

# How to work with Immigrant Youth and their families

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# Abstract

- \* The purpose of this presentation is:
  1. to give a panoramic view of the main characteristics of immigrant youth, identify their most pressing needs, and
  2. to learn what culturally sensitive interventions in school can lead to better educational and transitional outcomes.

# Introduction

- I. Immigrants and refugees are one of the largest group of people who move in today's world.
- II. Immigrants and refugees leave their home countries by either
  - A. force (e.g., economic, war, displacement, political, religious beliefs, etc.)
  - B. Will (e.g., in search of religious tolerance or better economic, social, political, etc. conditions)
- III. Reason for leaving:
  - A. Immigrants leave their home countries in search of better life or more opportunities.
  - B. Refugees leave their homelands due to war, violence, politics, discrimination
- IV. Immigrants and refugees leave their homelands to follow those who have left before them.
- V. Family reunification is one of the main goals that immigrant and refugees look for and then employment.
- VI. Purpose. This presentation addresses immigrants' and refugee's needs:
  - A. It refers to Latinxs to illustrate the social phenomenon of immigration and other refugee groups in the US,
  - B. It is geographically and socially placed in the context of Washington, DC
  - C. It is intended to guide rehabilitation counselors, educators, leaders, and community members better understand and help immigrants and refugees.

# Topics of this presentation

- \* Theories and models applicable to immigrants and refugees (e.g., counseling theories, multiculturalism, identity development models and theories, social justice models, etc.).
- \* Practical skills applicable to immigrants and refugees (e.g., abc, family theories of counseling, multicultural approaches to counseling, teaching, etc.).
- \* Linguistic and cultural competence models and theories applicable to immigrants and refugees .

# What's in a name?: The struggle of Identity

- \* Latino/a or Latin@
- \* Latinx
- \* Hispanic
- \* Nationality
- \* Chicano
- \* Spanish
- \* Other

# Latinxs

- \* History of Latinxs in the US
- \* Latinx subgroups
  - a. Ethnicity
  - b. religion
  - c. nationality
  - d. language
  - e. SES
- \* Latinx
  - a. in numbers: 20% of the US population; 10% in DC, nearly 70,000
  - b. in areas: The West; The South; The Mid-Atlantic area: DC
  - c. in communities: LA; TX; NYC; DC.
  - d. in waves of immigration: before the US; last Century; today
  - e. in language competence: monolingual, bilingual; English speaker.
  - f. economic impact:
  - g. In needs (basic and general ones)
  - h. in education

# Counseling Latinxs

- \* Falicov
- \* Arredondo et al.
- \* Other multiculturalists( e.g., Gallardo, etc.)
- \* Gracia (philosophy)
- \* Stanvas

# Family theories of counseling

- \* Traditional approaches (e.g., CBT, behavioral, psychoanalysis, etc.)
- \* Multicultural approaches
- \* Post-modernist approaches
- \* Pragmatic approaches



# Social Models of Interventions

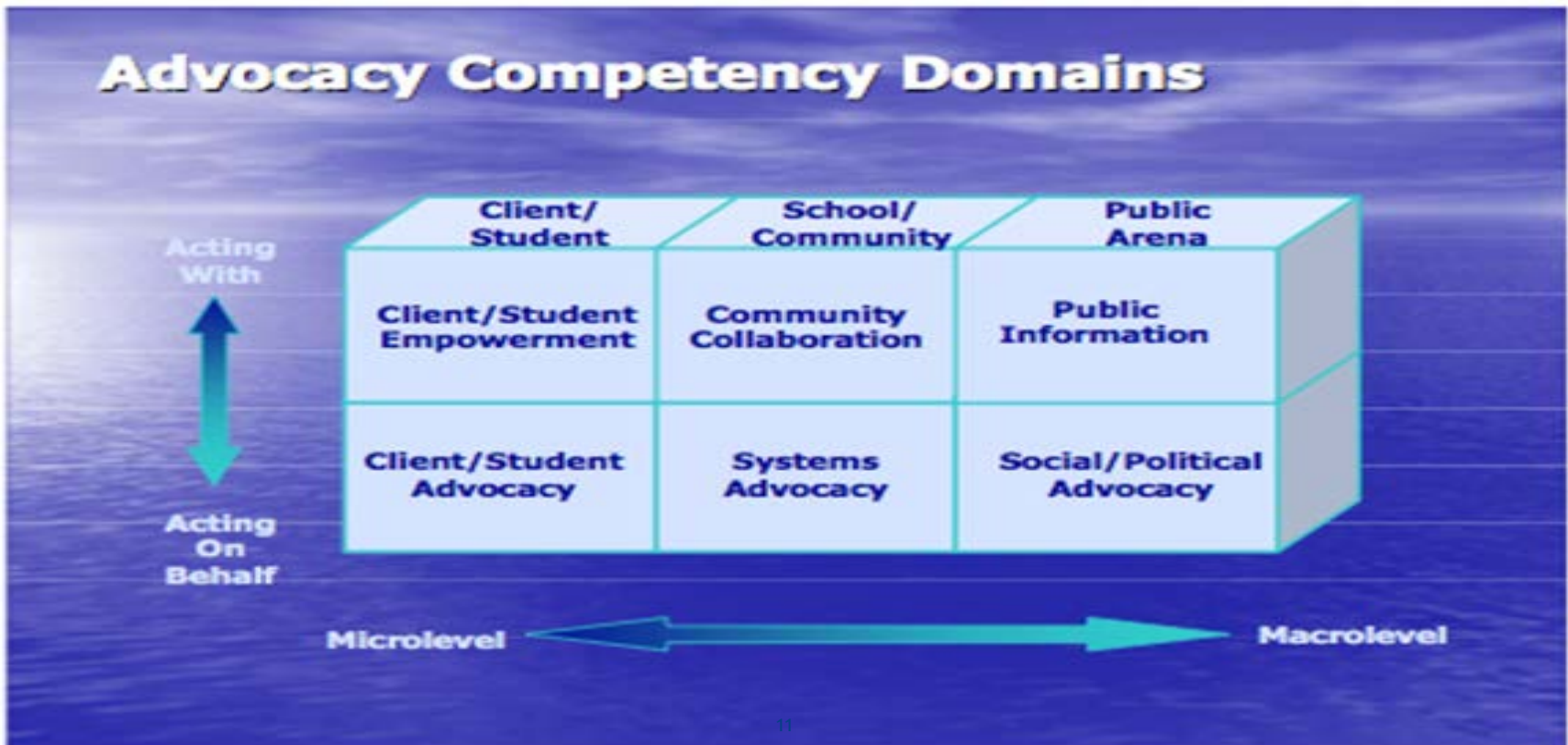
- \* Community
- \* Faith based
- \* School related
- \* Government programs
- \* Non-profit organizations
- \* Mental health
- \* Organization related

# Social Justice

- \* Definition
- \* Advocacy
- \* Justice versus equity
- \* Organizations (e.g.,  
counselors for Social  
Justice)

# Social Justice Competence Model

*The American Counseling Association Advocacy  
Competency Model  
(Ratts, Toporek, & Lewis, 2010)*



# The Latinx Family

- \* Concept (e.g., ideal, group, social, etc.)
- \* Values (e.g., togetherness, religion, faith, nationality, etc.)
- \* Ideals (e.g., patriarchy, matriarchy, parents, blood related, etc.)
- \* Needs (e.g., medical, social, economic, educational, immigration, etc.)
- \* Challenges (e.g., legal, social, medical, immigration, etc.)
- \* Transnational families and their unique needs.
- \* Immigration status and history of family members.

# Social Justice Advocacy

- \* Government programs
- \* Community agency programs
- \* Non-profit organizations
- \* Medical Centers

# Suggested bibliography

Check out my website

**[DrGomezConsulting.Com](http://DrGomezConsulting.Com)**