February 21, 2020

Hello All,

Below you will find updates and information on the following topics: I. ICE Ruses--Know Your Rights; II. Free Public Charge Webinar for Non-Legal Services Providers; III. Income-Based Repayment for Dream Loans; and IV. Hold on DACA Renewal Filing Fee Assistance.

I. ICE Ruses--Know Your Rights

When news of potential ICE raids flood the media, it is important to promote knowledge and power, not panic.

When Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents go to homes and the community to arrest non-citizens, it is common for them to lie about who they are and what they want from the individuals they encounter. The lies are called “ruses.” Ruses are an officially-sanctioned ICE policy, taught to new agents at the ICE Training Academy, and are subject to almost no restrictions. Familiarity with ICE tactics, like ruses, could help prevent ICE arrests and protect loved ones. Immigration Defense Project (IDP) has created helpful Common ICE Ruses and Know Your Rights infographics, available in English and Spanish.

II. Free Public Charge Webinar for Non-Legal Services Providers

Join the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) for an update on public charge policies after the new inadmissibility rule from Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has taken effect (new rule begins 2/24/20). ILRC will discuss the various policies impacting immigrants and their families’ access to health care and other programs and take a closer look at the new DHS rule and who it affects. This webinar is designed for those conducting outreach and providing information to immigrants in a non-legal capacity.

Date: March 11, 2020

Time: 11:00 am - 12:30 pm Pacific Time
Register here.

III. Income-Based Repayment for Dream Loans
As of January 31, 2020, Dream Loan borrowers are now able to access the Dream Loan Income-Based Repayment Plan application, per AB 1895. Dream Loan borrowers at all income levels are eligible. For reference, this plan mirrors the federal “Revised Pay As You Earn” (REPAYE) plan.

The Dream Loan is currently under utilized. Many eligible students are reluctant to borrow, for fear that they will not be able to make the repayments. This income-based repayment option could impact how students think about borrowing from the Dream Loan program.

IV. Hold on DACA Renewal Filing Fee Assistance

Last week, California Department of Social Services (CDSS) put all requests for DACA fee assistance on hold. CDSS is currently assessing if/how many DACA renewals they can continue to cover. This is unfortunate, but expected, as CDSS has a limited pool of funding available to cover fees, and is drawn down by several California non-profits. We have no further updates at this time. As such, we are unable to cover DACA renewal filing fees at this time. If you have not done so already, please let us know if you are aware of any alternative funding sources.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Thank you,
The UC Immigrant Legal Services Center team