Setting the Stage: Reaching Out in Rural Communities & Immigrant Financial Concerns

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YES! Immigrants in Rural Communities!

• Important contributors to community and economy

• *Contributions of New Americans*
  State-by-state report (July 2016) by Partnership for a New American Economy
Collaboration
Reaching Out: You Can Do It!

- Bilingual, bicultural staff
- Don’t just send an email …
- Think about partnerships & collaboration
What financial issues are important to immigrant community members?
Paying Taxes

Financial Issues Important to Immigrant Community Members

• Need for basic information

• Filing with an ITIN for those without SSN

• Tax preparation waiting rooms – great place to provide other education
Higher Education

Financial Issues Important to Immigrant Community Members

• Need parents’ tax returns to apply for aid

• Financial aid is confusing (and unavailable for DACA, undocumented youth)

• Info about scholarships – few available for DACA, TPS, & undocumented, but there are some!

• Cost of housing
Health Insurance and Coverage

Financial Issues Important to Immigrant Community Members

• Lots of confusion
• How do deductibles and copays work?

“My company said it would provide insurance, so I don’t understand why I have to pay ...”
Bank Accounts

Financial Issues Important to Immigrant Community Members

- Could be first time opening an account
- Type of identification accepted depends on bank policies
Credit Cards and Credit Scores

Financial Issues Important to Immigrant Community Members

• What are these different cards?
• Avoiding scams and exploitation
• How do I establish my credit score?
• Women and credit history with spouse
Public Benefits

Financial Issues Important to Immigrant Community Members

- Population has different eligibility than those born in U.S.
- Undocumented are ineligible for all major public benefits
- Even most legal permanent residents are ineligible for first 5 years
- **BUT** – mixed-status families have **some family members who are eligible** for important supports
- Other exceptions – check the details!
- A few benefits can affect citizenship…
Remittances – Sending Money to Country of Origin

Financial Issues Important to Immigrant Community Members

• Most immigrant income stays in U.S. and benefits local economies

• But the 10% sent home is an important support

• High fees can drain resources...
Immigration and Citizenship Process Fees
Financial Issues Important to Immigrant Community Members

• Expensive
Also: Questions about starting a business, saving for retirement, and fundraising for nonprofits
In Conclusion

• Working together to build welcoming and inclusive rural communities

• A welcoming community is stronger economically and socially – for everyone
Resources

• neappleseed.org/library
  Go to Immigrants & Communities – Immigrant Banking
    – Financial education brochures – English & Spanish
    – Immigrant financial resources for banks, credit unions, & nonprofits from Appleseed network

• appleseednetwork.org
  – resources on asset-building and remittances

• www.welcomingamerica.org