

City of San Diego

Weekly Immigrant Affairs Update

The Department of State seeks [public comments identifying barriers that impede access to, and fair, efficient adjudication of, immigration benefits, and recommendations on how to remove those barriers, and identifying any Department actions that fail to promote access to the legal immigration system. Written comments must be received on or before October 18, 2021.](#)

A pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, TPS holders, farm workers, and other essential workers [will not be included through the budget reconciliation process, as determined by the Senate Parliamentarian. Other options are on the table.](#)

CITY PROGRAMS & SERVICES

- The California Department of Housing and Community Development [approved](#) the updated **Housing Element** of San Diego's General Plan, part of Mayor Gloria efforts to provide **homes that all San Diegans can afford**.
- In case you missed it, the City of San Diego joined communities across the country to [celebrate Welcoming Week Sept. 10-19, and Citizenship Day on Sept. 17](#). This included [lighting up Balboa Park](#), passing a [Welcoming Week proclamation](#), and initiatives through the [San Diego Public Library](#).
- Mayor Gloria [proclaimed](#) **Hispanic Heritage Month** in the City of San Diego.
- San Diego [has joined states and cities](#) across the country to **welcome Afghan newcomers** through the [Welcome.U.S.](#) initiative.

NEW DATA, REPORTS, & PODCASTS

- In honor of **Hispanic Heritage Month**, New American Economy partnered with UnidosUS to take a look at the most recent data from the 2020 Census and the American Community Survey to shed more light on the economic impact of Hispanic Americans — the largest ethnic group in the United States. [The Power of the Purse: The Contributions of Hispanic Americans](#) finds that **Hispanic households hold considerable earning and consumer power** — in 2019, Hispanic households earned more than \$1.2 trillion. **Hispanic immigrants are significantly more likely to be entrepreneurs than the general U.S. population** — more than 12 percent of all Hispanic immigrant workers worked for their own business, making them 30.6 percent more likely to have their own business than the overall U.S. population. **And between 2010 and 2019, the number of eligible Hispanic voters increased by more than 8.2 million.**

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- The City of San Diego in partnership with The San Diego Foundation is pleased to provide the **Small Business and Nonprofit Relief Fund**. The deadline to apply is **Friday, Sept. 24, 2021** by 5 p.m. See [here](#) and [here](#) for more.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

- The **San Diego Unified School District** passed a [Resolution in Support of Afghan Families and Students](#) on Sept. 14th.
- The **Asylum Seeker Health Services (ASHS)** program will be holding a partner orientation on **Oct. 4 at 1 pm** to describe the program and ways to connect asylum seekers to healthcare services in San Diego County. Register [here](#).
- The **San Diego Union-Tribune** invites the community's participation in their "**Refugee Cookbook**" project to share the story of refugees and asylum seekers in our community. Participants will be interviewed on camera in either their home or business kitchens as they cook a dish representative of their traditional food culture. Visit bit.ly/RefugeeCookbook to submit your contact information, and reporter Lauren J. Mapp will reach out to you.
- Somali Family Service will be hosting a **Business 101 Webinar** on **Sept. 23** from 3-5 pm. Register [here](#).
- Sign up for the IRC's San Diego **Community Resources Newsletter** [here](#).

If someone at your organization would like to receive this update, you have ideas for improvement, or you no longer wish to receive these updates, please email Farhat Popal, Immigrant Affairs Manager, at FPopal@sandiego.gov.