

San Mateo County Immigrant Forum
Meeting Notes
4/16/2020

1. Welcome & Introductions – Immigrant Services Team

- a. Thank you to all for joining us on Zoom. The Immigrant Forum will be held virtually until further notice.

2. USCIS Updates: Nina Sachdev, Community Relations Officer

Nina.K.Sachdev@uscis.dhs.gov

- a. USCIS offices nationally are closed to the public at least through May 3rd
- b. People with appointments for biometrics, interviews or oath ceremonies that were cancelled will be automatically rescheduled
- c. People who had InfoPass appointments to come into the office and to fix their documents do need to call the USCIS Contact Center to reschedule those appointments once the USCIS field offices re-open
- d. If people need to come into the USCIS for an emergency to fix their documents, they can still call the USCIS Contact Center to make an appointment
 - There are a few people in the office to assist
- e. USCIS Contact Center number is 800-375-5283 (for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability: TTY 800-767-1833)
 - If you are outside the United States or a U.S. territory, call 212-620-3418
- f. For people who have a Request for Evidence (RFE), Notice of Intent to Deny (NOID), Notice of Intent to Revoke (NOIR), or Notice of Intent to Terminate (NOIT) that were issued between March 1st and May 1st, USCIS is allowing 60-days after the deadline to accept the responses. Deadlines during shelter-in-place for submitting responses to local field offices are relaxed for 60 days. Submit reasons why requirements were not met
- g. Non-immigrant visa holders who cannot leave the country can submit an extension. Even if it's filed late, can explain why
 - See [alert](#) on the webpage
- h. Nina can be reached at SFSJ.CommunityRelations@uscis.dhs.gov for questions. Connect with her for virtual information sessions too!
- i. For most updated USCIS information: <https://www.uscis.gov/about-us/uscis-response-covid-19>
- j. Q/A
 - Q: What happens if the national Shelter-in-Place is different from a state's?
A: Each office follows local/state guidance

3. Legal Updates: Andrew Craycroft, ILRC

- a. There is NO Public Charge Rule for COVID-19 testing

- b. A ruling from the Supreme Court on DACA is imminent
 - Not sure how this is going to look
 - Currently, the re-use of biometrics is in effect
- c. The deadline to obtain a REAL ID has been pushed to 2021 due to the Pandemic

4. Presentation: Office of Community Affairs (OCA) – Jasmine Hartenstein, Immigrant Services Coordinator

- a. Our office's COVID-19 Resource Webpage: <https://cmo.smcgov.org/covid-19-resources>
- b. On this page, you can find COVID-19 related resources separated by what topic you are looking for, whether that be housing, financial resources, food, health, etc. We have designated whether a resource or service is available to our undocumented community by adding asterisks (**). We will constantly be monitoring and updating the page, so do check back every so often.

5. Agency Update Roundtable

- a. **Office of Community Affairs:** It's not too late to take your Census! Please encourage your clients to complete the Census! <https://my2020census.gov/>
- b. **Red Cross:** Red Cross is still fully functional and still responding to disasters.
- c. **City of San Mateo Council:** Please contact Amourence Lee at amourence@gmail.com if you have ideas on how to get underrepresented immigrant communities in municipal government. She is also extending herself for opportunities to directly connect with the community.
- d. **Multicultural Institute:** Working from home with massive text and phone banking.
- e. **LIBRE:** Have run out of funding for rental assistance – refer clients to CORE agencies. Remind clients that receiving rental assistance is not subject to the Public Charge rule. Clients can also continue calling LIBRE and leaving voicemails for specific questions.
- f. **CORA:** Out of office since March 17th. Safehouse is still open, but decreasing capacity. All legal/mental health trainings are virtual. The hotline is still fully functional.
 - Globally, there is an increase in the number of domestic violence cases – the ability to access help has become harder. Just because there are less police reports, doesn't mean there are less cases. CORA has seen 20% rise.
- g. **IIBA:** Remote consultations through June. DACA renewals available. Monthly citizenship workshops are postponed until further notice.
- h. **ABODE:** Reminder to please refer clients to CORE agencies as they do not accept direct referrals.