

City of San Diego

Weekly Immigrant Affairs Update

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [announced](#) a new Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Afghanistan for 18 months.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) [issued an extension](#) to the temporary final rule that requires certain asylum applicants to use USCIS telephonic interpreters instead of bringing their own to an affirmative asylum interview.

USCIS invites immigration practitioners and other service providers working with Special Immigrant Juveniles, T and U nonimmigrants, or VAWA self-petitioners to join the [White House Interagency Naturalization Working Group](#) for a [stakeholder engagement on March 23rd \(11 am-12 pm PT\)](#).

CITY PROGRAMS, SERVICES, & UPDATES

- The San Diego region is [set to receive \\$107 million in community project funding](#) in the federal budget that will help pay for transit, infrastructure, childcare, research projects, and more.
- Mayor Gloria and the San Diego City Council are honoring 10 ‘[Women of Distinction](#)’ who have made a significant impact on their communities.
- The City of San Diego is partnering with SDG&E to plant 400 new trees in City Heights to [help meet climate action goals](#).

NEW DATA, REPORTS, & PODCASTS

- About [one in six Ukrainian immigrants](#) in the U.S. resides in California. The state is home to almost 60,000 immigrants from Ukraine (second highest after New York with 75,000), according to ACS data from 2016-2020.
- This [Migration Policy Institute article](#) details how mounting immigration backlogs undermine the U.S. immigration system and impede policy changes.
- Check out [Hostile Terrain 94](#) at the Museum of Us in Balboa Park, a participatory map installation created by the Undocumented Migration Project.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- The [California Civil Liberties Program](#) funds projects that educate the public about civil liberties injustices carried out against communities and individuals in the past as well as today. Projects may provide information about civil liberties injustices perpetrated based on an individual's race, national origin, immigration status, religion, gender, or sexual orientation, and the forced internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Deadline is April 25.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

- [CalHOPE](#) Crisis Counseling, operated by United Women of East Africa (UWEAST) in partnership with the San Diego Refugee Communities Coalition, can provide in-language support to struggling community members. Flyers in 8 languages are attached—please share widely.
- IRC and Jewish Family Service are hosting a food drive on Saturday, March 26th from 8:30 am-12 pm at the IRC El Cajon office parking lot (131 E Main St). Please see attached flyers.
- The Somali Bantu Association distributes food and diapers every Monday and Friday from 12 – 3pm. See the attached flyer.
- IRC continues to provide free virtual tax filing services. See attached flyers.
- The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) will host a webinar on [understanding and accessing DOL-funded employment and training programs for new arrivals](#) on March 30th at 10 am-11:30 am PT.
- IRC’s new nationwide initiative, [Support for Afghan Financial Empowerment \(SAFE\)](#), is available to Afghan newcomers in California regardless of which resettlement agency provided initial resettlement services. Clients of service providers can contact IRC San Diego to access financial literacy resources at SDFinancialSkills@rescue.org or 619-800-2845.

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.