



NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Social Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 8, 2015

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\$15 Million in Funding Now Available for Immigration Services

SACRAMENTO-The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) today announced the availability of \$15 million for Immigration Services funding for qualified nonprofit organizations. This funding is included in the state budget approved earlier this year by the Legislature and signed by Governor Brown.

The funding will be issued in the form of contracts or grants to non-profit organizations to provide application assistance for naturalization or to undocumented immigrants for deferred action, and to support immigration-related education and outreach efforts.

“Immigrants come to our state with the hopes of building a positive future for themselves and their families,” says CDSS Director Will Lightbourne. “In California, that process starts with ensuring they are educated on and properly represented in the immigration process.”

The Request for Application (RFA) process is now open for Fiscal Year 2015-16 and will focus on services to immigrants who reside in California. The purpose of the funding will be to help immigrants gain access to immigration remedies and naturalization. These efforts will involve a multi-pronged approach that will include direct legal services for immigrants, technical assistance for nonprofit direct service providers, and outreach and education to immigrant communities.

“Today, California is once again leading the way with significant and meaningful investments towards improving the lives of immigrants throughout the state,” said Latino Legislative Caucus Chairman Assemblymember Luis Alejo (D - Salinas). “The California Latino Legislative Caucus has a rich history of standing with California’s immigrant community, and today’s application release for the Immigrant Services Funding Program reflects our commitment to helping those in our state achieve the American dream, Citizenship.”

The CDSS will request applications to provide services under one or more of the following five (5) service categories: (1) Services to Assist Applicants seeking Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or other immigration remedies; (2) Services to Assist Applicants seeking Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) or other immigration remedies; (3) Services to Assist Applicants seeking Naturalization; (4) Legal Training and Technical Assistance Services; and (5) Education and Outreach Activities.

"When our immigrant communities come out of the shadows, California becomes economically empowered," said Asian and Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus Policy Chair Assemblymember David Chiu (D - San Francisco). "However, our Asian American immigrants experience serious challenges navigating our broken immigration system and don't apply for deferred action programs at the same rate as other immigrant communities. This funding is a critical investment in the organizations that serve our diverse communities, and we encourage all eligible organizations to apply."

Qualified non-profit organizations are encouraged to apply. The deadline for applications is October 30, 2015.

To obtain more information about the RFA, please send an email to ImmigrationServices@dss.ca.gov.

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