



Preserving the Economic Well-being of Immigrants and Refugees During COVID-19

Wednesday, May 13, 2020 | 12:00PM - 1:30PM

Via Zoom - Registration Required



Erica Bouris, Ph.D.

As Director, Economic Empowerment for the International Rescue Committee, Erica supports the development, implementation, and evaluation of economic empowerment programs that serve refugee, immigrant, and low-income families in nearly 30 communities across the U.S. In this role, Erica oversees all of the Resettlement, Asylum, and Integration program's U.S. economic empowerment technical team. In her work, Erica is also leading IRC's implementation of of integrated economic empowerment services that includes evidence-based financial coaching, access to appropriate financial products through IRC's Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), and small business development. Erica has served as a member of the San Diego region Workforce Development Board Youth Council and

provided training and capacity building to stakeholders at the federal, state and local level including the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, California Employment Development Department, the Office of Refugee Resettlement, the State Department, state and local TANF stakeholders, Migration Policy Institute, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees, Workforce Matters, Local Initiative Support Corporation, the States of New Jersey, Montana, Kansas, and Texas, and many others. Erica currently serves on the Skills for California Leadership Council, hosted by the National Skills Coalition, serves as the Vice Chair on the board of Workforce Ventures, and is a board member of the YMCA. Prior to coming to IRC, Erica held positions with community organizations, higher education, and collaborative public/private partnerships, including working domestically and abroad in the Middle East. She holds a Ph.D. in International Studies (University of Denver) and is the author of several reports on workforce development and economic inclusion as well as the book, *Complex Political Victims* (Kumarian Press, 2007).

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) serves 50,000 diverse, low-income individuals each year across 26 U.S. cities. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound social, health, and economic impact across American communities and the vulnerable families IRC serves are among the most hard hit. IRC's economic empowerment programs – designed to help people move and stay out of poverty – have been on the frontlines of this work and will share insight as to the way in which this pandemic is impacting the economic well-being of low-income refugee and immigrant families, adaptations that IRC is making to serve these families in a time of crisis, and lessons learned that can help practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and other stakeholders understand and improve an inclusive, equitable economic response to COVID-19.

[Register Here](#)

For more information please email ccis@ucsd.edu