

Immigration Matters in Indiana

Key Facts & Data

176,400

Immigrants live in Indianapolis, making up 8% of the city's population.

Indiana Children and Families, 2025

96.3K

Children in Indianapolis with at least one immigrant parent.

Indiana Business Research Center, 2026

↑70%

In Indiana's population in recent years and has been largely driven by international migration.

Indiana Business Research Center, 2026

30,600

Immigrants in the Indianapolis area are students enrolled in pre-K through college or graduate school.

Vera Institute, 2025

"Research consistently shows that increased immigration enforcement is linked to higher rates of child anxiety and depression, decreased school attendance, and greater economic instability." - Pediatrics



THE ASK

Ensure immigration policies are implemented with protections for children and families by establishing clear guidance for local agencies, safeguarding access to critical services, and preventing unnecessary disruptions to children's health, education, and family stability.

Indiana Senate Enrolled Act 76 (SEA 76) and The Current State of Immigration

SEA 76 (2026) increases Indiana's cooperation with federal immigration enforcement by requiring state and local agencies to comply with certain federal immigration requests and prohibiting "sanctuary" policies. The law also expands state oversight and reporting requirements related to immigration and public services.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Family Separation Risks

Families may face sudden separation, disruption of caregiving, and emotional stress for children.

Economic Instability

Loss of a detained or deported parent often leads to immediate income loss and financial hardship.

Child Well-Being and Mental Health

Children in immigrant families experience significant stress related to enforcement actions, which can manifest in anxiety, behavioral challenges, and long-term mental health impacts.

Educational Disruption

Immigration enforcement activity is associated with increased stress affecting learning and development, leading to poorer educational outcomes for children.

Medicaid & SNAP Benefits

New eligibility, verification, and work requirements (expected to begin Jan 2027) may create additional barriers for immigrant and mixed-status families, potentially limiting access to health coverage and food assistance.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Vera Institute, 2025

\$12.3B Immigrant-led households estimated spending power, Indiana

\$1.5B Immigrant contribution to state and local taxes

119,500 Immigrant workers make up 11% of Marion County's labor force.



of Indianapolis immigrants participate in the labor force, greater than the share of the area's U.S.-born population (67%).

Vera Institute, 2025

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Policymakers preparing for the 2027 legislative cycle have an urgent opportunity to recalibrate enforcement policies while safeguarding the well-being of children, families, and communities.

This requires implementing stronger privacy protections, providing clear guidance for local agencies, and taking steps to ensure that families can access essential services without fear of discrimination or deportation.

Marion County Commission on Youth

MCCOY is a non-partisan and independent non-profit organization that champions the positive development of youth through leadership on key issues and support of the youth development professional community. MCCOY serves as an advocate on behalf of youth policy, promoting positive practices and effective policies by:

- Educating leaders and community members about key youth development issues
- Supporting formal and informal policies that provide young people with the opportunities they need to succeed
- Consulting and empowering young people to be advocates for their own community goals

PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

Youth Well-Being

All youth should be safe, nurtured, and free from abuse, neglect, and violence through coordinated community efforts.

Youth Engagement

All youth should be empowered to formulate and share their opinions, and be part of decisions that affect them.

Student Success

All youth in Indiana have the right to an equitable, quality education, and to graduate and succeed.

Quality Youth Programs

All youth programs should adhere to quality and best-practice standards to best serve Indiana's young people.

Youth Worker Professional Development

All professionals working with youth should have access to continuing education and professional development with quality standards and credentialing.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Advocacy Resources

Tools and guidance for engaging in youth policy



Youth Day at the Statehouse

Bringing youth voice directly to legislators



Statehouse Sound-Off

Legislative session updates from MCCOY



Coalitions

Statewide partners advancing shared policy goals



Your Vote. Their Future.

Your one-stop voter guide for everything you need to participate in elections in Indiana



mccoyouth.org/advocacy/advocacy-resources

Our role as advocates.

As a leading intermediary organization, MCCOY connects partners, strengthens youth-serving organizations, elevates youth voice, and advocates for policies that support the well-being of young people and families.

OUR ADVOCACY TEAM

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30+

Years MCCOY has worked to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families across Marion County.



We champion the positive development of youth through community and systems change.

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