

City of San Diego

Weekly Immigrant Affairs Update

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has announced six new countries whose nationals are eligible to participate in the [H-2A](#) and [H-2B visa programs](#). The additional countries are Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Cyprus, the Dominican Republic (currently only eligible for H-2A), Haiti, Mauritius, and Saint Lucia. Moldova has been removed as an H-2A eligible country.

DHS announced that it will [exempt filing fees and streamline application processing](#) for Afghan nationals who were paroled into the United States for humanitarian reasons on or after July 30, 2021.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services California Service Center is now accepting credit card payments using [Form G-1450, Authorization for Credit Card Transactions](#), for petitioners filing [Form I-129, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker](#), for O and P nonimmigrants.

CITY PROGRAMS, SERVICES, & UPDATES

- The City of San Diego Public Library's new [Discover & Go program](#) offers free individual and family day passes to several of San Diego's attractions, including the San Diego Zoo, New Children's Museum, Museum of Us and Skateworld.
- Mayor Todd Gloria alongside City Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera and community leaders launched "[Our Climate, Our Future](#)" – a new visionary city initiative that seeks to address the climate crisis while improving public health and quality of life as well as driving innovation and opportunity.

NEW DATA, REPORTS, & PODCASTS

- Though one out of four children in the United States has an immigrant parent, many child welfare agencies are not equipped to meet the distinctive needs that families with immigrant members may have, including challenges related to immigration status, linguistic and cultural differences, and distrust of public systems. [Here's a two-pager](#) from the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) and American Public Health Services Association (APHS), drawing on recommendations from an earlier MPI report, [Immigrant Families and Child Welfare Systems: Emerging Needs and Promising Policies](#). Recommendations include: ensuring language access policies reflect the demographics of local immigrant populations; developing continued training for caseworkers on immigration issues in child welfare cases; and crafting processes to screen children and their families for immigration benefits eligibility and strengthening the intersections between child welfare and the immigration system.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- 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.
- The [Mobilizing America for Refugees Fund](#) will support community-based organizations helping Afghan refugees and parolees successfully resettle by donating goods, services, and volunteer time. Deadline is November 15.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

- [Webinar: How to Become a U.S. Citizen \(Nov. 9, 7:30 pm\)](#)
Webex Link: <https://uscis.webex.com/uscis/j.php?MTID=m3a3a7bb871d91993144ca57cf0e1bc7b>
Meeting number (access code): 2764 823 6756
Meeting password: Sfrsnjsacfre123!
- [Como Convertirse en Ciudadano Estadounidense \(19 de noviembre, 5 pm\)](#)
Webex Link: <https://uscis.webex.com/uscis/j.php?MTID=ma5817ca55e2061eec5bb69b3f0ecf03c>
Meeting number (access code): 2762 810 5758
Meeting password: 5iGixJbmN4\$4

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.