In working families, poverty is more prevalent among children of immigrants. In California, 1 million children of immigrants in working families live in poverty, and the vast majority of these kids are US citizens. The poverty rate for children of immigrants in working families is more than twice the rate for other kids in working families (24% vs 11%).

Growing up in poverty cuts children off from opportunity and can have lasting, harmful effects. The longer children spend in poverty, the less likely they are to complete high school, attend college, and work consistently in early adulthood, and the more likely they are to live in poverty as adults.

Policymakers can help more children reach their potential by making policies inclusive. Promising steps include allowing all working income-eligible immigrant families who file their taxes to qualify for the CalEITC and removing immigration status as a barrier to accessing health coverage.

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Note: Working families are those with any earnings from work. Immigrant parents are those who were born outside of the US and US territories and were not born to US citizen parents. Source: Budget Center analysis of US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey data.