



## Newsletter | October- November 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!

### OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2020 IN REVIEW

#### **Equity Outreach Campaign to Address COVID-19's Disproportionate Impact**

As part of the COVID-19 Equity Outreach campaign to address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 in our African American, AAPI, Latino, and immigrant communities, the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs has developed a COVID-19 community flyer with QR codes. This flyer is our newest outreach document, designed with the latest technology to make this information more accessible to all communities. The flyer features eight unique QR codes linked to the COVID-19 community flyers allowing Angelenos to access information and resources in the following languages: English, Spanish, Korean, Eastern Armenian, Simplified Chinese, Thai, and Farsi. The flyer includes translated instructions on how to use the QR codes in those eight languages. The QR codes lead you to a webpage with information on testing for and prevention of COVID-19, resources for self-quarantine, food accessibility programs, and more. We encourage community partners and businesses to post this flyer in public facing areas to share information with as many community members as possible. To view the COVID-19 QR code community flyer, click [here](#). Additionally, to find a complete set of the COVID-19 community flyers, please visit [Coronavirus.LAcity.org/communityflyers](https://Coronavirus.LAcity.org/communityflyers).

#### **Public Counsel's Hour of Justice Virtual Panel: "What Makes a Country a Home?"**

**NOV 19**  
AT 6PM

# PUBLIC COUNSEL'S HOUR OF JUSTICE

## What Makes a Country a Home?

Examining the changing immigration law and dismantling of asylum under the Trump Administration.



**MARTHA ARÉVALO**  
Executive Director,  
CARECEN



**JUDY LONDON**  
Directing Attorney  
Public Counsel



**ANGÉLICA SALAS**  
Executive Director,  
CHIRLA



**NORA A. PRECIADO**  
Director, L.A. Mayor's Office  
of Immigrant Affairs

REGISTER: [HourOfJustice.org](http://HourOfJustice.org)

PRESENTED BY:  THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:   

On November 19, 2020, Director Nora A. Preciado at the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs moderated a virtual panel discussion entitled, *What Makes a Country a Home? The Changing Immigration Law in the United States*, hosted by Public Counsel as part of their Hour of Justice online conversation series. Panel guests included Directing Attorney Judy London from Public Counsel's Immigrants' Rights Project, Executive Director Angelica Salas from the Coalition of Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), and Executive Director Martha Arevalo from the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN). The panel discussed the challenges in their work advocating for immigrant rights in the last four years and how harmful immigration policies have impacted their communities. Panelists also shared opportunities to advocate at the federal level under a new administration, and how people can get involved to support immigrants. To watch the recording of this panel, click [here](#).

### Mayor's Interfaith Collective (MIC) Quarterly Policy Briefing

## What Can You Do To Help?



Nora A. Preciado

- Keep yourself informed! Find out more information about these and other immigrant & refugee rights issues
  - Sign up for our bi-monthly newsletter by visiting [StepForward.lacity.org/newsletter](http://StepForward.lacity.org/newsletter)
  - Follow organizations doing this work on social media, here are a few:
    - CHIRLA (Humane Immigration Reform)
    - United We Dream (DACA)
    - National TPS Alliance & CARECEN (TPS)
    - International Rescue Committee (Refugees)
- Volunteer with these organizations
- Partnership with our Office
- Let your voice be heard! Contact your congressional representatives



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On November 18, 2020, Dir. Preciado presented at the Mayor's Interfaith Collective (MIC) Quarterly Policy Briefing. The MIC enlists, prepares, and deploys the faith community of Los Angeles in an effort to amplify and achieve Mayor Garcetti's vision for a just, equitable, and functioning city. Composed of faith and other community leaders from various religious backgrounds, the collective gathers quarterly to advise the Mayor and staff, advocate for the Mayor's Office top priorities, and to strategize around activating their communities to partner with the city to solve our most pressing challenges. Dir. Preciado discussed the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs mission, programs, and priorities for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Dir. Preciado also shared specific ways for MIC participants to get involved in immigrant and refugee rights issues, specifically on pressing issues such as restoring the United States Refugee Admissions Program and supporting humane immigration reform.

### Immigration Legal Consultations Virtual Fair



On November 14 and 15, 2020, the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs and the Mexican American Bar Association (MABA) collaborated to host an immigration consultation virtual fair to help immigrant Angelenos learn about possible immigration relief available to them. Outreach efforts were targeted to underserved communities in the city that do not have easy access to pro bono legal services providers. All participants received a free consultation with an accredited attorney and also received a list of trusted immigration nonprofit legal services providers that they can seek for low cost or free representation should they have immigration relief available. We are grateful for MABA's partnership and support of our immigrant communities.

To find trusted non-profit organizations that provide immigration legal services to Angelenos, visit the Legal Service Providers section of the Community Resource Guide for Immigrant Angelenos. You may find this guide in multiple languages at the bottom of the LA Mayor's Immigration webpage located at [lamayor.org/Immigration](http://lamayor.org/Immigration).

## Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Know Your Rights



On October 26 and 28, 2020, CARECEN, in collaboration with the National Lawyers Guild, Haitian Bridge Alliance, and Mayor Garcetti's Office of Immigrant Affairs, led Know Your Rights virtual presentations for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders. During these presentations TPS holders learned about the latest status of the TPS program as a result of recent litigation efforts and were able to schedule an individual, free consultation with an attorney. The presentations were offered in English and Spanish. Additionally, CARECEN and the National Lawyers Guild launched a legal assistance hotline for TPS holders. Please view our [General Resources](#) section below to find the CARECEN and National Lawyers Guild TPS hotline information.

## Cities for Action Webinar on Housing Assistance During COVID-19

On October 14, 2020, Dir. Preciado of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, and Lulu Mickelson, Program Director in the Mayor's Office of City Homelessness Initiatives, participated in the Cities for Action webinar on housing assistance which highlighted the various ways that cities nationwide are supporting immigrant and refugee communities impacted by COVID-19. Program Dir. Mickelson discussed the City of Los Angeles Emergency Renters Assistance Program and how the City of LA has been supporting vulnerable immigrant and refugee communities with housing matters. Other speakers included representatives from the City of Denver Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, the City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, St. Paul City Attorney's Office, and the National Housing Law Project.

## [IMMIGRATION POLICY NEWS](#)

### *National*

### **Latest on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)**

On November 14, 2020, a court in the ongoing *Batalla Vidal v. Wolf* case determined that Chad F. Wolf is not lawfully serving as Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and therefore did not have the legal authority to issue the July 28, 2020 DACA memorandum. The DHS DACA memo instructed the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to reject all new DACA applications, reject all advance parole applications except where there are “exceptional circumstances,” and limit the period of deferred action and employment authorization to one year. To view the full court ruling, click [here](#).

Current DACA recipients are encouraged to file renewal applications in consultation with a trusted immigration attorney or Department of Justice (DOJ) accredited representative. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) awarded funding to nonprofit organizations across our state to provide immigration legal services. To find the complete list of agencies providing DACA legal services free-of-charge and assistance with paying USCIS fees, click [here](#). Additionally, the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs has compiled a [DACA Support Resource Guide](#), which includes information about trusted legal services providers, health care and wellness, workplace rights, and other resources across the City of Los Angeles that may be helpful to DACA and DACA-eligible individuals.

### **Updates to Civics Test for Naturalization**

On November 13, 2020, USCIS announced that it would implement a revised version of the naturalization civics test starting on December 1, 2020. Under the current version of the civics test, the USCIS interviewing officer asks the applicant up to 10 questions from the list of 100 civics test questions. As part of the proposed 2020 updated version of the civics test, the USCIS interviewing officer will now ask 20 questions from the expanded list of 128 civics test questions. Applicants who apply for naturalization on or after December 1, 2020, will be taking the updated version of the civics test. The passing score will remain the same, at 60 percent. To view the USCIS announcement, click [here](#).

### **Public Charge Rule Remains in Effect Nationwide**

The Public Charge inadmissibility 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, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) proposed changes to the “Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds” rule. After legal challenges, 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](#).

The final rule was challenged in several lawsuits around the country. In the latest ruling from a district court in Illinois, the court granted partial summary judgment on some of the claims and vacated the Public Charge rule nationwide on November 2, 2020. The district court also denied the government’s motion to stay the judgment asking to continue implementation of the rule. However, on November 3, 2020, the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit granted the government’s motion for an immediate administrative stay, in effect allowing the Public Charge rule to continue to be implemented nationwide.

It is important to remember that the Public Charge rule does not apply to most immigrants, and that the USCIS March 13, 2020, announcement that COVID-19 related “treatment or preventive services will not negatively affect” immigrants “as part of a future Public Charge analysis” remains in effect. The USCIS announcement can be found [here](#).

If you have questions about your specific situation and whether the rule applies to you, you can find updated information and resources by visiting the Mayor’s website [here](#).

### **Presidential Determination Memorandum on Refugee Admissions for Fiscal Year 2021**

On October 28, 2020, the President signed the Presidential Determination (PD) on Refugee Admissions for FY 2021. The PD establishes a refugee admissions ceiling at 15,000, the lowest in U.S. history. The PD allocates 5,000 slots for refugees facing religious persecution, 4,000 for refugees from Iraq who have assisted the United States, 1,000 spots for refugees from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, and 5,000 for others, including those in the United States Refugee Admissions Program who were in “Ready for Departure” status as of September 30, 2019. To view the memorandum, click [here](#).

### **2020 Census Count Ends**

On October 15, 2020, the 2020 Census came to a close and we are grateful for your help in ensuring that historically undercounted communities, including immigrant and refugee communities, were counted! The City of Los Angeles achieved a 58.6% self-response rate, and although this was a lower response rate than in 2010, this response rate was achieved despite the early threat of a citizenship question, countless changes to the federal Census field operation, and the health and economic impacts of COVID-19. Even with all these challenges, City data shows that self-response rates went up a total of 7.1% in the months following the resumption of collective on-the-ground outreach efforts in mid-July, which is something to be proud of and a testament to the effectiveness of and the crucial role of trusted messengers like many of you in historically undercounted communities.

### **Affidavit of Support on Behalf of Immigrants**

On October 2, 2020, DHS published a proposed rule entitled *Affidavit of Support on Behalf of Immigrants* that aims to create additional financial requirements for potential sponsors of immigrants seeking to adjust their immigration status. The proposed rule would require sponsors to provide Federal Income Tax returns for three years, as well as other financial information. The proposed rule also specifies that if sponsors have received any means-tested public benefits, this information will be used in determining whether the sponsor has the means to support the applicant. The proposed change will also limit income considerations to that of the sponsor, the sponsor’s spouse who executed a contract, and the applicant. On November 2, 2020, Mayor Garcetti submitted a [public comment](#) expressing his strong opposition to the proposed rule due to the devastating impact it could have on thousands of Angelenos who may be unable to meet the more stringent proof of financial ability required of their sponsors in the midst of an economic downturn. To view the proposed rule, click [here](#).

### **Procedures for Asylum and Withholding of Removal**

On September 23, 2020, the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) published a proposed rule entitled *Procedures for Asylum and Withholding of Removal*. This proposed rule would require asylum seekers to file their asylum application within 15 days from arrival to the United States. In most circumstances, currently, asylum seekers have one year to file their application. This proposed rule also would reject applications if there is a missing response to a question or a missing signature. Rejected applications would allow only 30 days for an applicant to correct and re-file. On October 23, 2020, Mayor Garcetti submitted a [public comment](#) opposing this proposed rule stating, among other reasons, that the 15-day deadline is an unreasonable short period of time to gather supporting documentation, find trustworthy legal representation, and secure an interpreter. The public comment period closed; however you can view the proposed rule [here](#).

## **Collection and Use of Biometrics by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services**

On September 11, 2020, DHS published a proposed rule on the Federal Register entitled, *Collection and Use of Biometrics U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services*. If implemented, the rule would expand the information that USCIS collects from immigrants applying for immigration benefits to include fingerprints, palm prints, photographs (facial images specifically for facial recognition, as well as photographs of physical or anatomical features such as scars, skin marks, and tattoos), signatures, voice prints, iris images, and DNA (test results, which include a partial DNA profile attesting to genetic relationship). On October 13, 2020, Mayor Garcetti submitted a [public comment](#) on the Federal Register expressing his concern and opposition to such extensive biometric data collection regardless of age, from applicants, petitioners, beneficiaries, sponsors, or anyone associated with the immigration benefit, including U.S. citizens. While the public comment period has closed, you can view the proposed rule [here](#).

### ***Local***

#### **Sidewalk and Park Vending Update**

In November 2020, StreetsLA began issuing refunds of their fee payment to sidewalk and park vendors who paid for and received a Vending Permit as part of the vending fee deferral program, an effort aiming to provide a form of economic relief to this population deeply impacted by COVID-19. Additionally, the Vending Permit can be extended for an additional six (6) months from the date of expiration of the permit for anyone who received a Vending Permit from January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020. This is in addition to the extension of the lower Vending Permit fee (\$291) period until June 20, 2021. To apply for or renew a Vending Permit, make an appointment to receive a refund, and/or to extend the expiration date, please call StreetsLA at (213) 847-6000. For additional information, click [here](#).

### **IN THE NEWS**

#### ***National***

#### **Chad Wolf Did Not Have the Authority to Restrict DACA Program, Federal Judge Rules** [CBS News](#) (November 16, 2020)

“President Trump’s top homeland security official, Chad Wolf, did not have the legal authority to restrict an Obama administration program that protects hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as minors from deportation, a federal judge ruled Saturday.”

#### **US Deports Migrant Women Who Alleged Abuse by Georgia Doctor** [Associated Press](#) (November 11, 2020)

“The Trump administration is trying to deport several women who allege they were mistreated by a Georgia gynecologist at an immigration detention center, according to their lawyers.”

#### **Lawyers Can’t Find the Parents of 666 Migrant Kids, A Higher Number than Previously Reported** [NBC News](#) (November 9, 2020)

“Lawyers working to reunite migrant families separated by the Trump administration before and during its “zero tolerance” policy at the border now believe the number of separated children for whom they have not been able to find parents is 666, higher than they told a federal judge last month, according to an email obtained by NBC News.”

## ***Regional***

### **LA County Seeks Ways to Reunite Immigrant Families, Offer Services**

[NBC Los Angeles](#) (October 28, 2020)

“The Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to assemble a task force to identify and aid any children living in Los Angeles County who are among the estimated 545 youngsters still separated from their families following an immigration crackdown at the U.S.-Mexican border.”

### **Los Angeles County Votes to Pay \$14 Million to Former Immigrant Detainees**

[The Washington Post](#) (October 13, 2020)

“Los Angeles County agreed to pay \$14 million to thousands of immigrants it held for deportation at the request of the Obama administration, to settle a lawsuit that challenged the sheriff’s authority to help U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detain immigrants.”

### **ICE Arrests 128 Undocumented Immigrants in California’s Sanctuary Cities, Critics Blast Trump for ‘Political Theater’**

[San Francisco Chronicle](#) (October 7, 2020)

“The Department of Homeland Security announced the arrest of 128 undocumented immigrants Wednesday in sanctuary cities across California, including San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego.”

## **EVENTS**

### **Free Virtual Citizenship Education Classes**

The International Rescue Committee of Los Angeles (IRC) is offering free, virtual Citizenship Education Classes this fall, which include English, civics, and history to help you prepare for the naturalization test and become a U.S. Citizen. These classes include mock interview calls, individual/group tutoring, and weekday review sessions. All programs are taught in English, with language support in Spanish, Farsi, and Armenian. Participants must be Lawful Permanent Residents (green card holders). The Fall 2020 classes are Monday/Wednesday 10am-12pm or 3pm-5pm; Tuesday 5:30pm-7:30pm; Tuesday/Thursday 3pm-5pm; and Saturday 10am-12pm. Interested participants can pre-register for a class [here](#). If you have any questions, you may contact IRC at [CFCP-LA@rescue.org](mailto:CFCP-LA@rescue.org) or call/text (747) 257-4656.

## GENERAL RESOURCES

### **\*New\* Workers' Rights Informational Flyer**

The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs collaborated with Loyola Immigrant Justice Clinic (LIJC) students to create an informational flyer about immigrant workers' rights in the City of Los Angeles. The flyer reminds constituents that if they work in the City of Los Angeles, it is important to know that they have rights and protections, regardless of their immigration status. This 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. The flyer 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 these flyers, please click [here](#).

### **CARECEN and National Lawyers Guild TPS Hotline**

Are you a TPS holder? Do you live in Los Angeles County? If you answered yes to these two questions, you can get a free legal consultation by calling (833) 259-5549. CARECEN and the National Lawyers Guild have partnered up to launch this hotline for TPS holders to identify if they qualify for immigration relief. The hotline is available Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday from 11am-2pm. If you are not able to reach someone, please leave a voicemail and they will call you back to schedule a consultation.

### **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 recently 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. To view the document, click [here](#).

To stay up to date on the latest City of LA COVID-19 information and resources, please visit [coronavirus.LaCity.org](https://coronavirus.LaCity.org).

### **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, DACA renewals, and 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](#).**