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00:00:01,440 --> 00:00:17,390

(Narrator)

Lilian Jimenez, Esquire. Associate Director Office of Welcoming Centers for Refugees and Immigrant Services, Illinois Department of Human Services.

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00:00:17,390 --> 00:00:27,020

(Lilian Jimenez)

So the Welcoming Center model is to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate social services to to communities,

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to immigrant, refugee and limited English proficient communities. That covers a lot, covers recent immigrants.

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You know, folks who have been here for a longer period of time, but limited English proficient also covers people,

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could be U.S. citizens, but have lived many years in another country or may not speak English as a first language.

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My mother was an undocumented immigrant who came on her own when she was about 14.

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My father came from Puerto Rico at around the same age, around 14.

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He was a U.S. citizen that had a lot of very similar barriers, not knowing the English language.

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00:00:59,510 --> 00:01:07,730

So none of them ever finished grammar school or high school. And the point of the Welcoming Centers is to bridge that gap and eliminate

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00:01:07,730 --> 00:01:16,949

barriers for folks who are not able to access our services in a

traditional way.