



# *Working with Hispanic Families in Baltimore*

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## SEEDCO HISTORY

- Established in NYC in 1987
- *EarnBenefits Online* (EBO) launched in 2005 now operates in five states
- We specialize in benefit screenings, health insurance enrollment, and workforce development with a variety of hard to reach populations

## WHO WE ARE

- We help people access SNAP and 20 other benefits through community outreach and our EarnBenefits Online tool
- Seedco staff has screened 1,790 people for benefits with EBO since 2014
- We have become a trusted source for information and application assistance in Hispanic communities in Fells Point and Highlandtown
- We have been able to help Hispanic families by working with other trusted service providers

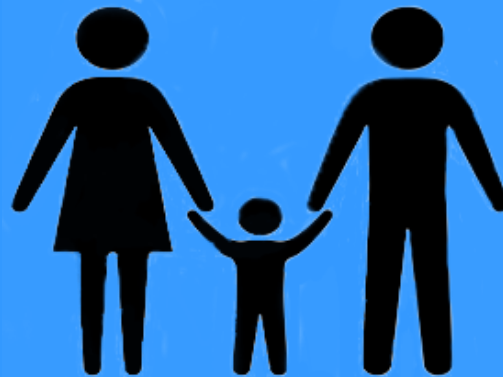
# HISPANIC FAMILIES IN EAST BALTIMORE

18-25

Most parents are between the ages of 18-25



Many members of the District 1 community have jobs in construction, food service, and hospitality



Children are usually in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade



Some members of the community are business owners



THE HISPANIC POPULATION IS GROWING

Hispanics are the fastest growing group in the city

There is a significant presence of Hispanics in South East Baltimore such as Highlandtown, Upper Fells Point, and Greektown

The average household income is at or below 185% of the FPL

30% of the general population in the area do not have a car and the average distance to a supermarket is more than a ¼ mile

## CENSUS FACTS

- In 1930 there were fewer than 1,000 Hispanics
- There are an estimated 123,029 Hispanics in Baltimore
- As of 2010, Census data shows there are over 470,000 Hispanics in Maryland

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



# PROBLEMS RESIDENTS FACE

## FOOD DESERTS

There are 51 small grocery and corner stores in East Baltimore but only 10 of them accept WIC and SNAP benefits

Source: Baltimore City Dept. of Planning and Johns Hopkins Center for a Liveable Future

## FEAR OF GOVERNMENT

There are growing fears and concerns mixed-status families may face grave repercussions for applying for SNAP or other benefits

## POTENTIALLY HARMFUL LEGISLATION

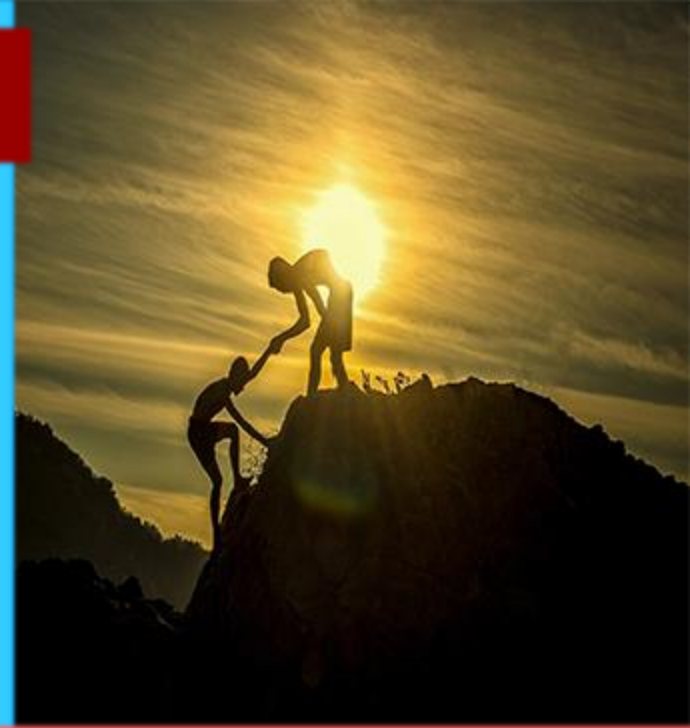
Potential changes to public charge rules may discourage families who want to pursue citizenship

## LANGUAGE BARRIERS

Most of our clients do not speak English, making it difficult to navigate the application process on one's own.

# HOW WE ARE HELPING

- We collaborate with local organizations and subcontractors to educate families on SNAP, Health Insurance, and other benefits
- We screen families for over 20 different benefits and provide application assistance via EBO
- Provide fact-based information



# IMPACT OF OUR WORK



- Remove language barriers by assisting clients in submitting an application
- We help clients avoid being denied by assuring they understand the process and by helping them submit documentation
- We save clients a trip to DSS by submitting applications online via MyDHR
- We bust myths that keep clients from attempting to apply