Growing Needs Among Undocumented Older Persons

A Presentation to the DuPage Human Service Federation

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The population of individuals over the age of 65 will grow substantially by 2030 and will more than double by 2050

U.S. Census Bureau
Since 1982, no major options to get legal status for the undocumented...
Yet older undocumented persons are here to stay. They are moving into their 60s and 70s.
In many ways, older undocumented look like any other Illinois resident.

**Figure 4: Undocumented Illinois Residents 55 and older compared to Native Born Groups (2017)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Undocumented</th>
<th>Native-Born</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% All Persons Working</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Employment Rate</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Unemployment Rate</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Force Participation Rate</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% in Poverty</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>11%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
However, older undocumented tend to have much closer family ties.
What are some things we need to recognize?

Some ideas for the start of a long list:

- Cultural competency and geriatric preparedness
- Geography and transportation
- Cultural perceptions and norms of health and mental health care
- Importance of shared language and culture