

San Mateo County Immigrant Forum
Meeting Notes
4/21/2022

1. Welcome & Introductions: Jennifer Llamas & Emily Smith

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

2. USCIS Updates: Nina K. Sachdev, Community Relations Officer, USCIS

- a. **Locally** at the USCIS San Francisco Field Office
 - Naturalization interviews may be scheduled on Saturdays and at the San Francisco Application Support Center (biometrics facility)
- b. **Webinars**
 - [Special Immigrant Juveniles \(SIJ\) Policy Updates, April 27, 10am PST](#) (national engagement)
 - Flyer attached with login info:
 - o Naturalization Information Session, April 27, 6:30pm PST (Sai Phavisith, community relations in Sacramento presenting)
 - o Online Filing – Tools and Resources, April 28, 1pm PST (San Diego representative presenting)
 - o Como Convertirse en Ciudadano Estadounidense, 29 de abril, 5:30PM PST (Los Angeles representative presenting)
- c. **Temporary Protected Status (TPS)** for 18 months recently announced for nationals of:
 - **Ukraine** who have been in the US since April 11, 2022
 - **Sudan** who have been in the US since March 1, 2022
 - **Cameroon** residing in the US since April 14, 2022.
 - More information: <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status>
- d. **DACA renewals** can be filed using an online form on an applicant's myUSCIS Account. Employment authorization can already be filed online.
 - Note: The online filing option is available only for those who have been previously granted DACA.
 - Note: While USCIS is accepting first time applicants for DACA, due to the court order, they are prohibited from granting these initial DACA requests.
 - More information: <https://www.uscis.gov/DACA>
 - Online filing tips for legal representatives: <https://www.uscis.gov/file-online/online-filing-for-attorneys-and-accredited-representatives>
- e. Those who received Conditional Permanent Resident status through marriage or employment may not require an interview to be approved for permanent resident status. Previously, all conditional permanent residents required an interview.
 - Announcement: <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/news-releases/uscis-implements-risk-based-approach-for-conditional-permanent-resident-interviews>
- f. When filing applications, most fees can now be paid by credit card using a credit card form.

- Announcement: <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/uscis-service-center-expands-credit-card-payment-pilot-program-to-most-forms>
- g. COVID Flexibilities for responding 60 days after the due date for Requests for Evidence, Notice of Intent to Deny, Motions to Reopen, etc. will be accepted when the request or notice is dated between **March 1, 2020** and **July 25, 2022**.
 - Announcement: <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/uscis-extends-flexibility-for-responding-to-agency-requests-1>
- h. USCIS Asylum Officers will be able to make final decisions on asylum applications after applicants who are in the expedited removal process receive a positive credible fear result. Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice issued this rule that modifies the notice of proposed rulemaking's (NPRM) proposal in response to public comments received following the NPRM issued by DHS and Justice in August 2021. The [rule](#) will be effective 60 days after publication in the *Federal Register*. The Departments encourage further public comment on the rule during the 60-day comment period for the Departments to consider. Details for submitting public comments are in the rule. The rule is posted on: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/03/29/2022-06148/procedures-for-credible-fear-screening-and-consideration-of-asylum-withholding-of-removal-and-cat>
See <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom> for these and other USCIS updates.

3. Legal Updates: Alison Kamhi, ILRC

- a. [Asylum rule](#) - **Comments due 5/31/22**
 - 60 day comment period - 5/31/22 (effective date of rule)
 - Progress is getting rid of prior CFI process, but many due process concerns
- b. Title 42 ending - will be ending on 5/23/22 barring injunction
 - Lead time is meant to allow DHS time to plan
 - Two lawsuits challenging the end of T42 - Texas (amending existing complaint) and Missouri, Louisiana (new) Arizona, Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming
 - We may end up with preliminary injunctions on ending Title 42 before the effective date
- c. [DHS announced the designation of Cameroon for TPS](#)
 - 18 month designation - only individuals who are already residing in the United States as of April 14, 2022, will be eligible for TPS.
- d. [Public Charge](#) (Gabrielle) - **Comments due 4/25/22**
 - PIF has a [sign on comment](#) available - please circulate!
- e. [TPS for Sudan](#)
 - Effective on 4/19/22 through 10/19/23
 - Continuous residence since 3/1/22, physical presence since 4/19/22
 - [Employment Authorization for F-1](#) students from Sudan
- f. [TPS for Ukraine](#)
 - Effective on 4/19/22 through 10/19/23
 - Continuous residence since 4/11/22, physical presence since 4/19/22

4. One Life Counseling Center Presentation: Jennifer Bautista, Marriage and Family Therapy Trainee, Lead of Trauma Program for San Mateo City School District, One Life Counseling Center

- a. Tomorrow (4/22/22) there is a parent education night for newcomers in collaboration with Police Activities League in San Mateo.
 - Going over mental health resources to help students.
 - Childcare available, raffle available.
 - Flyer forthcoming with more details.
- b. On May 4, we will be hosting an in-person event in which a therapist will be educating families and kids about Fentanyl. [May 4, 7pm-8:15pm at the Carlmont Performing Arts Center.](#)
- c. Will be opening up Medi-Cal again this summer to take on more clients. We take Medi-Cal and Kaiser insurance. We also provide a sliding scale and pro bono services.
- d. We work with the Police Activities League in San Mateo; if kids become members they get free services.
- e. We are going to officially be opening an office in Redwood City. It will be called Una Vida, specifically for immigrants. Official opening date will be May 12.
- f. Still doing a Monday market from 12-2 for food and diaper distribution.
- g. Our Newcomer Group is mostly geared towards Latinx community; but hope to eventually expand to serve more newcomer groups.
- h. Question: Do you serve any unaccompanied children?
 - We do have a few who are unaccompanied and we create groups to support them.
- i. How to enroll in groups? Email info@onelifecounselingservices.com

5. 101 Express Lanes Community Transportation Benefits Program: Christa Cassidy, San Mateo 101 Express Lanes, Policy Program Management Team

- a. Express lanes are multi-year, multi-agency project. Goal is to reduce congestion and encourage carpooling and transit use.
- b. Express lane definition: for buses, vans or cars for 3+ people for free, 2+ people for 50% discount, Single occupancy vehicle drivers pay full amount to use the express lane.
- c. To use express lane driver needs to have a FasTrak Flex pass or FasTrak CAV (clean air vehicle). A standard FasTrak will not work for express lanes.
- d. Community Transportation Benefits Program: Goals are to help address inequities, invest toll revenue in historically underserved communities, remain flexible enough to evolve over time in response to changing needs.
- e. Came from a study in 2020/2021: where historically underserved communities were, and what travel challenges they had?
 - High cost
 - Unreliable public transportation
 - Too much traffic

- Toll subsidies would be helpful
- f. Gathered public input on 4 equity program alternatives.
 - \$50 would be too low of an amount to be meaningful.
- g. Current program offers: Clipper Card with value of \$100 (annual benefit) OR Fastrak Flex toll with \$105 (one-time benefit).
- h. Eligibility:
 - Resident of County of San Mateo.
 - Age 18 or older
 - Income at or below 60% of AMI OR eligible to receive at least 1 service provided by Core Service Agencies network.
- i. Participants can enroll by calling or visiting their local Core Service Agency. Open to all regardless of immigration status.
- j. Program just began, people can begin enrolling now.
- k. Currently relying on Core agencies to get the word out. Currently in “soft launch.” Will be tracking program enrollment over next couple of months and ramp up outreach as necessary based on program enrollment.

6. Office of Community Affairs (OCA) Updates: Jennifer Llamas & Emily Smith

- a. Thank you to all community partners who supported with the Immigrant Inclusion Survey! We were able to gather almost 2,800 responses. Online gift cards should be going out later this week.
- b. We are distributing print copies of Immigrant Resource Guides (in English and Spanish) to community partners. Please [visit our website to make a request](#).
- c. The SMC Immigrant Youth Scholarship is accepting applications until May 1, 2022. [Click here to apply](#).
- d. There is still funding for the \$2500 Micro-Business Grant. Applicants can visit [this page for more information and to apply](#).

7. Agency Update Roundtable: All

- a. **BHRS:** May is Mental Health Awareness month. Visit www.SMCMentalHealthMonth.org for events. Flyer forthcoming.
- b. **Red Cross:** Currently taking requests for families trying to find family in Ukraine. Also, a reminder that there are 100 armed conflicts in world right now, with 1 million people who have been displaced. Many people are trying to find family right now.
- c. **Catholic Charities:** We have updated our phone system and now have 1 central number, with different options that can be selected from the main number: (650) 295-2160
- d. **Sequoia Union High School District:** Parent meeting tonight and workshop for newcomers tonight. Next one will be on May 4 at Carlmont HS. There are some new families from Ukraine at Carlmont HS.
- e. **The Primary School:** Cesar Chavez day of service was a success; we held a community service fair. In process of doing social needs survey to learn about what referrals and services families need coming out of Covid.

f. **CLESPA:** workshops still running virtually.