# San Mateo County Immigrant Forum

**Meeting Notes**

**10/19/2023**

1. **Welcome & Introductions: Sarah Feldman (she/ella)**
   1. Thank you to all for joining us on Zoom. The Immigrant Forum will be held virtually until further notice.
   2. Present at today’s meeting:
      1. Carolina Salinas, OCA
      2. Sarah Feldman, OCA
      3. Nina Sachdev, USCIS
      4. Emily Beach, Job Train
      5. Emely Garcia, Catholic Charities
      6. Alison Kamhi, ILRC
      7. Gloria Cahuich Gonzales, SMC Health
      8. Josue Revolorio, Multicultural Institute
      9. Lianna Chen, California Children’s Services SMC CCS
      10. Iliana Solis, BHRS
      11. Pablo Baeza Breinbaur, Oasis Legal Services
      12. Sylvia Navarro, LIBRE Project
      13. Natalie Meltzer, SMC CCS Program
      14. Marisol, SSF Promotores
      15. Araceli Efigenio
      16. Beatriz Sanchez. NFO Library
      17. Amairany
      18. Rita Krone, CA Department Social Services
      19. I Quinonez
      20. Ariana Rodriguez, Catholic Charities SF
      21. Maria D Hernandez, Catholic Charitie SF
      22. Luz Chavarin
      23. Gabriela Rosales, Community Worker CCS
      24. Jessica Rangel
      25. Karen Kilwein, Casey Family Program
      26. Yajaria Ortega, Thrive
      27. Carla Llewelyn -Vasquez
   3. Next meeting will be Thursda
   4. y, November 16th, at 10:00am.
2. **USCIS Updates: Nina Sachdev, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services, USCIS** 
   1. National Webinars, please visit: [**https://www.uscis.gov/es**](https://www.uscis.gov/es)
   2. To find Local Outreach, please see [Document](USCIS%20Oct.%202023%20Updates.docx) for more information.
   3. Affirmative Asylum Application tips
      1. Review the [Instructions for Form I-589](https://www.uscis.gov/i-589) for eligibility requirements for yourself, your spouse, and your children.
      2. Use [Filing Instructions Tool](https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/form-i-589-filing-instructions-tool) to determine if you can file online.
      3. Submit Form I-589 with the newest edition date, 03/01/23. You can find the edition date at the bottom of the page on the form and instructions.
      4. You must include all pages of Form I-589.
      5. Make sure that the form edition date and page numbers are visible at the bottom of all pages and that all pages are from the same form edition. If any of the form’s pages are missing or are from a different form edition, we may reject your form.
      6. You must sign the form in Part D on Page 9.
      7. You must complete Form I-589 in English, including explanation fields on the form.
      8. Do not submit a passport-style photo, multiple copies of the form, or multiple copies of supporting documentation when submitting Form I-589.
      9. See the ‘Form Filing Tips’ section of the [Form I-589 page](http://www.uscis.gov/i-589) for additional filing tips.
   4. Filing locations: make sure to file at the correct location. Please see the “Where to file” section on the form [Form I-589 page](http://www.uscis.gov/i-589)
   5. DHS Announces Family Reunification Parole Process for Ecuador
   6. [USCIS Issues New Instructions for Filing Asylum Applications with USCIS After EOIR Dismissal or Termination of Removal Proceedings](https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/uscis-issues-new-instructions-for-filing-asylum-applications-with-uscis-after-eoir-dismissal-or)
   7. [USCIS Launches New Online Change of Address Tool](https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/uscis-launches-new-online-change-of-address-tool)
   8. Cameroon: [Extension and Redesignation of Cameroon for Temporary Protected Status](https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/news-releases/secretary-mayorkas-announces-extension-and-redesignation-of-cameroon-for-temporary-protected-status)
   9. Venezuela:  [Extending and Separately Redesignating Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status](https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/news-releases/dhs-previews-federal-register-notice-extending-and-separately-redesignating-venezuela-for-temporary)
   10. [USCIS Continues Fee Exemptions and Expedited Processing for Afghan Nationals](https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/uscis-continues-fee-exemptions-and-expedited-processing-for-afghan-nationals)
   11. [USCIS Awards $22 Million in FY 2023 Citizenship and Integration Grants](https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/news-releases/uscis-awards-22-million-in-fy-2023-citizenship-and-integration-grants)
   12. [USCIS Increases Employment Authorization Document Validity Period for Certain Categories](https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/uscis-increases-employment-authorization-document-validity-period-for-certain-categories)
   13. [Afghanistan: Extension and Redesignation for Temporary Protected Status](https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/news-releases/secretary-mayorkas-announces-extension-and-redesignation-of-afghanistan-for-temporary-protected)
   14. [Important Update on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals](https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/important-update-on-deferred-action-for-childhood-arrivals)
3. **Legal Updates: Alison Kamhi, Legal Program Director, ILRC** 
   1. October 16th settlement- Biden has agreed to pay up to $450,00 to families and create pathways to become Legal Permanent Residents who were affected by family separation at the Board due to the Trump Administration.
   2. For more information on “How the Lawful Pathways Asylum Ban Impacts Children and Youth, see this article [How the “Lawful Pathways” Asylum Ban Impacts Children & Youth | Immigrant Legal Resource Center | ILRC](https://www.ilrc.org/resources/community/how-%E2%80%9Clawful-pathways%E2%80%9D-asylum-ban-impacts-children-youth)

1. **Thrive The Alliance of Nonprofits for San Mateo County** 
   1. Empowering Nonprofits to
      1. Mission is to promote and support the nonprofit sector since they are the contributors to the economic and social health of San Mateo County.
      2. Strategies are to: strengthen people, organizations and communities.
      3. Themes include: capacity building, cross-sector collaboration and policy and advocacy.
   2. Thrive has Newsletter Spotlights, in the following categories:
      1. Thrive Star
      2. Policy and Advocacy
      3. Thrive Weekly
      4. Job Board
      5. For more information, visit [thrivealliance.org](https://www.thrivealliance.org/) or email them info@ThriveAlliance.org.
   3. Nonprofit Racial Equity Pledge
      * 1. Support voices from the communities we serve to share power and resources.
        2. Actively support the movement to transform the systems that perpetuate racial inequities.
        3. Develop clear and transparent objectives and measures of progress toward racial equity, while ensuring those goals are informed by and accountable to affected members of our community.
   4. Nonprofit REDI HUB Resource page
      * 1. Sharing resources and curriculum for nonprofit staff to use and learn from.
        2. Developing and enabling actions through trainings and tools.
        3. Promoting collaborations and partnerships to form spaces of connections and support for all.
   5. Events
      * 1. Healing Justice Summit, November 15, 2023 9am-1pm with guest speaker Angela Glover Blackwell from PolicyLink
   6. Translation Hub
      * 1. Vision: to offer professional language translation and interpretation services to local nonprofits so they can offer consistent and mindful services and programs to the community they serve.
        2. Free translation and interpretation for San Mateo County nonprofits
        3. To request services, nonprofits must request services to thrivealliance.org/thrive-translation-services-hub
   7. Get involved
      1. Thrive RISE monthly meetings: Last Wednesday of the month from 10am-11am
      2. Thrive Wellness: Wednesdays 3pm-5pm, virtual.
   8. Questions
      * 1. Contact Yajaira Ortega yajaira@thrivealliance.
        2. More information can be found or slide deck can be located [here](presenting%20these%20slides.)
2. **Office of Community Affairs (OCA) Updates**
   1. English Resource guides are now available, to order please use this [link](https://www.smcgov.org/ceo/immigrant-resource-guides)
   2. Immigrant Services will continue to celebrate Hispanic Heritage and Dia de Los Muertos at the following events:
      1. OCA will be at the Catrinas, Calabazas y Cubias Event presented by ALAS, see flyer [here](file:///C:\Users\csalinas.COMMON\Pictures\Catrina%20Calabazas%20y%20Cumbias%20PDF.pdf)
      2. Sana Sana will take place on 11/4 from 11am-3pm at SSF High School, get more information [here](https://www.smchealth.org/2023sanasana)
      3. Dia de los Muertos at the Redwood City square by Casa Circulo Cultural in Redwood City on 11/5 for more information please visit [here](https://casacirculocultural.org/events/dia-de-los-muertos/)
3. **Agency Update Roundtable**
   1. Latino Collaborative: Sana Sana: 10 Year Anniversary of the Sana Sana Colita de Rana Health Forum on Saturday, Nov. 4 at the SSF High School