

San Mateo County Immigrant Forum

April 17, 2025

Virtual Meeting

Welcome and Introductions:

- Meetings are held virtually on the third Thursday of each month, unless otherwise specified.
- At this time USCIS Outreach is not able to join these meetings per USCIS policy.

Immigrant Legal Resource Center Updates:

- Registration requirement is in effect:
 - Many people are already considered registered.
 - Many considerations regarding registration and how to advise the community.
 - The ILRC has developed community explainer sheet on the registration requirement, available in English and Spanish [here](#).
 - Organizations can reach out to ILRC's Attorney of the Day service for further guidance.
- Parole updates:
 - Federal administration continues attempts to eliminate categorical parole programs.
 - Unilateral revocation of CBP One parole – CBP One process typically involved individuals receiving a grant of parole and an NTA placing them in removal proceedings.
 - Federal judge has stayed the parole terminations for CHNV (Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan, and Venezuelan parole program).
 - USCIS seems not to be adjudicating applications from people who currently have parole.
 - Many parolees received an email stating that they had seven days to leave the country. However, this was a mass email that does not necessarily reflect individual cases. Many people receiving this email have pending applications or even another status.
 - General recommendation for individuals in removal proceedings with parole, or with pending applications, to continue their process, show up to court and asylum interviews, and continue being screened for further relief.
 - Individuals with parole and no other status can still apply for other forms of relief, and should consider filing an asylum application or an application for another type of relief.
 - The ILRC has developed a community explainer on Termination of Parole notice available in English and Spanish [here](#).
- Temporary Protected Status:
 - On February 20th, DHS vacated the extension and redesignation of Haiti for TPS, so Haitian TPS is currently set to expire on August 5.
 - Efforts to terminate TPS for Venezuela have been blocked in a court order (TPS Alliance v. Noem).
 - Current TPS grants are set to expire for Afghanistan on May 20th and June 7th for Cameroon.



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- Reports have emerged that the White House intends to eliminate Deferred Action for SIJS, which allowed SIJS holders to obtain work authorization while waiting to file for adjustment of status.
- JGG v. Trump:
 - This is a class action habeas corpus lawsuit filed by the ACLU and Democracy Forward on behalf of five Venezuelan men in immigration custody, threatened with removal under the Alien Enemies Act of 1798.
 - The Supreme Court held in a 5-4 ruling that the detainees could not proceed with their challenge as a class action suit, but instead had to file habeas petitions.
 - The court acknowledged that everyone deported under the AEA should be entitled to due process and the ability to challenge their deportation or designation as a cartel member, but there is not a clear process for this to take place.
- Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), which is the investigative branch of the Department of Homeland Security & ICE, has reportedly been conducting welfare checks on former unaccompanied minors.
 - Community members have the right not to open the door and the right to remain silent.

IIBA Citizenship Program:

- IIBA provides a range of legal services to immigrants throughout the Bay Area.
- Citizenship classes in Redwood City take place at the Fair Oaks Community Center, which is a trusted space that the community feels safe accessing.
- Classes are open to any permanent resident eligible for citizenship, and the majority of attendees are Spanish speaking.
- Team of volunteers teach the classes and do practice interviews both online and in person.
- IIBA can assist with partnering individuals who have unique language needs with a tutor or volunteer to assist them.
- Most people do have to take the citizenship test in English, though some qualify for an exemption based on age and years of permanent residency.
- IIBA staff have heard many rumors circulating in the community related to citizenship, including that interviews are becoming more challenging, and interviewers are becoming stricter. However, IIBA students who have had interviews recently have had a fairly standard experience. A backlog for interviews has been noted. There is a range of wait times.
- IIBA is recommending that people start English and citizenship classes as soon as they want to start pursuing citizenship, instead of waiting until they have an interview date.
- IIBA provides assistance with completion of citizenship application and can screen for red flags. However, sometimes students have already applied for citizenship without being aware of a red flag in their own application.

OCA Updates:

- Find citizenship classes offered by SMC Libraries and IIBA on OCA's [citizenship calendar](#).
- Multilingual Rapid Response Hotline materials now available [here](#).



- Please advise community members on the importance of memorizing your and your family's A#, if you have one.
- Faith in Action can assist with accompaniment to ICE check-in's and court, and can support with asylum filing (in partnership with attorneys and law students).



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