

City of San Diego

Weekly Immigrant Affairs Update

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that would regulate how DHS applies the public charge ground of inadmissibility. Advance copy is [here](#), and public comments can be provided [here](#).

As part of the reopening and expansion of the [Central American Minors program](#), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the Department of State will provide updates at a [stakeholder engagement meeting](#) on March 9 at 11 am PT.

Governor Newsom unveiled the [SMARTER Plan](#) charting California's path forward on the pandemic response.

CITY PROGRAMS, SERVICES, & UPDATES

- Mayor Gloria lit up Balboa Park in blue and yellow, the colors of the Ukrainian flag, [in solidarity with the people of Ukraine](#).
- [Build Better SD](#) is a citywide initiative that supports the City of San Diego's equity, access, conservation and sustainability goals. [This initiative](#) seeks to create more opportunities for innovative, culturally relevant and interactive public spaces by prioritizing investments in areas where needs are greatest.
- A [new exhibition](#) at the City of San Diego's Central Library art gallery breaks barriers with cross-border artists. Open through May 2, 2022.

NEW DATA, REPORTS, & PODCASTS

- In [Advancing Digital Equity among Immigrant-Origin Youth](#), the Migration Policy Institute traces the negative impacts of the digital divide and other barriers to learning for immigrant-origin students from low-income households, including higher rates of absenteeism and disenrollment. Lack of access to reliable internet was the biggest reported challenge in the shift to remote learning, as well as problematic learning management systems, slow internet speeds, data caps and connectivity dead zones. Schools that fared better in the transition to remote learning had laptop programs for students in place before the pandemic, and offered material and social supports.

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.
- The Center for Inclusion and Belonging at the American Immigration Council is issuing a [Call for Bridging Communities Projects](#) to crowdsource the best ideas & activities that bring people together to work toward the common good while building relationships that help bridge group differences. Deadline is March 15.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

- The [Black Immigrants Bail Fund](#) is a national project of the Haitian Bridge Alliance and African Bureau for Immigration and Social Affairs that provides free assistance and relief to Black immigrants.
- [LearnMore](#) offers an accelerated Nurse Assistant Training Program for candidates who are looking to enter the healthcare field, and is currently enrolling students for March and April. The program provides tutoring and additional support to English Language Learners, with scholarships available. Email info@learnmorefast.org or call 1-833-532-7673. See attached flyer.
- The [Union of Pan Asian Communities \(UPAC\)](#) provides a range of health and human services focused on the well-being of underserved, culturally diverse populations in nearly 20 languages and at 15 locations across the County. See the attached flyers.
- The [IRC](#) has free tax preparation services available for eligible community members. Clients can call 211 or book a free virtual/Zoom appointment at www.myfreetaxes.org. See the attached flyers.
- The [San Diego Refugee Communities Coalition](#) is currently hiring two Outreach Specialists for their housing program. Interested applicants should submit a resume and cover letter to: sandiegorefugeecommunities@gmail.com. See attached job description.

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.