

COVER AGE

Sickness does not discriminate. **Why should healthcare?**

COMMUNITY SCREENINGS & DISCUSSION TOOLKIT



a film by **SET HERNANDEZ RONGKILYO**

a **CALIFORNIA IMMIGRANT POLICY CENTER** production
made possible with support from **WORKING FILMS**

featuring **EMMA HÉCTOR PLASCENCIA**

co-producers **DENZEL TONGUE CAROLINA GAMERO WHELMA CABANAWAN**

produced by **ALMAS SAYEED SHERVAN SEBASTIAN SARAH DAR JYOTSWAROOP BAWA**

directed, produced, written, edited, and cinematography by **SET HERNANDEZ RONGKILYO**



WWW.COVER-AGE.ORG

WORKING FILMS

Thank you for bringing COVER/AGE and the story of Health4All to your community.

This toolkit will walk you through the basics of hosting a screening, as well as ways to engage your attendees in a conversation around healthcare access for all, regardless of immigration status and age.

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ABOUT

COVER/AGE examines the lack of healthcare access for undocumented immigrants in California, and how two undocumented individuals are advocating to fight this exclusion. One protagonist is Emma, an elderly Pilipina caregiver, who has spent over a decade providing care for others. Over the course of the film, we see Emma get ready early in the morning to care for an elderly patient who is not much older than her. Ironically, while Emma was providing care to insured, ailing patients, she herself was battling both illness and the U.S. health system which excluded her simply because of her immigration status. Emma's story highlights how undocumented domestic workers are integrated in the healthcare industry, but they themselves don't have access to the care they deserve in order to maintain their own wellness.

The other protagonist is Héctor (they/them), one of the young adult founders of the immigrant health movement in California. Through the film, we learn of their important activism and organizing, from mobilizing around healthcare with legislators in the state capitol to training other undocumented immigrants to advocate for themselves. While Héctor is engaged in the bigger realm of legislative transformation, their personal journey unveils a deeper analysis of what health justice means: Beyond the need to visit the doctor's office, access to wellness for all communities must include a more holistic healing that recognizes traumas communities have accrued from their lived experiences.

As Emma and Héctor navigate the complex health policy system, critical gaps in a health system that excludes undocumented migrants reveal the profound and harmful impact on the community. At the same time, steadfast organizing by community leaders and advocates underscores the resilience of immigrants in the face of these challenges. As the conversation around universal healthcare continues to gain momentum on the national stage, this film highlights the urgency of expanding healthcare access to undocumented people by centering the unwavering voices of immigrant health justice leaders.

THE HEALTH4ALL CAMPAIGN

Since 2014, California has reduced its number of uninsured residents from 7 million to 3 million people thanks to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and additional state reforms. Despite this progress, the ACA explicitly and unjustly excludes undocumented immigrants from health coverage through federally funded programs, including Medi-Cal. The Health4All Coalition was formed by the California Immigrant Policy Center and Health Access California to advocate for removing these exclusions based on immigration status.

The coalition's years of advocacy have resulted in a number of wins. In 2016 California invested in providing full-scope Medi-Cal to all low-income children, regardless of immigration status. Since then, "Health4All Kids" has resulted in the successful enrollment of over 250,000 undocumented children in life-saving healthcare. In 2020, the state further expanded coverage for undocumented young adults ages 19-25, and Governor Newsom proposed a budget plan to allow undocumented seniors ages 65+ to enroll in Medi-Cal starting in 2021.

However, many undocumented adults—our parents and siblings, friends and neighbors, taxpayers and workers in our economy—remain locked out of comprehensive healthcare, making them the largest population in California with no health insurance. Any effort towards universal coverage, whether in California or nationally, will not be successful until everyone, regardless of immigration status or age, has access to care. The #Health4All Campaign continues to fight for health care for all Californians.

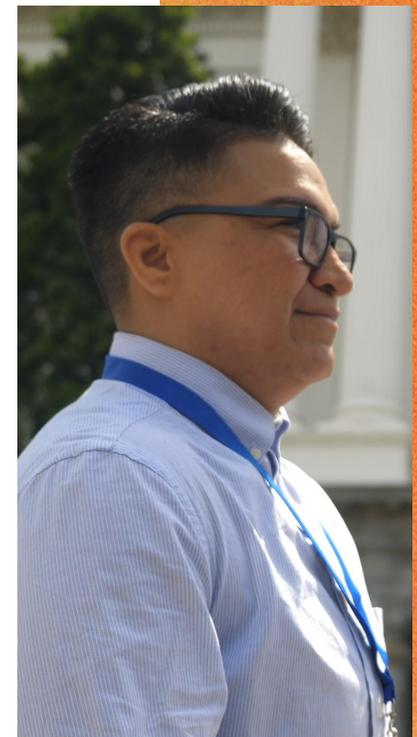


THE PROTAGONISTS

Emma is a breast cancer survivor and caregiver who has over a decade's worth of experience serving the elderly and has taken on some of the most heart-wrenching care work with compassion, understanding and patience. Her hard work paid off as she was honored with the Caregiver of the Year award in the Home Care Rising Summit in 2014 and in 2017 received the Outstanding Caregiver award from the agency she worked for. Originally from the Philippines, she is an active worker leader and has organized with domestic workers across the U.S. (many of whom are immigrants) in addition to being a professional home care worker. Emma is a mother and grandmother who enjoys spending her free time eating out with friends, shopping, and video chatting with her family abroad.



Héctor Plascencia (they/them/we/us) was raised in La Puente, California by powerful Latina cis-women. As a transgender, undocumented, queer sister, husband, daughter and beloved bridge builder, Héctor's identities and privileges shape their work and holistic approach to social justice. Grounded in community centered transformation, Héctor is guided by the belief that impacted people must be active in all aspects of movement development and implementation. Their natural progression from immigrant rights organizer to health justice and trans policy advocate led them to center health and healing as focal points of movement building and sustainability. Beyond movement magic, Héctor loves to dance, visit the woods and pays homage to their trans-cestors by continuing to exist.



GOALS OF THE FILM

By showcasing the Health4All campaign, COVER/AGE tackles the issue of healthcare as it relates to undocumented immigrants and the elderly. Created after conversations with advocates in California, the following three goals serve as the primary reasons we made this film available to the community for free. However, we recognize the potential resonance of the film in communities outside of California and welcome new opportunities to advance the conversation around immigrant health justice.

- 1) ***Galvanize* community members to join the Health4All campaign**
- 2) ***Move* key policymakers to support Health4All.**
- 3) ***Build* public support (particularly outside California) on the importance of including undocumented people in the national conversation on universal coverage**

PLANNING YOUR SCREENING

While healthcare and immigration are at the core of its story, COVER/AGE also deals with a range of issues such as domestic workers rights, labor rights, elder rights, gender justice, among others. Planning your screening with this consideration can maximize the experience and outcomes of your event.

1) SET GOALS FOR YOUR EVENT

Different people and organizations will have different reasons for hosting a screening. Are you working on a campaign related to the issues highlighted in the film, and you're looking for a new tool to galvanize the community? Or are you looking for a new thought-provoking film for your next movie night in your neighborhood? Determining outcomes and expectations can ensure your attendees have a meaningful time in your screening.

TIP: POP (Purpose, Outcome, Process) is a helpful organizing method to create a foundation for your event. Learn more about it [here](#).

2) BUILD PARTNERSHIPS

Are there other people, institutions, or organizations in your area that work on issues related to the ones in the film? Are you part of a coalition that would like to use film as a tool in their organizing? Partnering up with others to host your screening can help increase turnout of attendees to your event, distribute work amongst different people, and strengthen (if not forge new) partnerships amongst community leaders.

3)

IDENTIFY YOUR VENUE

You can screen COVER/AGE wherever you'd like: your living room, your workplace, a community center, a place of worship, a theater, you name it! Make sure you have the following items, some of which are essential: (1) A/V system: TV or projector and speakers, (2) Accessibility, particularly for those with disabilities, (3) Adequate seating, (4) Tabling area for sign-in sheets, informational handouts, and other key materials for your attendees

4)

REGISTER YOUR EVENT

Fill out the [online request form here](#) to register your screening with the California Immigrant Policy Center. You will then receive a confirmation email as well as a follow-up email with link to download the film. We only provide a digital movie file for the film.

** If your attendees would like to learn more or participate in the Health4All campaign, please use the [sign-in sheet on pg. 9](#) and invite them to sign-up for updates about Health4All. Take a picture of the filled out sign-in sheets after your screening and email to shernandez@caimmigrant.org to be added to our list.*

5)

OUTREACH

Check out the COVER/AGE outreach materials that we have created on pg. 9-13. You can find templates and other resources that you can use to bring people to your screening.

6)

DESIGNATE ROLES

Some key roles that you might consider for your event include: (1) Facilitator/Emcee, (2) Greeter to coordinate the informational table and materials, (3) Tech Coordinator, (4) Social Media Coordinator/Photographer to document your event, (5) Follow-up for any action items that emerged after your screening

DEVELOP AN AGENDA

How are you going to spend your time with your attendees? Depending on your goals for the screening, there are different ways to set up the agenda for your event. While you can just watch the film, we recommend you pair the viewing of the film with a discussion. Here is a sample 1.5 - 2 hour agenda geared towards creating dialogue around immigrant health justice.

- **Set-Up:** Arrive early and troubleshoot any potential tech issues. Make sure your film file works.
- **Arrival:** Let your guests trickle into the space and find their seats.
- **Opening Remarks:** Introduce your organization, the film, and any particular reason why you are bringing the film to your community. If you are having a post-screening discussion, invite your attendees to stick around and give them a preview of who the speakers might be.
- **Screening** (25 mins)
- **Post-Screening Conversation:** For smaller events, you can facilitate a discussion after the screening to invite your attendees in a dialogue around the issues addressed in the film. For mid-size or larger events, you might consider having a post-screening conversation and invite local leaders and advocates to talk about what's happening in your community in relation to the issues from film.
- **Take Action:** Invite your attendees to get involved locally around the issues address in the film. If you're in California, encourage your attendees to take part in the Health4All campaign by sending us the filled out [sign-in sheet on the next page](#).

NOTE: If you'd like to bring the protagonists and filmmakers to your event for a post-screening discussion, we request your support in providing travel/lodging accommodations. Honorarium is requested for the protagonist(s) to attend.

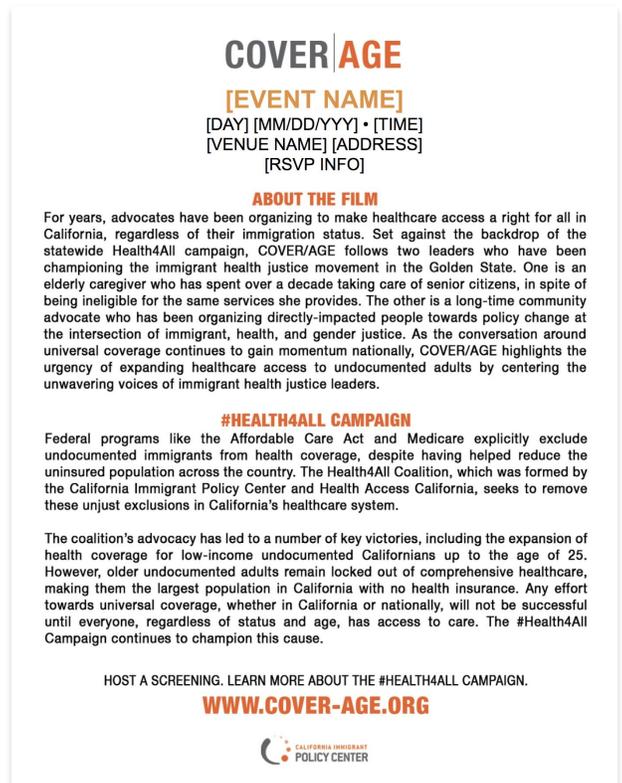
OUTREACH MATERIALS

Below are templates for some outreach tools that you can use to promote your screening.

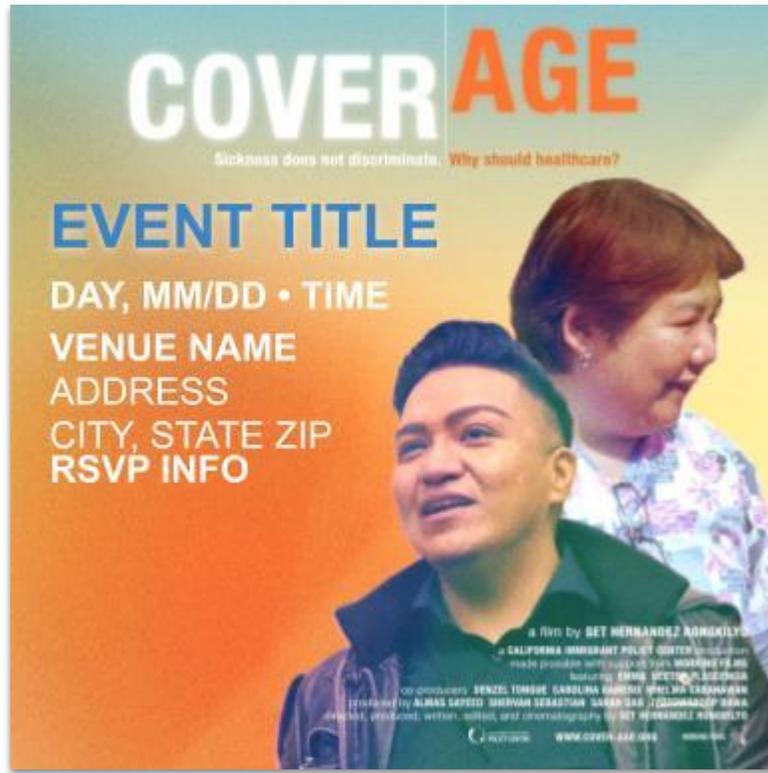
1) SOCIAL MEDIA IMAGES (Downloadable Folder)

Click on the images below to download the template decks. Edit the text with information about your screening

(Printable flier or postcard template)



(Optimal for Social Media,
inc. Instagram)



(Optimal for Facebook event
or Email Banner)



HASHTAGS: #COVERAGEfilm #Health4All

2)

FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM (Sample Posts)

COVER/AGE is the new short film by the @California Immigrant Policy Center that follows the #Health4All Campaign to expand health care to undocumented adults in California. Join us for this FREE screening on [DATE] [TIME] at [VENUE] hosted by [NAME OF SCREENING HOSTS]. RSVP at [LINK] #COVERAGEfilm

A home care worker and a policy advocate are at the center of COVER/AGE, a new short documentary about health care for undocumented adults. Join us for a FREE screening on [DATE] [TIME] at [VENUE] hosted by [NAME OF SCREENING HOSTS]. RSVP at [LINK] #COVERAGEfilm #Health4All

3)

TWITTER (Sample Tweets)

@[NameOfYourOrg] is bringing #COVERAGEfilm to [NAME OF YOUR CITY] to have discussion about immigration and healthcare. Join this free event on [DATE] [TIME]. RSVP: [LINK]

Join @[NameOfYourOrg] for a free screening of #COVERAGEfilm and a discussion about expanding healthcare to all, regardless of immigration status and age. [DATE] [TIME] [RSVP LINK]

.@CALimmigrant new documentary #COVERAGEfilm follows two leaders fighting to expand health care to undocumented adults. Join free screening by @[NameOfYourOrg] on [DATE]! RSVP: [LINK]

4) Email Template

You can use and modify this email template to send to your networks/listservs.

Community – [COVER/AGE](#) is a new short documentary about the Health4All campaign, which seeks to expand healthcare access to undocumented adults. We are excited to host a free community screening of the film in our community and have a conversation about the intersection of immigrant rights and health justice. We hope that you can join us, and please feel free to invite others to this free event. More information below.



COVER/AGE Community Screening
DAY, MM/DD/YYYY • TIME
Venue Name • Address, City, State ZIP
[Info about Post-Screening Conversation]
RSVP INFO

ABOUT THE FILM: For years, advocates have been organizing to make health care access a right for all in California, regardless of their immigration status. Set against the backdrop of California's Health4All campaign, COVER/AGE is a new short documentary by the California Immigrant Policy Center that follows two leaders who have been championing the immigrant health justice movement in the Golden State. One is an elderly caregiver who has spent over a decade taking care of senior citizens, in spite of being ineligible for the same services she provides. The other is a long-time community advocate who has been organizing directly-impacted people towards policy change at the intersection of immigrant, health, and gender justice. As the conversation around universal coverage continues to gain momentum at the national level, this film highlights the urgency of expanding healthcare coverage to undocumented people by centering the unwavering voices of immigrant health justice leaders. For more about COVER/AGE, check out this [4-minute excerpt from the North Bay Report](#) about the film.

**Attach this [COVER/AGE info sheet](#) in your email to provide additional info. You can also make your own using the template on pg. 10.*

5) Press Release – California

You can use and modify this press release template if you'd like to invite media to your screening. This version is catered specifically for screenings in California, where audiences and local media can engage in the statewide conversation around the Health4All campaign.

Subject: Invite to documentary event about advocates fighting for healthcare coverage for undocumented adults

Hi [FIRST NAME]

Today, tens of thousands of undocumented adults across California are denied healthcare due to restrictions from the Affordable Care Act. COVER/AGE, a new short documentary film, follows advocates Emma and Héctor as they bravely fight to secure health access for all Californians, sharing their own personal stories along the way. Here are the details:

WHAT: COVER/AGE Community Screening

WHEN: [DATE] [TIME]

WHERE: [VENUE NAME] [ADDRESS]

RSVP [LINK]

If you'd like to attend this event, please RSVP, and if you'd like to speak with one of the two featured protagonists in COVER/AGE* or California health and immigration policy experts, please let me know. Happy to connect you!

Best,
Name
Phone Number

**If you are bringing in the protagonists/filmmakers to your screening*

***Attach this [COVER/AGE info sheet](#) in your email to provide additional info. You can also make your own using the template on pg. 10.*

5) Press Release – Outside of California

You can use and modify this press release template if you'd like to invite media to your screening. This version can be used outside of California, where audiences and local media can be engaged to think more broadly about how to include undocumented adults in universal health coverage.

Subject: Invite to documentary event about advocates fighting for healthcare coverage for undocumented adults

Hi [FIRST NAME]

Today, tens of thousands of undocumented adults across the country are denied healthcare due to restrictions in the Affordable Care Act. COVER/AGE, a new short documentary film, follows advocates Emma and Héctor as they bravely fight to secure health access for all people, regardless of their immigration status or age, by sharing their own personal stories. Here are the details:

WHAT: COVER/AGE Community Screening

WHEN: [DATE] [TIME]

WHERE: [VENUE NAME] [ADDRESS]

RSVP [LINK]

If you'd like to attend this event, please RSVP, and if you'd like to speak with one of the two featured protagonists in COVER/AGE* or local health and immigration policy experts, please let me know. Happy to connect you!

Best,
Name
Phone Number

**If you are bringing in the protagonists/filmmakers to your screening*

***Attach this [COVER/AGE info sheet](#) in your email to provide additional info. You can also make your own using the template on pg. 10.*

DISCUSSION GUIDE

FORMAT

Depending on the size of your group and the goals you have your screening, we recommend two possible formats for your post-screening discussion:

- Facilitated, informal conversation amongst your attendees about their thoughts after seeing the film.
- Moderated Q&A featuring 3-4 speakers who can talk about the issues highlighted in the film. They can either be local leaders or the protagonists/filmmakers of COVER/AGE. *See NOTE on pg. 8 about inviting the team behind COVER/AGE to your screening.*

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- Share your initial thoughts/reaction about COVER/AGE.
- How does the film make you think differently about the conversation on immigration and healthcare?
- One of the key conflicts in the film is Emma's role as a caregiver while having no access to healthcare due to her immigration status. What are your thoughts about this contradiction?
- Héctor talks about the different identities and experiences undocumented immigrants hold: gender, age, healthcare, criminalization, etc. What are your thoughts on the different layers of the immigrant experience?
- What are the organizations in your area that is doing work around the issues addressed in the film? What campaigns are they currently leading? What are ways to support and get involved? What are action steps that audiences can take?

GET INVOLVED WITH HEALTH4ALL

Through community screenings of COVER/AGE, we hope to advance the narrative and organizing around immigrant health justice, whether through the Health4All campaign in California or through the national conversation around universal coverage. Below are some ways you and your audiences can get involved after your screening:

1) STAY INFORMED ABOUT HEALTH4ALL

Especially if you're in California, you can get involved in the Health4All campaign through the advocacy events organized by the California Immigrant Policy Center throughout the year. For those that are not in California, you can use the updates and resources from the Health4All campaign to advance immigrant health justice work in your city or state. Get Health4All updates by signing up for our newsletter in the "Take Action" section of the [COVER/AGE webpage](#).

2) GET INVOLVED LOCALLY

The best way to make an impact is through your local community. Visit the "Take Action" section of the [COVER/AGE webpage](#) to find resources about local groups throughout California to participate in. For those that are in areas outside of California, we invite you to research immigrant rights or health justice organizations in your city and state. Let us know if there are any resources you'd need to advance immigrant health justice work in your region.

3) AMPLIFY STORIES OF DIRECTLY-IMPACTED INDIVIDUALS

Sharing stories is essential to advocacy, but COVER/AGE features only two stories out of the millions of undocumented adults excluded from healthcare access. We invite directly-impacted individuals to join us in this effort through the “Share Your Story” section of the [COVER/AGE webpage](#). We strive to uphold the dignity of those who share their stories by making sure they have agency over what is publicized.

4) RAISE YOUR VOICE

Publish a blog post, submit an op-ed, or write a letter-to-the-editor in a local or online news outlet. Share your reflections by responding to the issues highlighted in COVER/AGE. Take part in changing the narrative around healthcare inclusion for all, regardless of immigration status and age. The California Immigrant Policy Center has created a [communications toolkit](#) with tips on how to write an op-ed.

5) INVITE OTHERS TO HOST A SCREENING

Encourage your friends, networks, and community partners to host their own screening of COVER/AGE. They can download this screening guide in the [COVER/AGE webpage](#), and they can also sign up for a screening through the [online request form here](#).



HASHTAGS: #COVERAGEfilm #Health4All

6)

SHARE THE FILM ON SOCIAL MEDIA

TWITTER (Samples)

#COVERAGEfilm is the new film by @CALimmigrant about healthcare for undocumented adults. Learn more and host your own screening at www.cover-age.org #Health4All

Amplify the #Health4All immigrant health justice movement and host a screening of #COVERAGEfilm in your community. More info at www.cover-age.org

FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM (Sample)

COVER/AGE is the new short film by the @California Immigrant Policy Center about expanding healthcare for all, regardless of immigration status and age. Learn more about the #Health4All campaign and host your own screening by visiting www.cover-age.org #COVERAGEfilm



Documentary Addresses Gaps in Health Insurance Access for Undocumented Adults – North Bay Report, KRCB-FM



 @caimmigrant  @CALimmigrant @hctr_plascencia

 @caimmigrant @@hectorplascencia_ @sethernandezr

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA IMMIGRANT POLICY CENTER

CIPC was founded in response to the 1996 passage of federal immigration and welfare laws that profoundly affected immigrants. Today, CIPC advances inclusive policies that build a prosperous future for all Californians, using policy analysis, advocacy and capacity building. CIPC aims to advocate for policies that uphold the humanity of immigrants and refugees while advancing racial, social and economic justice. CIPC is the leading immigrant rights organization in California, focusing on efforts to protect the safety and well-being of immigrants and, uniquely, effectively combining legislative and policy advocacy, strategic, communications, and community organizing. Supporting this critical work takes bright thinkers, passionate leaders, generous supporters, and visionary creatives.

CREDITS

Featuring Emma Héctor Plascencia

Directed, Produced, Written, Edited, and Cinematography by Set Hernandez Rongkilyo

Produced by Almas Sayeed Shervan Sebastian Sarah Dar Jyotswaroop Bawa

Co-Producers Denzel Tongue Carolina Gamero Whelma Cabanawan

Executive Director, California Immigrant Policy Center Cynthia Buiza

Assistant Producers Andrea Rivera Myrla Baldonado

Impact Advisors Carmen Chang Héctor Plascencia Orville Thomas Kimberly Serrano

Assistant Editor Claudia Ramirez **Graphic Design** Eunsoo Jeong

Outreach, Engagement & Press Rahel Teka Sumeet Bal Anthony Rubio

Toolkit created by Set Hernandez Rongkilyo

Additional support by Rahel Teka Denzel Tongue Carolina Gamero Sarah Dar Sumeet Bal

Special thanks Andy Myers, Gerry Leonard, and Working Films for their guidance and providing a model through their [Stories Beyond Borders Screening Guide](#).

Contact shernandez@caimmigrant.org or rteka@caimmigrant.org for questions about hosting your community screening.

