

# Immigration Updates

## *Actualizaciones de Inmigración*

**January 2026 / Enero 2026**

Presented by / Presentado por:

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# Immigration Updates

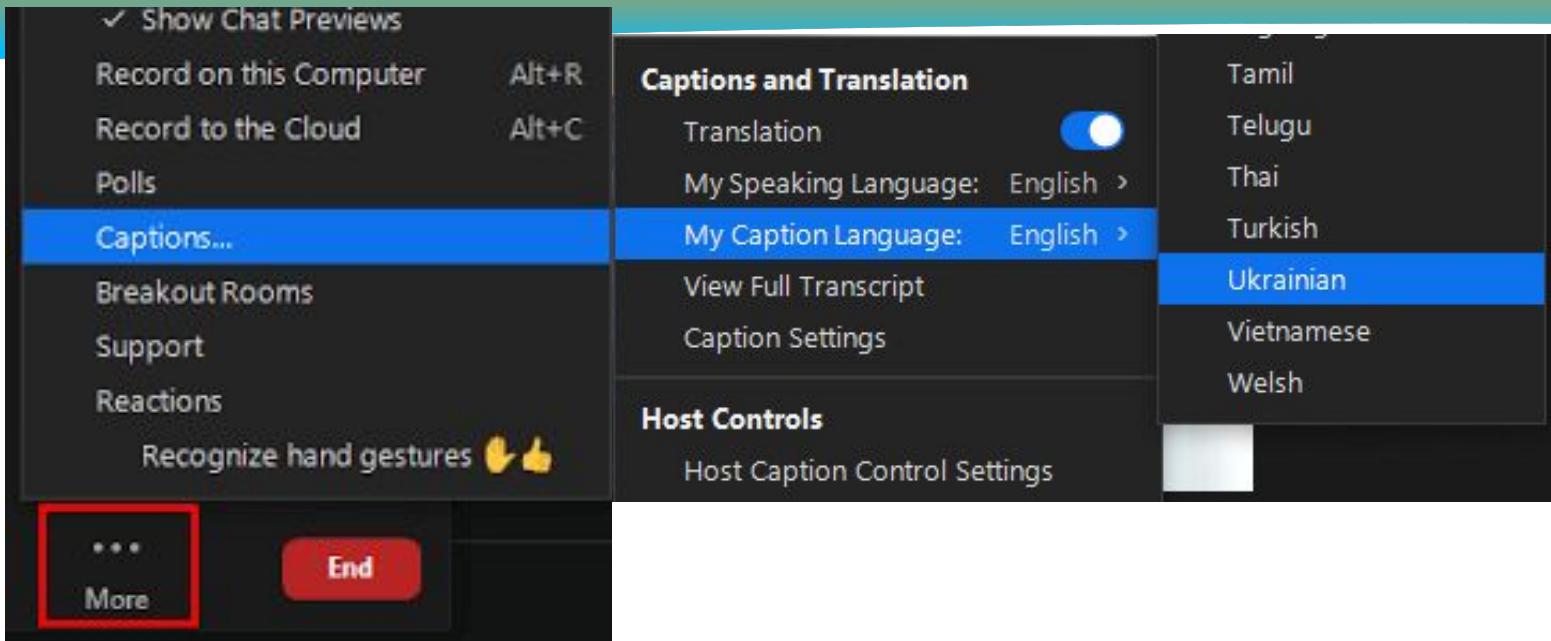
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- This webinar covers recent immigration related updates. We'll be sharing these in English from 5:00 - 5:45 p.m., and then the same updates in Spanish from 5:45-6:30 p.m.
  - *Este webinar estará proporcionando información sobre las más recientes actualizaciones migratorias. Estaremos impartiendo el webinar en inglés de 5:00 p.m. a 5:45 p.m. y después en español con las mismas actualizaciones de 5:45 p.m. a 6:30 p.m.*
- Please ask questions in the Q&A at any time. We will do our best to answer them by replying to them in the Q&A tab.
  - *Por favor hagan preguntas en el Q&A en cualquier momento. Haremos todo lo posible para responderlas en el Q&A de zoom.*
- This presentation will be recorded and available in English and Spanish at [nwirp.org/webinars](http://nwirp.org/webinars)
  - *Esta presentación será grabada y estará disponible en inglés y español en [nwirp.org/webinars](http://nwirp.org/webinars).*

# During English presentation: Access translated captions



- If you need a language other than English, auto-translated captions are available.
- To access, click “...more” button at the bottom of your zoom > *captions* > toggle on *translation* > then select which language you need.

# Take a deep breath...

We want to pause and recognize that our communities are undergoing assaults. During this presentation, we will cover difficult content.

We want our communities to be prepared with information, and we also acknowledge how heavy and unjust this is.

Let's take a deep breath and get started.

# Parameters

**Please visit our website for more information  
on our services across WA: [www.nwirp.org](http://www.nwirp.org)**

**\*\*\*Today's information is intended for educational purposes only\*\*\***

- Individuals with immigration questions should seek the advice and counsel of a reputable and experienced immigration attorney
- The information provided today is only guaranteed to be updated through today (January 27, 2026)
- To stay on top of immigration law updates, please go to:
  - Immigration Policy Tracking Project:
    - [immpolicytracking.org](http://immpolicytracking.org)
  - Litigation Tracker:
    - [justsecurity.org/107087/tracker-litigation-legal-challenges-trump-administration](http://justsecurity.org/107087/tracker-litigation-legal-challenges-trump-administration)
- Please also join NWIRP's mailing list: [www.nwirp.org/join/mailing-list](http://www.nwirp.org/join/mailing-list)

# Today's Presentation: What We Will Cover

- Enforcement Escalation
- Data Sharing
- Travel Bans and Indefinite Suspension of Immigrant Visa Issuance
- Attacks on Federal Programs and Somali Community
- Family Reunification Parole Program
- Temporary Protected Status
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Classification -Deferred Action Litigation
- Employment Authorization Validity Periods
- Asylum Fees
- Public Charge
- HUD-funded Housing Update
- Other Miscellaneous USCIS Updates
- Asylum Cooperative Agreements (ACAs)
- Preventing *Notario* and other Fraud
- Large Scale Enforcement Action Response Collaboration
- What Can You Do?

# Enforcement Escalation

- May 2025
  - ICE's Acting Director issued a [memo](#) directing ICE agents to enter homes and arrest noncitizens with final deportation orders using only administrative warrants (signed by an agency) in lieu of a judicial warrant (signed by a judge)
  - Used to train federal agents enforcing civil immigration law
- This is contrary to the U.S. constitution and Supreme Court precedent, specifically in violation of the Fourth Amendment which is the right to unreasonable search and seizure.
  - Highest expectation of privacy in your home; entry into a private residence requires a judicial warrant or consent
- **Important: Know Your Rights – you are still legally permitted to refuse entry to your home/ restricted areas unless they have a judicial warrant signed by a judge**

# Data-Sharing with Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

## Transportation Security Administration (TSA)

- TSA is sharing airline passenger information with ICE

## Medicaid Data

- ICE can use Medicaid data gathered by states for immigration enforcement
- Citizenship, immigration status, address, phone number, date of birth, and Medicaid ID

## Driver Data

- Federal agencies used data from automatic license plate readers in Washington to conduct immigration enforcement (Oct. 2025 [report](#))
- Federal agencies used data from Washington Dept. of Licensing to arrest people while driving using their vehicle registration/license plate number (Jan. 2026 [report](#))

*Remember: If DHS already knows your address, applying for health benefits or registering your vehicle does not increase your risk of detention or deportation*

# Travel Bans - Pause in Immigration Relief Adjudications

- Pause on immigration benefits for nationals subject to travel bans (39 countries)
  - USCIS has reportedly applied the pause to individuals from countries on the June travel ban and now expanded travel ban in Dec. 2025
- Change in exceptions - no more exception for immediate family members or Afghan SIV

## Full Ban Countries (19):

Afghanistan	Iran	Somalia
Burkina Faso	Laos	South Sudan
Burma (Myanmar)	Libya	Sudan
Chad	Mali	Syria
Equatorial Guinea	Niger	Yemen
Eritrea	Republic of the Congo	
Haiti	Sierra Leone	

\*Plus, individuals using travel documents issued or endorsed by the Palestinian Authority are subject to full suspension.

## Partial Ban Countries (20):

Angola	Mauritania
Antigua and Barbuda	Nigeria
Benin	Senegal
Burundi	Tanzania
Cote d 'Ivoire	Togo
Cuba	Tonga
Dominica	Turkmenistan
Gabon	Venezuela
The Gambia	Zambia
Malawi	Zimbabwe

# Department of State - Pause on Issuance of Immigrant Visas

- Effective Jan. 21, 2026 - Pause issuing immigrant visas to 75 countries (Department of State)
- The pause does NOT impact processing of non-immigrant visas (e.g. tourist visas, student visas)--but see countries listed in two travel bans
- Immigrants with dual nationality with valid passport of country not listed are exempt
- Approved immigrant visas are not impacted
- For full list of countries visit:  
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/visas-news/immigrant-visa-processing-updates-for-nationalities-at-high-risk-of-public-benefits-usage.html>

# Attacks on Federal Programs and Somali Community

- Frozen funds through the Child Care and Development Fund, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and Social Services Block Grant in California, Colorado, Illinois, Minnesota, and New York. The affected states have won an initial injunction
  - Still, local impact in private actors harassing community members
- Implemented a Defend the Spend process for all states for accessing already appropriated resources from the Child Care and Development Fund
- Separately frozen tens of millions of dollars in U.S. Department of Agriculture programs for Minnesota
- Launched an effort to subject refugees in Minnesota to invasive re-verifications
- Deployed hundreds more immigration agents to Minnesota to continue violent immigration enforcement actions, including targeting refugees for arrest and detention

Fact Sheet: Oppose Racist and Anti-Immigrant Attacks on Somali Communities and Federal Programs

# Family Reunification Parole (FRP) Process

- *Doe v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-10495 (D. Mass)
  - Preliminary Injunction entered on 01/25/2026 extending temporary block to termination of the Family Reunification Parole Program for citizens of:
    - Columbia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, and Honduras
  - Judge said DHS acted in an “arbitrary and capricious” manner
  - Parole status was set to be revoked on January 14, 2026
  - People with status under FRP will maintain their status for the time being

# Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

- TPS for Ethiopia ending on Feb. 13, 2026
- TPS for Somalia ending on Mar. 17, 2026
- Immigrants won court victories temporarily stopping the government from ending TPS for Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, South Sudan, and Syria
- Venezuelan TPS
  - Venezuelans who registered for TPS in 2023 or re-registered in 2025 are protected through Oct. 2, 2026 due to a December court decision
  - Recommendation: register as a member of the National TPS Alliance - can provide additional protection if detained: [nationaltpsalliance.org](http://nationaltpsalliance.org)

**Reminder: people with TPS cannot be removed or detained while their TPS status is valid**

# Special Immigrant Juvenile Classification - Deferred Action

- *A.C.R. et al. v. Noem et al.* (E.D.N.Y.) - challenging the rescission of the 2022 policy under which each person approved for Special Immigrant Juvenile classification was considered for deferred action (DA) and if granted DA, eligible for a work permit
  - In Nov. 2025, court issued a [preliminary injunction](#) restoring the 2022 policy
- In Dec. 2025, Plaintiffs moved for clarification about how the policy would take effect, Court [denied the motion](#) to reconsider, stating that its stay order does NOT require USCIS to “treat SIJ status as a ‘strong factor that weighs heavily in favor of granting deferred action.’”
  - The sole exception is for persons whose SIJ petitions were approved after April 6, 2025, and before June 6, 2025—the date USCIS publicly announced the rescission of the SIJ Deferred Action Policy

# Employment Authorization Document (EAD) Validity Periods

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- Maximum validity of work authorization (EADs) shortened from five years to 18 months for certain categories:
  - **Adjustment of Status Applicants (C09):** Applicants with pending I-485 applications
  - **Asylum Applicants & Related Categories (C08, A03, A05):** Pending asylum and refugee applicants, and those granted withholding of removal
  - **Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Holders (A12, C19):** Unless a Federal Register notice extends their designation and work authorization
  - **Dependent H-4 Spouses: H-4 (C26)** even with an unexpired I-94
  - **VAWA Self-Petitioners (C31):** Approved self-petitioners and their children

# Asylum Fee Updates

- Some immigration judges are starting to require the \$102 annual asylum fee in immigration court even though a federal judge paused the fee in a lawsuit (Oct. 2025 preliminary injunction in *ASAP v. USCIS*)
- If you receive an annual asylum fee notice from the immigration court, you can pay online by the deadline, and save a copy of your receipt
- Even if you have not received a notice, you can still choose to pay the fee now if you are able to, as long as your asylum application has been pending for more than 1 year
- **USCIS is currently not requiring anyone to pay the fee**

Follow for more information: <https://asaptogether.org/en/new-fees/#annual-fee> (last updated Jan. 13, 2026)

# Public Charge - Naturalization Applications

- No change to Public Charge Rule - totality test applies when seeking admission and focuses on long-term institutionalization or primary dependence on government cash assistance
- But...advocates in New York are reporting that DHS is using a “public charge” ground to deny naturalization applications and put people into deportation proceedings. Have not seen this happen in WA
  - This is unlawful as there is no public charge requirement for naturalization eligibility (not a new admission) and the deportability ground is very specific
- Reminder: Proposed public charge rule (Nov. 2025) - aims to expand criteria, but not yet final
  - Officers under the new rule will now consider factors such as applicant’s age, profession, education, and health conditions
  - Consular processing: U.S. consulates and embassies are already considering these additional factors

# HUD Orders Immediate Citizenship-verification for Tenants in HUD-funded Housing

- Jan. 2026 - HUD instructs public-housing authorities (PHAs) and owners participating in HUD-funded housing to "verify the immigration eligibility of all HUD-assisted households" within **30 days** "and initiate corrective actions," or face sanctions
  - Public-housing officials are required to use HUD's new income verification report, which cross-references HUD data with USCIS database and "includes a list of individuals whose citizenship or eligible immigration status needs to be confirmed by the PHA."

*Join NWIRP, NJP, and WSCADV on **March 10th** for a webinar on housing rights and policy updates impacting immigrant communities and survivors of violence.*

Register here:

[https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Lor8b2PBQia3TzqG-wkm7Q#/registration](https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Lor8b2PBQia3TzqG-wkm7Q#/registration)

# Other Miscellaneous USCIS Updates

- USCIS reviewing prior grants of lawful permanent residence and rescinding status in cases it deems where erroneously approved
- Due to increases in VAWA, U, and T filings, and alleged concerns over fraud, USCIS is limiting confidentiality provisions of 8 USC 1367, and allowing consideration from “prohibited sources” in certain circumstances
- USCIS New Photo Policy
  - USCIS will no longer use self-submitted photographs
  - USCIS may only reuse previously collected biometrics services photographs if at the time of filing, no more than 36 months have passed since the photograph was taken
  - USCIS has discretion to require a new photograph

# Other USCIS Updates - continued

- Filing fee increases, including H.R. 1 inflationary-adjusted fees went into effect on Jan. 1, 2026
  - *But see [ASAP v. USCIS litigation](#)* - preliminary injunction
- USCIS no longer accepts payments made by check, money order, or cashier's check for forms filed by paper unless you qualify for an exemption
  - Exemptions can be requested if:
    - You do not have access to banking services or electronic payment systems
    - Electronic disbursement would cause you undue hardship (per 31 C.F.R. 208)

# Asylum Cooperative Agreements (ACAs)

- ACA bars a person from applying for asylum if they entered on or after Nov. 19, 2019 through the Southern border
  - USCIS sends a notice that it intends to dismiss an application, or DHS notifies the court that it intends to remove the person to an ACA country
    - Must be provided with an opportunity to argue they will be subject to persecution based on a protected ground in the ACA country
    - Must be provided with an opportunity to argue why ACA does not apply to them
- Current ACAs:
  - Dominica (effective January 1, 2026)
  - Antigua and Barbuda (effective January 1, 2026)
  - Honduras
  - Guatemala
  - Belize (Signed Oct. 2025, not in effect, pending ratification by Belize senate and publication in Federal Register)
  - Ecuador
  - Paraguay

# Preventing *Notario* and other Fraud

- Only licensed attorneys or fully Dept. of Justice (DOJ) Accredited Representatives can represent you in immigration court, can provide legal services, and can give legal advice
  - Check credentials: Practicing attorneys have a State-issued bar license; DOJ Accredited Reps. can be searched here: [DOJ Accredited Representatives Roster](#)
- Do not sign documents that are blank, that you do not understand, or that have false information
- Do not pay money without understanding the process and obtaining a receipt and a copy of your retainer
- Do get copies of all applications or other documents prepared for you or filed on your behalf
- If the advice seems too good to be true, get a second opinion

# Large-Scale Enforcement Action Response Collaboration

- **WAISN Hotline at 1-844-724-3737 and other local hotlines receive reports of potential ICE raids**
  - Plan: Hotline staff receive reports of a potential large scale raid and immediately communicate with NWIRP staff, including via [\\*\\*largescaleraid@nwirp.org\\*\\*](mailto:largescaleraid@nwirp.org) to determine potential raid location (before large-scale is confirmed)  
\*\*organizational partners can communicate directly with NWIRP\*\*
- **Rapid Response Teams**
  - Trained rapid responders gather initial information, usually connected via local hotlines to verify that a large-scale raid (immigration enforcement action) is actively happening
- **NWIRP Legal Response Team (Staff and Volunteer Attorneys)**
  - NWIRP staff and volunteers are mobilized once large-scale raid is confirmed
  - Once on-site, provide legal assistance and information
  - NWIRP attorneys work with detained community; **free** immigration legal services

# Preventing *Notario* and other Fraud - continued

- Be alert to digital scams
  - Be skeptical of social media posts promising new or rapid immigration relief
  - There is no communication from the government via WhatsApp or social media
  - Generally, there is no communication by phone—with limited exceptions
  - Avoid sharing unverified information on social media
- Do report *notario* fraud or other scams to the Attorney General's Office
  - Victims may file a complaint online at [www.atg.wa.gov](http://www.atg.wa.gov) or call 1-800-551-4636 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays. Written complaints can be filed in Spanish at [www.atg.wa.gov/en-espanol](http://www.atg.wa.gov/en-espanol)

# What can I do? - For Impacted Community

- Print a “know your rights” flyer to have at your home and/or workplace (<https://nwirp.org/resources/kyr/>)
- Create a safety plan with your family ([lcycwa.org](https://lcycwa.org))
- Create a sample defense plan, in addition to a family safety plan
  - See this resource specific to Colorado as an example:
    - [https://coloradoimmigrant.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Family-Preparedness-Packet-2025-ENG\\_SPA.pdf](https://coloradoimmigrant.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Family-Preparedness-Packet-2025-ENG_SPA.pdf)
- Join community based groups to support each other (e.g. [Mijente](#), [Undocublack Network](#), [My Undocumented Life](#), [United We Dream](#), [NAKASEC](#) and others)

# What can you do? - For Allies and Advocates

- Stay calm and informed
- Listen to and respect community needs
- Know your legal rights
- Offer to help immigrant community members that you know - be humble, ask what they need, let them lead the conversation.
  - Example: help them fill out a family safety plan ([lcycwa.org](http://lcycwa.org))
- During an active enforcement action, document carefully
- Discuss with your workplace how to keep safe from ICE (search [nilc.org](http://nilc.org) for guides)
- Share resources and stay connected
  - Order/print Red Cards to have at your workplace, to share at businesses you frequent so they can make available to their customers ([ilrc.org/red-cards-tarjetas-rojas](http://ilrc.org/red-cards-tarjetas-rojas))
  - Learn about and join efforts of existing community members for accompaniment ([waisn.org](http://waisn.org), [JCIJ NW](http://JCIJ NW), [The Church Council of Greater Seattle](http://The Church Council of Greater Seattle)), or other ways to directly help ([AIDNW.org](http://AIDNW.org), [fairfightbondfund.org](http://fairfightbondfund.org), [NDLON Adopt a Day Labor Corner](http://NDLON Adopt a Day Labor Corner))

# What can you do? - For Everyone

- Contact congressional senators and representatives
  - U.S. Capitol Switchboard **202-224-3121**
  - Sample Script:
    - “Hi, my name is (NAME), and I’m a constituent from (CITY). ICE has taken the lives of our neighbors in Minneapolis and is instilling fear in communities across the country. As our elected representatives, you are here to protect us, not fund this violence. Please block future ICE and CBP funding now. Thank you.”
- Contact state legislators
  - In Washington state:
    - From the [Legislators page](#), select a member to view their contact information and use our member email form to send them a message.
- Legislative advocacy - important to follow bills that would support and oppose bills that would harm our communities

# LCYC Family Safety Plan - Virtual Appointments

- **Legal Counsel for Youth and Children (LCYC)**
  - Immigrant Safety Plan
    - If you live, work, or study in Seattle, LCYC offers one-on-one appointments to fill out the safety plan: <https://lcycwa.org/isp>

## IMMIGRANT SAFETY PLAN



# Next NWIRP Webinar

- Tuesday, February 24, 12:00 – 1:30pm

Watch recorded webinars here:

[nwirp.org/webinars/](http://nwirp.org/webinars/)

# Thank you!