

Latino Policy Forum Immigration Federal and State Updates

1. The COVID-19 Financial Assistance Recovery Program is now open through participating Welcoming Centers. Illinois families who were ineligible for *at least one* federal stimulus check (also known as economic impact payments) due to immigration status can apply to receive up to \$2,000/adult and \$500/child. Please contact the Welcoming Center directly for availability and the application process. See list [here](#).

Eligibility

- **Must be an Illinois resident for 3 months**
 - **Provide proof of identity for all customers applying for the program**
 - **Proof of address**
 - **Proof of income**
 - **Households not eligible for one or more Economic Impact Payments (EIP) from IRS in 2020 and/or 2021 due to immigration status.**
 - **Recipients cannot exceed 80% (AMI) Area Median Income Calculator.**
 - **Priority will be given to applicants with household income below 50% of the AMI.**
 - **Priority will be given to applicants who have not received any form of direct cash assistance from state funded financial assistance programs such as the COVID-19 Family Support Project administered by ICIRR.**
2. The Biden Administration published an NPRM for a proposed public charge rule. The comment period was open from February 24, 2022 until April 25, 2022. Protecting Immigrant Families Illinois (PIF-IL) submitted a sign-on comment to the federal register in response to the Biden Administration's NPRM proposed public charge rule. Thank you to the 76 organizations who signed on! See comment [here](#). For more information on what is currently in place in regards to the public charge and more resources, please visit www.protectingimmigrantfamiliesillinois.org
 3. The Illinois Department of Human Services has released a NOFO for immigrant legal aid and immigration pro bono services, in order to increase the number of immigrants receiving quality immigration legal services. The NOFO will support the hiring of license immigration attorneys, support staff, case management staff, and/or creation or maintenance of Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys networks and

more. **The application is due by May 12, 2022 at 12 pm. To learn more, [click here!](#)**

4. Immigration attorneys in the Cook County Public Defender's Immigration Unit are starting to represent individuals at the Chicago Immigration Court for free! To see if you or someone you know qualifies for this free service, please contact the immigration unit by email (pdimmigrationunit@cookcountyil.gov) or phone (312-603-0636) Wednesdays between 9am-11am. **See English and Spanish Flyers [here](#) for more information and eligibility requirements!**
5. This legislative session, legislators passed a bill to permanently expand the State's Earned Income Credit (EIC) to include ITIN filers (individuals who do not have a SSN but file taxes), among other newly eligible individuals. ITIN filers should also be included in the rebate checks that legislators passed this fall, \$50/adult, \$100/child.
6. State legislators also passed a bill to expand the healthcare coverage for immigrants to include low-income immigrants who are 42 years to 54 years old. This expansion is expected to take effect on July 3, 2022. **See flyer attached** with more information on how eligible immigrants who are 55 and older can apply for the current program.
7. The Latino Policy Forum recently published an Immigrant Tenant Handbook, in English and Spanish, that provides an overview of the different laws and policies that offer protections for tenants, provides a resource list of organizations that offer free or low-cost services regardless of immigration status, and an appendix with useful templates and sample letters. See here: <https://www.latinopolicyforum.org/publications/housing-rights-for-immigrant-tenants>