Hi, I'm your host Nikki and you're listening to the **[Juvenile Justice Information Exchange](#)** Resource Hub podcast, or what we like to call the "**JJIE Hubcast**."Our aim is to bring often underrepresented issues in the juvenile justice system to light. This season is going to be dedicated to sharing information about immigrant youth in the juvenile justice system. We will talk about who are immigrant youth in America, how they are involved in the juvenile justice system, and what policies are working or recommended by experts in the justice field. For each episode, we will post a transcript with references to related resources for anyone who wants to follow up on any information we discuss.

Today, we are going to talk about some policy recommendations offered by juvenile justice and immigration experts, along with what are some processes and policies that are already in place and working to help keep immigrant youth out of the JJS. Some policies are for youth in the broader sense and apply to all youth (such as school policies and confidentiality issues) while others are tailored more toward protecting undocumented youth from immigration proceedings.

Let's begin with recommendations that lawmakers and individuals like you and I can use to help keep immigrant youth out of the JJS. A few highlights from NJJN's *Supporting Immigrant Youth Caught in the Crosshairs of the Justice System* and the collaboration between NJJN and the ILRC's *Protecting Immigrant Youth* are:

For lawmakers it is advised to:
- Restrict access by federal agencies to student and school records, more broadly protecting the confidentiality of youth
- Eliminate the use of gang databases -- you can see California's AB 90 legislation or the dismantling of Cook County, Illinois gang database for more information (links provided in transcripts)
    - California: **https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB90**
    - Illinois: **https://www.injusticewatch.org/news/2019/committee-votes-end-use-of-controversial-cook-county-gang-database/**
- Keep youth in their homes while they may be awaiting trial
- Ensure that legal counsel has training in immigration proceedings and any consequences youth might face for involvement in the JJS
- Keep state, local, juvenile, and school law enforcement agencies from interacting with federal immigration policy

- California offers another example of supportive policy, the California Values Act (SB 54) passed in 2017. "This Act bars immigration holds and 287 (g) contracts and places limits on transfers to ICE" (***Supporting Immigrant Youth Caught in the Crosshairs* pg. 6)**
- Remember from Episode one that 287(g) agreements allow local and state government officials to act as immigration officers

For me, you, and anyone else to support immigrant youth we can:
- "Advocate that justice system actors not use immigration status as a basis to detain youth"
- Seek out information about if your community has a gang database it follows and if so, advocate eliminating the use of it
- "Provide alternative means for parents who may be fearful of coming to court due to their own immigration vulnerabilities to demonstrate their support for their child"
    - According to the NJJN, stakeholders should create "accommodations for parents to appear by phone, through written information, or find another family or community member who could appear in their stead."
- Work to help find funding to make sure immigrant youth have access to juvenile defense with immigration knowledge

See ***Supporting Immigrant Youth Caught in the Crosshairs of the Justice System*** and the ***Protecting Immigrant Youth*** publications for more recommendations and considerations.

The **[Annie E. Casey Foundation's](#)** ***Non-Citizen Youth in the Juvenile Justice System 2018 Update*** also offers us some recommendations for when working with noncitizen youth:
- Officials should not honor any ICE hold requests for juveniles and
- We should assist noncitizen youth in obtaining immigration status
    - Gaining legal status may help youth obtain employment or enroll in higher education. Gaining lawful immigration status contributes to successful growth as an adult
    - There is a JJIE story published about the report (the link is provided in the show notes): **https://jjie.org/2018/02/28/what-advocates-law-enforcement-need-to-know-about-protecting-young-immigrants-in-justice-system/**
- And we should also continue advocating for juvenile justice system reform-- by reducing the use of detention for juveniles we can help keep immigrant youth out of the deportation pipeline

One of the most notable recommendations among several resources (and mentioned above) is that it is critical noncitizen youth are provided with access to counsel with

immigration training. Attorneys need to know the consequences their clients might face from involvement in the JJS and immigration system.

Of course, we cannot cover every issue, policy, recommendation, or story in these snapshots of information. We hope that you will review our transcripts which have the resources and notes from each article used.

Resources:

The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2018). *Noncitizen Youth in the Juvenile Justice System 2018 Update*. Baltimore, MD: Angie Junck and d Rachel Prandini. Retrieved from: **https://www.aecf.org/resources/noncitizen-youth-in-the-juvenile-justice-system-2018-update/**

The Immigrant Legal Resource Center and The National Juvenile Justice Network. (2018). *Protecting Immigrant Youth*. Retrieved from: **https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/protect_immig_youth-20181217.pdf**

The National Juvenile Defender Center. (2017). *Juvenile Defenders Guide to Immigration Issues in Juvenile Proceedings.* Retrieved from: **https://njdc.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Immigration-Brief_Final.pdf**

The National Juvenile Justice Network. (2018). *Supporting Immigrant Youth Caught in the Crosshairs of the Justice System*. Retrieved from: **http://www.njjn.org/uploads/digital-library/Supporting%20Immigrant%20Youth,%20NJJN%20Policy%20Platform,%20August%20%202018.pdf**