

City of San Diego

Weekly Immigrant Affairs Update

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to “preserve and fortify the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\) policy.”](#) It reaffirms the Biden Administration’s position that DACA recipients are not a priority for deportation.

DHS is [extending restrictions on non-essential travel at land and ferry crossings with Canada and Mexico through October 21.](#)

Cities for Action, of which San Diego is a co-chair alongside New York City and Chicago, [issued a statement urging DHS to halt deportations to Haiti and uphold the right to asylum.](#) Mayor Gloria also signaled his [support.](#)

The Biden Administration seeks to [increase refugee admissions](#) from 62,500 to 125,000 for the next fiscal year, starting October 1.

Governor Newsom [signed a suite of legislation](#) to remove the term “Alien” — used to describe foreign-born individuals — from State Codes. The Governor also signed five additional bills to protect the safety of immigrant Californians and shore up protections against discrimination.

CITY PROGRAMS & SERVICES

- The City of San Diego will hold a [public informational online workshop](#) on Wednesday, Sept. 29 from 5-6:30 pm to gather input regarding **Blueprint SD, an initiative aimed at helping to meet the City’s housing and climate goals.**
- On Oct. 5, [Mayor Gloria will present](#) a **proposal to the City Council that would use \$5 million in federal CARES Act dollars to create a program to provide eviction-prevention education and legal assistance,** administered by the San Diego Housing Commission. From Oct. 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, landlords who want to evict a tenant for nonpayment of rent (when a tenant has experienced a COVID-19-related hardship) must show that they applied for rental assistance and it was denied. If the landlord cannot demonstrate this, the case would be dismissed. The Legal Aid Society of San Diego recommends tenants submit rental assistance applications, regularly check on the status of their application, and keep lines of communication with their landlord open. **If someone is served a tenancy termination notice by their landlord, they can call Legal Aid Society of San Diego at 877-534-2524 to receive free legal assistance regarding the validity of the notice before self-evicting.**

NEW DATA, REPORTS, & PODCASTS

- With the release of local data from the 2020 Census, [New American Economy conducted an analysis](#) using the [Census Bureau’s new Diversity Index \(DI\).](#) It reveals that **96% of all U.S. counties saw an increase in their population diversity between 2010-2020.**
- A [new report](#) from the Migration Policy Institute provides a **global mapping of refugee resettlement and complementary pathways,** including areas where these programs could potentially be scaled up and the barriers to doing so.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- The [Ethnic Community Self-Help program](#) supports ethnic community-based organizations in helping refugees integrate into the community. The [next grant cycle](#) is expected to open on March 21, 2022.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

- [Welcoming America](#) is seeking public comment on its “[Welcoming Standard,](#)” the guiding set of principles that outlines the core of **what it means for a community to be truly welcoming, particularly in terms of immigrant and refugee residents.** The [survey](#) will be open until November 13, 2021.
- On Oct. 19 at 9 am, the **San Diego Domestic Violence Council** is holding a webinar on Domestic Violence Essentials in Spanish. Register [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.