

SPRING/SUMMER 2018

# The Silent Crisis Continues

## Health, Access to Care, & Immigration Community Forum Series

In January 2018, the Associated Press published a story titled *Deportation Fears Have Legal Immigrants Avoiding Health Care*. The article highlights that, “the number of legal immigrants ... who access public health services and enroll in federally subsidized insurance plans has dipped substantially since President Trump took office, many of them fearing that their information could be used to identify and deport relatives living in the U.S. illegally, according to health advocates across the country.” This chilling development was confirmed over and over last summer by Community Health Workers (CHWs) and other frontline staff who attended Health Outreach Partners’ Silent Crisis convenings – community forum-style events aimed at supporting frontline community health staff conducting outreach to immigrant families.

Health Outreach Partners (HOP) remains fully committed to supporting both the health care system and immigrant communities. Therefore, we are launching “The Silent Crisis Continues” to engage a broader audience of health care providers and leaders in Spring 2018. To do so, we are seeking your support to raise \$70,000 to host events throughout California.

*“We’re afraid of getting sick or getting into an accident, but the fear of my husband being deported is bigger.”*

### Background: The Silent Crisis

We live in a country made strong by its rich immigrant history, but currently, **there is a strong anti-immigrant climate sweeping across the United States that is impacting the lives of immigrants and their families, as well as the broader health care system.** It is instilling fear and mistrust, and generating misinformation among immigrant communities. The current environment is forcing immigrants and their families to live quietly and out of view, unable to fully participate in or be supported by their communities. This “silent crisis” has many consequences, one of which is that people are choosing to forgo necessary health services, resulting in complications for their physical, mental, and behavioral health. Furthermore, health care and social service



providers are hindered in their ability to connect with and provide care to immigrant families in their communities. Here are just some examples of what CHWs and other frontline staff shared while participating in HOP's 2017 Silent Crisis Convening Series:

- Mental health, trauma, and behavioral health problems among immigrant communities are being exacerbated and magnified;
- Legal immigrants are forgoing accessing health care for fear that it may lead to a member of their family or community being deported;
- Chronic health conditions such as diabetes and hypertension are being further complicated;
- Substance abuse seems to be increasing;
- Lapses in health coverage are on the rise for those patients legally residing in the U.S. and for those in mixed status families;
- The overall well-being of immigrant families is being severely impacted, from school and work performance, to food security and willingness to report crimes.

## The Call to Action

Health Outreach Partners (HOP), in partnership with the Northwest Regional Primary Care Based on the feedback received from participants of the 2017 Silent Crisis Convening Series, HOP is planning to launch "The Silent Crisis Continues: Health, Access to Care, and Immigration" in Spring 2018. Community-forum style events will provide an opportunity for CHWs and other frontline staff from community-based health organizations to network, share their experiences, exchange best practices, and take away concrete resources. All participants will receive copies of HOP's newly updated resource, **"The Silent Crisis: How to Do Outreach in an Anti-Immigrant Climate."**

## Who Should Attend & Anticipated Outcomes

Staff from Community Health Centers, Health Departments, patients' rights advocacy groups, and Managed Care Organization community relations departments are strongly encouraged to attend. Attendees will:

- Learn from and build upon the strategies shared and collected during the summer 2017 Silent Crisis convenings;
- Engage in facilitated discussion about effective community strategies;
- Identify and share self-care practices that promote the health and well-being of frontline staff in difficult work environments;
- Build and strengthen their networks to facilitate further collaboration at the local level; and
- Obtain a free copy of HOP'S Silent Crisis Resource and access to additional resources.



## Sponsorship Opportunities

HOP invites you to sponsor The Silent Crisis Continues: Health, Access to Care, and Immigration in 2018 Community Forum Series. Your contribution can positively impact the provision of quality care to immigrants and their families at a critical time.

All sponsors will have their name, logo, and an active link to their organization's website on the Silent Crisis event home page. Sponsorships at the Champion and Advocate levels will also be recognized on the electronic and print versions of HOP's Silent Crisis Resource. You can select to have your sponsorship support one or more of the following funds:

### Planning and Event Space Goal: \$50,000

**Champion: \$50,000 · Advocate: \$10,000 · Supporting: \$5,000**

This fund will support overall event coordination and facilitation, and help secure convenient and accessible locations for each forum. We welcome in-kind gifts such as space in your organization. Estimated attendees per event: 40 people.

### Stipends and Meals Goal: \$10,000

**Champion: \$10,000 · Advocate: \$5,000 · Supporting: \$2,500**

This fund will help provide meals and travel stipends to support attendance and participation by Community Health Workers and other frontline staff from community-based health organizations.

### Translation & Interpreting Services Goal: \$7,000

**Champion: \$7,000 · Advocate: \$3,500 · Supporting: \$1,000**

This fund will help us to translate the newly updated Silent Crisis Resource into Spanish, as well as to provide interpreting services at the community forums. We welcome in-kind interpreting services.

### Resources Dissemination Goal: \$3,000

**Champion: \$3,000 · Advocate: \$1,500 · Supporting: \$500**

This fund will support printing and dissemination of the Silent Crisis Resource for all forum participants. It will also support documenting and sharing back participant input from each event in the series.

### OPTIONAL: Year-Long Advocacy Efforts Goal: \$5,000

**Champion: \$5,000 · Advocate: \$2,500 · Supporting: \$1,000**

This fund will help HOP continue sharing this information with health center leadership and national, state, and local decision makers throughout the year via conference workshops, committee meetings, and issue briefs.



## Working Together to Create Access for All

For over 47 years, Health Outreach Partners (HOP) has assisted community health organizations in developing and implementing outreach programs that address the unmet needs of underserved members of their communities. Our work is guided by the fundamental belief that health is a human right and that outreach is key to creating trusting relationships and ensuring access to quality care for the most underserved people in their communities. Conversations about health and immigration are more important than ever given the current anti-immigrant environment. We deeply appreciate and value your support.

### FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FORUM SERIES, CONTACT

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### FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, CONTACT:

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