



Office of Immigrant Affairs



Newsletter | August 2022

Mayor Todd Gloria created the Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA) in July 2022 to ensure that the City of San Diego is addressing the needs of our diverse immigrant and refugee communities and to develop resources and inclusive policies for immigrants in San Diego. We encourage you to share this newsletter with your family, friends, and colleagues. Thank you for your support!

Message from our Executive Director:



Hello everyone, my name is Rita Fernandez and I was recently appointed by Mayor Todd Gloria to lead the City of San Diego's new Office of Immigrant Affairs.

A lot of hard work through the years has brought us to this point. I'm grateful to Mayor Gloria, City staff, community leaders, the Welcoming San Diego Steering Committee, partner organizations, members of the public, and everyone who worked tirelessly to help advance our welcoming policies.

I am very humbled to have been selected for this role because the mission of this office is near and dear to my heart. My parents are immigrants from Mexico and through their experience, I saw firsthand the challenges and needs that immigrants encounter as they build lives in a new country. OIA is developing resources and programs that will support San Diego's immigrant communities and we look forward

to continue working with our partners as we build our team and implement the office's goals.

We are relaunching the immigrant affairs newsletter on a monthly basis to bring you updates on our work and news throughout the community. If you have upcoming events or announcements that you would like us to include in our newsletter, please email us at ImmigrantAffairs@sanidiego.gov.

Thank you,
Rita Fernandez

Upcoming Events

Welcome Note Drive - September 10th at 10:30am

OIA will be hosting a community event to prepare welcome notes for newly arrived refugees and immigrants. The notes will be delivered to our partner organizations for the individuals that they assist through their many immigration services and programs. The welcome notes will also be available for residents to decorate at the Welcome Stations located in all San Diego Public Library branches throughout Welcoming Week (September 9-18).

Location: City Heights Library: 3795 Fairmount Ave, San Diego, CA, 92105

[RSVP Here](#)

WELCOME NOTE DRIVE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH 10:30AM

CITY HEIGHTS/WEINGART BRANCH LIBRARY

3795 FAIRMOUNT AVE

SAN DIEGO, CA 92105

The City of San Diego's Office of Immigrant Affairs will be hosting a community event to decorate welcome notes for newly arrived refugees and immigrants in our city during Welcoming Week 2022.



WELCOMING
WEEK



Office of
Immigrant Affairs



Welcoming Week 2022
September 9th-18th

OIA is participating in Welcoming Week 2022, a campaign organized by Welcoming America recognizing the importance of welcoming immigrants in our communities. It's celebrated in the U.S., Australia, and parts of Europe through events, social media campaigns, and more.

Learn
more



Helping Survivors Heal Virtual Fundraiser

September 15, 2022 (Two Options: 12 noon or 5:30pm)



Helping Survivors Heal Virtual Fundraiser

Survivors of Torture, International is holding their 12th annual Helping Survivors Heal Fundraising Event on September 15, 2022. Attendees can participate online at either 12pm and 5:30pm. Survivors of Torture, International will also celebrate its 25th Anniversary at this event and will be featuring the always moving stories of its clients. RSVP [here](#).

If you would like us to include your upcoming events in our monthly newsletter, please email us at ImmigrantAffairs@sandiego.gov. Please include a blurb of the event and details including date and time, location, RSVP link, and an image if applicable. Thank you!

In the Community

Delegation from Latin America

The San Diego Diplomacy Council hosted a delegation of leaders representing government and civil society from Latin America as part of the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program. The delegation was exploring the topic of migration in the Americas and included individuals from Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, and Venezuela. OIA Executive Director, Rita Fernandez, joined the group on July 27 to share information about the Welcoming San Diego initiative, the creation of OIA, and Mayor Gloria's advocacy on immigration policy.



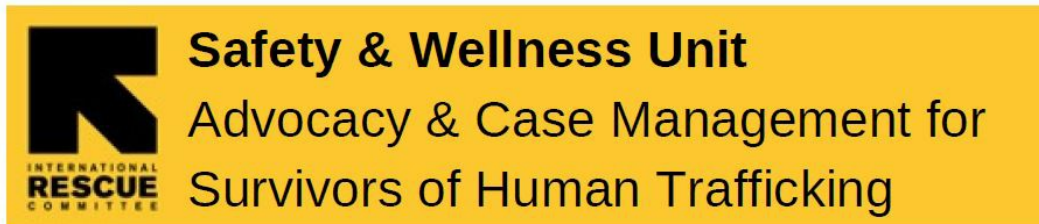
Back to School Celebration

The OIA team joined Mayor Todd Gloria's office during their annual Back to School Celebration on August 27 at the Linda Vista Community Park and Recreation Center. Over 300 students received backpacks and other supplies ahead of the new school year. We're very grateful to Mayor Gloria's Community Engagement team for making this event possible and for supporting immigrant families in the Linda Vista community.



Resources

New International Rescue Committee (IRC) Anti-Corruption Case Management Program: The IRC in San Diego is launching a new Case Management program for survivors of Human Trafficking - sex and/or labor for adults regardless of immigration status. The IRC formally extends their services to any potential leads/referrals who will benefit from their services. The goal of the IRC is to have survivors of human-trafficking become self-sufficient and to continue to be an integral part of their communities.



Services Provided:

- Employment & Economic Empowerment
- Housing & Shelter referrals, and Material Assistance
- Mental Health Service Provider Referrals
- Legal Service Referrals
- An array of IRC Survivor Advocacy Services

Email: SDwellness@rescue.org

Referral Form Link:

<https://rescue.app.box.com/s/aooafaafjgd38m6u81a4ehikx0hjl9pjl>

GOOD NEWS!

IRC has started a new program for Asylees and Vulnerable Noncitizens



They can benefit from

- Financial assistance
- Public benefits enrollment
- Enrollment in services (Education)
- Cultural orientation
- Legal assistance
- 90 days of case management
- Employment

Contact us

619-641-7510

Stephania.ortegaagon@rescue.org



Enhanced Services for Asylees
& Vulnerable Noncitizens



City of Tijuana - Guide for Immigrants and Refugees

In late July, our sister city and neighbor, Tijuana, Baja California announced the creation of a Guide for Immigrants and Refugees to assist migrants arriving in Tijuana, including communities from Central America and Haiti. Included in the 16 page guide is a list of resources and shelters located throughout Tijuana to support vulnerable immigrant populations.

Access the guide
online

GUÍA PARA PERSONAS MIGRANTES Y REFUGIADOS EN TIJUANA

**Dirección Municipal de Atención al Migrante
Ayuntamiento de Tijuana**

Av. Independencia No. 1350 Zona Urbana Río,
Delegación Centro.
Teléfono: (664) 973 7000 ext. 7022

**Centro Comunitario para la Coexistencia Pacífica
(Oficina de enlace)**

Calle Coahuila No. 8311, entre calle Francisco Madero
y Av. Miguel Negrete, Zona Centro.



ESCANEA
EL CÓDIGO QR



www.tijuana.gob.mx

Policy Updates and Other News

Federal

DHS Announcement for Extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Venezuela: Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas [announced](#) the extension of TPS for Venezuela for 18 months. The 18-month extension will be effective from September 10, 2022 through March 10, 2024. Only beneficiaries under Venezuela's existing designation, and who were already residing in the United States as of March 8, 2021, are eligible to re-register for TPS under this extension. Venezuelans who arrived in the United States after March 8, 2021 are not eligible for TPS. Approximately 343,000 individuals are estimated to be eligible for TPS under the existing designation of Venezuela.

DHS Announcement for Extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Syria: Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, [announced](#) the extension and redesignation of Syria for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months, through March 31, 2024, due to the ongoing armed conflict and unstable conditions in the region. The extension of TPS for Syria allows approximately 6,448 current beneficiaries to retain TPS through March 31, 2024, if they meet TPS eligibility requirements. It is estimated that approximately 960 additional individuals may be eligible for TPS under the redesignation of Syria.

DHS Announced a final rule to preserve and fortify DACA: Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas [announced](#) that DHS issued a final rule that will preserve the

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy for certain eligible non-citizens. Secretary Mayorkas expressed his support for such an “extraordinary program” that has assisted and transformed the lives of many, and asked Congress to pass legislation that would create a path to citizenship for Dreamers. This final rule will maintain the existing threshold criteria for DACA, retain the existing process for DACA requesters to seek work permits, and affirms the longstanding policy that DACA is not a form of lawful status but that DACA recipients, like other deferred action recipients, are considered “lawfully present” for certain purposes. This final rule will be effective October 31, 2022, however, due to an existing injunction, DHS is prohibited from granting initial requests for DACA under this rule.

State

Expansion of Medi-Cal for low-income immigrant communities regardless of immigration status: The California state budget for 2022-23 included important measures to address the needs of low-income immigrant communities throughout the state. This included the expansion of the Medi-Cal program and California Food Assistance Program to low-income communities regardless of immigration status.

Starting on May 1, Medi-Cal [extended its eligibility](#) for coverage to individuals who are 50 years of age or older, regardless of immigration status. The state budget this year also includes funding to expand Medi-Cal access to income-eligible undocumented Californians ages 26-49 starting in January 2024. With this expansion, California became the first U.S. state to guarantee healthcare for all low-income immigrants, regardless of immigration status.

On August 22nd, the state Department of Health Care Services announced it would continue to provide coverage to about 40,000 young adults through the end of 2023 to make sure they won't lose their benefits until the new law takes effect in 2024.

Expansion of California Food Assistance Program to low-income immigrant communities regardless of immigration status: The state budget also includes the expansion of the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) to adults over the age of 55, regardless of immigration status which means that California will be the first state in the U.S. to provide state-funded food assistance to undocumented adults. Food assistance programs like CalFresh and CFAP reduce food insecurity, improve health, and provide vital support to California families.

For any other inquiries please contact us via email at ImmigrantAffairs@sandiego.gov.

Thank you,
Office of Immigrant Affairs



Visit our
Website



Office of Immigrant Affairs - City of San Diego | 202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101

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