

“FALLING THROUGH THE CRACKS”

COVID-19 AND LATINO
IMMIGRANTS

Janet Cazares

8 December 2021

**FALLING THROUGH
THE CRACKS**





The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and problems and to develop leadership skills.

This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to *practice* leadership *through* action.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women's Leadership's website at <http://iwl.rutgers.edu>.

MISSION

The goal of “Falling Through the Cracks” is to bring awareness to the social and economic effects of COVID-19 on urban Latino immigrant communities in New Jersey.

My podcast focuses on two central themes:

- The lack of a social safety net for immigrants
- Latina immigrants and domestic work

In this podcast we take a look at the experiences of Latino immigrants during the pandemic and how they leveraged community resources in a time of need.

Feminist Leadership

- Researching and prioritizing the gendered impacts of COVID-19
- Most interviewees are women

01 RESEARCH

KEY FINDINGS



Latina immigrants had the highest jobless rate of all racial and ethnic groups, 22% (Gelatt, 2020)



29% of domestic workers are Latina. Latinas make up 62% of house cleaning occupation and 51% of them are noncitizens (National Domestic Workers Alliance, 2020).



Half of all Latina mothers are the key breadwinners for their families (Center for Women and Work, 2021).



In NJ, 81% of immigrants live in households where a member of the household lost their job during the pandemic (Make the Road NJ, 2020)



Amongst immigrants:

- 85.3% were worried about being able to pay for food for themselves or their families
- 77.3% were worried about being able to buy medicine for themselves or for their families

(Make the Road NJ, 2020)

02

OUTREACH &
COMMUNICATION

OUTREACH MATERIAL

SE BUSCA PARTICIPANTES PARA ENTREVISTAS SOBRE COVID- 19

Hola! Mi nombre es Janet. Soy estudiante en la Universidad de Rutgers. Estoy haciendo entrevistas a la comunidad Latina sobre los impactos del COVID-19.

Busco entrevistar a Latinas que trabajan en limpieza y servicio doméstico. Las entrevistas son a través de Zoom o por llamada telefónica.

Si estás interesada en participar, por favor contácteme a través de WhatsApp: (973) 986-0785



Communication:

- Emails
- WhatsApp group chats
- Facebook

ORGANIZATIONS




**CENTER FOR LATINO
ARTS AND CULTURE**



FIG 1: Map of NJ

MY VISIT TO MAKE THE ROAD NJ IN ELIZABETH



MAKE THE ROAD NEW JERSEY

COMITÉ GENERAL DE ELIZABETH

*¡UNETE A LA LUCHA:
LUCHANDO, CREANDO,
PODER POPULAR!*

NUESTRO LOGROS:

- IDENTIFICACIÓN MUNICIPAL
- DIAS DE ENFERMEDAD PAGADOS
- AYUDA FINANCIERA PARA ESTUDIANTES INDOCUMENTADOS
- SUELDO MINIMO A \$ 15/HORA
- LA LEY CONTRA EL ROBO DE SALARIO
- LICENCIAS DE CONDUCIR

NUESTRO TALLERES:

- CONOCE TUS DERECHOS
- CLASES DE LIDERAZGO
- DERECHOS DEL INQUILINO
- DERECHOS DE TRABAJADORES
- DERECHOS DE INMIGRANTES




DÓNDE:

AHORA DEBIDO A LA PANDEMIA, NOS REUNIMOS POR ZOOM


CUANDO: 7 PM TODOS LOS JUEVES

PARA EL ENLACE DE ZOOM O MÁS INFORMACIÓN: LLAME A OLGA 929-512-0703

SÍGUENOS EN LAS REDES SOCIALES

   @MAKETHEROADNJ

ELIZABETH, NJ



CLÍNICAS GRATUITAS

PARA APLICAR AL FONDO PARA PERSONAS EXCLUIDAS DE NJ

¿QUÉ ES EL FONDO PARA PERSONAS EXCLUIDAS DE NJ?

El fondo proporciona un beneficio en efectivo directo y por única vez a los elegibles que han sufrido dificultades económicas debido a COVID-19 y fueron excluidos tanto de los cheques de estímulo federal como de la asistencia por desempleo relacionada con COVID. Los elegibles pueden recibir \$ 1,000 hasta \$2,000.

¿QUE DOCUMENTOS TENGO QUE PREPARAR PARA APLICAR AL FONDO?

1. Deben poder demostrar que fueron excluidos de los cheques de estímulo federal como de la asistencia por desempleo relacionada con COVID
2. Impacto de COVID en el hogar
3. Proporcionar prueba de ingresos familiares de \$55,000 o menos
4. Deben tener 18 años de edad, residir en el estado de Nueva Jersey y prueba de identidad




¡ÚNASE A NUESTRAS CLÍNICAS SEMANALES!

DOMINGOS 3PM - 6PM

DEBE HACER UNA CITA

Llama a Olga o manda un correo: 929-512-0703 o olga.armas@maketheroadnj.org

MAKE THE ROAD NEW JERSEY

   @MAKETHEROADNJ





KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Drastic policy changes are needed!
- Local resources are essential
- Informing people about their rights and the resources available to them
- Women advocates and community members are at the forefront of this issue



LESSONS LEARNED

- Adaptability
- Constant and consistent communication
- Be patient
- Be an active listener



FUTURE IMPACT

- This project will be able to debunk misinformation about the immigrant community and raise awareness about how current policies actually function
- Inspire people to engage with the community
- Keep pushing for pro-immigrant legislation



BUILDING ON THE PODCAST

- Room to cover more topic ideas
- Collaborate with more local organizations

TIMELINE

Researched and followed the news on the #Recovery4All movement



MAY-
AUG.

SEPT.

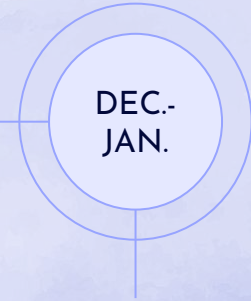
Made changes to project: reduced the number of episodes



- Purchased equipment
- Drafted questions and consent & release forms with Dr. Lilia Fernandez
- Reached out to organizations for interviews and recruited participants

OCT.-
NOV.

Interview remaining individuals, finish editing, and publish my podcast



DEC.-
JAN.



**THANK
YOU!**

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Capps, R. (2020, June). *COVID-19 and Unemployment: Assessing the Early Fallout for Immigrants and Other U.S. Workers*.

Migrationpolicy.org. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/covid-19-unemployment-immigrants-other-us-workers>

Center for Women and Work. (2021). *Latina Wage Gap in New Jersey: Where Are We Now?*

https://smlr.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/Documents/Centers/CWW/Publications/LatinaWageGapNJ_IssueBrief_Oct2021.pdf

Cleaveland, C., & Waslin, M. (2021). COVID-19: Threat and Vulnerability Among Latina Immigrants. *Affilia*, 088610992098523.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0886109920985232>

Fix, M., & Haskins, R. (2002, February 2). *Welfare Benefits for Non-citizens*. Brookings; Brookings.

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/welfare-benefits-for-non-citizens/>

Gelatt, J. (2021, January 13). *Nearly 3 Million U.S. Citizens and Legal Immigrants Initially Excluded under the CARES Act Are Covered under the December 2020 COVID-19 Stimulus*. Migrationpolicy.org.

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/news/cares-act-excluded-citizens-immigrants-now-covered>

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Make the Road New Jersey. (2020a, April 23). *Essential and Excluded: A Survey of Immigrants in New Jersey under COVID-19*.

Make the Road New Jersey. https://www.maketheroadnj.org/report_essential_and_excluded

Make the Road New Jersey. (2020b, September 14). *6 Months Later: Still Essential, Still Excluded*. Make the Road New Jersey.

https://www.maketheroadnj.org/report_6months_no_relief

Monsy Alvarado. (2021, March 8). *"It's been the most difficult year": Immigrant women march for state, federal benefits*. North Jersey Media Group; NorthJersey.com.

<https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/2021/03/08/passaic-nj-immigrant-women-march-state-us-benefits/4622124001/>

NJ COVID-19 Dashboard. (2021). *Story Map Series*. Arcgis.com.

<https://njhealth.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=50c2c6af93364b4da9c0bf6327c04b45&folderid=e5d6362c0f1f4f9684dc650f00741b24>

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Rodriguez-Diaz, C. E., Guilamo-Ramos, V., Mena, L., Hall, E., Honermann, B., Crowley, J. S., Baral, S., Prado, G. J.,

Marzan-Rodriguez, M., Beyrer, C., Sullivan, P. S., & Millett, G. A. (2020). Risk for COVID-19 infection and death among

Latinos in the United States: examining heterogeneity in transmission dynamics. *Annals of Epidemiology*, 52, 46-53.e2.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annepidem.2020.07.007>

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, February 11). *Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)*. Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/investigations-discovery/hospitalization-death-by-race-ethnicity.html>

UnidosUS. (2021). *Beyond Wages: Effects of the Latina Wage Gap*.

<https://www.nationalpartnership.org/our-work/resources/economic-justice/fair-pay/latinas-wage-gap.pdf>

Yi, K. (2021, March 10). “*Whole Generations Of Fathers” Lost As COVID-19 Kills Young Latino Men In NJ*. Gothamist; Gothamist.

<https://gothamist.com/news/whole-generations-of-fathers-lost-as-covid-19-kills-young-latino-men-in-nj>