

San Mateo County Immigrant Forum

Feb 19, 2026

Meeting Summary

Immigrant Legal Resource Center Updates:

BIA Interim Rule

- A new rule shortens the deadline for most immigration appeals from 30 days to 10 days. It also allows the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) to dismiss more cases without full review. These changes may make it harder to prepare appeals.

USCIS Updates

- **Affirmative Asylum Pause:** Since December 2025, USCIS has continued to conduct interviews for these cases, but is not issuing final decisions. No timeline has been provided for when decisions may resume.
- **Annual Asylum Fee (AAF):** has been reinstated and is currently \$102 per year while a case is pending. It cannot be waived. A helpful guide about this fee and how to pay it is available [here](#).
- **Deferred Action for SIJS Recipients:** was ended last year. However, a lawsuit challenging this termination is ongoing, and some individuals (those with cases approved between April 7th – June 6th 2025) are now receiving deferred action.

TPS Developments

- Terminations for Honduras, Nepal, and Nicaragua were allowed to move forward, and TPS holders from these countries at risk of losing status should contact a legal service provider to understand their options.
- Terminations for Haiti, Somalia, and Ethiopia, are currently paused by court order. Additional decisions are expected, and the situation may continue to change.

Proposed HUD Rule RE: Housing Assistance

- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has proposed a rule that could restrict housing assistance for mixed-status families. The rule is not yet in effect; partners should be aware as the rulemaking process moves forward.

Ongoing Legal Challenges to Expanded Mandatory Detention

- Good news: in early February, a federal district court vacated the BIA's *Yajure-Hurtado* decision, which had expanded DHS authority to place more individuals in mandatory detention without bond. This may increase access to bond hearings, though litigation continues and the situation may continue to change.

Presentation: Changes to Non-Citizen Eligibility for Medi-Cal and CalFresh

- Given by **Rommel Silva, Human Services Supervisor**, who oversees the County of San Mateo Human Services Agency's public benefits outreach efforts.
- Rommel gave an overview of recent changes to public benefits programs, including Medi-Cal and CalFresh, to assist forum attendees in navigating questions from community members about eligibility and access for immigrant families.
- Slides and other useful resource materials shared during the presentation will be posted to the SMC Immigrant Forum page once available. Look for them [here](#).

OCA Updates

- Reminder that Immigrant Forum meeting summaries are posted on our webpage in addition to being sent out via email. You can view past meeting summaries [here](#).
- "Orange cards" explaining the SMC Rapid Response hotline services are now available in more languages: Simplified Chinese, Tagalog, Tongan, Samoan, Spanish and English are available for download on our website [here](#).

Agency Updates

- **San Mateo County Health: Public Health, Policy & Planning (PHPP)** will host a virtual training for community-based organizations and nonprofits on protecting community spaces and events. The training will take place March 25 from 1:00–2:30 PM. Registration is limited to 2 participants per organization, if interested, contact Deandra Lee to register at dlee1@smcgov.org - a Spanish language session is TBA.
- **KARA** is spreading the word about grief support services, including Spanish-language groups and "Duelo Sin Fronteras," a support group for Spanish-speaking community members. Services are free and available virtually and in person in Redwood City and San Jose. Contact Maria Rosas or Romina Kim to register, or discuss collaboration opportunities.