

City of San Diego

Weekly Immigrant Affairs Update

The White House released the first-ever [National Strategy On Gender Equity and Equality](#), developed by the White House Gender Policy Council (GPC). “Promote Gender Equity and Fairness in Justice and Immigration Systems” is on pgs. 24-26.

Beginning Oct. 1, 1) [all applicants for adjustment of status](#), 2) [all immigrant visa applicants](#), 3) [all fiancé\(e\) visa applicants](#), and 4) [nonimmigrant visa applicants who are referred to panel physicians](#) will be required to receive a full COVID-19 vaccine series as part of their medical exam prior to being issued a visa or granted a green card.

On Oct. 20, USCIS announced the issuance of updated and comprehensive [policy guidance regarding applications for T nonimmigrant status, or T visas](#), for victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons.

On Oct. 21, USCIS published information about how to apply for [work authorization](#) under the designation of Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for Hong Kong, first announced on Aug. 5.

CITY PROGRAMS, SERVICES, & UPDATES

- Mayor Gloria joined 44 mayors from across the country to [advocate for key housing investments](#) in the Build Back Better Act.
- The [Social Equity Early Action Transit Pilot](#), which would provide free transit for one year for youth 18 and under, was [approved](#) at the Oct. 22 SANDAG Board of Directors meeting.

NEW DATA, REPORTS, & PODCASTS

- [Kaiser Family Foundation \(KFF\) found](#) a substantial disparity in COVID-19 vaccination rates between undocumented immigrants, and U.S. citizens and lawful residents. The latest survey found that about 25% of "potentially undocumented" immigrants in the U.S. received their vaccine — half the average rate of U.S. adults. The study found that the discrepancy is primarily due to fear of deportation and lack of access to government programs.
- The Migration Policy Institute recently started a 20th anniversary podcast series, *World of Migration*. The podcast is available on [MPI's website](#), Podbean, or wherever you get your audio content.
- A new season of the KPBS podcast, [Port of Entry](#), is out!

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- The City of San Diego has released guidelines for two funding opportunities to support arts and culture activities, between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023. Guidelines can be found [here](#). Deadline to apply is Oct. 31, 2021.
- The San Diego Workforce Partnership has announced two [RFPs to provide employment services in San Diego County](#) through their career centers. Proposals are due December 10.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

- The California Department of Social Services, Refugee Programs Bureau is announcing two (2) open Public Seats on the [State Advisory Council on Refugee Assistance and Services](#) (SAC).
- Did you know there are over [150 apprenticeship programs across the federal government](#) that enroll nearly 1,500 apprentices spanning healthcare, financial services, transportation, skilled trades occupations, and more?
- A public [TRUTH Act Community Forum](#) will be held on Nov. 16 during a Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors. The purpose of the Transparent Review of Unjust Transfers and Holds (“TRUTH”) Act Community Forum is to provide information regarding Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) access to individuals and to receive and consider public comment.

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.