

**San Mateo County Immigrant Forum**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**7/21/2022**

**1. Welcome & Introductions: Emily Smith & 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: Nina Sachdev, Community Relations Officer, USCIS**

- a. **Engagements** - <https://www.uscis.gov/outreach>
  - Naturalization Sessions, see <https://www.uscis.gov/outreach/upcoming-local-engagements>
  - Register for National Engagements using <https://www.uscis.gov/outreach/upcoming-national-engagements>
    - o Refugee/Asylee Follow-to-Join I-730 Process, July 21, 11am PST
    - o TPS Sudan, July 26, 11am PST
    - o Overview of T-visa, U-visa, VAWA self-petition, July 27, 11am PST
    - o O & P visa Athletes, August 3, 11am
    - o Refugee Processing Quarterly Stakeholder Meeting, August 31, 11am
- b. **Operations Allies Welcome (OAW) – Afghan arrivals**
  - **New Filing Process for Afghan SIV Petitions and Policy Update**
  - **OAW Asylum-Related FAQs:**  
<https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/information-for-afghan-nationals/afghan-operation-allies-welcome-oaw-parolee-asylum-related-frequently-asked-questions>
- c. **Uniting for Ukraine**
  - After Ukrainian arrives through the Uniting for Ukraine program as a parolee, they have 90 days to complete their medical attestation on their UCSIS online account. They do not need to upload documents.
    - o Announcement: <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/time-frame-extended-for-uniting-for-ukraine-parolees-to-comply-with-medical-screening-and>
- d. **Citizenship and Integration Grant Program** 🎉
  - Up to \$20 million in grants
  - **Applications due by August 5, 2022**
    - o Citizenship Instruction & Naturalization Application Services - \$300k
    - o Community & Regional Integration Network Grant - \$300k
    - o Regional Hub Program - \$1 million
    - o Innovations in Citizenship Education Program - \$250k
  - News release: <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/news-releases/dhs-announces-expansion-of-citizenship-and-integration-grant-program-and-open-application-period>
- e. **Extension of TPS for Venezuela**
  - Venezuelans who have TPS or were already residing in the U.S. as of March 8, 2021 are eligible to re-register for TPS. Approximately 343,000 individuals are

estimated to be eligible. The federal register notice with instructions for re-registration is forthcoming.

- News release: <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/news-releases/dhs-announces-extension-of-temporary-protected-status-for-venezuela>

### 3. Legal Updates: Alison Kamhi, ILRC

#### a. DED Extension and Expansion for Liberia

- EADs extended through 6/30/24

#### b. Venezuela TPS extended, not expanded - eligibility criteria remain the same (continuous residence since 3/8/21, physical presence since 3/9/21)

- Registration period: 9/10/22-3/10/24
- DED for Venezuela expires 7/20/22
- Less than 80K apps have been approved and there are 160K pending. Over 110K eligible people who have not applied.

#### c. Policy Manual Updates to Unlawful Presence

- Clarifies that unlawful presence bars under INA 212(a)(9)(b) [if someone is here unlawfully for a certain period of time and then leaves] can run inside the U.S.
  - o No effect on other grounds, such as permanent bar 212 (a)(9)(c)
- Addresses inconsistency in adjudications

#### d. TPS Update & Win

- New travel policy for TPS holders who travel.
  - o Creates a new travel doc, such that TPS holders will be “inspected and admitted” upon return from travel as opposed to using advance parole
    - This addresses years of litigation back and forth
    - Will help many TPS holders get a green card through U.S. citizen relatives
  - o <https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:b3cbb916-4228-37de-9126-fa65a5ae3af3#pageNum=1>

#### e. Rules at OIRA for review (Liz)

- [USCIS Fee Proposed Rule](#) - Sent for review 6/27, expected August?
- [DACA Final Rule](#) - Sent for review 7/5, expected August?
- AB 1766 – CA IDs for all (slides attached)

### 4. Improve the Dream: Advocating and Supporting Children of Long-Term Visa Holders, Preen Mhatre, Communications Manager of Improve the Dream

- Improve the Dream is a youth-led organization that supports and advocates for children of long-term visa holders.
- Since 2017 have been advocating for change that permanently ends aging-out and provides a path to citizenship for every child who grows up in the United States, regardless of status.
- Documented Dreamers:
  - Children of long-term visa holders without clear path to citizenship
  - Due to decades-long green card backlogs and some visas having to pathways to citizenship, children “age out” of their status at 21.

- Apprx. 10,000 young people age out of their status every year
- d. Goals:
  - Permanently end “aging out”
  - Changes to Federal immigration laws
  - Administrative policies
- e. Improve the Dream is nationwide and based virtually throughout the country.
- f. Resources:
  - Legal support program
  - Webpage with resources based on your status
  - Scholarships
  - Wellness groups
- g. Apprx 200,000 documented dreamers (or more) in United States
  - Estimated 40,000 in California (most documented dreamers in country)
- h. Obstacles faced by Documented Dreamers:
  - Ineligible to work in the country. Unable to get internships or jobs to build their careers.
  - Do not qualify for FAFSA, student loans, in-state tuition. Considered “international students” even if they have grown up in U.S.
  - When they are 21 they must self-deport or switch to student visa, which is difficult to obtain for documented dreamers. After graduation must start the immigration process all over again.
- i. Every year about 1 million green cards are issued by US government. Long backlog. Children grow up while their parents are waiting to get the green card.
- j. Immigration Reform:
  - Dream & Promise Act (March 2021) by house. Didn’t go through the Senate.
  - America’s Children Act (July 2021).
  - Reconciliation Bill
- k. America’s Children Act
  - Bill introduced in the house
  - Provides path to permanent residency for children who were brought to the US as child dependents of long-term visa holders, maintained legal status in the U.S. for 10 years, more

## 5. Office of Community Affairs (OCA) Updates

- a. Farmworker Advisory Commission - recruitment will open on July 29
- b. Immigrant Inclusion Survey data to be shared at Welcoming Week summit in September
- c. Legal services contract approved by the board for 1 more year at June 28 Board of Supervisors meeting
- d. July Spotlight event. How You Can Help Immigrants and Refugees: Uniting for Ukraine & Co-Sponsorship.
  - Recording available [here](#)

## 6. Agency Update Roundtable: All

### a. **Shireen Malekafzali, Chief Equity Officer**

- 2 new staff members: Equity and Belonging Manager, Equity and Inclusion Associate
- Working on toolkits for staff development
- Core Equity Team: 9 committees.
  - o E.g. Community Engagement Toolkit from Office of Community Affairs
  - o Toolkit for departments to assess equity impacts; will present equity impact statements to board of supervisors.
  - o Currently in phase of development and piloting
  - o RFP for foundational equity training

### b. **Gloria Cahuich Gonzalez, BHRS & Latino Collaborative**

- Community members are welcome to join Latino Collaborative.
- About to begin a committee to plan the Sana Sana event.

### c. **Maria Rosas, KARA**

- Support group for anyone who has experienced loss, delivered in Spanish.
- Were planning to start an in-person group for adults who have lost a parent, however clients requested virtual as clients are still getting COVID.

### d. **Cesar Meza-Esveile, Multicultural Institute**

- Offering virtual citizenship classes.
- Also offering COVID-19 testing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday every month at office in North Fair Oaks. Open to anyone.

### e. **Yolanda Ramirez, BHRS**

- Star Vista will be managing crisis intervention and suicide prevention line.
- Still hosting Parent Cafes, 2 in Spanish. Support groups for parents of youth.
  - o Every other week, 1 in person and 1 virtual (Coastside & Shasta).

### f. **Suzie Saephan, CDSS Refugee Programs Bureau**

- Just hosted a bi-weekly statewide Ukrainian convening. Every Wednesday at 11am. Next meeting scheduled for August 3.