs for application assistance skills that certify agencies through 2015.</p> <p><i>5 have accreditation and 3 are waiting.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training materials developed • # of agencies and individuals certified • Referrals and resource guide created with info on who is accredited • # of trainings offered and frequency • In kind resources offered for trainings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainings well attended, updated periodically, and reaching good candidates 		
<p>2) Increase the numbers of people that can support the application assistance process through coordinating trained volunteers and professionals by X # or %.</p> <p><i>Pending</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of volunteer hours served • # of attorneys offering pro bono and # of cases • funds raised to pay for professional capacity for difficult cases • # of youth recruited • Mentorships partnering less and more experienced providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger pool of trained people providing supportive services to those who need them the most • More youth entering immigration law profession 		

Priority Area 4: Continued Advocacy

Overarching Goal

Advocacy for those who need support and for moving the agenda for reform and related policies

OBJECTIVES:	ST OUTCOMES	LT IMPACTS	Primary responsible/supporting	Connections to other efforts
1) During 2014, advocate for 2-4 key pro-immigrant policies (like the Dream Act and expansion of family reunification visas) through the network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link with national pro-immigrant organizations • May 1st forum focus on this topic? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CA continues to be a leader in pro-immigrant policies 		
2) Organize 2000 of naturalized immigrants to be reached by Radio Bilingue in Fresno County, through GOTV campaigns and offering CE opportunities by Nov, 2014.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include CE in workshop trainings • Work with adult schools and other educators to include CE modules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More engaged electorate of new voters. 		Education and outreach
3) For those screened as ineligible under CIR, referral system to other legal options is in place by DATE. <i>Pending</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of referrals • information materials to include resources for this population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All immigrants find a place to have their questions answered in a safe and competent environment. 		Ed and outreach Immediate Service Needs
4) Beginning in March, ongoing monitoring and government vehicles by various partners (policy, committees, etc.) to hold those accountable for implementing state and other policies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A city resolution? • Committee to have a monitoring role on abuses reported and quality of services • Lobby visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ongoing effort where policies are monitored and sustainable. 		Immediate service needs
5) Network has promoted and joined forces with those groups assisting people with existing naturalization opportunities. <i>Is happening now....</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaigns for naturalizing have greater presence • #'s of people initiating and completing process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased LPR's awareness of how to be naturalized and to initiate the process 		