

San Mateo County Immigrant Forum
Meeting Notes
4/20/2023

1. Welcome & Introductions: Jennifer Llamas

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

2. USCIS Updates: Sai Phavisith, Community Relations Specialist, USCIS

- a. **Outreach:** <https://www.uscis.gov/outreach>
 - i. National Engagements:
 - 1. Tuesday, May 23, 11am Pacific - Immigration Options for Youth and Child Victims of Abuse Stakeholder Engagement
- b. **Enhancements to the Central American Minors Program:**
 - i. Dept of Homeland Security and Dept of State Announce Enhancements to the Central American Minors Program (announced 4/13) – There is a notice in the Federal Register of the enhancements. The CAM program allows qualifying U.S.-based parents or guardians to request access for their qualified children in El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras to be considered for refugee status and possible resettlement in the United States. USCIS will consider parole, on a case-by-case basis, for those found ineligible for refugee status. Certain family members of those children also may be eligible for the CAM program. Parents and legal guardians must have filed their asylum application, U visa petition, or T visa application on or before April 11, 2023, to be eligible to file a Form DS-7699, Affidavit of Relationship for Minors Who Are Nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, to request access for their children to the CAM program.
- c. **USCIS Extends Rule Providing Interpreters at Affirmative Asylum Interviews**
 - i. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced today a fourth extension to a temporary final rule (TFR) requiring use of a USCIS interpreter at certain affirmative asylum interviews. This TFR extends the requirement through September 12, 2023. After that date, affirmative asylum applicants who cannot proceed with the interview in English must provide their own interpreters.
 - ii. We anticipate the federal declaration of a public health emergency for COVID-19 will expire in May 2023. Extending this TFR until after that declaration expires will provide public notice that the TFR is expiring and help ensure an orderly and efficient return to prior practice.
- d. **USCIS Announces Additional Mail Delivery Process for Receiving ADIT Stamp (temporary green card stamp)**
 - i. Lawful permanent residents may receive temporary evidence of their lawful permanent resident status by mail rather than physically visiting a field office to receive an Alien Documentation, Identification and Telecommunication (ADIT) stamp (also known as an I-551 stamp).

- ii. Lawful permanent residents are entitled to evidence of status and may require temporary evidence of their status in the form of an ADIT stamp if:
 - 1. They do not have their Green Card; or
 - 2. Their Form I-90, Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card (Green Card), Form I-751, Petition to Remove Conditions on Residence, or Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, is still pending adjudication and their Green Card and extension notice have expired.
 - iii. When lawful permanent residents call the USCIS Contact Center to request temporary evidence of status, an immigration services officer will verify their identity, their physical mailing address, and whether that address can receive UPS or FedEx express mail. They will then either schedule an in-person appointment for the lawful permanent resident, if needed, or submit a request to the USCIS field office to issue the ADIT stamp. If an in-person appointment is not needed, the USCIS field office will review the request for temporary evidence and mail the applicant a Form I-94 with ADIT stamp, DHS seal, and a printed photo of the lawful permanent resident obtained from USCIS systems.
 - iv. USCIS may issue temporary evidence of status in the form of an ADIT stamp. USCIS determines if the requestor should receive an ADIT stamp and has the discretion to determine the validity period based on the lawful permanent resident's situation (not to exceed one year, unless specified otherwise by regulation or policy).
 - v. Some lawful permanent residents will still need to appear in person at a USCIS field office to receive temporary evidence of their status, including those who have urgent needs, do not have a useable photo in USCIS systems, or whose address or identity cannot be confirmed.
 - vi. The new process will allow USCIS to issue temporary evidence of lawful permanent resident status in a timely way without requiring a scheduled appointment at the field office, thereby reducing the burden on our applicants and increasing availability of field office resources.
- e. **Update to Filing Location for U Nonimmigrant-Based Form I-485**
- i. U nonimmigrants applying to become lawful permanent residents must now file Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, only at the Nebraska Service Center and not at the Vermont Service Center
 - ii. USCIS Nebraska Service Center
 - 1. U.S. Postal Service (USPS):
USCIS
P.O. Box 87426
Lincoln, NE 68501-7526
 - 2. FedEx, UPS, and DHL deliveries:
USCIS
P.O. Box 87426
Lincoln, NE 68501-7526
- f. **USCIS Form and Policy Updates for Applying for Naturalization Based on Military Service**

- i. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services today announced updated policy guidance in the USCIS Policy Manual to clarify and conform with the revision of Form N-426, Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service. The updated policy guidance provides that only applicants filing for naturalization based on military service (INA 328 or 329) who are currently serving in the U.S. armed forces are required to file Form N-426 with their naturalization application. Former service members applying for naturalization under INA 328 or 329 are no longer required to file Form N-426 with their naturalization application, but they must submit a photocopy of their Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214), National Guard Report of Separation and Record of Service (NGB Form 22), or other official discharge document for all periods of service that provides information on the type of separation and character of service. This guidance, contained in Volume 12 of the Policy Manual, is effective immediately, and applies to all currently pending applications as well as to applications filed on or after March 22, 2023.

g. USCIS Announces End of COVID-Related Flexibilities

- i. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services today announced that certain flexibilities it first announced in March 2020, to address the COVID-19 pandemic will end on March 23, 2023. USCIS previously notified the public in its January 24, 2023, announcement that barring any changes presented by the pandemic, the extension of these flexibilities announced on January 24 would be the last.
- ii. You must respond to any notices or requests from USCIS dated after March 23 by the deadlines listed in the notice or request. This includes:
 - 1. Requests for Evidence;
 - 2. Continuations to Request Evidence (N-14);
 - 3. Notices of Intent to Deny;
 - 4. Notices of Intent to Revoke;
 - 5. Notices of Intent to Rescind;
 - 6. Notices of Intent to Terminate regional centers;
 - 7. Notices of Intent to Withdraw Temporary Protected Status; and
 - 8. Motions to Reopen an N-400 Pursuant to 8 CFR 335.5, Receipt of Derogatory Information After Grant.
- iii. Additionally, if you wish to file Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, or Form N-336, Request for a Hearing on a Decision in Naturalization Proceedings (Under Section 336 of the INA), regarding a decision dated after March 23, 2023, you must comply with the deadlines in the form instructions.
- iv. USCIS retains discretion to provide certain flexibilities on a case-by-case basis upon request, for applicants or petitioners affected by an emergency or unforeseen circumstance, such as natural catastrophes (hurricanes, wildfires, severe weather, etc.), national emergencies (public health emergencies), or severe illness (including COVID). Please see the Immigration Relief in Emergencies or Unforeseen Circumstances webpage for more information about remaining case-by-case flexibilities

- v. As a reminder, the flexibilities regarding reproduced signatures first announced on March 20, 2020, became policy as announced on July 25, 2022.
- h. **USCIS Updates Policy on Time Frames for Paper-Based Filings and Responses Ending on Saturdays, Sundays, or Federal Holidays**
 - i. We are updating the USCIS Policy Manual to address situations when the last day to file a benefit request or respond to a USCIS action falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or federal holiday. In these situations, we will consider a filing or response submitted on paper timely if we receive it by the end of the next business day. While the receipt date for these cases will continue to reflect the date USCIS physically received the request, USCIS will consider the benefit request timely filed. In some cases, benefit requestors must file a benefit request or submit a response to a USCIS action within a certain time period prescribed by statute, regulation, or form instructions. Examples include filing a paper-based benefit request on the last day before a requestor's or beneficiary's birthday or the last day of a qualifying time period for filing, or responding to a Request for Evidence or a notice of intent to deny, rescind, revoke or terminate within the specified time frame for a response.
 - ii. USCIS is pursuing several ways to increase flexibility related to filing deadlines, including this Policy Manual update. This update is effective immediately and will apply to all benefit requests or responses to a USCIS action that we receive on paper on or after March 29, 2023. This update does not affect electronic filings or responses submitted electronically, which we consider received immediately upon submission. We are not applying this policy retroactively.
- i. **USCIS Opens the Humanitarian, Adjustment, Removing Conditions and Travel Documents (HART) Service Center**
 - i. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is announcing the opening of the Humanitarian, Adjustment, Removing Conditions, and Travel Documents (HART) Service Center, the sixth service center within its Service Center Operations (SCOPS) directorate, and the first to focus on humanitarian and other workload cases. HART will promote cohesive and consistent adjudicative operations, and its dedicated workforce will improve the quality and efficiency of our humanitarian caseload processing. This workforce will continue to receive the robust, specialized training currently provided to employees who are processing these forms. These applications and benefits affect the most vulnerable of noncitizens, and the opening of this service center will make a positive impact in the quality, timeliness, and scale of our humanitarian processing abilities.
 - ii. After a review of USCIS processing times, we deemed that the greater focus should be provided to these humanitarian-based benefits, which led to the creation of the HART Service Center. With HART, we are taking action to improve our service in partnership with community groups. In fact, the creation of HART is partially the result of the feedback we have received from our partnership with stakeholders and community groups.

- iii. HART will initially exist as a hybrid service center, with virtual adjudication capabilities and coordination with existing service centers for certain administrative support. HART will ultimately transition to a 100% virtual service center with no geographic physical location, across multiple time zones. This center will be identified by the specialized work adjudicated by its staff and not by a brick-and-mortar facility or location.
- iv. HART will process both digital and paper-based applications and petitions and will partner with existing service centers to support physical onsite necessities such as file exchange and administrative support.
- v. The HART Service Center will initially focus on the following case types:
 - 1. Form I-601A, Application for Provisional Unlawful Presence Waiver;
 - 2. Bona Fide Determination (BFD) for Form I-918, Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status;
 - 3. Form I-730, Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition; and
 - 4. VAWA-based Form I-360, Petition for Amerasian, Widow(er), or Special Immigrant.

j. New Process Allows Special Immigrant Juveniles to File Form I-360 in Person Before Their 21st Birthday

- i. Petitioners (or their representatives) for Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) classification nearing age 21 may now schedule an appointment within two weeks before their 21st birthday to file Form I-360, Petition for Amerasian, Widow(er), or Special Immigrant, in person. Petitioners may call the USCIS Contact Center at 800-375-5283 to request an SIJ expedite appointment at a local field office. The field office will accept Form I-360 and date-stamp the first page. The field office will then provide the petitioner or representative with a photocopy of the first page of SIJ Form I-360 and will process the petition and supporting documents for receipting.
- ii. Background
 - 1. USCIS regulations provide that a petition is filed on the date it is physically received by USCIS at the prescribed filing location. There may be circumstances where a petitioner cannot timely file their petition by mail before their 21st birthday. Examples include inclement weather, mailing delays, or state court delays in obtaining a juvenile court order.
- iii. More Information
- iv. For additional information on SIJ expedite in-person filing of Form I-360 by SIJ petitioners before their 21st birthday, please visit the Special Immigrant Juveniles webpage.

k. USCIS Removes 60-Day Rule for Civil Surgeon Signatures on Form I-693

- i. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is removing the requirement that civil surgeons sign Form I-693, Report of Immigration Medical Examination and Vaccination Record, no more than 60 days before an individual applies for an underlying immigration benefit, including Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status. The requirement had been subject to a temporary waiver since December 9, 2021. This policy update will allow USCIS

to adjudicate cases with immigration medical examinations that would previously have been considered invalid. Rather than issuing Requests for Evidence (RFEs) for Form I-693 signed more than 60 days before the filing of the I-485, but otherwise valid, we will be able to accept these Forms I-693 for adjudicative purposes for up to 2 years after the date the civil surgeon signed the form. Applicants, civil surgeons, USCIS officers, federal partners, and other stakeholders have consistently expressed concern that this requirement is confusing and necessitates RFEs to be issued for otherwise valid Forms I-693. While the 60-day rule was intended (PDF, 168.6 KB) to enhance operational efficiency and reduce the need to request updated Forms I-693 from applicants, in practice these efficiencies have not been realized.

I. USCIS Updates Policy Guidance on Self-Selecting a Gender Marker on Forms and Documents

- i. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is updating policy guidance in the USCIS Policy Manual to clarify that, effective immediately, USCIS will accept the self-identified gender marker for individuals requesting immigration benefits. The gender marker they select does not need to match the gender marker indicated on their supporting documentation. The update also clarifies that people requesting benefits do not need to submit proof of their gender identity when submitting a request to change their gender marker, except for those submitting Form N-565, Application for Replacement Naturalization/Citizenship Document. The guidance in this Policy Manual section does not currently apply to Form N-565, and individuals submitting this form must continue to follow the form instructions. See 8 CFR 103.2(a)(1). Benefit requestors seeking to change their gender marker after their initial filing should refer to the Updating or Correcting Your Documents webpage. Currently, the only gender markers available are “Male” (M) or “Female” (F). The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is working on options to include an additional gender marker (“X”) for another or unspecified gender identity. USCIS will update its forms and the Policy Manual accordingly.

3. Legal Updates: Alison Kamhi, Legal Program Director, ILRC

- a. Local Updates –
 - i. The Board of Supervisors at its April 11 regular meeting voted to restrict the use of County resources to assist federal immigration authorities.
 - ii. The ordinance prohibits County departments, agencies, commissions, employees and other representatives from using County resources such as property, personnel, time, labor or money.
 - iii. For more information, click [here](#).

4. HIP Housing’s Programs and Services: Laura Fanucchi, Director of Programs, HIP Housing & Daniel Barrera, Outreach Specialist, HIP Housing

- a. Purpose: create a healthy, connected, and inclusive County through housing and mentoring programs
- b. Programs/Services
 - i. Information and Referral Housing Readiness Program
 - 1. Features a comprehensive information and referral system that assists prospective applicants in navigating the process of accessing housing resources.
 - ii. Self-Sufficiency Program
 - 1. Provides housing assistance and support services to low-income parents or emancipated foster youth in school to increase their earning power and become financially self-sufficient within 1-5 years. Participants receive subsidized rent while they complete an education or job training program and find employment in their field.
 - 2. How it works
 - a. Applicants must:
 - i. Be enrolled in school in a practical field that is likely to lead to a job that will support their families
 - ii. Be a low-income parent or former foster care youth aged 18-24
 - 3. Application process
 - a. Applicants must be referred by a school, counselor, case worker, social worker, or employer.
 - b. Once referred, program staff will conduct a pre-screening call to determine eligibility.
 - c. Applicants will be scheduled for an intake appointment with another program staff if deemed eligible. The intake consists of an application form, an interview, and a financial coaching session.
 - iii. Home Sharing Program
 - 1. Helps match individuals seeking housing with people who have a room or Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) to rent
 - a. ADUs are small living spaces detached or attached to a single-family home
 - 2. Types of Home Sharing
 - a. A home provider is matched with a home seeker who pays rent
 - b. A home provider is matched with a home seeker who exchanges household duties for reduced rent
 - 3. How to participate
 - a. Home seekers must live, work, or attend school in San Mateo County of San Mateo.
 - b. Home providers must reside in San Mateo County
 - iv. Services for Developers and Owners

1. HIP Housing offers full-service property management services for affordable housing owners through its nonprofit affiliate, HIP Housing Affordable Ventures, Inc. (HHAV).
- c. For more information
 - i. Call 650-348-6660
 - ii. Email: mailbox@hiphousing.org
 - iii. Visit: hiphousing.org
- d. Presenters contact information
 - i. Laura Fanucchi, Director of Programs
 1. Email: lfanucchi@hiphousing.org
 2. Phone: 650-348-6660 x303
 - ii. Daniel Barrera, Community Outreach Specialist
 1. Email: dbarrera@hiphousing.org
 2. Phone: 650-348-6660 x308

5. Office of Community Affairs (OCA) Updates

- a. The new edition of the immigrant guide is expected to arrive in May. It will be in English, Spanish, and Chinese.
- b. The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to hold their regular meeting at the Chamber on April 25 at 9am. Additionally, they will be conducting a study session addressing the Opioid & Fentanyl Crisis in San Mateo County on the same day, from 2pm to 4pm. Both meetings are accessible virtually. For more information about these meetings and the link to join virtually, click [here](#).
- a. The County of San Mateo, in collaboration with its core agencies in the Coast—PUENTE and Coastside Hope—will host two community meetings for farmworkers. The first meeting will take place on April 19, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm, at Pescadero (360 Butano Cut-Off), while the second meeting is scheduled for April 25, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm, in Half Moon Bay (620 Correas Street). These meetings present an excellent opportunity to gain insights into the County Task Force's initiatives aimed at improving living conditions for farmworkers, as well as other relevant information about the County's efforts along the coast. Live interpretation will be available in Spanish and Chinese.

6. Agency Update Roundtable: All

- a. **Nicoletta Kelleher, SMC ODE**
 - i. Immigrant Resource Night in collaboration with Jefferson Union High School District
 1. When: April 25, 2023, 6-8pm
 2. Where: JUHSD District Office – 699 Serramonte Blvd, Daly City 94015
 3. Click here to [RSVP](#)
 - ii. Parent Project Class
 1. A 12-week program offering free classes in both English and Spanish for parents and caregivers of children and adolescents who exhibit challenging behaviors. These classes teach essential parenting skills and provide access to helpful resources and support.

- a. Class starts April 19, 2023, virtually from 6pm – 8:30pm
 - b. For more information click [here](#) or email nkelleher@smcgov.org
- b. **Irma Acosta, Catholic Charities**
 - 1. Partnering with the County of San Mateo Human Services Agency to host an event focused on public benefits
 - 2. When: May 2 6pm - 7:30pm
 - 3. Where: 36 37th Ave, San Mateo, CA 94403
- c. **Mara Rosa, KARA**
 - i. Grief Support Group for men in Spanish
 - ii. When: Every Monday starting May 1 to June 19 from 7pm – 8:30pm
 - iii. Where: 457 Kingsley Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301
- d. **Josue Revolorio – Multicultural institute**
 - i. Multicultural Institute’s North Fair Oaks Anniversary Dinner
 - 1. When: May 11
 - 2. Where: 3375 Edison Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025
 - 3. For more information, click [here](#).
- e. **Slyvia Navarro, LIBRE**
 - i. Team will be attending/tabling:
 - 1. Immigrant Resource Night in Daly City on April 25 (for more information see [section a](#))
 - 2. [Citizenship Day](#) in San Jose on April 29
 - 3. Supervisor Canepa’s Resource Fair on April 29 at 3 Serramonte Center, Daly City, CA 94015 from 11am – 3pm.