

San Mateo County Immigrant Forum
Meeting Notes
2/18/2021

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. Legal Updates: Alison Kamhi, ILRC

- a. 2021 Immigration Bill introduced
 - Provides 8-year path to citizenship, which is a faster path than any previous efforts (the last path that was introduced was a 13 year-path to citizenship)
 - o Path consists of a temporary status for 5 years, then a green card, then another 3 years for citizenship
 - o Path would be faster for DACA, TPS – could directly apply for a green card and bypass the 5 years
 - o Requirement: must have been residing in the US before January 1st, 2021
 - Removes word “alien” from all verbiage
 - Gets rid of certain backlogs by accelerating processing
 - Increases number of diversity visas, which are from underrepresented nations and usually has many African countries
 - o Opposite of the previous administration’s actions/rhetoric
 - Provides protection for labor violations
- b. Asylum
 - MPP was ended: people can come into country to have case heard
 - The Third Country Asylum Rule, also called the asylum [transit ban](#), was blocked by the court

3. USCIS Updates: Nina Sachdev, Community Relations Officer

- a. DHS has a new secretary: Alejandro Mayorkas, who is the former director of USCIS
 - Leadership at USCIS is pending
- b. USCIS Request for Evidence has an extended timeline – if the notice is dated between March 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021, there is an extra 60 days after deadline date
- c. DACA is open, as the program was when it was first implemented in 2012
 - Date of entry into US must have been before June 12, 2007 and have 5 years of established continuous residence
- d. Interviews and oath ceremonies are continuing
 - Fresno office is helping SF office with virtual interviews starting in March, in the hopes of decreasing processing time
- e. Every Wednesday, local Community Relation Officers host virtual webinars at 4pm PST and anyone nationwide can attend
 - Webinars are in English
- f. Q/A
 - Q: What’s the status on Public Charge?

A: Public charge is currently in effect, but the Biden Administration is looking into it – there is also lots of litigation.

Q: What's the status on Fee Rules?

A: The Fee Rules are being litigated and there is a nationwide injunction – the USCIS fees are not going into effect and the court fees are also enjoined. Similarly, people may continue to apply for a fee waiver.

4. Restaurant, Brewery & Winery Relief Program Presentation: Myles Tucker, County of San Mateo Budget Office

- See PowerPoint and check <https://www.smcstrong.org/restaurantrelief> for latest information

5. Office of Community Affairs Updates

- a. The Community Crew continues to distribute masks 4 times a week to high COVID-19 positivity rate locations
 - Follow @SMC_CommAffairs on IG/Twitter to see all locations
- b. The Immigrant Services team continues to host the monthly virtual Provider Spotlight Series, and March will cover employment
- c. The Immigrant Services team is currently mapping out the process and timeline for Gateways for Growth
- d. The COVID-19 Newsletter is being expanded to other languages besides Spanish, including Simplified Chinese, Tongan, Samoan, Tagalog
- e. Our office is seeking people to participate in our COVID-19 Community Campaign and send us videos relaying any topics related to COVID (i.e. testing, face coverings, vaccine, social distancing, etc.)

6. Agency Update Roundtable

- a. **Puente:** Food distributions continue – gift cards being distributed instead of food
- b. **Red Cross:** Burlingame Red Cross location is being let go, searching for new place