

Newsletter Edition: October, 2023



Immigrant Legal Services Center



UCIMM UPDATES

UCIMM 2022-23 Annual Report release

As in previous years, our newest report includes data on the types of immigration applications our clients are able to pursue, reflects on client success stories, and discusses examples of UCIMM's other substantive work—including partnerships, DACA planning, and more. Our report can be viewed on our website's [Annual Reports](#) page.

UCIMM volunteer opportunity: CA Dream Act Service Incentive Grant Program (DSIG)

UCIMM is looking for a student volunteer with an interest in immigrant rights and inclusive access to healthcare professions to help with research and administrative support. This is a volunteer opportunity for California Dream Act (CADA) students who qualify for the DSIG program, which awards up to **\$1,500 per quarter or \$2,250 per semester**. For more information, please visit our website's [Join Our Team](#) page.

UCIMM welcomes a new UCR/UCI Paralegal and UCM Staff Attorney

Karia Salazar is our new paralegal, serving UC Riverside and UC Irvine. She is a graduate from California State University, Fullerton with bachelor's degrees in Communications: Public Relations and Ethnic Studies: Chicano Studies. Karia grew up advocating for immigrant rights and social justice. She has volunteered with various organizations to provide free legal services. Karia has over 10 years' experience in the field of immigration law from previously working at a private practice as a paralegal. In her free time, she enjoys going to the beach, spending time with her family, and dog.

Paloma Contreras is the new staff attorney serving UC Merced. Paloma received her B.A. from the University of California, San Diego and her J.D. from the Nebraska College of Law. Her experience includes interning for Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) and the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), and working for California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. (CRLA) and the United Farm Workers Foundation (UFW Foundation). Paloma is a proud Central Valley native, and she is excited to be serving UC Merced and giving back to the community she loves. In her free time, Paloma enjoys cooking, exploring new cities and coffee shops in particular, attending live music events, spending quality time with her friends and loved ones, and volunteering with her local church.

Welcome Paloma and Karia!





STATE POLICY UPDATES

[**California Department of Social Services \(CDSS\) DACA and Naturalization Application Filing Fees \(DNAF\) funding**](#)

As some of you know, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has been providing clients of immigration organizations like ours with DACA and naturalization filing fee assistance. However, this funding is set to expire at the end of 2023 and we do not know if or when the funds will be renewed for CDSS. If your DACA is set to expire within 150 days, we recommend you renew now. Appointments with your campus attorney can be made through our website's [Book an Appointment](#) page. For folks who are not eligible for our services, [here is a directory](#) of other organizations who also receive CDSS funding.

[**SB-633 California DREAM Loan Program: DREAM grants**](#)

This month, the Governor approved [SB-633](#), a bill that will allow institutions to award DREAM grants to eligible students if the institution has unawarded funds in its DREAM Loan revolving fund. The amount of individual grants will be determined by the institution, and will not count toward Dream Loan borrowing limits.

[**AB-278 High Schools: Dream Resource Center Grant Program**](#)

Governor Newsom also approved [AB-278](#), which will establish Dream Resource Centers and academic support to undocumented students at California Public High Schools.

[**AB-1540 Postsecondary education: nonresident tuition: exemption**](#)

Lastly, the Governor approved [AB-1540](#), which will consolidate the AB-540 Affidavit form and the California Dream Act Application (CADA) into a one-step application process for students. The purpose of this streamline is to allow undocumented students and their administrators to move through the higher education financial aid application process more easily.



FEDERAL POLICY UPDATES

[**EAD validity period extended for certain immigrants**](#)

On September 27, USCIS announced that the validity period for initial and renewal EADs (Employment Authorization Documents, i.e., work permits) for certain types of immigrants will [increase to five years](#). Categories include: applicants for adjustment of status (to lawful permanent resident); applicants for asylum; applicants for withholding or cancellation of removal; refugees and individuals granted asylum; individuals granted withholding of removal; and certain refugee, Afghan, and Ukrainian parolees (who are employment authorized by their I-94). Here is [a helpful chart](#) (scroll down) showing EAD validity periods of various categories. The purpose of this new policy is to reduce USCIS processing times and backlogs.

[**Temporary Protected Status \(TPS\) updates**](#)

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has in recent months announced 18-month [TPS](#) extensions and redesignations for a number of countries, including: [Afghanistan](#); [Cameroon](#); [El Salvador](#); [Honduras](#); [Nepal](#); [Nicaragua](#); [South Sudan](#); [Sudan](#); [Ukraine](#); and [Venezuela](#). Individuals who need to register or find out if they're eligible should [book an appointment](#) with their campus attorney.





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Immigrants Rising's UndocuEducators Group: Beyond DACA Cohort

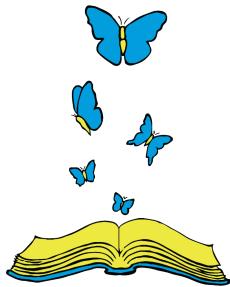
Immigrants Rising is launching a new project for California [UndocuEducators](#) that aims to provide undocumented educators in higher ed with: "community support and tangible skills in pursuing professional opportunities beyond a work authorization. Participants will engage in a seven-month virtual group with other UndocuEducators, conceptualize their business ideas, and receive specialized training on marketing, laws, permits, pricing, and more!" Participants will "[r]eceive personalized support, 1-1 coaching, and connect with other entrepreneur UndocuEducators! Participants who complete the program will also get a \$1,750 stipend and assistance in applying for applicable business permits. Learn more [here](#).

AILA: DACA advocacy opportunity

The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) [created a simple form](#) that allows individuals to contact their members of Congress to urge them to pass permanent protections for Dreamers.

Article: I Was Low-Income and Undocumented, But I Dreamed of College. Now I'm ACLU's Deputy National Political Director

"With recent judicial blows to affirmative action and DACA, and attacks on diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, many underrepresented students are left wondering: Now what?" Maribel Hernandez Rivera advocates that, "The mission to expand opportunities for all is not dead, and all of us—colleges and universities, mentors, alumni, students—must double down on our efforts . . . I want to encourage underrepresented students to keep pursuing their dreams, don't give up." [Read the Ms. article here](#).



As always, please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

*Thank you,
The UC Immigrant Legal Services Center team*

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