

City of San Diego

Weekly Immigrant Affairs Update

U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) has a [new mission statement](#): “USCIS upholds America’s promise as a nation of welcome and possibility with fairness, integrity, and respect for all we serve.”

USCIS is updating its guidelines regarding validity periods for Employment Authorization Documents for asylees and refugees, noncitizens with withholding of deportation or removal, noncitizens with deferred action, parolees, and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) self-petitioners. [Policy Alert here](#).

The [Central American Minors \(CAM\) Program](#) provides an opportunity for qualified children who are nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala, & Honduras and some of their family members to obtain refugee resettlement or be paroled into the U.S. See the attached flyers for more information.

Governor Newsom [signed legislation](#) to extend COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave and bolster investments to support small businesses hit hardest.

CITY PROGRAMS, SERVICES, & UPDATES

- This week, the [City Council approved](#) Mayor Gloria’s first Housing Action Package under the *Homes For All of Us* initiative.
- In response to the [eviction of the migrant encampment at El Chaparral](#) in Tijuana over the weekend, [Mayor Gloria emphasized the legal right to asylum](#) and [support for an end](#) to [Title 42](#) and the [Migrant Protection Protocols](#).

NEW DATA, REPORTS, & PODCASTS

- [One-in-ten Black people living in the U.S. are immigrants](#). A [new Pew Research Center report](#) examines the size and characteristics of the nation’s Black immigrant population, as well as its projected growth in future years.
- A [policy brief](#) from the National Foundation for American Policy (NFAP) confirms that refugee vetting is robust and the U.S. refugee program is secure.
- Creating a pathway to citizenship for all undocumented immigrants in the U.S. would boost U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) by \$1.7 trillion and lead to 438,800 new jobs, [per the Center for American Progress](#).
- A new [question-and-answer document](#) from the Migration Policy Institute aims to help parents and other community members understand why and how students who are English Learners take standardized tests. In Spanish [here](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- The [Cultural Pathways program](#) strengthens the capacity of small, new, and emerging arts organizations rooted in communities of color, recent immigrant & refugee communities, and tribal/indigenous groups, and will anchor their cultural/creative work into the cultural landscape of CA. Deadline is March 9.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

- The Central County Housing Forum on February 11 (11:30 am-12:30 pm) will allow property management associations to connect with resettlement agencies and learn more about the resettlement process. See attached flyer.
- Join the City Heights Festival of Love—celebrating diversity, unity, and solidarity—on February 12 (10 am-4 pm). See the attached flyers for details.
- Somali Family Service will be hosting a Citizenship Workshop on February 22 (3-5 pm). See the attached flyer.
- USCIS is holding their [asylum program quarterly stakeholder engagement](#) on February 23 (11-12:30 pm). USCIS and the Department of Justice are also holding a joint webinar on immigrant employment rights—with a special focus on asylees, refugees, SIV holders, and parolees—on February 23 (12:30-1:30 pm). Please see the attached flyer.
- The [International Rescue Committee’s](#) Individual Development Accounts (IDA) Program is a match savings program that can help community members save up funds to purchase an asset, continue with their education, or start a business. See the attached flyer for details.

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.