

CRLAF/SRCPP

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- Noé Páramo
- Project Director & Legislative Advocate
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California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation

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Since 1981, we have been working in geographically isolated communities to improve the socioeconomic conditions of rural residents and ensure access to justice and equity



- Outreach and Community Education
- Policy Advocacy;
- Impact Litigation;
- Technical Assistance;
- Representation regardless of legal status;
- Our staff includes former farm workers and children of immigrants.



Storm Assistance for Immigrants SAI

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- SAI (June 2023 to May 2024), CRLAF implemented the SAI program in Madera, Merced, San Joaquin and Sacramento counties.
- Employed three-tier approach: outreach and education, intake and enrollment, and disbursement of funds ranging from \$1,500 for an adult individual to \$4,500 maximum for a household of five.
- SAI staff provided supplemental case management, navigation and referral service.
- SAI statewide assisted 64,512 individuals and disbursed \$91.8 million in direct financial assistance.



Health and Immigration Services

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- Access to health care: Medi-Cal, California's Medicaid program, provides free or low-cost health care to over third of population. This program covers a wide range of services to Californians with modest incomes, and many children, seniors, people with disabilities, and pregnant individuals rely on it.
- The governor's proposed budget upholds recent Medi-Cal investments that have expanded access, improved coverage, and increased eligibility, including comprehensive Medi-Cal coverage for eligible adults regardless of immigration status.
- Continue to ensure that all Californians, regardless of race, age, disability, or immigration status, can access and maintain the critical health coverage they need to be healthy and thrive. Policy include Ensuring continuous Medi-Cal coverage for all; Reforming the Medi-Cal Share of Cost program; Expanding outreach and enrollment efforts.
- California is officially launching Behavioral Health Community-Based Organized Networks of Equitable Care and Treatment (BH-CONNECT). This multi-year initiative aims to improve access to behavioral health services for Medi-Cal members with significant needs, focusing on children and youth involved in child welfare, people involved in the justice system, and individuals at risk of or experiencing homelessness.
- Governor's budget maintains-doesn't increase-\$75 million support for Immigrant Californians. Special Session Legislation: \$25 million OAG Immigration Protection and other support; \$25 million immigrant & legal services (\$10 million Equal Access Funds, \$10 million One California, \$5 million California Access to Justice Commission).



DACA – Current Status (as of Dec 18, 2024)

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- Only individuals who have previously had DACA can renew
 - Unfortunately, USCIS is not approving applications for first-time DACA applicants.
- If your DACA has not yet expired or expired less than a year ago – you are eligible to submit a DACA renewal application. You will need to submit form I-821D, form I-765, form I-765WS, a copy of the front and back of your prior work permit, two passport-style photographs, and the filing fee (\$605 via mail or \$555 online).
 - USCIS recommends that an individual submit their renewal application 5 months prior to their DACA expiration date but will sometimes process applications that are submitted even earlier than that.
- Your rights as a DACA recipient – If you currently have DACA, your DACA and work permit (EAD) will stay valid until your DACA expires.
 - You have no obligation to tell your employer that your DACA is ending.
 - Your employer does not have the right to ask you if you have DACA or how you received your work permit, nor do they have the right to fire you because DACA is ending.
 - If you received a Social Security Number through DACA, that Social Security Number is yours throughout your entire life, regardless of what happens to the DACA program.



Advance Parole for DACA – Current Status

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- DACA recipients are eligible to request advance parole, or advance permission to re-enter the country, for a humanitarian, educational, or employment purpose.
 - The Trump administration will be able to eliminate this benefit via executive action at any time, and without prior notice, for DACA recipients who have already been approved for advance parole and/or are traveling internationally.
- CRLAF recommends that DACA recipients interested in applying for advance parole to consult with an immigration attorney to discuss risks if their travel will not be completed before January 20, 2025.



CA Laws & Protections for Immigrants

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- CA has enacted legislation that creates benefits for immigrants in the state. These and other local protections cannot be directly changed by a new presidential administration.
- AB 540: Allows certain students to qualify for in-state tuition at any UC, CSU, or CA community college.
- CA DREAM Act: Makes students eligible for state-based financial aid if they are eligible for AB 540.
- SB 1159 and AB 2184: Allows undocumented immigrants to apply for professional and business licenses.
- AB 60: Allows undocumented immigrants who are CA residents to obtain a CA driver license. Currently, some people have licenses they received because they have DACA. If the DACA program ends, licenses for these people will expire, but they will still be eligible for AB 60 licenses.
- Healthcare: All CA residents can apply for Medi-Cal regardless of immigration status if they are otherwise income-eligible. If you are eligible for healthcare, enroll now. If you already have healthcare, use it.
- TRUST Act, TRUTH Act & SB 54: Helps to protect immigrants from state and local law enforcement cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.
- AB 450: Requires that employers inform employees about upcoming immigration investigations of employee records.
- Marijuana: Although CA allows for the limited use of marijuana for recreational purposes, the federal government continues to impose severe criminal and immigration penalties on marijuana use. ***Non-citizens should not use marijuana and should consult with an immigration attorney if they have questions about how marijuana may affect their immigration status, especially if they work in the marijuana industry.***



US Constitutional Rights

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- As always, try to avoid any negative interactions with law enforcement.
- Have a plan of action with your family on what to do if ICE comes to your home or arrests a family member.
- You have the right to remain silent. You may refuse to speak to ICE officers, police officers, or other law enforcement officers. You should say that you want to remain silent.
- Do not open your door! Educate your family to ask who is at the door before opening it.
- Do not open your door to any law enforcement officer unless there is an emergency.
- To enter your home, an officer must have your permission or a valid warrant (and they rarely have one).
- You have the right to speak to a lawyer.
- Do not sign anything before talking to a lawyer!



Immigrant Individual Rights

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- Most people have a right to a hearing before an immigration judge. This process can take years, and you can remain in the U.S. until an immigration judge makes a final decision in your case.
- If you are detained, ask for a hearing! You should ask the immigration officers and/or the immigration judge to be released with bond.
- If you have a fear of returning to your country of origin, it is important to say this to the immigration authorities.
- You have the right to ask the immigration judge for more time to find an attorney.



Immigrant Rights & Support

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- Know Your Rights
- Family Preparedness Plans
- Detention and Deportation Defense Legal Assistance
- Social Services Safety Net: Financial Assistance, Housing, Food, Utilities, etc.



Executive Orders & Memos

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- Interior Enforcement – Expansion of expedited removal
- End Birthright Citizenship
- Employment Verification
- Review CBOs receiving federal funds
- Public Benefits – Denial of Federal benefits
- Sanctuary Governmental – Enforcement
- Expanding Law Enforcement – “sensitive area” rescind for Schools and Churches; Court Houses memo



Questions & Comments

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CRLA Foundation
2210 K Street, Suite 201
Sacramento, CA 95816
www.crlaf.org
916-446-7901