



# Fulfilling the Promise in the Garden State

## Seizing Upon the Full Opportunity of Immigration Executive Action

Johanna Calle, New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice  
Sara Cullinane, Esq. Make the Road New Jersey

# New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice



# Make the Road New Jersey



- Founded in 2014 in Elizabeth, NJ
- Combine legal and support services with civic engagement for low-income immigrants
- Most of the community members we serve are DACA/DAPA eligible

# Recap

- NJ has the **fifth highest DACA/DAPA eligible population in the country.**
- BUT in 2012-2014 NJ had the **lowest DACA application rate** among the states with high DACA eligible populations

# Benefits of 2012 DACA

- 59% got a new job
- 49% opened bank account
- 100% became eligible for drivers license in NJ
- 21% got health insurance
- 45% increased job earnings
- 15% screened eligible for permanent relief

# Potential Benefits of DACA/DAPA to the Garden State

- 39% of undocumented population in NJ eligible for relief under DACA/DAPA
- Cumulative increase in state GDP
  - \$ 11,979,000,000
- Cumulative increase in earnings of all state residents
  - \$ 6,433,000,000
- Cumulative increase in earnings of DAPA- and DACA-eligible workers
  - \$ 5,361,000,000
- Average annual number of jobs created
  - 1,500

Source: Center for American Progress, June 12 2015

# Challenges

- Geography
- Diverse undocumented communities
- Access to counsel
- Lack of ESL/GED classes and barriers to enrollment for DACA-eligibles who need to meet education requirements.
- Criminal convictions (perceived or actual ineligibility).



# NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice

- Conducted intensive 3 month study to assess needs and capacity to serve New Jersey's DACA/DAPA eligible community
- Convened legal services and community groups to assess and plan response
- Researched and recommended best practices
- [https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=zs1jutK3BkIA.kpiW\\_BV6FlgE](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=zs1jutK3BkIA.kpiW_BV6FlgE)



# Garden State DACA/DAPA Initiative

*New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice will provide training & technical assistance to community organizations across the Garden State and connect CBOs with legal service providers.*

*Alliance will serve as clearinghouse for information with website and hotline to connect individuals to state-wide services, provide training to CBO staff and volunteers to become Community Navigators.*

# Garden State DACA/DAPA Initiative

- Goals:
  - Reach 10,000 immigrants across NJ, including in other to educate, screen and prep for DACA/DAPA.
  - Build long lasting community-based legal service & referral capacity and infrastructure, through partnerships and BIA accreditation.
  - Connect immigrant community members to CBOs for additional services and civic engagement.
  - Leverage support of city and county government to invest in services and outreach.

# Clearinghouse for Information

- Legal team to vet materials for screening and legal clinics
- Hotline
- Calendar
- Website

# PHASE 1: Outreach, Screening and Preparation

- Reach 10,000 immigrant families in Alliance network across the state
- Screening for DACA/DAPA *and other forms of relief*
- Notario Fraud warnings
- Document Prep clinics
- Refer to legal service providers through referral network if underlying legal questions
- Refer to ESL/GED classes

# Building Capacity of CBOs: Navigator Model

Building off of success of Affordable Care Act, use navigator model to harness community leaders, volunteers, supervised by attorneys. Alliance will train members of CBOs in DACA/DAPA and pair them with legal service providers

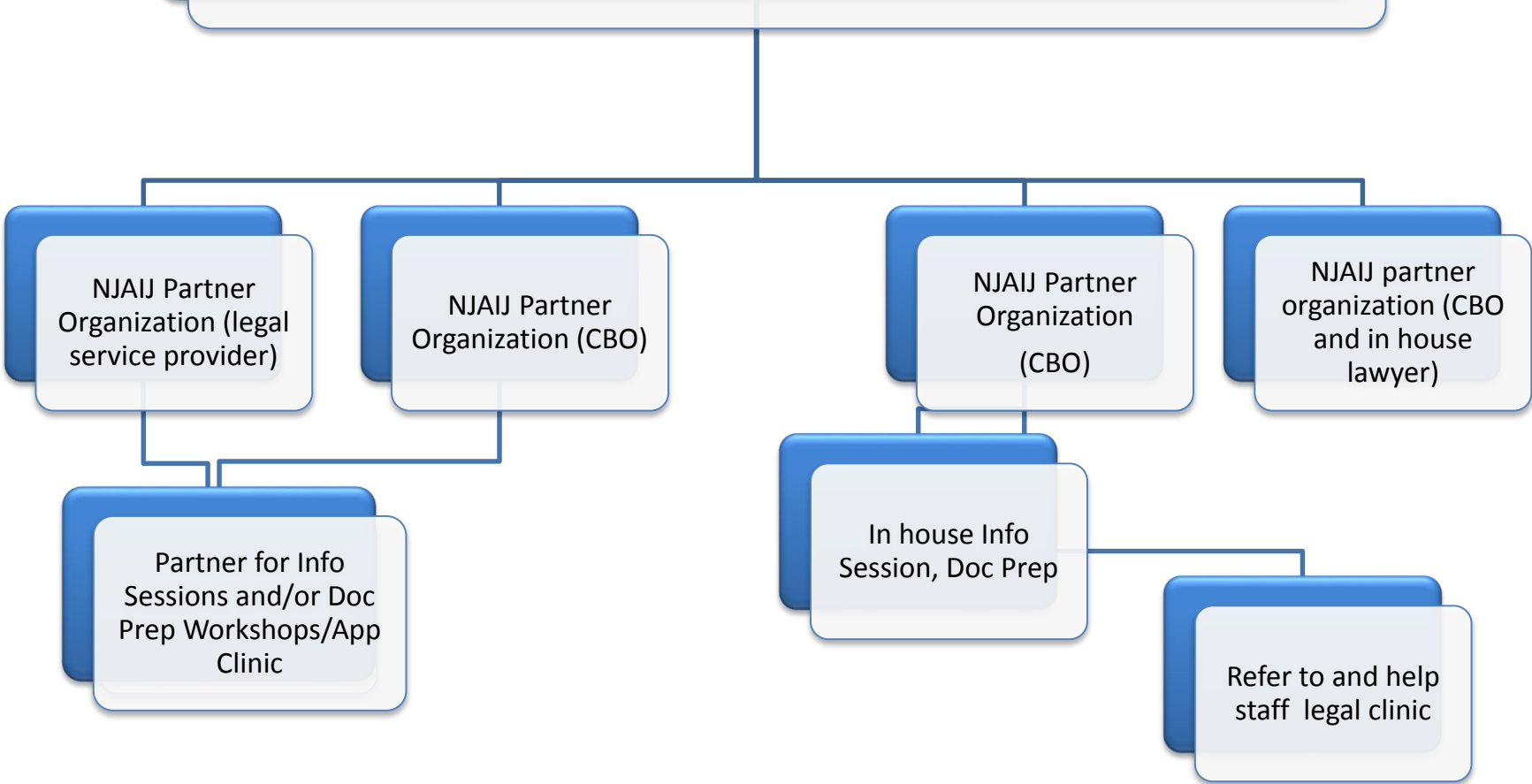
*Culturally competent navigators can:*

- Assist individual to screen/self screen eligibility for DACA/DAPA while avoiding unauthorized practice of law
- Conduct initial screening for other forms of relief
- Spot red flags/deportation traps
- Refer cases to attorneys for final eligibility determination
- Help individuals prepare documents
- If and when injunction is lifted, staff application clinics under supervision of lawyers

# PHASE 2: Application Clinics

- Once injunction is lifted:
  - Doc Prep clinics
  - Application clinics
- Navigators and CBOs play a key role in helping applicants prepare documents so that individuals are ready to apply *before* they arrive at clinic.
- Clinics staffed by FT attorney, plus trained volunteers/pro bono attorneys, so each applicant can receive full representation.

# Connecting CBOs and Legal Service providers



NJAIJ Partner Organization (legal service provider)

NJAIJ Partner Organization (CBO)

NJAIJ Partner Organization (CBO)

NJAIJ partner organization (CBO and in house lawyer)

Partner for Info Sessions and/or Doc Prep Workshops/App Clinic

In house Info Session, Doc Prep

Refer to and help staff legal clinic

# Thank you!

Johanna Calle : [jcalle@njimmigrantjustice.org](mailto:jcalle@njimmigrantjustice.org)  
(201) 580-3060

Sara Cullinane:  
[sara.cullinane@maketheroadnj.org](mailto:sara.cullinane@maketheroadnj.org)  
(908) 768-4991