January 24, 2020

Hello All,

Below you will find updates and information on the following topics: I. Outreach to Graduating Students; II. USCIS Fee Increases; and III. News Article: Why the University of California is Fighting for DACA.

I. Outreach to Graduating Students

We invite Undocumented Student Programs/Centers to remind students who are graduating this spring to schedule their appointments with UCIMM right away. It is our Center’s policy to assist currently-enrolled students and their immediate family members, and so we become limited in our ability to serve individuals who have potential immigration relief when the student is days away from graduating.

II. USCIS Fee Increases

We announced in our last update that on November 14, 2019 USCIS proposed a regulation that would require applicants and petitioners to pay increased fees. Among the changes proposed:

- Renewing DACA, required every two years, will cost $765, up from the current $495, a 55 percent increase.
- Applications to naturalize will increase from $640 to $1,170, an 83 percent increase.
- The cost to apply for adjustment of status to Lawful Permanent Residency will increase to $2,195 from the current $1,225, a 79 percent increase.
- A new $50 fee to apply for asylum. Only three other countries charge asylum applicants to seek protection.

The public comment period for changes to the USCIS Fee Schedule has been reopened for 15 days starting today, Jan. 24, 2020. At the end of the comments period, USCIS must review and respond to all unique comments. CLINIC has created a helpful public comment template for organizations opposing the proposed fee increase. Advocates are encouraged to personalize and tailor comments to the organization and the impact on individuals. Unique details, facts, and data make a strong comment. Describing impact in terms of irreparable harm is recommended. Alternatively, California Table for Immigration Reform has drafted a sign-on letter that can be quickly filled out here.
III. News Article: Why the University of California is Fighting for DACA

On January 13, 2020, High Country News published an article that well-captures the ways in which the UC utilizes the law to support DACAmented and undocumented students. The article highlights one UC student’s path from undocumented status, to DACA, to lawful permanent residency.

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

Thank you,
The UC Immigrant Legal Services Center team