



Newsletter | Summer 2020

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!

JANUARY-JULY 2020 IN REVIEW

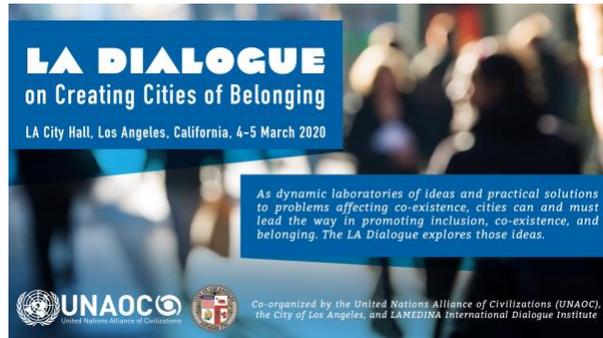
Given the pandemic, our Office released a special edition of this newsletter in March, covering the latest on COVID-19. As a result, notable items from January through April 2020 were not covered and are being included here.

Press Conference on the Public Charge Rule



On January 31, 2020, Nora A. Preciado, Director of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, spoke at a press conference to discuss the implications of the Supreme Court's decision to stay the nationwide preliminary injunction on the Trump Administration's changes to the public charge rule. Dir. Preciado reiterated the Mayor's commitment to supporting immigrant families and encouraged them to seek the benefits they qualify for and to consult legal services providers to answer their questions. Other speakers included local leaders from the California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC), the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), the National Immigration Law Center (NILC), and others. The Public Charge rule went into effect on February 24, 2020. See our Immigration Policy News section for more information.

LA Dialogue on Creating Cities of Belonging



On March 5, 2020, Dir. Preciado participated in a dialogue hosted by the Mayor's Office of International Affairs and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations that focused on how multicultural cities promote inclusion and co-existence and created a forum for sharing best practices and challenges. Dir. Preciado shared some of the challenges encountered in promoting inclusion along racial, ethnic and religious lines in a vibrantly diverse city such as Los Angeles. Participants included Governor Manal Awad Mikhail of Damietta, Egypt, Mayor Muhammad Sadiqi of Rabat, Morocco, Mayor Juan Espada Cejas of Seville, Spain, and others. For more information click [here](#).

Mayor Garcetti Joins UnidosUS Virtual Town Hall



On May 12, 2020, Mayor Garcetti participated in a virtual town hall panel titled *The Frontline Response: Local Latino Leaders Address COVID-19*, hosted by UnidosUS. The panelists discussed how COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted Latino communities and what actions are needed in order to address this impact. Mayor Garcetti shared information about the city's response to address inequities during this pandemic, including advocating at the federal and state level for an inclusive response and ensuring strategic and targeted outreach in highly impacted communities. The panel consisted of Mayor Regina Romero of Tucson, Arizona, UnidosUS President and CEO Janet Murguía, and León Krauze from Univision, as moderator. For more information about this town hall and to watch the recording, click [here](#).

Cities on the Frontline Speaker Series: An Inclusive Response to COVID-19



On May 14, 2020, Dir. Preciado participated in the Global Resilient Cities Network’s Coronavirus Speaker Series alongside the International Rescue Committee and the Mayors Migration Council to address how cities can engage in a migrant and refugee sensitive COVID-19 response and recovery. Dir. Preciado shared the city's efforts to ensure that all city programs and initiatives in response to COVID-19 are accessible to all, including immigrants and refugees, regardless of immigration status. To watch the recording, click [here](#).

What Works Cities Webinar on Language Access

On July 14, 2020, Associate Director Adriana Garcia was a panelist in a What Works Cities webinar titled *Remote Community Engagement: Connecting with Non-English Speaking Communities*. This webinar focused on the strategies cities are using to engage with non-English speaking communities on COVID-19. Assoc. Dir. Garcia discussed the City’s demographics, including an overview of the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and immigrant populations, and discussed resources and tools such as the City of LA language access working group and its work in helping the City in its current COVID-19 response work. She also highlighted the importance of soliciting guidance from community based organizations (CBOs) in contracting with translation companies. To learn more about this webinar, click [here](#).

COVID-19 Resources for Immigrant & Refugee Angelenos



The Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs has compiled the [LA Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs COVID-19 Information and Resources for Immigrant and Refugee Angelenos](#) document, which 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.

The City of LA has COVID-19 information in several languages available [here](#). You can find and download translated materials in Vietnamese, Thai, Tagalog, Spanish, Russian, Korean, Khmer, Japanese, Hindi, Farsi, Chinese-Traditional, Chinese-Simplified, and Armenian.

To sign up for testing or for updates, resources, and other information related to COVID-19, please visit Mayor Garcetti’s website at [corona-virus.la](#). You can find your preferred language in the drop down menu located at the top right corner of the webpage.

Finally, Mayor Garcetti launched the L.A. Mask Print Project, a grassroots initiative to remind Angelenos to wear a mask in public through open-source art in collaboration with local artists and businesses. This effort kicked off with posters in English and Spanish produced by Studio Number One, founded by Shepard Fairey. You can download and print the posters [here](#).



IMMIGRATION POLICY NEWS

Proclamation 9983: Expansion of Executive Order 13780, the “Travel Ban”

On January 31, 2020, President Trump announced he was expanding immigration restrictions for nationals from an additional six countries, Burma (Myanmar), Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Sudan, and Tanzania. This expansion became effective on February 21, 2020. The proclamation can be found [here](#).

Implementation of the Public Charge Rule

The Public Charge test is used by federal immigration officials to determine if a person can enter the U.S with a visa or obtain a green card (Lawful Permanent Residency). On August 14, 2019, DHS proposed the “Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds” rule. Under this proposed rule, those applying for Lawful Permanent Residency or a visa, whether trying to enter the U.S or already living here, could be rejected if an immigration officer decides they are likely to use certain public benefits such as Medicaid or food stamps.

On October 15, 2019, the Public Charge rule was scheduled to go into effect. However, a number of preliminary injunctions halted the rule’s implementation. The federal government asked the U.S. Supreme Court to weigh in and on February 21, 2020, the Supreme Court allowed the rule to go into effect. The rule became effective on February 24, 2020. The final rule can be found [here](#).

On March 13, 2020, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that COVID-19 related “treatment or preventive services will not negatively affect” immigrants “as part of a future Public Charge analysis.” The USCIS announcement can be found [here](#).

On July 29, 2020, a federal district court in New York issued a nationwide injunction on the Public Charge rule blocking the government from implementing the rule during the COVID-19 national public health emergency. For updated information and resources about the rule please visit the Mayor’s website [here](#).

Executive Office for Immigration Review Fee Review and Increase

On February 28, 2020, the Department of Justice’s Executive Office for Immigrant Review (EOIR) proposed a rule to increase fees on applications, appeals, and motions. For example,

the proposed rule seeks to increase fees on Form EOIR-26, Notice of Appeal from a Decision of an Immigration Judge, from \$110 to \$975, a nearly 800% increase. On March 26, 2020, Mayor Garcetti submitted a public comment opposing this rule. To view the public comment click [here](#). The proposed rule can be found [here](#).

California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) Expansion

On April 8, 2020, Mayor Garcetti alongside other City Mayors across California submitted a [letter](#) to Governor Gavin Newsom addressing the importance for low-income immigrants and noncitizen residents with Individuals Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITIN) to be eligible for California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) and Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC). The campaign to extend CalEITC to ITIN filers became particularly relevant under COVID-19 and the resulting economic crisis, since many immigrant workers are not eligible for existing federal and state relief, such as federal stimulus checks and unemployment insurance. On June 22, 2020, Governor Newsom passed a budget reflecting a partial expansion of CalEITC by including ITIN filers with children under 6.

Naturalization Oath Ceremonies

On June 4, 2020, USCIS announced it was resuming oath ceremonies with precautionary measures due to COVID-19. However, it appeared that the announcement was not applied uniformly nationally. Thus, on July 2, 2020, Mayor Garcetti led a letter along with Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot of Chicago, Mayor Bill de Blasio of New York City, and other Mayors across the country, calling on Congressional leaders to ensure that U.S. citizenship remains accessible during the coronavirus pandemic. The letter asked for USCIS to host remote oath ceremonies so that immigrants are not left indefinitely waiting to complete the last step of their citizenship process. To view the letter click [here](#).

Procedures for Asylum and Withholding of Removal; Credible Fear and Reasonable Fear Review

On June 15, 2020, DHS and EOIR issued a procedural rule that would heighten the threshold for accepting asylum and deny asylum seekers due process. The proposed rule would limit the available grounds of asylum to exclude gender, identity, and gang related violence. The rule would also establish penalties for passing through other countries before arriving in the United States and allow asylum officers to reject cases without a hearing with an immigration judge. Mayor Garcetti submitted a public comment opposing this rule. To view the public comment click [here](#). The proposed rule can be found [here](#).

Eligibility of Students at Institutions of Higher Education for Funds Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)

On June 17, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education passed an interim final rule that establishes eligibility requirements for CARES Act emergency grants for students who have been impacted by COVID-19. The rule intends to exclude undocumented students and DACA recipients from receiving CARES Act funding. Mayor Garcetti submitted a public comment opposing this rule. To view the public comment click [here](#). This interim final rule can be found [here](#).

Removal of 30-Day Processing Provision for Asylum Applicants Related Form I-765 Employment Authorization Application

On June 22, 2020, DHS proposed a final rule that eliminates a provision that gives USCIS 30 days to make a decision on an asylum seeker's Employment Authorization Document (EAD) application. The rule also removes a provision requiring that an application for EAD renewal must be received by USCIS 90 days prior to the expiration of the work permit. This is an update from the September 9, 2019 proposed [rule](#). This rule becomes effective on August 21, 2020. To view the final rule click [here](#).

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) Modifies Temporary Exemptions for Nonimmigrant Students Taking Online Courses During Fall 2020 Semester

On July 6, 2020, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced that international students on F1 and M1 visas must leave the country or transfer to a different college if their courses were offered remotely online. Several schools such as Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University of California, sued the Trump Administration for violating school and student rights. The City of LA and the City of Boston filed an [amicus brief](#) opposing this policy. On July 14, 2020, the Trump Administration rescinded the rule. To view the original announcement click [here](#).

Memorandum on Excluding Immigrants from the Apportionment Base Following the 2020 Census

On July 21, 2020, President Trump signed a memorandum that intends to exclude undocumented immigrants from being counted in the 2020 Census for the purpose of congressional apportionment for the following year. This memorandum is being challenged by several lawsuits. To view the memorandum, click [here](#).

The Latest on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

In June 2012, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program was announced by President Obama. The program grants temporary protection from deportation and a renewable two-year work permit for undocumented youth that entered the United States before the age of 16. The program's attempted termination was announced in 2017 and, as result, the Trump Administration was met with many legal challenges.

On June 18, 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court of the United States ruled in a [5-4 decision](#) that the Trump Administration unlawfully terminated the DACA program. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) did not issue any guidance following this decision. A federal court in the *CASA de Maryland v. DHS* case ordered DHS to restore the DACA program to its pre-September 5, 2017 status on July 17, 2020. On July 28, 2020, DHS issued a [memo](#) announcing they would reject all new DACA or advance parole applications. In addition, from that date forward, DHS will limit the period of deferred action and employment authorization to one year for all pending and newly-filed renewal applications.

Current DACA recipients are encouraged to renew in consultation with a trusted immigration attorney. The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs has compiled a [DACA Support Resource Guide](#) that includes information about trusted legal service providers, health care and wellness, workplace rights, and other resources across the City of LA.

[IN THE NEWS](#)

National

Trump Administration Rescinds Foreign Students Rule
[The Hill](#) (July 14, 2020)

"The Trump administration on Tuesday rescinded a policy that would have stripped visas from international students whose courses move exclusively online amid the coronavirus pandemic."

Standoff Over Emergency Funding Leaves 13,400 Immigration Workers Facing Furlough
[CBS News](#) (July 6, 2020)

"In less than 30 days, the cash-strapped U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will start furloughing more than 13,400 employees — nearly 70% of its workforce — unless Congress authorizes emergency funding to avoid a scenario that would cripple the nation's legal immigration system."

Appeals Court Blocks Rule Limiting Asylum Claims by Central American Migrants
[CNN](#) (July 6, 2020)

"The ruling from the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals has no immediate effect, since the rule has already been blocked and as a result is no longer in effect following the separate ruling last week. The 9th Circuit had initially allowed the rule to go forward except as it applied to California and Arizona, two border states that fall under the 9th Circuit's jurisdiction."

Trump Says He Will Renew Effort to End DACA Protections
[Associated Press](#) (June 19, 2020)

"President Donald Trump said Friday that he will renew his administration's effort to end legal protections for young immigrants after the Supreme Court blocked the first try...But experts say there isn't enough time to knock down the 8-year-old program before the November election and doubt the government would try because DACA is popular with voters."

Trump Can't Immediately End DACA, Supreme Court Rules
[The New York Times](#) (June 18, 2020)

"The Supreme Court ruled Thursday that the Trump administration may not immediately proceed with its plan to end a program protecting about 700,000 young immigrants known as Dreamers from deportation."

Regional

California Will Sue Trump Administration Over International Student Visa Policy
[CBS San Francisco](#) (July 9, 2020)

"The state of California filed suit against the Trump administration Thursday over a policy that would bar international students from staying in the United States unless they were scheduled to take in-person classes."

'It's a Game Changer': California Budget Includes Tax Breaks for Undocumented Families

[The Sacramento Bee](#) (June 27, 2020)

"Undocumented immigrants with young children will now have a chance to get two tax breaks in the California budget now headed to Gov. Gavin Newsom for his expected signature."

Supreme Court Lets Stand California's 'Sanctuary' Law on Undocumented Immigrants

[Washington Post](#) (June 15, 2020)

“The Supreme Court on Monday declined to take up California’s ‘sanctuary’ law that forbids local law enforcement in most cases from cooperating with aggressive federal action to identify and deport undocumented immigrants.”

Hundreds Come Out To March In Downtown Los Angeles Against Children In Immigration Detention

[CBS Local](#) (June 14, 2020)

“The event was aimed at bringing attention to federal immigration policies that led to migrant children being detained at the U.S.-Mexico border and other centers across the country. As part of the Trump Administration’s “zero tolerance” policy to criminally prosecute parents who illegally crossed the border, U.S. immigration officials separated more than 2,800 families in the spring of 2018.”

EVENTS

“Let’s Chat about DACA: Updates & What’s Next” Webinar

The Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs will join Clark Hill PLC and CHIRLA on August 6, 2020 at 6 PM to host a webinar where we will discuss the latest information and resources for DACA recipients. To participate in the webinar, please register [here](#).

City of Los Angeles 2020 Census Volunteer Opportunities

Phone Banking

Interested in helping your community get counted for the 2020 Census? Join the Census Volunteer Phone Banking team! Your calls will help ensure that all Angelenos get counted. You will also receive a \$5 VISA Gift Card as an appreciation gift. To register for Census phone banking, click [here](#).

Census Canvassing

Want to inform Angelenos about the 2020 Census? Come canvass, in a COVID-19 safe manner, in historically undercounted neighborhoods around South LA. Volunteers will go door-to-door handing out census flyers and face coverings. Volunteers will receive a \$5 dollar gift card, t-shirt, water bottle, and a swag bag! Please note volunteers must be 18 or older. For more information, click [here](#).

GENERAL RESOURCES

Community Resource Guide for Immigrant Angelenos

The Office of Immigrant Affairs offers a comprehensive resource guide that provides immigrant Angelenos with important information about resources available to them. Topics include DACA, trusted legal service providers, and the constitutional rights guaranteed to all people regardless of immigration status. The resource guide is available in [Spanish](#), [Korean](#), [Chinese](#), and [English](#).

Los Angeles Public Library: New Americans Centers

Free virtual immigration services including, assistance with N-400s, Green Card renewals, fee waiver completions, DACA renewals, questions about adjustment of status. To schedule a virtual appointment, 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](#).