

**San Mateo County Immigrant Forum**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**6/18/2020**

**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. USCIS Updates: Nina Sachdev, Community Relations Officer**

[Nina.K.Sachdev@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:Nina.K.Sachdev@uscis.dhs.gov)

- a. USCIS has not made any updates based on the US Supreme Court's DACA decision. USCIS has been accepting renewals for those who have DACA, but not initial (new) applications
  - Continue to check [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov), and they will email any updates once they receive them
- b. Local offices in San Francisco, San Jose, Sacramento, Fresno and the rest of the state have been re-opening to the public slowly for naturalization oath ceremonies and interviews. Last week, the San Jose office held oath ceremonies in their parking lot for people whose ceremonies were postponed after they closed to the public. If anyone missed their oath ceremony last week, it will be automatically rescheduled
- c. The appointment notices have new information about the health and safety protocols
  - Everyone is required to wear face coverings
  - Bring their own black or blue ink pen
  - Bring only those with them who are required for the appointment
  - Reschedule appointment if feeling sick, been exposed to someone with COVID-19, traveled internationally, etc.
  - Rescheduling an appointment will not cause any issues or penalty for the applicant
- d. The offices are adhering to health and safety protocols for everyone's safety:
  - Plexiglass barriers at all reception areas and in interviewing offices
  - Signs about the health and safety protocols
  - Markings on the floor inside and outside the buildings to designate where people should stand to remain 6 feet apart
  - Hand sanitizer stations throughout the building
- e. If anyone has questions, contact Nina Sachdev at [Nina.K.Sachdev@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:Nina.K.Sachdev@uscis.dhs.gov)
- f. Q/A
  - Q: Is there any information about the potential furloughs that may happen?  
A: There are talks that 70% of staff will be furloughed in August due to lack of funds (b/c of decrease in applications & processing of applications). No official word yet but will keep us updated.

### 3. Legal Updates: ILRC

#### a. DACA

- Supreme Court ruled that DACA is here to stay
- Prior to this ruling, the state of the program was in limbo for years
- Chief Justice Roberts ruled that the way the Trump Administration tried to end the program was unlawful – “capricious & arbitrary”
- However, Trump Administration can try again – so far now continue submitting DACA renewals

#### b. Gay & Transgender Rights

- The Supreme Court ruled that federal civil-rights law prohibits employers from discriminating against workers based on their sexual orientation or gender identity, a decision that for the first time extends federal workplace protections to LGBT employees nationwide

#### c. SB54

- California’s sanctuary city law will survive after the U.S. Supreme Court declined to take the case on
- The Supreme Court denied the Trump administration’s petition challenging Senate Bill 54, which prevents state and local law enforcement from cooperating with federal immigration enforcement officials (one of California’s most progressive pro-immigrant legislation)

#### d. Q/A

- Q: Can new DACA applications be submitted, and how long would it take for the application to be processed?  
A: There is no official guidance yet on either of these matters. However, the processing of DACA renewals have been very fast (sometimes even within a few days)

### 4. Office of Community Affairs Updates: Census Presentation, Melissa Vergara mvergara1@smcgov.org; smccensus.org

- For more detailed information, please see Powerpoint located on the Immigrant Services website  
<https://cmo.smcgov.org/sites/cmo.smcgov.org/files/documents/files/Immigrant%20For%20Census%20Updates%206-18-20.pdf>
  - a. We are very close to hitting the 2010 Census response rates (.5 away!)
  - b. Census has been extended to October 31<sup>st</sup>
  - c. Our office has plenty of lawn signs/t-shirts, and other swag. Please send Melissa an email if interested

### 5. Agency Update Roundtable

- a. **Multicultural Institute:** Virtual outreach daily. Helping people apply for DRAI and helping people submit documents via text or email

- b. **LIBRE:** legalaidsmc.org/covid19; waiting to hear about SMC Eviction Moratorium. Collaborative effort with CLSEPA and Faith in Action to urge BOS to extend eviction moratorium until 90 days after Shelter in Place is lifted and to change rent debt to consumer debt
  - **Update: SMC Eviction Moratorium extended until July 28<sup>th</sup>**
- c. **IIBA:** Call 650-780-7530 to schedule a phone appointment for immigration legal consultations. Citizenship classes right now are virtual
- d. **NEMS:** Shared this article:  
<https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/86123>
- e. **CORA:** First all-remote DV training July 28<sup>th</sup> (almost filled). Visit [corasupport.org/covid19](http://corasupport.org/covid19)
- f. **CCS:** Samaritan House still in need of resources (like diapers)
- g. **Puente:** Puente COVID fund – for all who didn't qualify for economic help. Food distribution will continue until end of July. Farmers' Market started. College students hired to help with Census
- h. **BHRS (Sisilia):** On a Tongan radio station every Tuesday night – reminds people to complete Census