

Federal

DACA

On July 16, 2021, Texas Federal Judge Order stated the DACA program is illegal and canceled the 2012 DACA memo:

- USCIS can no longer process or approve NEW DACA applications, but can still accept applications and will not give refunds
- For the time being, does not affect current DACA recipients, as long as Biden Administration follows proper federal rulemaking process
- Biden Administration stated they will appeal this decision

Immigration in Budget Reconciliation

On August 9, 2021, Senate Democrats revealed that permanent residency is included in their \$3.5T budget resolution framework for qualified immigrants. Only a simple majority is needed to pass the budget (50 senators + Vice-President). But Senate Parliamentarian has last say on what can and cannot be included in the budget.

<https://www.democrats.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Topline%20Summary%20of%20FY2022%20Budget%20Resolution.pdf?emci=c88d11c4-31f9-eb11-b563-501ac57b8fa7&emdi=43951276-34f9-eb11-b563-501ac57b8fa7&ceid=5966908>

State

Governor Pritzker Signed Multiple Immigration-Related Bills

Illinois Way Forward Act, which prohibits local police from collaborating with ICE on civil immigration enforcement, prevents local law enforcement from investigating or inquiring the immigration status or place of birth of an individual in custody or who has been stopped by law enforcement, and ends ICE contracts with local prisons (end existing contracts by Jan 1, 2022).

SB 1596, which clarifies existing law to recognize crimes motivated by anti-immigrant bias. This bill allows crimes motivated by a person's actual or perceived immigration and citizenship status to be prosecuted.

Reinstated the Illinois Immigrant Impact Task Force (SB 2665). This bill establishes a 27-member task force to examine specific issues related to the immigrant community in the state and report findings by May 2022.

HB 121 which protects all authorized workers from employment discrimination. This bill protects all people with federal work authorization from employment discrimination, including DACA recipients and TPS holders.

Executive order creating the Welcoming Illinois Office, led by the Senior Immigration Fellow. The Office will work to coordinate, develop and implement policies and practices to make Illinois a more welcoming and equitable state for immigrants and refugees

Welcoming Centers Rental & Utility Assistance

The Illinois Welcoming Centers and partner organizations are distributing rental & utility assistance for immigrant families.

Assistance can be provided for past 12 months of rental and/or utility bills. Rent and/or utilities can be paid back to March 13, 2020. Also, can receive 3 future months of rent, if needed for housing stability.

Requirements for the program:

1. Illinois residency.
2. Financial hardship due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
3. Recipients cannot exceed 80% AMI. Priority will be given to applicants with household income below 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI).
4. Cannot already have received housing and utility assistance for the **same time period** from any City, State or County program stemming from the CARES Act or the American Rescue Plan Act. This includes state funding from the Illinois Housing and Development Authority (IHDA) programs: Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA) and the Illinois Rental Payment Program (IRRP). This also includes City of Chicago funding from the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Grants and the Rental Assistance Program (RAP). Also includes the Cook County COVID-19 Recovery Grants and Cook County Emergency Rental and Utility Assistance program.

For a full list of participating organizations, please view attached images and PDF or visit: <https://www.latinopolicyforum.org/resources/documents/body/Welcoming-Centers - RentalUtility-Assistance-Orgs-08.06.21.pdf>

IDHS & ICIRR COVID-19 Immigrant Family Support Project

In partnership with the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) is extending the Immigrant Family Support Project which provides \$2,000 cash assistance to immigrants who:

- Have lived in Illinois for at least 6 months
- Make below 200% of the federal poverty line
- Are not eligible for any public benefits, including:
 - Federal Economic Impact Payments established to alleviate the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic
 - Unemployment insurance
 - Social Security
 - Supplemental Security Income

- TANF/WIC/SNAP, or any other public assistance

For more information on the Family Support Project including how to apply, please visit: <https://www.icirr.org/covid1>