

City of San Diego Weekly Immigrant Affairs Update

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day this week, read this piece on [how the civil rights movement opened the door to immigrants of color](#), and [this series from 11 San Diegans](#) reflecting on his legacy. May we honor that legacy every day.

The Biden administration is [requiring health insurance companies to cover the cost of at-home COVID-19 tests](#); offering [4 free tests per household](#); and will be [distributing free masks](#) nationwide. You can find County testing locations [here](#).

A group of Senators [have formally requested](#) that the Biden administration grant Temporary Protected Status (TPS) re-designations for El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, and issue a new designation for Guatemala.

Natural catastrophes and other extreme situations can affect the processing of a USCIS application, petition, or immigration request. A reminder that USCIS has discretion to take the [following measures](#) on a case-by-case basis.

[New San Diego County districts](#) took effect this week.

CITY PROGRAMS, SERVICES, & UPDATES

- If you missed Mayor Gloria's State of the City Address, you can watch or read it [here](#), along with a comprehensive progress report. The Mayor is in Washington, DC this week for the [Winter Meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors](#).
- The [San Diego Public Library](#) is launching a new program to support early literacy development and foster a lifelong love of reading. Starting this week, children under the age of five can sign up for My First Library Card.

NEW DATA, REPORTS, & PODCASTS

- The Asian Business Association of San Diego launched a study to investigate the [pandemic's economic and social impact on API businesses in San Diego](#).
- The [Migration Policy Institute](#) and the [National Immigration Forum](#) offer their assessments of the Biden administration's immigration policies one year on.
- This new CAIR report discusses [Islamophobia in the mainstream](#) in 2019/2020.
- IRAP and the Refugee Advocacy Lab have published a guide on [utilizing American Rescue Plan funds to serve refugee and immigrant communities](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Through the [Good Jobs Challenge](#), the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is allocating \$500 million to collaborative skills training systems and programs. EDA encourages efforts to reach historically underserved populations and areas, communities of color, women, and other groups facing labor market barriers. Application deadline is January 26, 2022.
- Reminder that the deadline for the [Welcome Fund RFP](#) is 2pm PST, January 21.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

- Border Angels, part of the El Chaparral Humanitarian Alliance, has put together an up-to-date page on [Asylum Resources](#). Click the Google Translate button to toggle between English and Spanish.
- The CA Dept. of Social Services' Adult Refugee Services Unit newsletter shares helpful information relevant to the needs of Refugees and Non-citizen Crime Survivors. See [here](#) for the latest.
- La Maestra Community Health Centers' Victim Assistance Services division is expanding specialized victim services to include emergency hotel stays (for up to two weeks) and follow-up tele-case management services for survivors of trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault. Contact Luz Padilla, Victim Assistance Coordinator, at (619) 673-7605 or lpadilla@lamaestra.org.
- Join the virtual Karen New Year 2761 celebration tomorrow at 6 pm on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)!

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.