

1

00:00:01,450 --> 00:00:17,330

(Narrator)

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

2

00:00:17,330 --> 00:00:23,060

(Lilian Jimenez)

You know, I don't want to ever leave anyone behind. You know, going around when I was young, you know,

3

00:00:23,060 --> 00:00:29,480

we would go to food pantries and clothing drives and, you know, different different types of services.

4

00:00:29,480 --> 00:00:33,230

And, you know, my mom would always tell me, look at the people who are working here.

5

00:00:33,230 --> 00:00:40,130

Isn't that great that they're doing this for us? And my mom also being undocumented. She was always volunteering.

6

00:00:40,130 --> 00:00:45,530

I just always wanted to take after her footsteps. How do we help others while accepting help ourselves?

7

00:00:45,530 --> 00:00:49,310

How do we continue to help others? And each one of our Welcoming Centers is different

8

00:00:49,310 --> 00:00:53,120

and has a different framework and comes from a different theory of change,

9

00:00:53,120 --> 00:00:57,500

different background of how they developed as a community-based organization.

10

00:00:57,500 --> 00:01:01,430

My hope is that some of those have some progressive views that we could learn from and then as

11

00:01:01,430 --> 00:01:07,320

well as maybe some of them could do the learning either from us or the other organizations.

12

00:01:07,320 --> 00:01:19,310

And I'm really proud of our Welcoming Centers. My hope was to to kind of identify some areas where we could grow and develop, and in order to do that,

13

00:01:19,310 --> 00:01:26,690

we started talking about like needing to do a deeper dive evaluation about what our Welcoming Centers really were providing, how they were providing it.

14

00:01:26,690 --> 00:01:32,180

I think if you don't step back once in a while to make sure that you are casting a wider net,

15

00:01:32,180 --> 00:01:39,260

I imagine you could possibly get stuck in a in a position where you're serving the same community or you're doing the same things over and over again,

16

00:01:39,260 --> 00:01:47,090

and you're you're missing the opportunity to identifying additional resources that they could be using or

17

00:01:47,090 --> 00:01:54,230

identifying additional barriers that they themselves or family members or other people are seeing and facing.

18

00:01:54,230 --> 00:02:02,720

That's why I go back to communities with disabilities and health issues and other things that we may not have been looking at.

19

00:02:02,720 --> 00:02:13,670

Who are we leaving out by not having language access and disability access and all types of access for folks?

