2023 IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION SUMMIT

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Southwest Suburban Immigrant Project
Southwest Suburban Immigrant Project is a social impact organization committed to community organizing for the rights of immigrants in Chicago’s southwest suburbs through education, civic engagement, and advocacy.
1. **Leadership & Healing Spaces**: via Community Navigators & Changemakers with a focus on POC development

2. **Parent Mentor Program (PMP)**: Engagement and empowerment of parents within and beyond their school communities

3. **Mariachi Matters**: a social justice through music & culture space for low-income/immigrant children and their parents

4. **The People’s Clinic**: accessible legal representation and literacy for low-income/mixed status families

5. **Immigrant Family Support & Resource Programs (IFSP & IFRP)**: navigation of systems and resources for immigrant families through a state-level network

6. **Health Justice**: Addressing the root causes of health gaps in the immigrant community through Know your Rights & advocacy
Challenges In working for health Justice

- The demand to meet other basic needs
- Language Barriers
- The costs of limited healthcare access
- Internet access and technology knowledge
Solutions & Best Practices

It takes a village! Relying on our partners has been critical and essential. Through this network we have provided support to families on different services, such as COVID testing & PPE, food pantries, housing & more.

Centering the client! In moments of uncertainty and fear, meeting the need with education has been key. This looks like providing someone with the immediate information they need to understand the situation & inviting them to be part of the ongoing conversation for solutions.

Effective Rapid Response! Coordinating and sharing resources quickly, from tangible items to volunteers, through mutual aid and innovative tactics. Meeting crisis as an organized community also means being mindful of rest for those constantly at the frontlines.

Developing the Strengths of Directly Impacted People! We believe the people most directly impacted are the experts we need a the table. Through leadership development and healing spaces, we center our stories as immigrants and find solutions via legislation and programming.
Collaboration with other organizations is key and our continued commitment to shared knowledge!