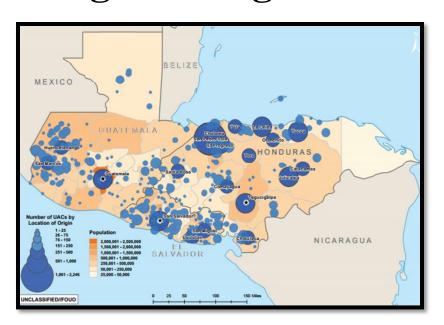
# A Reasoned Response to Northern Triangle Immigration to US



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# **Purpose of the Presentation**

• Describe the Northern Triangle diaspora in the US.

• Discuss opportunities and threats represented by demographic change.

• Describe a potential business opportunity.

# First, some thoughts on immigration.

# Why do people immigrate?

- Neoclassical Economics
- New Economics of Labor Migration
- World Systems Theory
- Demand Driven Migration

# How this all comes together to make Central American immigration to the US self-perpetuating.

**Cumulative Causation** 



**Networks** 



**Critical Threshold** 



Self-perpetuating Migration

Cumulative causation of migration leads to a situation in which networks are formed creating connections between family, peers and colleagues in origin and destination communities. When these networks reach a critical threshold, migration becomes self-perpetuating because each act of migration creates the social structure needed to sustain it.

"Each act of migration creates social capital among people to whom the migrant is related, thereby raising the odds of their migration."

Beyond Smoke and Mirrors Douglas Massey

# Why are the Central American children risking their lives to immigrate to the US?

 Wilson Center Conference Discussion Points

UN Refugee Study

Anecdotal Information

# "Children on the Run" Unaccompanied Children Leaving Central America & Mexico

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHRC) Study 2014

http://www.unhcrwashington.org/

Apprehensions of unaccompanied and separated children arriving to the United States from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras has increased significantly.

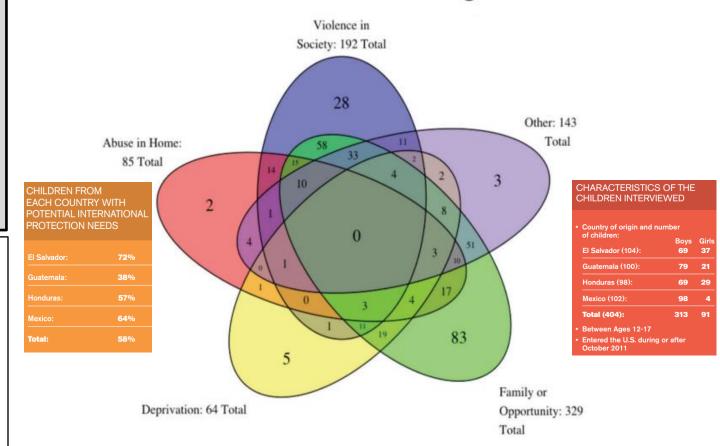
FY 2010 - 4,059 FY 2011 - 10,443

FY 2012 - 21,537

FY 2014\* - 52,000

\*(As of Oct . 2013 - June 2014)

#### Children's Reasons for Leaving Home

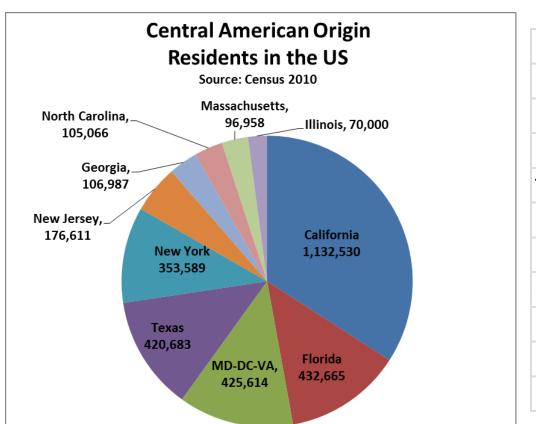


# How has Central America immigration developed?

 Greatest concentration in five states: CA, FL, VA-DC-MD, TX & NY

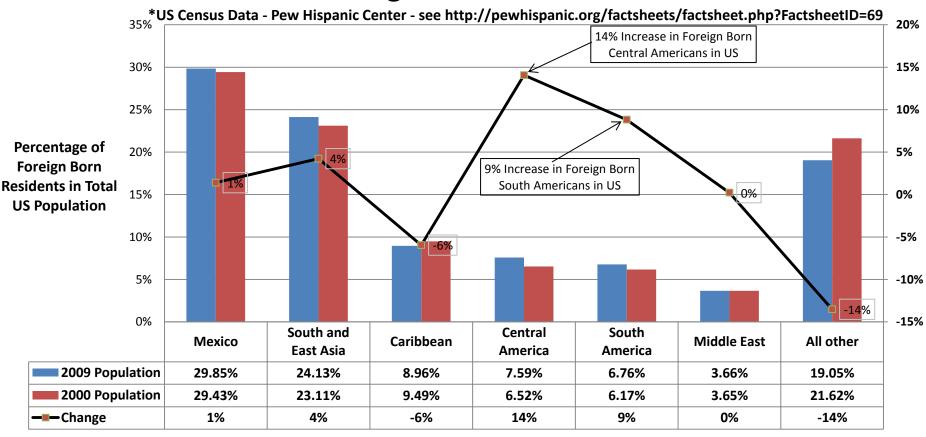
Increasing faster than any other foreign born population

## Central American Origin Residents in US



	Central American	
California	1,132,530	
Florida	432,665	
MD-DC-VA	425,614	
Texas	420,683	
New York	353,589	
New Jersey	176,611	
Georgia	106,987	
North Carolina	105,066	
Massachusetts	96,958	
Illinois	70,000	

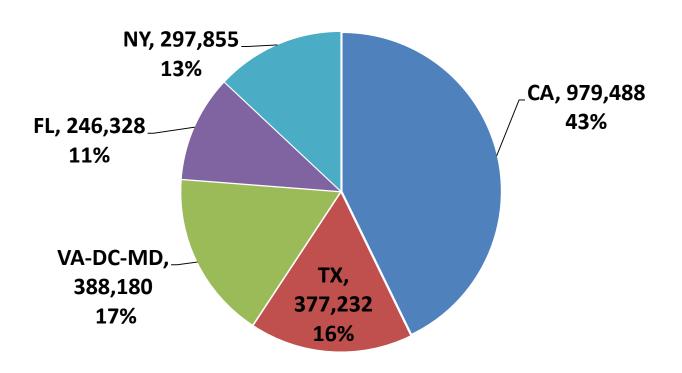
#### **Increase in Foreign Born Residents in US 2000 - 2009**



Foreign Born Residents Percentage Change

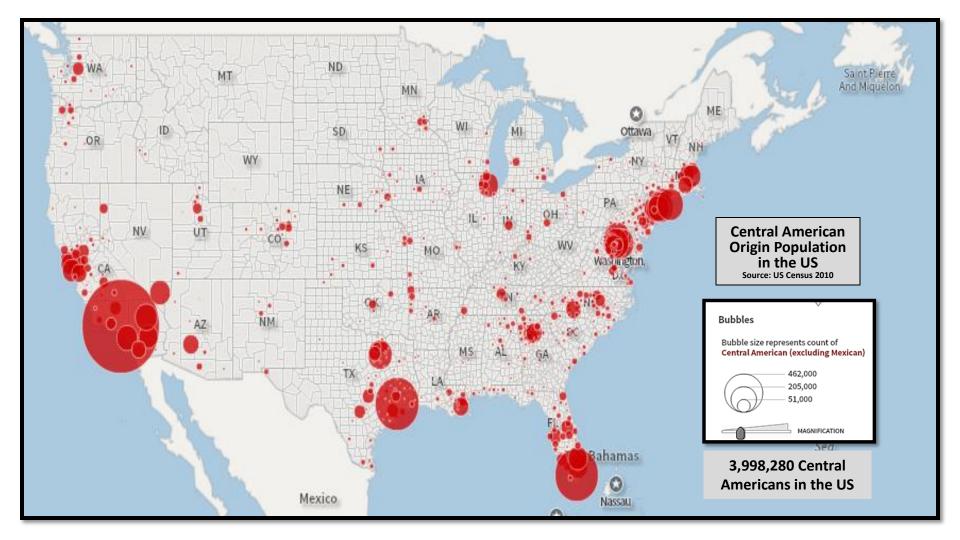
# Where is the Northern Triangle diaspora in the US?

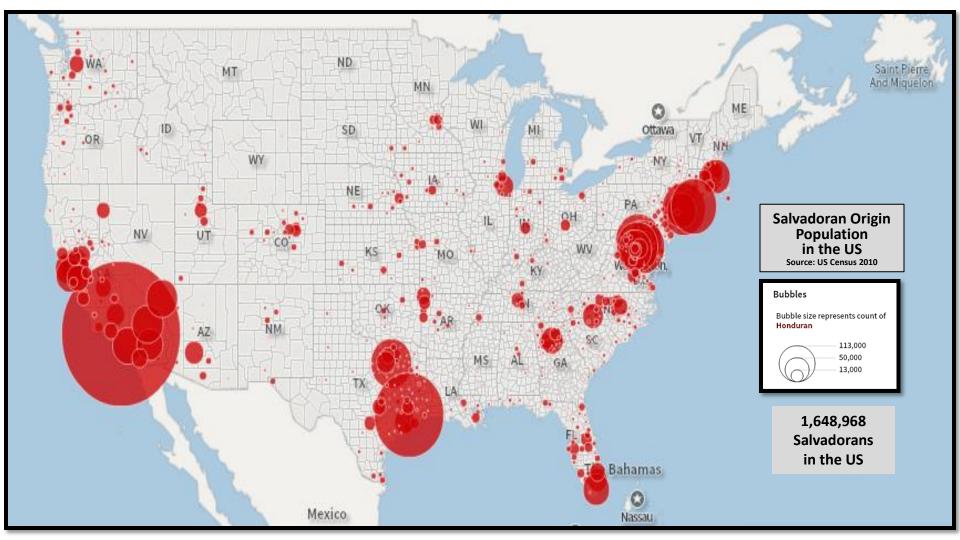
Honduras, El Salvador & Guatemala Origin Residents

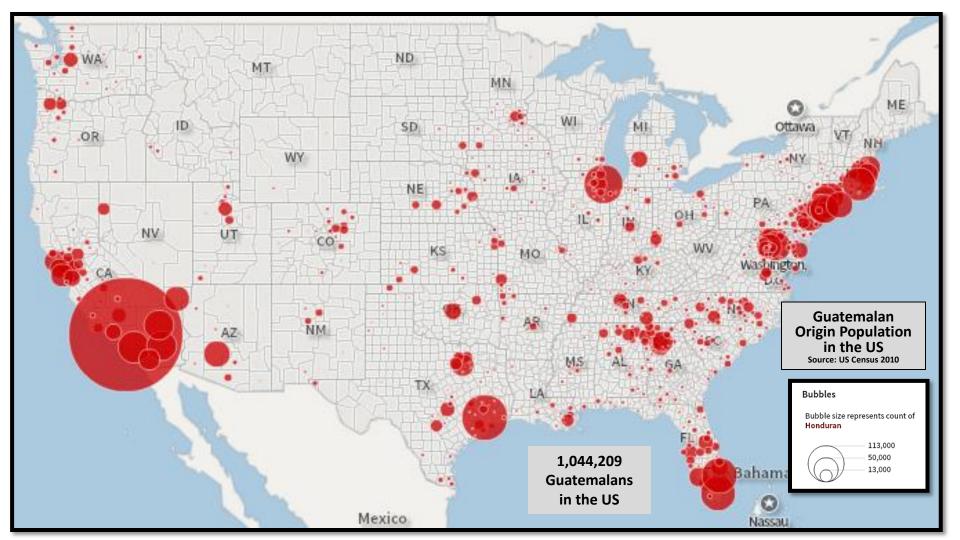


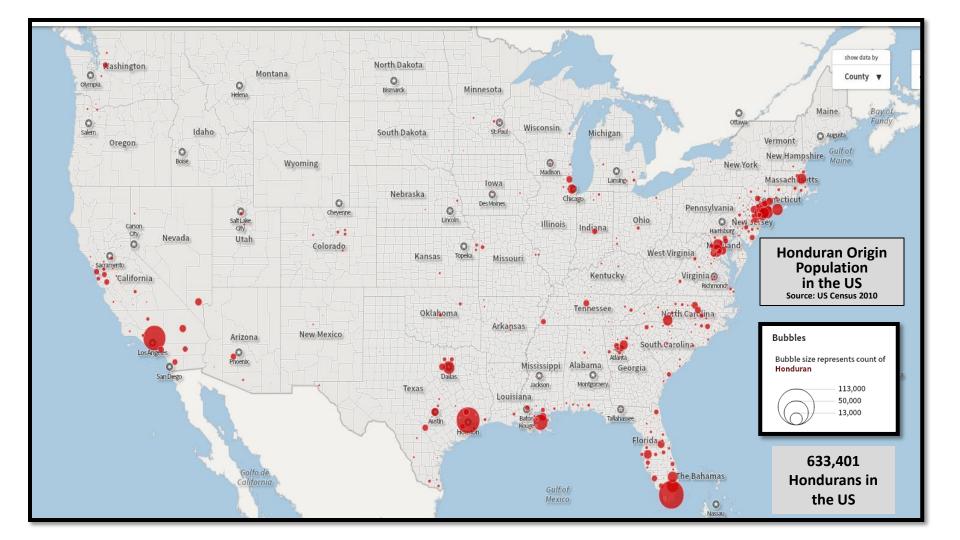
# Northern Triangle Origin Residents in the US

	<u>Salvadoran</u>		Guatemala		<u>Honduran</u>
California	573,956	California	332,737	Florida	107,302
MD-DC-VA	264,200	Florida	83,882	Texas	88,389
Texas	222,599	New York	73,806	California	72,795
New York	152,130	MD-DC-VA	70,682	New York	71,919
New Jersey	56,532	Texas	66,244	MD-DC-VA	53,298
Florida	55,144	New Jersey	48,869	New Jersey	36,556
Massachusetts	43,400	Georgia	36,874	Louisiana	30,617
North Carolina	37,770	Illinois	35,321	North Carolina	30,900
Georgia	32,107	Massachusetts	32,812	Georgia	20,577
Nevada	30,043	North Carolina	20,206	Massachusetts	12,533









## Opportunities & Threats

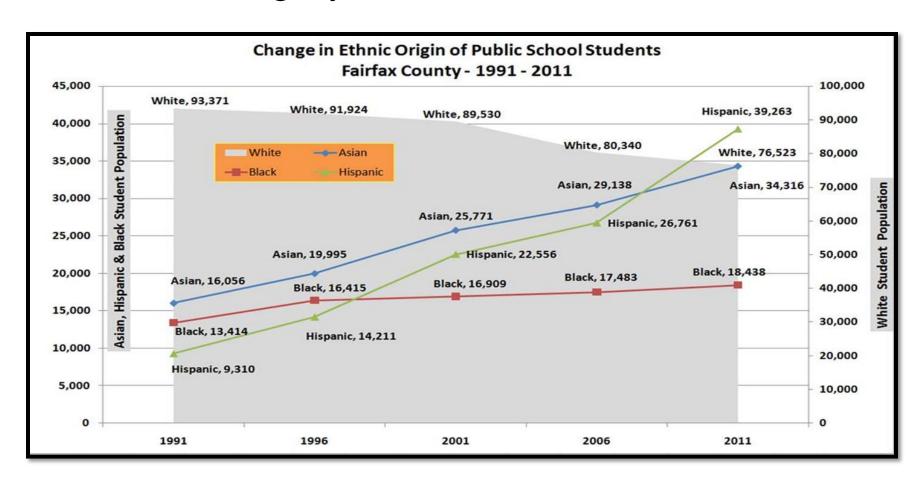
- Historic opportunity to support Central America social development and movement toward a rule of law, strong market economy and equitable economic growth.
- Threat of anti-immigrant backlash from Increased costs borne by local and state governments to provide education and social services.

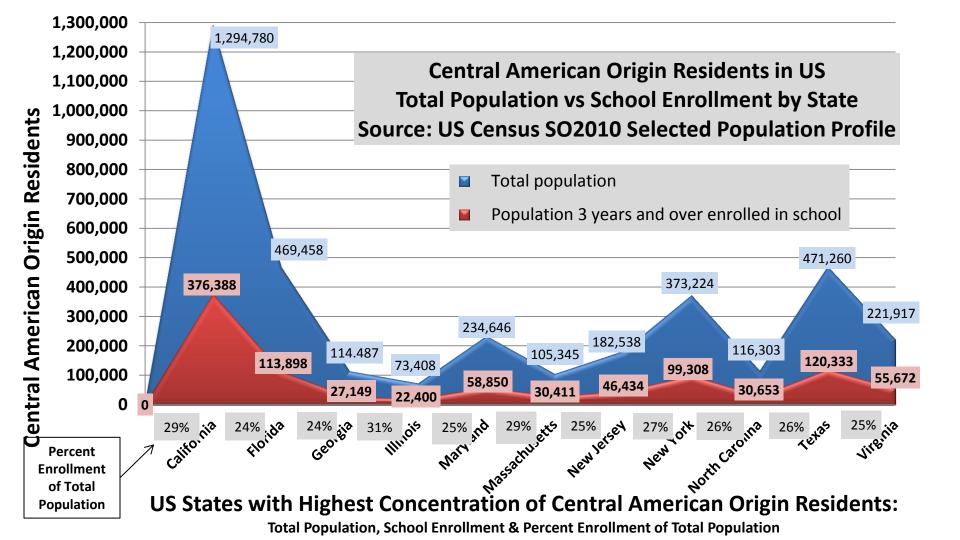
## Identifying Specific US Communities

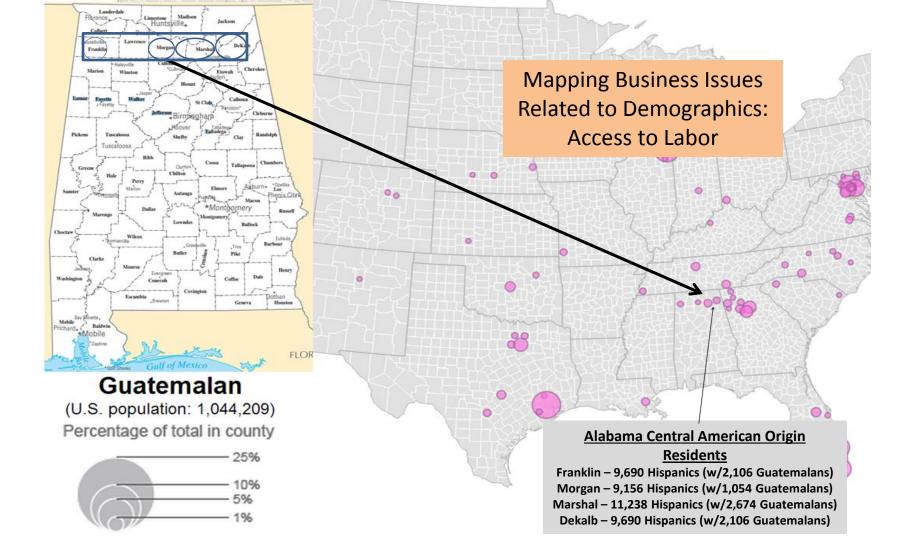
 Target the high density communities likely to see the greatest influx of undocumented Central American to provide support.

 Provide technical assistance on best practices to address increased demands on education, healthcare and other social services.

## Tragedy of the Commons Issue







# Guest Worker Housing Program

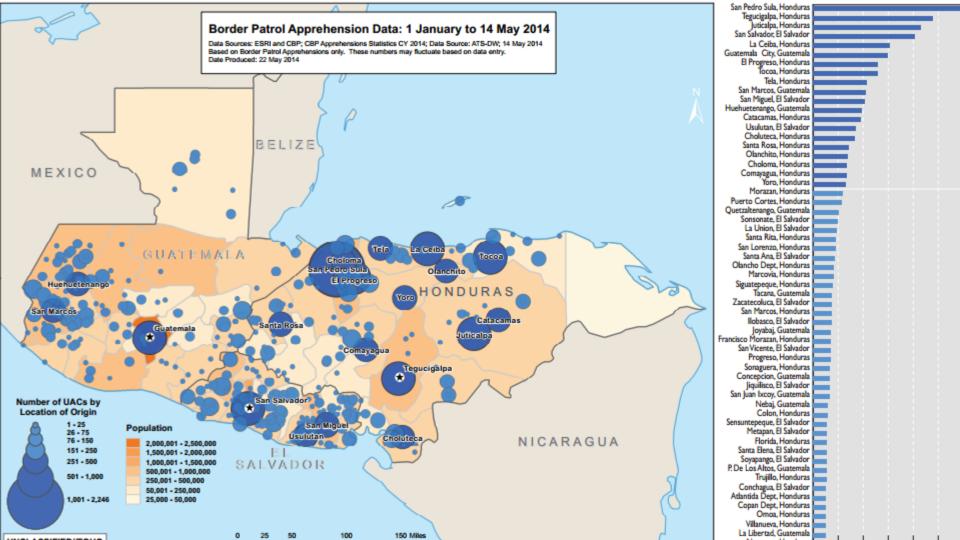
Opportunity – A guest worker program that includes a housing initiative paid for by workers and their employers at the end of a four year work period in the US would have financed a housing fund (7.5 percent from workers and matched by employers) valued at \$12,000. This housing fund would only be available for purchase of a residence in the worker's home country upon his return there.

<u>Market Size</u> - The potential size of this market could exceed \$3 billion depending on the number of guest workers authorized, the length of their work period, and their wage scale. With appropriate legislation in place, this market could be attractive to the US modular home industry.

<u>Role of US Housing Industry –</u> would be to (1) support an advocacy campaign to establish the guest worker program housing initiative, (2) develop with support from US foreign assistance agencies a pilot manufacturing activity in Central America , and (3) plan a major expansion of export marketing as policy framework put in place in US communities.

# Identify Specific Origin Communities in Central America

- Analyze US
   communities with
   Central American
   Populations to
   determine links to origin
   country communities.
- Target Foreign
   Assistance to address
   triggers of out migration
   (social and economic).



# Questions?