May 18, 2020

Hello All,

Below you will find updates and information on the following topics: I. Center Updates; II. COVID-19 & DACA FAQs; III. COVID-19 Emergency Educational Grants.

I. Center Updates

Our immigration legal services remain uninterrupted throughout the COVID-19 pandemic as our staff continues to work from home. In recent weeks, we have been receiving the same if not greater numbers of legal inquiries. Thank you to the Coordinators for ensuring awareness among students that our virtual doors remain open!

In addition, DACA renewal USCIS filing fee assistance remains available through CDSS. We do not know how long these funds will last, so students are encouraged to renew right away.

II. COVID-19 & DACA FAQ

Please see attached FAQ for answers to these frequently asked questions:

- I am submitting my DACA Renewal application. How will USCIS run my biometrics?
- Will I be affected by the new public charge rule if I seek medical or other services, like access a food bank?
- Am I allowed to get tested or treated for coronavirus if I only have emergency MediCal? What if I don’t have any insurance?
- Am I eligible for unemployment?
- Am I eligible to receive a stimulus check?
- Is my family eligible to receive stimulus checks?
- What if I’m married to a non-U.S. Citizen? Will our family get our stimulus check?
- What if I never filed a Tax Return? Can I still get a stimulus check?
- Is California providing separate assistance for undocumented individuals, if so how do I access that?
- (Additional notes on Public Charge also included)
III. COVID-19 Emergency Educational Grants

As you are likely aware, DACA and undocumented students are ineligible to receive CARES Act federal educational grants. On May 11, California Community Colleges filed a lawsuit against Education Secretary DeVos for restrictions placed on CARES Act grants to institutions.

The University of California is providing emergency grants to AB540 students, regardless of DACA status. UCOP guidelines asked campuses to provide funding equivalent to the CARES Act funding. Grants will be distributed through campus financial aid offices.

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

Thank you,
The UC Immigrant Legal Services Center team