



Office of Immigrant Affairs



Happy New Year from the OIA Team!

As we kick off 2023, OIA would like to extend our gratitude to the organizations and community partners that have supported our efforts to build a more welcoming city for immigrants and refugees. In 2022, Mayor Todd Gloria created the Office of Immigrants Affairs to continue the work of implementing our city's Welcoming San Diego Strategic Plan. We had a great year celebrating our first Welcoming week as a newly established office, building out our priorities, planning our initiatives, and preparing for the future of San Diego's welcoming programs. We look forward to working with all of you in the new year and to identifying new partnership opportunities and innovative ideas to support San Diego's immigrants and refugees.

December In Review

Mayor Todd Gloria Meets with Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas, on His Trip to Washington, D.C.

On December 6, Mayor Gloria met with Secretary Mayorkas to discuss the impacts of Title 42 in our region. Mayor Gloria also used the visit to request more federal resources to assist local governments across the U.S. with the lifting of Title 42, as the government anticipates a rise of migrants in our local shelters. These requests

included an additional \$500 million in funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and \$300 million to one of its humanitarian assistance programs to support nonprofits who receive asylum seekers from immigration custody. Lastly, the Secretary and Mayor Gloria agreed to keep an open dialogue to ensure that San Diego's concerns are heard at the federal level, especially as they relate to border and immigration policy advocacy.



OIA Executive Director Rita Fernandez attends the National Immigration Inclusion Conference (NIIC) in National Harbor, MD

The NIIC is a product of the Partnership for New Americans' (NPNA) and is the largest annual gathering of immigration experts and professionals in the U.S. This year marked the NIIC's 15th year anniversary, and Executive Director, Rita Fernandez attended the conference to voice San Diego's concerns and priorities and to learn

more about the work that is being done in other parts of the country. Among the many activities at the NIIC were the National Language Access Convening and the Cities and Counties for Citizenship Gathering. The NIIC is a crucial venue for people to come together to promote inclusive policies nationwide that welcome and uplift all people, recognizing the vital contributions of our immigrant communities throughout the United States.





LAND BALLROOM

15
CELEBRATING
YEARS



**NATIONAL
IMMIGRANT
INCLUSION
CONFERENCE**

A PROJECT OF THE
**NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP
FOR NEW AMERICANS**

NATIONAL HARBOR, MD | DECEMBER 11-13, 2022 | NIIC.ORG

#NIIC2022



OIA Executive Director Visits a New York City Migrant Shelter and the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA)

Executive Director, Rita Fernandez visited a New York City migrant shelter and met with the team from the New York City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs to learn more about their coordinated response to the bussing of migrants from Texas and Arizona. As Cities for Action (C4A) co-chairs, New York, Chicago, and San Diego need to work together to address some of the most pressing issues facing our cities. We're grateful to our colleagues in NYC, including MOIA Commissioner Manuel Castro and C4A Program Manager, Jemimah Cochrane.





OIA Executive Director Participates in White House Call on Task Force for New Americans

On December 13th, OIA Executive Director, Rita Fernandez, participated during a zoom call briefing regarding the White House reconvening of the Task Force on New Americans. She joined Deputy Assistant to the President for Immigration, Betsy Lawrence, Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Ur Jaddou, Chief of the Office of Citizenship, Partnership and Engagement in the USCIS External Affairs Directorate, Eva Millona, and Karen Phillippi, Director, New American Integration at the Office of Global Michigan. During the call, speakers provided more information about President Biden's Executive Order, issued last year, to restore faith in our legal immigration systems and strengthen integration and inclusion efforts for New Americans. The Executive Order directed the White House Domestic Policy Council to reconvene the Task Force on New Americans to "coordinate the Federal Government's efforts to welcome and support immigrants, including refugees, and to catalyze State and local integration and inclusion efforts." Fernandez spoke about the work OIA and the City of San Diego are doing to welcome immigrants into our community and highlighted the importance of the Task Force in its local integration efforts.



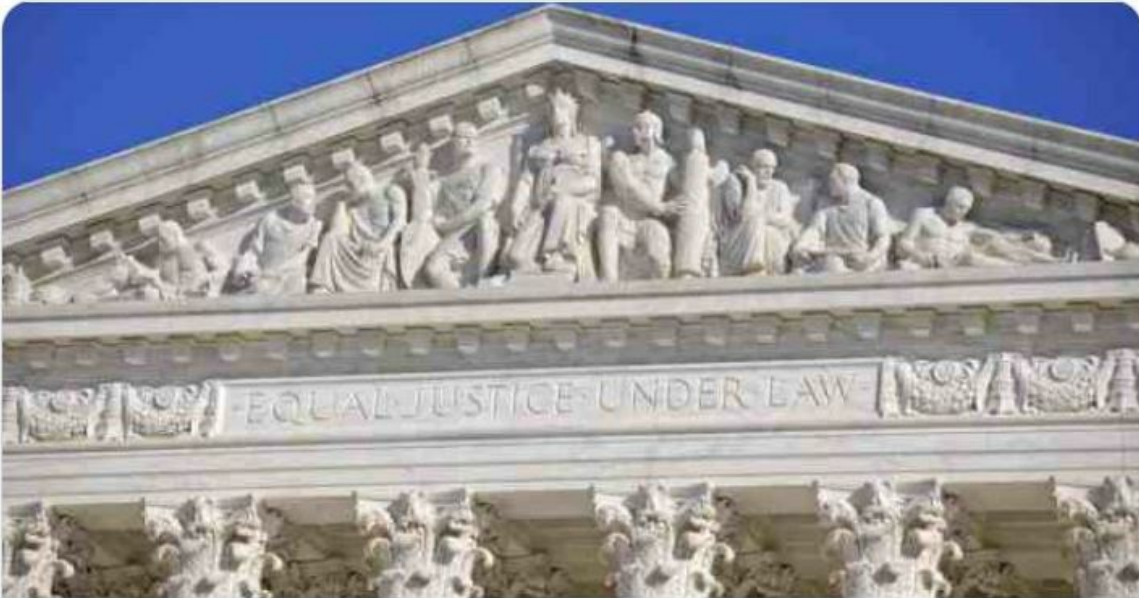
Bipartisan Group of American Mayors, led by San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, Urge Congressional Leaders to Allocate Additional Funding to Border Organizations

On December 1, 2022, the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) [issued](#) a letter to congressional leadership calling for additional funding to be allocated to local organizations serving asylum seekers along the Southern border in order to bolster their humanitarian efforts. They asked specifically for an increase in FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) funding, explaining how many non-profits and charities use this funding as a lifeline to support newly arrived immigrants. USCM issued this statement in the hopes that congressional leadership will take this funding into account before finalizing the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 budget. Mayor Gloria led this letter which was signed by 36 mayors across the country.



U.S. Mayors 
@usmayors

In a letter sent to Congressional leaders today, [@MayorToddGloria](#) and 35 mayors urged Congress to add funding to the FY23 omnibus appropriations bill to boost local capacity to respond to the increasing number of asylum seekers at the southern border.



usmayors.org

In Letter to Congressional Leaders, Mayors Call for Additional Funding to Bolst...
Visit the post for more.

Resources and Upcoming Events

Welcoming San Diego Resource Guide for New San Diegans

Our Welcoming San Diego Resource Guide for New San Diegans provides information for newly arrived immigrants and refugees in San Diego, including non-profit resources, know your rights information, and legal service providers.

[Find the Resource Guide here](#)



RESOURCE GUIDE FOR NEW
SAN DIEGANS

Internship Opportunities at the IRC San Diego

The International Rescue Committee in San Diego is currently looking for interns for the Spring semester to work on numerous projects and topics. See additional information on how to apply below.



INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE
San Diego || Rescue.org/SanDiego

Spring Internships:

Available Positions

- Immigration Intern
- Citizenship Education Programs Intern
- Youth Development Intern
- Asylum Seekers and Families Program Intern
- ESAVN Casework Intern
- ESAVN Outreach Intern
- Career Programs Intern
- Digital Access Intern
- Small Business Development Intern
- Women's Resilience Center Intern
- Refugee client services Intern

Qualifications:

- Maximum of 2 years out of college or in college to apply
- Some internships are offered hybrid, remote or fully in person
- All Internships are unpaid

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE
5348 University Ave Suite 205
San Diego, CA 92105
Azalea.Buch@Rescue.org
Rescue.org/SanDiego
+1 (619) 641-7510 (main office number)
facebook.com/IRCSandiego

For more info, contact our
Intern/Volunteer Coordinator:
Azalea.Buch@rescue.org
Scan the QR code to find
a position for you!



35th Annual All Peoples Celebration

Alliance San Diego is hosting its 35th Annual All Peoples Celebration on Monday, January 16, 2023 at the Balboa Park Activity Center. Community Space festivities will open to the public at 9 am & the event program will start promptly at 10 am.

[Click here for ticket](#)



Policy Updates & Other News

Federal

Supreme Court Issues a Temporary Stay on the Lifting of Title 42: On December 20th, a group of Republican governors filed an emergency appeal against Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and writ of certiorari with the Supreme Court, urging the Court to place a temporary stay on the lifting of Title 42, which was scheduled to occur at midnight the next day. The Supreme Court gave Secretary Mayorkas and the Biden administration until 5:00pm on December 21st to respond. In the Biden administration's response, they urged the Supreme Court not to grant the appeal, arguing that the Republican governors and their respective states had no power to overturn the D.C. District Court's earlier decision to lift Title 42. The Supreme Court granted the request for a temporary stay, and Title 42 was not lifted on December 21st as initially planned. The Supreme Court then issued a longer opinion on December 27th, granting a stay on the lifting of Title 42 indefinitely and stating that the case could now be taken up by the Court in its February 2023 session. The questions in the case will focus on whether the states have a legal right to intervene in the District Court case, and in what circumstances the federal government has a right to enact (and retract) Title 42.

Federal Government Expands Protection for Haitian Migrants: Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary of DHS, [announced](#) on December 5th that Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haiti will be extended for an additional 18 months, from February 4, 2023, through August 3, 2024. TPS was extended for the country due to extraordinary and temporary conditions in Haiti, such as: a prolonged political crisis; grave insecurity and gang crime; a lack of access to food, water, fuel and healthcare; and the recent

catastrophic earthquakes. Mayorkas also redesignated Haiti for TPS, which allows Haitian nationals residing in the U.S. as of November 6, 2022, to apply for TPS through August 3, 2024, so long as they meet all eligibility requirements. Haitians who enter(ed) the U.S. after November 6 are not eligible for TPS. A notice in the Federal Register is forthcoming and will outline the eligibility criteria, timelines, and procedures necessary for beneficiaries to re-register or renew work authorization documents, and will provide information about how new applicants can apply and gain work authorization as well.

U.S. Candidate for Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Amy Pope Joins Secretary Blinken at the 2022 U.S.-Africa Leaders

Summit: Pope met with U.S. Secretary of State Blinken at the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit to speak about directly supporting all migration stakeholders in Africa. Pope and Secretary Blinken also talked about their commitment to ensuring all migrants' rights are protected by encouraging transparent engagement with all IOM member states.

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Announces Important Filing Information for FY 2023 H-2B Supplemental Cap Petitions: Petitioners who will be requesting additional H-2B workers for fiscal year 2023 under the [upcoming temporary final rule](#) will have to file their petitions at the California Service Center. Petitions received at any other service center will be rejected under the final rule. Additionally, USCIS will be temporarily suspending the availability of premium processing for H-2B supplemental cap petitions. Premium processing for H-2B supplemental cap petitions will resume on January 3, 2023.

DHS Announces Registration Process for Temporary Protected Status for Ethiopia:

On December 9th, DHS posted a Federal Register notice on TPS for Ethiopia. The notice provided information about how to register for TPS under Ethiopia's designation, which was announced in October. The registration process began on December 12, 2022. All individuals who want to request TPS under the Ethiopia designation must file an application. USCIS estimates that about 26,700 individuals may be eligible for TPS under Ethiopia's designation. Applicants must submit Form I-821, Application for TPS, during the 18-month initial registration period that runs from December 12, 2022, through June 12, 2024. Applicants can also request an Employment Authorization Document by submitting a completed Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, with their Form I-821 simultaneously.

USCIS Updates Policy to Automatically Extend Green Cards for Naturalization

Applicants: As of December 12, 2022, USCIS has updated their Policy Manual to allow their agency to automatically extend the validity of Permanent Resident Cards (commonly referred to as Green Cards) for lawful permanent residents (LPRs) who have applied for naturalization. This update is meant to help naturalization applicants who experience longer processing times. LPRs who properly file Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, may receive this extension without regard to whether they filed the form to renew their Green Card. USCIS will update the language on Form N-400 receipt notices to extend Green Cards for up to 24 months for these applicants. The extension will apply to all applicants who file Form N-400 on or after December 12th. LPRs who filed for naturalization prior to December 12th generally

must still file Form I-90 to renew their Green Card or receive an ADIT stamp in their passport, in order to maintain valid evidence of their LPR status.

DHS and the Department of Labor (DOL) Announce Availability of Additional H-2B

Visas for FY 2023: DHS and DOL are issuing a temporary final rule that makes available 64,716 additional H-2B temporary nonagricultural worker visas for FY 2023. These additional H-2B visas are for U.S. employers seeking to petition for more workers at certain periods of the fiscal year before September 15, 2023. The supplemental allocation consists of roughly 44,700 visas available to returning workers, and the remaining 20,000 visas are reserved for nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Haiti, regardless of whether they are returning workers. These H-2B visas are specifically for employment that is for a limited period of time, and the petitioner must have a temporary need for services or labor to be performed. Employers seeking to hire these additional H-2B workers must attest that they are suffering or will suffer impending irreparable harm without the ability to employ all of the workers requested on their petition.

USCIS Announces Trial for Updates to the Naturalization Test: DHS published a notice in the Federal Register on December 14th announcing that USCIS plans to conduct a trial test for updates to the civics and speaking portions of the current naturalization exam. The purposes of the trial are to test an updated format and content and a newly developed English-speaking component. The proposed revisions are consistent with the feedback that USCIS received from multiple stakeholder groups, and the agency plans to conduct the trial with the help of volunteer community-based organizations (CBOs) who work with immigrant English language learners and LPRs preparing for naturalization. USCIS will seek approximately 1,500 individuals enrolled in adult education classes to take the trial test, which is tentatively scheduled for a five-month period in 2023. USCIS will publish a request for volunteer CBOs on the USCIS Citizenship Resource Center when they are ready to look for individuals to take the trial test.

DHS's Implements Public Charge Final Rule: On December 23, 2022, DHS's Public Charge Ground of Inadmissibility final rule went into effect. This final rule provides clarity for noncitizens on how DHS will administer the public charge ground of inadmissibility. This final rule restores the historical understanding of a "public charge" that had been in place for decades before the previous administration began to consider supplemental public health benefits as part of the public charge inadmissibility determination. Information on what will and will not be considered under the Public Charge Final Rule can be found [here](#). USCIS also published a [Policy Manual update](#) providing guidance to USCIS officers on how to implement this regulation fairly and consistently and informing the public about the implementation of the rule.

California Congressman Partners with United Farm Workers to Support the Affordable and Secure Food Act: On December 15th, Senator Bennet introduced the Affordable and Secure Food Act, a bill that aims to address food costs and the agricultural labor shortage by reforming and expanding the H-2A, guest agricultural worker program. Under the Act, farmworkers would be eligible to earn a Green Card after 10 years of agriculture work, and H-2A visas would be provided for year-round

jobs for the first time. The bill has garnered bipartisan support, with California Republican Congressman David Valadao teaming with the United Farm Workers to support the bill. The legislation is largely based on the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, which passed twice in the House of Representatives but never came to a vote in the Senate; however, the key differences are outlined in a [factsheet](#) on the bill.

Congress Approves \$1.7 Trillion Year-End Omnibus Bill with Additional EFSP Funding

On December 29th, President Biden signed into law a \$1.7 trillion omnibus bill, which included the transfer of \$800 million from the Customs and Border Protection agency (CBP) to FEMA. \$785 million of that transfer is meant "to support sheltering and related activities provided by non-Federal entities, including facility improvements and construction, in support of relieving overcrowding in short-term holding facilities." This funding will provide additional resources for food and shelter services for asylum seekers in Fiscal Year 2023.

If you would like your events or announcements included in our monthly newsletter, please send us your updates via email to ImmigrantAffairs@saniego.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

[Unsubscribe rsfernandez@saniego.gov](mailto:rsfernandez@saniego.gov)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by immigrantaffairs@saniego.gov in collaboration
with



Try email marketing for free today!