

San Mateo County Immigrant Forum
Meeting Notes
3/17/2022

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: Vilaysay “Sai” Phavisith, Community Relations Officer, USCIS

- a. Three new TPS (Temporary Protected Status) designations for Sudan, Ukraine, and Afghanistan
 - Not published in the federal register yet
- b. For SFR, these filing dates are what the office is currently working on
 - N-400s filed in late 2020, early 2021
 - Family-based I-485 applications filed in late 2019, early 2020
- c. There are delays getting into the SFR building so it is recommended that people arrive 30 mins prior vs 15 mins that is stated on the interview notices
- d. CAM program: <https://www.uscis.gov/CAM>
 - Central American population for Bay Area (SFR, Oakland, Vallejo): 90,000 for El Salvador and 34,000 for Guatemala; no large numbers for Honduras. This number is as of 2015 report – the numbers are larger today
- e. Listening session stakeholder feedback on USCIS adoptions: 03/30/22 at 12pm – [Registration page](#)

3. Legal Updates: Andrew Craycroft, ILRC

- a. Title 42
 - Title 42 is the CDC order ordering expulsion of asylum seekers at the border – this order continues
 - DC court decision striking down 42 for family units
 - o Expulsions are still allowable for people who would not be exposed to persecution or torture
 - Competing ruling out of Texas that said unaccompanied minors must be included in Title 42
 - As of last Friday, Title 42 no longer applies to Unaccompanied minors
 - There are some rumors that title 42 may not be renewed by CDC on April 1
- b. Asylum EADs
 - Important ruling last month from court case in DC: Vacated in full 2 trump era employment rules which made it much harder for asylum seekers to get an EAD
 - o Rule 1: Removed 30 processing period
 - o Rule 2: Extended wait period to 365 days
 - USCIS has ceased to apply these rules to asylum applicants. Decision may be appealed. 1 month before we know if there will be an appeal
- c. SIJS Deferred Action

- March 7 USCIS announced final rule
 - USCIS is creating deferred action and EAD availability for SIJS who are in backlog
 - Goes into effect on May 6. Will help young people with SIJS get employment authorization. Deferred action will be for 4 years. Can file 1765 to apply for EAD document
 - Change for marriage restrictions for SIJs waiting to adjust status. Had to remain unmarried until they got a green card. Now marriage of someone with SIJS will no longer result in revoking of their status. Can get married while they are waiting for their green card
- d. Q/A
- Any updates regarding DACA? -No recent updates regarding DACA

4. CA Microbusiness COVID-19 Relief Grant Opportunity: Ellie Dallman, Management Analyst, County Manager's Office & Amanda Anthony, North County Business Resource Center Manager, Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center

- a. \$2500 for qualifying microbusinesses
- b. Do not need to have business licenses; do not have to have legal status
- c. 309 grants to distribute
- d. Eligibility:
 - a. Business owner – primary source of income in 2019
 - b. Cannot have received CA Relief Grant
 - c. Active since Dec. 2019
 - d. Revenues 50,00 of less
 - e. Fewer than 5 FTE employees
- e. Applications in English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog
- f. Independent Contractors and Gig workers could be eligible eligible; farmworkers could be eligible
- g. Business has to be located in San Mateo County, not just doing business in San Mateo County
- h. <https://www.smcstrong.org/apply-for-funding>
- i. Deadline to apply is April 11
- j. Program established by the state

5. San Mateo County Microfood Grant Opportunity: Ellie Dallman, Management Analyst, County Manager's Office

- a. Microfood Grant from last year that has been reopened

- b. Remaining funds that were not distributed can now be distributed. Re-opened until April 10, 2022
- c. This is for businesses who sell food and are permitted with SMC Dept of Health
- d. Could receive assistances through both grants if they qualify (Microfood grant + Microbusiness grant)
- e. Must submit COVID impact statement
- f. Business must be lawfully operating. Will accept application for permits if didn't have permits previously
- g. Application available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog
- h. If they have already received a SMC small business grant, they would not be eligible
- i. If more businesses apply than there are funds available, a random selection will take place to invite businesses to submit documents
- j. Question: What are cottage foods?
 - Foods prepared at home that don't need refrigeration; shelf stable. Cakes, cookies, peanut butters
 - MEHKO: permit – there is other grant funding for businesses who apply for a MEHKO permit. Start-up funds
- k. Program established by SMC Board of Supervisors

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

- a. Immigrant Survey outreach continues; survey closes on Sunday 3/20/22
- b. Next phase: focus groups begin this week and are taking an in-depth look at the equitable access to services part of the survey
- c. When available, we will present results back to this group
- d. Outreach team has re-launched mask mobile; in EPA today and at OYE conference on Saturday 3/19

7. CARES – An Alternative Response to Mental Health Crisis Calls in Half Moon Bay: Jeff Essex, Executive Director, El Centro de Libertad/The Freedom Center

- a. Civilian response to 911 calls involving a mental health crisis
- b. El Centro de Libertad is collaborating with sheriff's office and 911 dispatch
- c. Minimizing contacts that law enforcement has with someone having mental health crisis
- d. Holistic response to the entire family
- e. Goal to deescalate and stabilize in the home and connect to ongoing services
- f. 911 Call—if no weapons or no medical emergency, the CARES team can be dispatched
- g. Types of calls: family disturbances, suicidal ideations, mental health crises
- h. Follow-up visitation the next day. Warm hand offs and referrals to appropriate CBOs and services
- i. CARES van staffed with mental health professional and certified EMT
- j. Pilot project: will be tracking data for this 12-month pilot

- Average call response time
 - # visits deferred away from law enforcement
 - # of successful stabilizations
 - # of repeat visits
 - # of successful referrals and connections
 - and more
- k. Q/A:
- What education has been done to let the community know this service exists? Presentations to many community organizations, Telemundo broadcast. Expect information will also be shared by word of mouth
 - Is Pescadero in the service area? Not currently, hopefully in the future

8. Agency Update Roundtable: All

- a. **SMCOE:** Upcoming Live Webinar for FAMILIES (providers are welcome) on Changing Covid-19 Guidelines in Schools and Mental Health on Wednesday, March 23 at 6:00 pm. Presentations will be in Spanish with English interpretation. Please contact with questions krdriguez@smcoe.org
- b. **BHRS:** Youth who have experienced mental health/behavioral health issues can apply to be part of a committee/action board. Application currently open for youth 14-21 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ybDiGllzFmjgGhajg_VF-zRNNBOxQgHmJOtPNwOhqjw/edit
- c. **Latino Collaborative:** Open invitation to Latino Collaborative meetings. Latino community members are encouraged to attend; will receive a \$35 stipend. Goal to increase community presence – Latino Collaborative meets every 4th Tuesday of the Month at 3:30 pm via Zoom. Email gczgonzalez@smcgov.org or text 650-454-0044
- d. **Red Cross:** Red Cross is still taking requests to reconnect families that are still in Ukraine. Also still working with Afghanistan. Call hotline
- e. **Catholic Charities:** Fundraiser coming up soon; will have more details next month. Date of fundraiser is June 4
- f. **Housing Authority of San Mateo:** 2 brand new complexes that have open waitlists. Light Tree Apartments and Firehouse square. Waitlist is open until April 4
 - Light Tree Apartments is a brand-new construction located in EPA that will have a total of 89 PBV units consisting of studios, 1- and 2-bedroom units
 - Firehouse Square is a brand-new construction located in Belmont that will have a total of 33 PBV units consisting of studios, 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom units
 - Household must have a member who has permanent resident or US born citizen to apply
- g. **Oasis Legal Services:** EBCLC is holding its next Name and Gender Change Workshop in April. It's open to residents of all CA counties and conducted virtually
- h. **Multicultural Institute:** March 25 – COVID 19 pop up testing. Classes offered: GED in Spanish, citizenship courses, afterschool program for kids
- i. **CMO Chief Equity Officer:** Equity and Inclusion associate position is open and accepting applications until March 28