



[Newsletter | December 2020- January 2021](#)

In 2013, Mayor Eric Garcetti re-established the Office of Immigrant Affairs in order to promote and advance the economic, cultural, social, and political well-being of immigrant communities in the City of Los Angeles. Our mission is to develop programs and initiatives that support immigrant integration and to serve immigrant Angelenos through the coordination of city services, outreach, and legislative advocacy. We encourage you to share this newsletter with your friends, family, and colleagues. Thank you for your support!

[DECEMBER 2020 AND JANUARY 2021 IN REVIEW](#)

Outreach Campaign Into COVID-19's Disproportionately Impacted Communities

Immigration Outreach Coordinator Diana Escamilla continues to collaborate closely with the Mayor's Office of Public Engagement, the Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE), Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), and City departments to conduct strategic and targeted outreach on COVID-19 information and resources to Latino and immigrant communities in particular. Specialized outreach to these populations is critical because of COVID-19's disproportionate impact as seen with the rise of cases across all areas of LA County, and in certain areas of the city. Latino residents represent more than half of cases in the County where race/ethnicity data was provided. This outreach focuses on challenges specific to the Latino and immigrant communities — such as the need for in language outreach, testing location accessibility, testing site hours for essential workers, and the digital divide experienced by individuals who do not have digital literacy or access to technology.

Our office will continue partnering with trusted messengers in immigrant communities to disseminate accurate and timely information, connect them to resources, host mobile and weekend testing events, and share consistent messaging to convey that all COVID-19 related programs and services are confidential and are not impacted by the Public Charge rule.

National Immigrant Integration Conference (NIIC) 2020



On December 8-9, 2020, the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs team virtually joined the National Immigrant Integration Conference (NIIC), the nation’s largest gathering of immigration advocates working on behalf of immigrants and refugees in the U.S. The NIIC focused on conversations about the outcome of the election and upcoming immigration policy changes, racial justice issues, and COVID-19 economic recovery and rebuilding efforts. More than 2,300 local government representatives, advocates, service providers, and immigrant and refugee community leaders participated. Mayor Garcetti provided a pre-recorded video message that was aired in the *Essential is All of Us: Rebuilding Our Economy & Communities in the Age of COVID* session, in which he highlighted various City programs that have supported immigrant and refugee Angelenos and the continued advocacy with the Biden-Harris team to ensure that more accessible programs and resources are available to all Angelenos.

5th Annual Cities for Citizenship (C4C) Municipal Gathering



On December 10, 2020, Director Nora A. Preciado and Program Manager Maria Peñaloza participated in the 5th Annual Cities for Citizenship (C4C) Municipal Gathering, a virtual event organized by immigrant rights organizations and the C4C Executive Committee, which includes: the cities of Los Angeles, New York, and Chicago, the Center for Popular Democracy, the National Partnership for New Americans, and Citi Community Development. This gathering of municipalities and non-profit organizations provided a forum to discuss topics such as

citizenship strategies and services in the era of COVID-19, post-election immigrant integration and inclusion, and much more. Program Manager Maria Peñaloza helped facilitate a discussion on citizenship strategies and services during the pandemic, in which Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) Managing Librarian Madeleine Idefonso shared the work LAPL's New Americans Initiative continues to offer in the area of immigration services to Angelenos.

Salvadoran American Leadership and Educational Fund (SALEF) — “Champions of Change: Educate Conference”

On December 11, 2020, Dir. Preciado participated in the Salvadoran American Leadership and Educational Fund (SALEF) *Champions of Change: Educate Conference*. This conference focused on diversity and equity in education, social work, and the impact of COVID-19 in communities of color. Community, state, and City leaders presented in this conference. Dir. Preciado was a panelist on the session entitled, *COVID-19 Rapid Response: Immigrant Communities*, where she discussed how the City of LA has been addressing the disproportionate impact on Latino and immigrant communities, the importance of providing timely and accurate information, and language accessibility. She also emphasized that COVID-19 programs and resources are accessible to all Angelenos, regardless of immigration status.

Los Angeles Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department’s Webinar “Reaching LA City Immigrants: Response and Resources During the COVID-19 Pandemic”



On January 28, 2021, Dir. Preciado presented at the Los Angeles Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department’s *Reaching Los Angeles City Immigrants: Response and Resources During the COVID-19 Pandemic* webinar with City leaders, including local elected officials. This webinar highlighted the City of LA’s response to COVID-19’s disproportionate impact on immigrant communities, available City and County programs and resources, and how immigrant Angelenos can access available resources. Mayor Garcetti provided a pre-recorded video with welcoming remarks and reaffirmed his commitment to continue advocating for additional state and federal resources for Angelenos and to ensure that programs are accessible to all, regardless of immigration status. In addition, Dir. Preciado and Amanda Daflos, Chief Innovation Officer at the Mayor’s Office, discussed the City’s response including COVID-19 testing, vaccine distribution, equity outreach response efforts, and program accessibility for immigrant Angelenos. To view the recording of this webinar, click [here](#).

IMMIGRATION POLICY NEWS

Biden Administration's Immigration Actions

On January 20, 2021, by [Proclamation](#), President Biden rejected discriminatory bans on entry into the United States, such as the Muslim Ban, and revoked Executive Order (EO) 13780 and Proclamations 9645, 9723, and 9983, which restricted entry from primarily Muslim and African countries; resumed visa processing for affected countries and called for a report on the number of visa applicants who were being considered for a waiver on January 20, 2021 and a plan to expeditiously adjudicate their pending visa applications; called for a proposal to ensure reconsideration for individuals who had immigrant visas denied under the revoked EO and Proclamations; called for a report and recommendations on the screening and vetting for travelers, information sharing with foreign governments, and capacity building with partners.

On January 20, 2021, by [Proclamation](#), the President terminated the national emergency with respect to the southern border, paused the construction of and the diversion of funds to construct a border wall, and called for a plan to redirect those funds.

On January 20, 2021, by [Executive Order](#), the President revoked the Trump Administration's EO 13768, which had directed the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to execute harsh and extreme immigration enforcement, while DHS resets the policies and practices for enforcing civil immigration enforcement.

Soon after, Acting DHS Secretary Pekoske issued a [memorandum](#) to announce that for 100 days, starting on January 22, 2021, DHS will pause removals for certain noncitizens ordered deported to ensure we have a fair and effective immigration enforcement system focused on protecting national security, border security, and public safety. However, on January 22, 2021, Texas' Attorney General Ken Paxton filed a Complaint and Motion for Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) in federal court in Texas and on January 26, 2021, the court granted a [TRO](#) request placing a temporary halt on the new EO.

On January 20, 2021, by [Executive Order](#), the President revoked EO 13880 and Presidential Memorandum aiming to exclude undocumented immigrants from the census and apportionment of Congressional representatives; and asserted that the policy of the United States on reapportionment "shall be based on the total number of persons residing in the several States, without regard for immigration status," and stated that the census be counted accurately based on reliable and high-quality data.

On January 20, 2021, by Presidential [Memorandum](#), directed the DHS Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General, to take all appropriate actions under the law to ensure that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program is preserved and fortified. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will continue to accept first-time DACA applications and renewals (which defer deportation and provide work authorization for two years), as well as process advance parole (permits to travel outside the U.S.) requests.

On January, 20, 2021, by Presidential [Memorandum](#), extended Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) and work authorization for Liberians until June 30, 2022. The memorandum also directs DHS and USCIS to facilitate and timely adjudicate adjustment of status applications under the Liberian Relief and Fairness Act.

On January 26, 2021, Acting Attorney General Wilkinson issued a [memorandum](#) to all federal prosecutors, titled *Rescinding the Zero-Tolerance Policy for Offenses Under 8 U.S.C. § 1325(a)*. Former President Trump ended the practice of separating children when their parents were prosecuted at the border via EO in 2018, however the “zero tolerance” policy had not been rescinded. The memorandum officially removes the policy from the Department of Justice’s guidance to federal prosecutors.

On January 28, 2021, USCIS [announced](#) that it will not implement the fee increases and elimination of fee waivers that the Trump Administration had proposed. As a result, immigration application fees will not increase as proposed, and fee waivers will remain available. The rule was scheduled to go into effect in October 2020, but in September a federal district court stopped the rule from being implemented.

On January 29, 2021, DHS [announced](#) the 18-month extension and re-designation of Syria’s Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program, which allows current TPS holders to retain their status through September 2022. This allows approximately 1,800 additional Syrian nationals and individuals without nationality who resided in Syria to file initial TPS applications.

On February 1, 2021, DHS issued a [statement](#) affirming the federal government’s support for access and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine to all regardless of immigration status. Moreover, “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will not conduct enforcement operations at or near vaccine distribution sites or clinics,” and DHS encouraged all individuals to get vaccinated once they are eligible.

On February 2, 2021, by [Executive Order](#), announced the establishment of a comprehensive strategy for addressing the causes of migration in the region that includes proposals to coordinate place-based efforts in the “Northern Triangle” countries; will implement a multi-pronged approach toward managing migration throughout North and Central America that will build, strengthen, and expand Central and North American countries’ asylum systems and resettlement capacity, and increase opportunities for vulnerable populations to apply for protection closer to home. At the same time, the United States will enhance lawful pathways for migration to this country and restore and strengthen asylum processing at the border, including by reviewing procedures for expedited removal proceedings and for the adjudication of asylum claims, and assessing determinations of refugee status to evaluate whether the United States provides protection in a manner consistent with international standards. The EO also revokes a number of related Trump Administration EOs, proclamations, and memoranda and calls on members of the Administration to review certain related policies, programs, and agreements and determine whether they need to be terminated, rescinded, or modified.

On February 2, 2021, by [Executive Order](#), condemned the Trump Administration's actions to separate families at the United States-Mexico border, including through the Zero-Tolerance policy, and affirmed that it is the policy of the Biden Administration to respect and protect family unity, including by ensuring that children are not separated from their parents, except in extreme circumstances when it’s necessary for safety of the child or is required by law. The EO also establishes an Interagency Task Force on the Reunification of Families (Task Force), which will include the Secretary of Homeland Security and other federal agencies. The Task Force will identify all children who were separated from their parents at the border as part of Zero-

Tolerance between 1/20/17-1/20/21, and provide recommendations on how to facilitate and enable reunification of children with their families, including but not limited to, parole, the issuance of visas or other immigration benefit. The new EO also revokes EO 13841 (Affording Congress an Opportunity To Address Family Separation).

On February 2, 2021, by [Executive Order](#), instructed federal agencies to develop policy strategies that welcome and promote the integration and inclusion of new Americans. The EO calls for the White House Domestic Policy Council to convene a Task Force on New Americans that includes federal agencies that implement policies that impact immigrants, and instructs the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the DHS Secretary to review existing policies, regulations, orders, or any agency actions that do not promote integration and inclusion. This includes, the immediate review of the Public Charge Inadmissibility rule, considering its effects and implications, recommending steps that the appropriate federal agencies can take to communicate the current public charge policies and proposed changes, if any, to clear out any confusion in the communities affected. The EO also calls for promoting naturalization including by, but not limited to, addressing the naturalization backlog, making naturalization more accessible to eligible individuals by potentially reducing fees and restoring the fee waiver process, and establishing an interagency working group, chaired by DHS to develop a national strategy to advance integration through naturalization. Additionally, the EO revokes Trump's Presidential Memorandum, Enforcing the Legal Responsibilities of Sponsors of Aliens, which placed the burden on family sponsors to demonstrate they were not going to be a public charge, and requests the appropriate agencies to review any action developed as a result of the revoked memorandum.

Memorandum on Deferred Enforced Departure for Certain Venezuelans

On January 19, 2021, former President Trump issued a memorandum directing DHS and the State Department to take action to defer for eighteen months, with certain exceptions, the removal of Venezuelan nationals, or individual without nationality who last habitually resided in Venezuela and were present in the United States as of January 20, 2021. To view the memorandum, click [here](#).

Executive Office for Immigration Review, Fee Review Rule

On December 18, 2020, the Department of Justice's Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), published its final rule increasing filing fees for applications, appeals, and motions that are subject to an EOIR fee. This rule was proposed on February 28, 2020 and became effective January 19, 2021. On March 26, 2020, Mayor Garcetti submitted a [public comment](#) opposing this rule because it threatened due process by making access to justice in immigration court cost-prohibitive to low-income immigrants, many of whom are asylum seekers wishing to establish a new home in the United States after facing persecution and trauma abroad. To view the final rule, click [here](#).

IN THE NEWS

National

Here Are the Executive Actions Biden Has Signed So Far

[CNN](#) (February 2, 2021)

“The executive actions Biden has taken in the first days of his administration include halting funding for the construction of Trump’s border wall, reversing Trump’s travel ban targeting largely Muslim countries, imposing a mask mandate on federal property, ramping up vaccination supplies and requiring international travelers to provide proof of negative Covid-19 tests prior to traveling to the US.”

Watchdog: DOJ Bungled 'Zero Tolerance' Immigration Policy

[Associated Press](#) (January 14, 2021)

“Justice Department leaders under President Donald Trump knew their 2018 “zero tolerance” border policy would result in family separations but pressed on with prosecutions even as other agencies became overwhelmed with migrants, a government watchdog report released Thursday has found.”

Sixty-Nine Percent of Undocumented Immigrant Workers Have Jobs 'Essential' to Fighting COVID, Says Study

[NBC News](#) (December 16, 2020)

“More than two-thirds of undocumented immigrant workers have frontline jobs considered "essential" to the U.S. fight against Covid-19, according to a new study released Wednesday by pro-immigration reform group FWD.US.”

Regional

Undocumented Immigrants Await Chance at Vaccination

[NBC News](#) (January 25, 2021)

“Orville Thomas, the director of government affairs for the California Immigrant Policy Center, based in Sacramento, said that after the damage caused by the Trump administration the challenge is to convince undocumented immigrants that they will be safe seeking a vaccine.”

Immigrants and Activists Praise Biden’s Citizenship Plan

[CBS Los Angeles](#) (January 21, 2021)

“President Biden is advocating for the U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021 — a broad immigration bill that, if passed by Congress, could legalize millions of undocumented immigrants. Mayor Eric Garcetti praised the plan, calling it ‘a return to dignity’ on Twitter Wednesday.”

California Gov. Newsom Proposes New \$600 Stimulus Checks

[CNN](#) (January 6, 2021)

“The cash would add to the \$600 in federal stimulus payments that Congress approved last month that will go to roughly 4 million Californians, according to the governor's office. Unlike the federal money, undocumented immigrants would be eligible for the California payments.”

[EVENTS](#)

Free Tax Prep LA

Free Tax Prep LA (FTPLA) has expanded its outreach of free tax preparation services for eligible filers through drop-off and drive-thru services, virtual, and phone bank assistance, Facebook Live Q&A panels with the IRS, expanded community partnerships, social media and more. Low-income individuals, including Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) filers, can now claim the state earned income tax credit (CalEITC). If you qualify for CalEITC and have children under the age of 6, you may also qualify for California's Young Child Tax Credit. These credits give you a refund or reduce your tax owed. The 2021 tax-filing season will begin on February 12, 2021. Drop-off services require appointments. Assistance is available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Persian, Armenian, and Korean. To check eligibility and for more information, including a list of locations and hours, click [here](#) or text TAXCREDITSLA to 211-211.

Loyola Immigrant Justice Clinic Immigration (LIJC) Consultations

The Loyola Immigrant Justice Clinic (LIJC) is offering free immigration consultations that include assistance with citizenship, DACA, U-Visas, and more. Consultations are by appointment only and available the first and third Thursday of the month. To register for an appointment and for more information, call (213) 252-7409 or visit their website [here](#).

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) DACA Clinics

The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) has added initial DACA applications to the legal services they offer. First time DACA applicants can register for legal services on Mondays and Wednesdays at 8 a.m. Note that only 20 legal consultations are available each day. Individuals seeking DACA renewals can register for legal services on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 a.m. Note that only 30 legal consultations are available each day. The link to register for DACA assistance is provided on CHIRLA's social media. For more information, visit CHIRLA's Instagram [Chirla_org](#) or Facebook page [@Chirlausa](#).

[GENERAL RESOURCES](#)

***New* Notario Fraud Informational Flyer**

In anticipation of an increase in immigration legal services scams and abuse as a result of the ongoing changes on immigration law and policies, the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs created a flyer on notario fraud. Notario Fraud refers to immigration legal services-related scams by non-attorneys who falsely claim that they are qualified to give legal advice on the topic of immigration. Immigration legal services fraud, more broadly, can also be committed by attorneys. This resource provides guidance on how to avoid notario fraud, where to find an accredited lawyer or representative in the City of Los Angeles, and where to report immigration

legal services fraud. This resource has been remediated by the City's Department on Disability and is currently available in English and Spanish.

Additionally, our Step Forward LA "Notario Fraud" webpage has been updated to reflect the information on this flyer, as well as additional resources. To view the updated webpage and download the notario fraud flyers, click [here](#).

***New* Step Forward LA "Refugees" Webpage**

The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs has created a new webpage on the Step Forward LA website focusing on refugees. On this webpage, you will find information and resources for refugees at the local, state, and federal level. To visit our new "Refugees" webpage, click [here](#).

***New* Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Refugee Educational Support Program and Migrant Education Program**

Do you know or are you a student who is a refugee, asylee, or unaccompanied minor? If you attend a Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) school, you can apply for the Refugee Educational Support Program (RESPite), a program that supports the integration and education of refugee children. Services through this program include needs-assessment with a counselor, after school programming, summer school programming, and more. To apply and learn more about this program, click [here](#).

Also, the LAUSD Migrant Education Program, designed to help students improve their reading, writing, math skills, and earn needed credits for high school graduation, has opened their pre-registration application for their Spring 2021 Saturday classes, which run from February 20, 2021 to May 1, 2021. Parents can also attend workshops and basic computer classes. These classes will be online while schools remain closed due to COVID-19. For more information, call (213) 241-0510 or visit their website [here](#).

***New* COVID-19 Vaccine Information and Resources**

As the COVID-19 vaccination efforts continue, to stay up to date with the latest information regarding vaccines, eligibility, and vaccination sites, visit coronavirus.LaCity.org/vaccine. You can also [sign up for Mayor Garcetti's newsletter](#) to receive **VaxFacts**, an update on the City's historic effort to get Angelenos vaccinated against COVID-19, and other relevant information.

Workers' Rights Informational Flyer

The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs collaborated with Loyola Immigrant Justice Clinic (LIJC) law students to create an informational flyer about immigrant workers' rights in the City of Los Angeles. This resource reminds City of Los Angeles workers that they have rights and protections, regardless of their immigration status. The flyer provides information on minimum wage, paid sick leave, overtime, the right to organize, safe and healthy workplaces, workers' compensation, immigration enforcement at work, discrimination and harassment, and independent contractor rights. It also includes information about key COVID-19-related workers' rights enacted at the state level. This flyer is currently available in English and Spanish. To view and download these flyers, click [here](#).

FamilySource Centers

The Los Angeles Housing + Community Investment Department (HCIDLA) houses the FamilySource Centers, a network of 16 community centers that deliver coordinated, outcome-

driven services to City residents in areas of highest need. The FamilySource Centers are one-stop community centers that offer a host of social, educational, work, and family support services, and more. For a list of FamilySource Centers near you and to learn more about available supportive resources during COVID-19 such as online tutoring, hygiene kits, food banks, tenant/low-income housing support, CalFresh assistance and more, click [here](#).

Community Resource Guide for Immigrant Angelenos

The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs offers a comprehensive resource guide that provides immigrant Angelenos with important information about resources available to them, regardless of their immigration status. We updated and revised our guide, providing the most updated information and adding new sections such as Access to Healthcare, Business and Licensing, and a list of Housing and Tenant Resources. The updated guide is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). The guides in [Korean](#) and [Chinese](#) are in the process of being updated but can still be accessed electronically.

LA Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs COVID-19 Information and Resources for Immigrant and Refugee Angelenos

The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs has compiled a comprehensive COVID-19 information and resources document for immigrant and refugee Angelenos. This document provides information about resources and programs related to public health, health care, relief funds, legal services, and more. The resources listed are available to all, regardless of immigration status, unless specified otherwise. Please note that this document is updated on a weekly basis. To view the document, click [here](#).

To stay up to date on the latest City of LA COVID-19 information and resources, visit coronavirus.LaCity.org. The City of LA's coronavirus website also has a "City of LA Resource Guide for Immigrants during COVID-19 crisis" an abbreviated version of the Google document above. To view the abbreviated version, click [here](#).

Los Angeles Public Library: New Americans Centers

New Americans Centers offer free, virtual immigration services, including assistance with naturalization, Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) card renewals, fee waiver applications, initial DACA applications, DACA renewals, and questions about adjustment of status. To schedule a virtual appointment, click [here](#).

NotifyLA

NotifyLA emergency alerts from the City of Los Angeles provide urgent notifications to Angelenos about local emergencies, including natural disasters. You may receive these notifications via text, email, or phone call. For more information and to sign up for NotifyLA, click [here](#).

MyLA311

The MyLA311 program allows Angelenos to easily access LA City services and information. Within the greater Los Angeles area, residents can dial 3-1-1 to contact non-emergency City services from their landline and cellular phones. The information is available in 150+ languages and is accessible to the hearing and speech impaired. More information may be found [here](#).

To sign up for our bi-monthly newsletter, click [here](#).