



LZC Winter Updates *February 2025*



Rights and Resources

The last 37 days have been relentless and devastating, with exactly the types of harmful anti-immigrant policy actions (and inactions) we expected to see in 2025 and beyond. At LZC, we stand with immigrants and other communities that are being marginalized or attacked by harmful narratives and challenges to our constitution and democracy.

In our role as action researchers, we remain alert and engaged in research, technical assistance and training activities, and network building to advance immigrant health and well-being. We find hope by partnering with community leaders, social service and healthcare providers, funders, policymakers, and advocates who are organizing resources and standing up for immigrant families and communities. In an effort to spread hope, resources, power, and action we are starting this winter newsletter off by sharing just a small snapshot of the incredible education and mobilization work happening around us.

- Know Your Rights trainings and resources are being offered in almost every corner, and experts are carefully monitoring policy changes to ensure resources are up to date. Nationally, the **ACLU** and **NILC** has guidance for immigrants and allies in specific situations (stopped by police, immigration shows up at workplace, detained while case is underway, expedited removal, etc.) and **ILRC** provides up-to-date analyses of legal

You have constitutional rights:

- **DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR** if an immigration agent is knocking. If you are inside of your house, show the card through the window or slide it under the door.
- **DO NOT ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS** from an immigration agent if they try to talk to you. You have the right to remain silent.
- **DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING** without first speaking to a lawyer. You have the right to speak with a lawyer.
- If you are outside of your house, **SHOW THIS CARD TO THE AGENT**. Ask the agent if you are free to leave and if they say you can, leave calmly.



www.RedCardOrders.com

implications of policy changes. In Massachusetts, **MIRA** offers fact sheets, trainings, and pre-recorded multi-lingual presentations focused on educating and empowering immigrants in knowing their own rights.

- Combat fear of deportation with facts and support. Fear, including among lawfully present immigrants and mixed status families, is directly impacting the health and well-being of families. Some are making difficult choices to forgo healthcare, school, work, and other daily activities or resources because they do not feel safe. News sources contribute to this “chilling effect” by spreading misinformation and reporting unverified ICE raids. Accurate data, communication, and support will be critical going forward. The **deportation defense hotline** from United We Dream is a resource if you witness an ICE raid or any other immigration activity in your community.

BE A MIGRAWATCH HOTLINE VOLUNTEER



- Legal experts are working hard to streamline resources and prevent **notario fraud**. The MA-based **Lawyers for Civil Rights Immigrant Defense Hotline** is for immigrants facing imminent threats related to immigration enforcement and MIRA operates a **non-emergency immigration helpline** for all Massachusetts residents.



- Refugee resettlement was cancelled in January and agencies across the country are working hard to carry out existing commitments to displaced persons - including vetted families who waited years, were invited to the United States, and are now here without access to basic housing, school enrollment, and employment services. Visit **Save USRAP** to learn how you can support refugee resettlement, which despite being an international humanitarian program **produced a net of \$123 billion to federal, state, and local governments from 2005-2019.**



PLEASE ACT NOW

The Trump Administration has canceled U.S. refugee resettlement activities as of late January putting people in the US and abroad in serious danger. Learn more about the situation below and please take action immediately:

- 1) **Contact your representatives** and tell them you support refugee resettlement
- 2) **Donate** to refugee resettlement agencies that have had their funding halted to allow them to continue serving refugees who have already arrived in the US
- 3) **Share this page** with your family, friends, and colleagues and ask them to also act urgently
- 4) **Check out our weekly updates below** and sign up to receive these updates via email

Everyone has a role to play. Locate, donate to, and/or volunteer directly with local immigrant-led mutual aid organizations in your community or broader coalitions such as **Massachusetts Immigrant Collaborative**, **Equity Now and Beyond**, and **MIRA Coalition**. Learn how you can safeguard our institutions, communities, and democracy through your own work, following the example of MA **healthcare providers** setting up policies and procedures to care for all patients, **philanthropies** coming together nationally to pool resources to fill critical gaps, neighbors forming groups for **local community building and advocacy**, or teachers following the MA Attorney General’s updated **guidance for public schools**’ obligation to protect students and their information.

In December 2024, we released our **first cumulative impact report** that shows how we have grown and what we have achieved since we launched LZC in 2022. It includes a theory of change to show how LZC's work advances immigrant health and well-being, even in the rapid chaos and change of the current policy environment. We also highlight some wisdom from our partners about how they are coping and building resilience.



Strategies for Resilience in Uncertain Times



New Research Partnerships

LZC is partnering with the **Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health** and the **FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University** on the Harvard Chan School's new initiative, entitled **Partnerships for Community Health and Immigrant Well-being**.

Harvard Chan students and faculty will work with LZC this summer to assess the landscape of community mental health resources available to immigrants in the greater Boston area and identify opportunities for community-clinical partnerships.



The **Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research (IHESJR)** at Northeastern University's Bouve College of Health Sciences has extended an affiliate faculty appointment to LZC Director Dr. Jessica Santos. Dr. Santos will work closely with faculty, researchers, and students in the Northeastern network to expand educational and research opportunities related to immigrant health and well-being.

The **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** awarded LZC a research grant to partner with **Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)**, **Wonder: Strategies for Good**, and a team of immigrant community researchers for evidence-based pro-immigrant narrative change across Massachusetts. This \$350,000 award is one of six nationwide that focus on the effects of policies in building a culture of health. Co-PIs Dr. Ariela Braverman Bronstein and Dr. Santos will bring complementary quantitative and qualitative expertise to this study. We look forward to piloting mixed-methods narrative change methodologies in the healthcare sector with this grant and working with MIRA to co-develop a long-term, cross-sector statewide initiative together with local funders and advocates.

“Over the past few months, we have seen again and again how important it is to push back against false, misleading anti-immigrant narratives that instill hate and fear. We are incredibly grateful for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s support, and look forward to partnering with the Leah Zallman Center to positively reshape how people think and feel about the incredible contributions immigrants make to our country every day.”

Elizabeth Sweet, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition.



New and Ongoing Capacity and Learning Activities

Over the next six months, LZC is providing technical assistance to the **Massachusetts Immigrant Collaborative** (MIC) around evaluation and data planning to support MIC’s impact-driven collaboration. Working closely with MIC leadership, LZC will develop an evaluation framework and capacity assessment for member organizations to guide future activities and build MIC’s shared capacity.



LZC Summer Internship Position: Apply Here!

LZC has one immigrant scholar internship position open this summer that will be dedicated to a doctoral student to assist primarily with research on the economic integration experiences of immigrants. This **position** is funded by the CDFI Consortium at the University of New Hampshire and is open to applicants in the Greater Boston area. LZC will also be accepting two Harvard Chan MPH or doctoral students as interns through our partnership with the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

LZC is grateful to be able to provide meaningful internship and fellowship opportunities to immigrant scholars through generous donations to the Center. We continue to seek to refine and improve our internship program and overall LZC operations. This past fall, we partnered with a team of graduate students from the **MIT Sloan School of Management** to analyze our existing operational structures and identify sustainable solutions as we move on from a “startup” phase. Thank you, Vicky, Paisley, Vittorio, Pradhi, Gabe, and Tamarik!



We would also like to acknowledge and thank **Sima Bou Jawde, PhD' 27**, who recently completed an eight-month fellowship with us. During her fellowship, Sima was jointly mentored by Dr. Santos and Dr. Carmel Salhi at the Institute of Health Equity and Social Justice Research (IHESJR) at Northeastern University. Sima conceptualized and developed a forthcoming issue brief on intersectionality, highlighting the experiences of Muslim women in the United States post-9/11 as a powerful example. We wish you all the best, Sima!

Expanding Our Reach: Events and Advisory Council Members



LZC Coffee Chat on Intersectionality: Resist Immigrant Othering in the Current Climate!

Join us and our partners at Northeastern University's Migration & Health Initiative for an in-person chat.

Get tools to combat essentialization and exclusion in your everyday work and life, starting with Intersectionality. Learn about the immigration systems and policies put in place after 9/11 that continue to shape immigrant women's experiences today.

The conversation
will be moderated by:



Sima Bou Jawde,
Northeastern
University
graduate student
and LZC fellow

All are welcome!
Please reach out to lzc@communityhealth.org with any questions.



Thursday,
March 20th, 2025



3:00-4:30 pm ET



Northeastern
University,
40 Leon St., Boston, MA
John D. O'Bryant
African American
Institute,
Cabral Center

**CLICK
HERE TO
REGISTER**



LZC is excited to partner with the Northeastern University Migration & Health Initiative for the **LZC Coffee Chat on Intersectionality** on Thursday, March 20th at 3:00-4:30pm ET at Northeastern University!

Click **here** to register.



As many of you know, the Leah Zallman Center works closely with an **Advisory Council** that advises the Center on research and policy opportunities, and helps to ensure that our work is grounded in and responsive to the priorities of immigrant communities.



Maroni Minter



Carmel Salhi, ScD



Grace Su, MSW, LICSW

We welcome three new Advisory Council members: **Maroni Minter**, Political Director at the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA); **Carmel Salhi, ScD**, Associate Professor at Northeastern University's Bouvé College of Health Sciences; and **Grace Su, MSW, LICSW**, Chief Program Officer at Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC).

We also would like to thank outgoing members **María Rosario González Albuixech, MSPS**, Senior Director of Media Advocacy and Communications, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network; and **Ân H. Lê, JD, MSW**, Director of Policy and Research, City of Boston Mayor's Equity and Inclusion Cabinet, for their service.

Learn more about the LZC Advisory Council [here](#)!

Updates from the Institute for Community Health

LZC is a center at the **Institute for Community Health (ICH)**. Through participatory evaluation,

applied research, and other services, ICH staff work with local and national partners to improve community health in a sustainable and equitable manner. ICH is supporting state and local governments, health care systems, and community-based organizations that strive to make health and wellbeing accessible to everyone. Visit [our website](#) to learn more about the work that we do and check out our latest [blog posts](#) and [publications](#).



INSTITUTE FOR
**COMMUNITY
HEALTH**

Support the Leah Zallman Center for Immigrant Health Research

The work of the Leah Zallman Center for Immigrant Health Research is made possible by generous private donations that support our unique and intensive model of community-engaged, participatory research. We are grateful for our monthly and special donors who enable us to support the perspectives and knowledge of immigrants and grow future leaders. We invite you to join us on our mission by donating [here](#).

DONATE NOW



A CENTER AT



immigranthealth.org
lzc@icommunityhealth.org



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