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Food Insecurity Affecting Immigrant Families in the United States

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Objectives – To answer the following:
1. Do states provide federal programs to immigrant families who not qualify for programs?
2. What other programs can recent immigrant families benefit from?
3. How can the rates of child poverty be lowered?

Food Insecurity
- Food insecurity can cause malnutrition, poor health, and developmental issues.
- 36% of young children in Hispanics families are low income and/or poor.
- 37% of poor young children in the US are located in the Northeast.

Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act 1996: known as “welfare reform” that requires work in exchange for time-limited assistance

Quick Facts
- Immigrants who have lived in the United States for five years or less are ineligible to receive SNAP benefits.
- More than 21% of children in the United States live in families with income below the federal poverty threshold.
- 15% of children in New Jersey live in poor families.
- 1 in 4 low-income children are children of Immigrants.

Farm Security and Rural Investment Act 2002: known as the “Farm Bill” covers a wide range of programs, income support, and domestic food programs

Relevant Legislation & Policy
- In New Jersey, families who receive Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) known as “food stamps” are lawfully-present non-citizen. However, they must satisfy other eligibility requirements.

Methods:
- Online Research
- Relevant Literature

Studies have proven that children with food insecurities, demonstrate lack of reading skills and poor health status.

In Inclusive States vs. Exclusive States
After the 2002 Farm Bill passed, seven states – California, Connecticut, Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, Washington, and Wisconsin – used state-funded food assistance programs to provide support to some immigrants who were not covered by the federal food assistance program.

Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act 1996

I am afraid to apply for assistance due to my legal status.

I am scared of deportation and leaving my children behind.

Research and data show that food insecurity can have severe consequences on the health and well-being of children.