

CIMH Policy Workgroup Updates: 10/2/20 General Meeting

Thanks to Access Living for sending the letter for organizations to sign regarding the Non-Consensual Hysterectomies in ICE Detention. Rebecca Ford-Paz signed the letter on behalf of CIMH.

Federal Level

Census: [On Sept 28th Census response was extended](#) to October 5, 2020: This further extension is still be contested in court. Yesterday the 9th circuit court denied a preliminary injunction in place that had blocked the Census from ending on September 30. Still not sure if the government will now maintain the COVID-19 Census end-date originally in place of October 31 (See [here](#)).

USCIS Updates: There is a USCIS backlog of processing of green cards due to decreased staffing. This affects refugee work authorization renewals as well; they are advised to pay fee for work authorization even if green card approval is delayed.

- A federal judge temporarily halted the increased filing fee scheduled to go into effect Oct 2.
- [UCSIS Temporary Final Rule](#) modifying interpretation services during Covid-19
- Proposed Rule Change published Oct 2 similar in spirit to the DHS public charge rule, but this is related to the person sponsoring an intending immigrant (sponsors will need to provide credit scores, 36-month window regarding public benefit receipt by the sponsor).

Refugee Resettlement (Aimee): Congress approved funding to remain at current level, which is guaranteed to be 70-80% of current FY20 funding. FY21 ceiling announced Sept 30th at 15,000 which is the lowest number on record.

- Continued arrivals in FY20 in Chicago from Ukraine, Moldova, Congo, CAR, Rohingya from Myanmar; few cases from Pakistan and Guatemala. There is not a large number of UACs arriving to shelters in IL. As of mid-Sept, there was a group of 15 set to arrive that will need to quarantine for 15 days before being assigned to age-appropriate shelters.
- Usually there is a push during last FY quarter, but this is not the case due to a backlog of arrivals created by lack of people available on the ground to conduct interviews prior to travel. We anticipate 1st quarter in FY21 to continue with backlog, leading to low numbers of arrivals.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS): On Sept 14 the 9th U.S. Circuit Court lifted the injunction that temporarily blocked terminations for El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti, and Sudan. UCSIS must respond with plan to move forward with termination and must announce termination. January 4, 2021 expiration for work permits and status will stand, and the earliest they could announce another termination date is March 2021.

Stay tuned...

- No updates on asylum rule change public comment review period.
- USDA rule on rural housing has not yet posted but we will send information via Listserv when it does. This is expected to be similar to previous HUD rule that impacts mixed status families.
- Federal Rule Making and Regulatory Process 2-pager to come

Local Level

- Beginning in October, IDHS Welcoming Centers will provide housing and utilities assistance for immigrant, refugee, and LEP families experiencing Covid-19 hardship
- Rep Jesus "Chuy" Garcia to support Cook County Public Defender's Office to provide legal representation. [Defenders for All Campaign](#)