Family Centers share immigration information

Recent changes in federal immigration policy have important implications for families and employers, and keeping Napa County residents informed of critical updates on changes as well as available local resources is all part of the outreach of UpValley Family Centers.

“Regardless of one’s immigration status, all individuals have rights,” said Jenny Ocon, executive director. The family centers are working with Napa Citizenship Legal Services (CLS) Collaborative to ensure that all affected people and businesses are updated.

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program is an executive order that was put into place by the Obama administration to protect eligible immigrant youth who came to the United States as children. It provides eligible youth with a work permit and ensures that they are not at risk of deportation.

The Trump administration has begun to phase out DACA. No new applications can be submitted. Renewal applications are still being accepted while a lawsuit decides whether the termination of DACA is lawful. No initial (first-time) applications will be accepted.

While there is no defined timeline surrounding DACA renewals, recipients are encouraged to act quickly, Ocon said.

UpValley Family Centers and IIBA are providing free consultations and free application assistance for those who qualify to renew their DACA work permit.

The Trump Administration has announced that it will end Temporary Protective Status (TPS) for five countries: Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Sudan, and Haiti. TPS provides a temporary form of protection to individuals who are residing in the U.S. and who are citizens of certain designated countries that have suffered severe natural disasters or ongoing armed-conflicts. TPS provides successful applicants work authorization and the protection against deportation. The Department of Homeland Security determines which countries are designated for TPS. Honduras is extended through July 03, Nicaragua’s will end January 09, 2019 but applicants should register before this March 19.

Sudan’s TPS will end November 02, 2019 and Haiti’s on July 22, 2019. Re-register before March 19, 2018.

“It is crucial that those who have TPS re-register before these deadlines,” said Ocon. “It is highly encouraged that TPS holders seek comprehensive legal consultations at IIBA to see if they qualify for a more permanent immigration remedy.”

Any person who has TPS can get a free consult at IIBA.

California’s Immigrant Workers Protection Act (AB 450) provides California workers with protection from immigration enforcement while on the job. This law applies to all California employers and was effective January 1, 2018.

Legal Aid at Work (LAHW) provides information about the law as well as resources and recommendations, which employers and employees should review. Visit their website at https://legalaidatwork.org or call their hotline at (800) 864-1664.

Immigration Law & Enforcement

“Immigration: It’s important that individuals and businesses know their rights under the U.S. Constitution and how to protect themselves,” Dumesnil said, noting that someone detained by ICE has the right to a hearing before an immigration judge and review; in most cases, by a federal court; representation by a lawyer; reasonable notice of charges, and of a hearing’s time and place, a reasonable opportunity to examine the evidence and the government’s witnesses; competent interpretation for non-English speaking immigrants, and clear and convincing proof that the government’s grounds for deportation are valid.

North Bay Rapid Response Network deploys legal observers during ICE Raids to document all relevant details as a form of protection for those being targeted and will connect individuals to legal counsel. NBRR is also seeking volunteers to become legal observers in our community. Their hotline is (707) 800-4544.

The Napa Citizenship Legal Services Collaborative (CLS), founded by the Napa Valley Community Foundation, provides outreach, education and legal services for immigrants in Napa County seeking a pathway to citizenship. The organizational partners are International Institute of the Bay Area, 1783 3rd Street, Napa, CA, (707) 266-1568.


Puertas Abiertas, 952 Napa Street, Napa, CA, (707) 224-1786.

UpValley Family Centers, 1440 Spring Street, St. Helena and 1500 Cedar Street, Calistoga, (707) 965-5010.

North Bay Rapid Response Network - Sonoma and Napa Counties, North Bay Rapid Response Hotline: (707) 800-4544. To volunteer, visit www.napavalleydreamteam.org/nbr for Napa County or www.northbay.org/rapidresponse for Sonoma County.

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