Hello All,

Below you will find updates and information on the following topics: I. Update re: current UCImm policy for DACA initial and advance parole applications; II. Immigration screening outreach for graduating students; III. COVID-19 relief stimulus - federal and state; IV. USCIS withdraws proposed filing fee increases; and V. January 22 UC-Wide Webinar: What’s Going On With Immigration? Policy Updates.

I. Update re: current UCImm policy for DACA initial and advance parole applications

As you know, there is a court case in Texas challenging the validity of the DACA program—with a hearing recently held on 12/22/2020. No decisions have been issued. As such, we are still actively submitting first-time DACA applications. Our initial DACA application materials can be found on the Resources page of our website. I am attaching the evidence checklist in Spanish, as it has not yet been uploaded to the website.

Because we are still prioritizing first-time DACA applications, we are not yet taking cases for DACA advance parole. However, we are always available for information and referrals.

II. Immigration screening outreach for graduating students

At this time of the year, we invite you to encourage students to book their immigration screenings early and not wait until they are upon graduation—as we are generally unable to take new cases for individuals who will no longer be UC-enrolled students.

III. COVID-19 relief stimulus - federal and state

Federal relief: Please see attached FAQ document that provides useful information from NILC on the eligibility of mixed status families for federal stimulus checks. Notably:
Is there a change in eligibility for couples where one spouse has an SSN, but one spouse does not? Yes. Under the CARES Act, joint returns of couples where only one member of the couple had an SSN were ineligible for a rebate. This latest round of relief changes that provision. These families will now be eligible to receive payments for the members of the family that have SSNs. This change is retroactive, meaning that those who fall under this category who missed out on the first round of EIPs can claim that money when filing 2020 tax returns in the spring of 2021.

State relief: Last week, Governor Newsom proposed that individuals who receive CalEITC will get an additional $600, as part of a new state stimulus for COVID-19 relief. California Immigrant Policy Center has created a helpful infographic explaining which ITIN tax filers are eligible.

IV. USCIS Withdraws Proposed Filing Fee Increases

In August 2020, DHS published a new filing fee rule that raised USCIS filing fees by an average of 20%. The new fees were to go into effect on October 2, 2020, but a court intervened. On December 28, 2020, the Department of Justice asked to have their own appeal dismissed. Therefore, the fee increases plus policy changes and USCIS form changes that were included with the fee increase will not be implemented.

V. January 22 UC-Wide Webinar: What's Going On With Immigration? Policy Updates

Next Friday, UCImm will host a webinar discussing Biden's immigration plan, current state of DACA, and immigration policy updates. Please share out the attached flyer that includes the Zoom link.

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

Thank you,
The UC Immigrant Legal Services Center team