

# Voice of the Poor

[www.voiceofthepoor.org](http://www.voiceofthepoor.org)

January, 2010

[www.stvincentdepaul.net](http://www.stvincentdepaul.net)

St. Vincent de Paul remains “open for business” serving those in need as we are able. We do not inquire about legal status.

## Impact of HB 2008 on Immigrant Families

A budget bill (HB 2008) passed during the July Special Session of the AZ Legislature included immigration enforcement provisions for Department of Economic Security (DES) employees effective 11/24/09. Employees who do not comply are subject to penalties including jail.

According to the DES bulletin for its employees:

- Employees are required to notify immigration authorities if, during the course of an interview, ***the applicant verbally or in writing declares that they are in the U.S. illegally.***
- Undocumented parents applying for benefits for a child who is a U.S. citizen will not be reported ***unless they declare verbally or in writing that they are in the U.S. Illegally.***

-----Clip and share with your Conference-----

## KNOW YOUR PUBLIC BENEFITS

Regardless of your immigration status, under Federal law EVERYONE is entitled to receive the following 5 public benefits **regardless of immigration status:**

1. Emergency medical care
2. Public safety (including police and fire service & 911)
3. Immunizations (such as seasonal and H1N1 flu)
4. WIC program
5. Disaster assistance

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### AHCCCS & FOOD STAMPS

Parents applying for their children for AHCCCS and Food Stamps are **not** obligated to answer questions regarding **their own immigration status**. If you are questioned regardless of this fact, you may answer like this: ***“I’m sorry, but I am here to apply for my children not for myself.”***

**Remember that you always have the right to remain silent** even under the implementation of recent state law changes. Never admit in writing, verbally nor sign any document admitting that

you are undocumented. Call Friendly House (602) 257-1870 if you believe your child has been unfairly denied benefits.

## CONOCE TUS BENEFICIOS PUBLICOS

La ley federal te otorga que TODA PERSONA tiene derecho de recibir los siguientes 5 servicios públicos **sin importar tu estatus migratorio**:

1. Atención médica de emergencia
2. Seguridad pública (incluyendo la policía y los bomberos y 911)
3. Programa de vacunación (ej. influenza estacional y AH1N1)
4. Programa alimenticio para mujeres embarazadas y niños (WIC)
5. Ayuda en caso de desastres

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### AHCCCS Y ESTAMPILLAS DE COMIDA

Los padres aplicando para AHCCCS Y ESTAMPILLAS DE COMIDA para los niños **no** están obligados a responder preguntas acerca de **su propio estatus migratorio** cuando solicitan servicios públicos para sus hijos estadounidenses. Si de cualquier manera te lo preguntan, puedes responder así: ***“Discúlpeme, pero estoy aquí para solicitar ayuda para mis hijos, no para mí.”***

**A pesar de los cambios en las leyes estatales, recuerda que siempre tienes el derecho de mantenerte callado. Nunca diga, admita o firme un documento admitiendo que no tiene estatus migratorio. En boca cerrada no entran moscas.** Si piensas que están tratando su niño con injusticia y no están dando le sus beneficios, por favor llama a “La Casa de Amistar” a (602) 257-1870.

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Voice of the Poor will next meet on Monday, January 18, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. This meeting will be held at the Law Offices of Ronald Meyer, 3600 N. Central Ave., Suite 700. For further information or to add an item to the agenda, contact Lucy Howell at [Howishome@aol.com](mailto:Howishome@aol.com).