Supporting Immigrant Children in New Jersey

Immigrant children are the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. population today. In New Jersey one in five residents is foreign-born, and the immigrant population is highly decentralized. Children from immigrant families face particular challenges with education, physical and mental health, poverty, and assimilation into American society. Join us as we examine the wellbeing of immigrant children in the country and in New Jersey. Discover through conversations with greater Mercer County practitioners what we can do collaboratively to improve immigrant children's educational attainment, health status, social and cognitive development, and long-term prospects for success.

8:30 – 9:00 am: Breakfast

9:00 – 9:15 am: Welcome
Elisabeth Donahue, Assistant Dean for Public and External Affairs, the Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University
Nancy Kieling, President, Princeton Area Community Foundation

9:15 – 10:00 am: The Wellbeing of Children of Immigrants: A Framework for Understanding the Opportunities and Challenges
Krista M. Perreira, Associate Professor, the University of North Carolina
Moderator – Elisabeth Donahue

10:00 – 11:00 am: What are the Realities for Immigrant Children in New Jersey?
Patricia Fernandez-Kelly, Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology; Research Associate, Office for Population Research, Princeton University
Katherine Hempstead, Director of the Center for State Health Statistics, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Anastasia Mann, Director, Program on Immigration and Democracy, Rutgers University
Moderator – Elisabeth Donahue

11:00 – 11:15 am: Break

11:15 – 12:15 am: Panel Discussion and Audience Response
Reverend Karen Hernandez-Grantzen, Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church
Roberto Hernandez, Director, Catholic Charities’ Centro do Recursos Para Families (El Centro)
Maria Juega, Executive Director, Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Norbert A. Wetzel, Director, Princeton Family Institute
Moderator – Lauren Moore, Project Manager, the Future of Children

12:15 – 12:30 pm: Closing Remarks
Michelle Cash, Vice President, Grants and Programs, Princeton Area Community Foundation

This event is presented by the Woodrow Wilson School, the Future of Children, and the Princeton Area Community Foundation.