

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2020 - VOLUME 5 - SPECIAL EDITION Supporting Immigrant Communities Amid COVID-19 Crisis





API Legal Outreach Is Here to Assist and Support Immigrants During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The New York Times, Associated Press (AP) and KQED have reported that front-line essential workers who are working to provide basic necessities for our Bay Area communities during the COVID-19 pandemic are mostly women, people of color and immigrants.

- More than 70% of building and cleaning services workers are foreign-born immigrants in Oakland, Richmond, San Jose and San Francisco.
- Half of US' farmworkers who harvest America's food are undocumented immigrants from Mexico and Central America.

Hardworking immigrant families have been disproportionately affected by the economic fallout of the COVID-19 crisis, especially with the exclusion of undocumented immigrants in the federal relief bill. In California, some disaster relief assistance is expected to become available to undocumented immigrants starting in May.

If you have questions about applying for unemployment benefits, disaster relief funds, or public charge issues, APILO is here to provide information and assistance. For more information, please see our website (www.apilegaloutreach.org) or call our office at (415) 567-6255 or (510) 251-2846 to request assistance on your case.

INFORMATION
ABOUT THE STATE
AND THE FEDERAL
COVID-19 BENEFITS
FOR IMMIGRANT
COMMUNITIES

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 Foreign National and Immigrant Eligibility for Unemployment
 Benefits and Stimulus
 Rebates
- Pg. 02 California State Covid-19
 Financial Aid for Undocumented Immigrants
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 Renewal Assistance
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Foreign National and Immigrant Eligibility for Unemployment Benefits and Stimulus Rebates

COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR THE UNDOCUMENTED

California
State Covid-19
Financial Aid for
Undocumented
Immigrants

Immigrant Eligibility for Stimulus Direct Payment:

- Individual taxpayers and couples filing jointly who have both been issued social security numbers (SSN) that are valid for employment are eligible for the rebate.
- Many DACA recipients, TPS recipients, asylees and refugees may qualify. Unfortunately, this SSN requirement excludes many immigrants and mixed-status families. Those who are not U.S. citizens or Legal Permanent Residents must reside primarily in the United States.
- Undocumented immigrants who do not have SSNs are not eligible for these payments. Immigrants who use an ITIN for their taxes are also not eligible.

Immigrant Eligibility for Unemployment Benefits:

- An immigrant with valid work authorization is eligible to receive unemployment benefits, including state Unemployment Insurance (UI) and federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). Many DACA recipients, TPS recipients, asylum applicants, asylees, and refugees have valid work authorization and can receive unemployment benefits.
- For more information on public benefits and resources available to immigrants in California, see the Guide for Immigrant Californians: https://covid19.ca.gov/guide-immigrantcalifornians/

Governor Newsom's \$75 million Financial Aid for Undocumented Immigrants has the following Eligibility Criteria

- An eligible individual must be an undocumented adult (a person over the age of 18); AND
- Not eligible for federal COVID-19 related assistance, including CARES act stimulus payment or PUA benefits; AND,
- Has experienced hardship as a result of COVID-19.
- An eligible undocumented adult immigrant may receive ONE-TIME relief payment of \$500.
- A limit of two undocumented adults per each household can receive this assistance (maximum assistance of \$1,000 per household).
- The online application is expected to become available before the end of May.



API Legal Outreach is
Assisting with
DACA renewal

APILO currently has temporary funding to assist with DACA renewals. **This funding also covers the \$495 filing fee.**Call our office today to ask about getting assistance with your DACA renewal application! If eligible, our lawyers will cover the following at **no cost**:

- Free Consult & Filing
- Application Preparation
- Application Filing Fee (\$495)



The APILO/API Council/AABA free virtual legal clinic provides multilingual legal assistance over the telephone or by video conferencing in Cantonese, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog, Spanish and Vietnamese. If you have a legal issue involving:



- immigration
- domestic violence
- tenants' rights
- elder abuse
- state and federal covid-19 disaster relief
- small business and non-profit economic issues

FREE VIRTUAL COMMUNITY
LEGAL CLINIC BY
API Legal Outreach (APILO)
API Council, and
Asian American Bar
Association of the Greater
Bay Area (AABA).

Please call on **Tuesday or Friday from 2:00 pm – 5:00pm** to make your appointment. Phone number: **(415) 567–6255** or **(510) 251–2846**

Please know that conditions and requirements for eligibility for the CARES Act programs are constantly changing.

Please call our office at (415) 567-6255 or (510) 251-2846 for more in-depth and up to date information.