



## **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Information and Resources for Immigrant Communities in the Central Valley**

(updated March 31, 2020)



California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (CRLAF) and the Sacramento Family Unity, Education, and Legal (FUEL) Network for Immigrants are committed to supporting and serving immigrants during the 2019-2020 Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We have compiled here critical information and resources to help immigrant communities navigate this challenging time.

We will continue updating this document throughout the pandemic as much of this information is rapidly changing on a daily basis. Please visit <https://crlaf.org/coronavirus> for the most updated electronic version of this document with clickable links. To learn more about the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is, you can watch [this video](#) by the World Health Organization.

### **Immigration Court Hearings**

All non-detained hearings scheduled through May 1, 2020, have been [postponed](#).

EOIR has created a [website](#) dedicated to immigration court updates.

- [Sacramento Immigration Court](#): Currently open to accept filings, all hearings have been postponed.
- [San Francisco Non-Detained Immigration Court](#): Currently open to accept filings, all hearings have been postponed.
- [San Francisco Detained Immigration Court](#): Hearings are moving forward as scheduled.

If your hearing has been postponed, the Immigration Court will mail you a new hearing notice. It is therefore extremely important to make sure the court has your current address. Please note that providing ICE or ISAP with your new address is not sufficient; you must also update your address with the court using [Form EOIR-33](#).

### **Important Numbers:**

- Sacramento Immigration Court: (916) 447-9301
- San Francisco Immigration Court: (415) 705-4415
- EOIR automated hotline: 1 (800) 898-7180. Enter your "A" number and a recording will provide you with information about your case.

### **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)**

All USCIS field offices, asylum offices, and Application Support Centers (ASCs) will not provide in-person services (including interviews, naturalization ceremonies, and biometric collection appointments) until at least April 1. USCIS will continue to provide emergency services during this time. Emergency service requests can be made [here](#).

USCIS field offices will send de-scheduling notices to applicants and petitioners with scheduled appointments impacted by the closure. All applicants will be rescheduled when USCIS resumes normal operations. Please make sure USCIS has your current address; if your address has changed, you are required to update USCIS using [Form AR-11](#), which can be submitted online.

## **ICE / ISAP Check-Ins**

ISAP Officers should call to inform you that in-person check-ins are cancelled until further notice. If you have not yet been contacted, please call your ISAP officer for more information.

## **Immigration Enforcement Activity and Rapid Response Hotlines**

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has released a [statement](#) describing its intention to “not carry out enforcement operations at or near health care facilities, such as hospitals, doctors' offices, accredited health clinics, and emergent or urgent care facilities, except in the most extraordinary of circumstances.” The statement also says that “Individuals should not avoid seeking medical care because they fear civil immigration enforcement.”

### **Sacramento Rapid Response Network** (Placer, Sacramento, and Yolo Counties)

- Hotline number: **(916) 245-6773**
- Please only call if 1) you are witnessing active ICE enforcement activity or 2) are seeking legal assistance for an individual apprehended within the last 12 hours
- Other resources: <https://www.sacfuelnetwork.org/sacramento-rapid-response-network>

### **Valley Watch Rapid Response Network** (Fresno, Kern, Merced, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus Counties)

- Hotline number: **(559) 206-0151**
- If you have an ICE check in, see an ICE raid, militarized policing, racial attacks, threats to religious minorities, or anything that threatens families, please call.

**For other immigration updates**, [CLINIC](#) has been tracking and reporting changes in government policies that affect immigration services in agencies and the immigration courts.

## **Testing for COVID-19 and Healthcare Access**

- **Testing:** Everyone, regardless of immigration status, is eligible for testing and treatment of communicable diseases, including coronavirus.
  - COVID-19 testing is [entirely free](#) for anyone, regardless of health care coverage status or immigration status.
- **Vaccine:** At this point there is not a vaccine for COVID-19.
- **Public Charge:** COVID-19 testing and treatment is not considered a negative factor in the public charge analysis. See USCIS' statement [here](#).
- **Health Care Coverage and Access:** If you are enrolled in a health plan, it is important that you and your family get the care you need! If you are not insured and need medical care, you have other options.
  - See if you qualify for [Medi-Cal](#) (California's public health insurance program) or a subsidized plan on [Covered California](#).
    - Medi-Cal re-eligibility determinations have been [waived](#) through June 17.
    - To learn more about enrolling in Medi-Cal, read more [here](#).
  - Look for a public hospital or community health clinic near you with free or low cost health care services (you can search [at this website](#) for a center near you).
    - All uninsured patients can be seen at federally-qualified health centers (FQHCs) regardless of immigration status or ability to pay. FQHCs can

provide screening for program eligibility, and those not eligible for any program can still be seen through their sliding scale fee program.

- To learn more about your health care coverage options, look [here](#).

For more information on your legal health rights, see: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Information](#) by the Health Consumer Alliance, [Protect Your Health](#) by the Protecting Immigrant Families, and [Access to Health Care for Immigrants](#) by National Immigration Law Center

### **Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act - Checks for Taxpayers**

- Under the new legislation, passed on Friday, March 27, many families will receive financial assistance.
  - Adults individuals will receive \$1,200,
  - Married couples who file income taxes jointly will receive \$2,400, and
  - Children will receive \$500.
  - The amounts of financial assistance will be reduced for those making more than certain levels of income. Reductions will start for: individuals making more than \$75,000, heads of household making more than \$112,500, and married couples making more than \$150,000.
- Do I have to file taxes to receive the check?
  - For those who haven't filed a tax return in 2018 or 2019, the IRS can look at income information in Social Security benefit and Railroad Retirement benefit statements to determine eligibility. Otherwise, you may have to file taxes to receive the benefit.
- Do immigrants qualify for the financial assistance?
  - Immigrants with valid Social Security numbers and people who qualify as "resident aliens" will receive the checks.
    - ["Resident aliens"](#) are people who have green cards or people who can prove that they have been physically present in the United States long enough to establish "substantial presence," as per U.S. tax law.
    - Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders should be able to qualify for the money because they are issued Social Security numbers.
  - ITIN (Individual Taxpayer Identification Number) users do not qualify.
  - Mixed-Status Households: If anyone in the family (tax filers and their children) uses an ITIN rather than a Social Security number, or does not have a SSN, the family does not qualify for the relief payment. (The only exception would be if one spouse has a Social Security number and at least one spouse served in the military in the last 2019 tax year.)
- As we receive more information, we will update this resource. In the meantime, read [this article](#) for more information.

### **Cash and Food Assistance (Food Banks, CalWORKS, and CalFresh)**

- See if you or your children qualify for [CalWORKS](#), a cash assistance program with other services, or [CalFresh](#), food and nutrition services, so that you can get supplemental assistance during this time.
  - Unfortunately, most undocumented immigrants, TPS recipients, and DACA recipients generally are not eligible for CalFresh or CalWORKS, but there are exceptions.

- Even if you don't qualify due to your immigration status, your children may qualify if they are US citizens or have lawful status. These benefits could help your family during this time.
- Re-eligibility determinations for those who currently receive CalWORKS and/or CalFresh benefits have been waived through June 17.
- You can find other food resources at: [Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services](#), [Stockton Food Bank](#), or [Central California Food Bank](#)
- You do not have to provide your immigration status if you undocumented and are applying for these benefits for your children or family member.
  - Only the person seeking benefits must provide their citizenship or immigration status. If you are applying on behalf of an eligible family member, such as your child, you only need to share the information for that family member. If you are undocumented and apply for a family member, you should not provide any information about your immigration status. Instead, you can say, "I am not applying for health insurance for myself."

### **Unemployment Insurance**

**For a complete guide to workers' rights and replacement earnings, visit [this guide](#).**

- If your employer has reduced your hours or stopped operations due to coronavirus, you may be able to file an [Unemployment Insurance](#) (UI) claim. You may also be eligible for UI payments if your child's school or daycare is closed and you have to miss work to care for them.
- To be eligible for UI, you must 1) have had work authorization during the time you earned the wages used to establish your claim and 2) still have work authorization each week in which you are claiming benefits. California [allows DACA recipients](#) with unexpired work permits to apply for UI benefits if they meet all other eligibility criteria.
- California has waived the usual one-week unpaid waiting period for people missing work due to coronavirus. You can collect UI payments for the first week you are out of work.

### **Paid Sick Leave**

- If your employer provides paid sick leave, and you cannot work due to having or being exposed to COVID-19, as certified by a medical professional, you can use your accrued [paid sick leave](#) to continue being paid for the time you miss work. You may also be eligible for Disability Insurance (see below).
- Your employer should provide you with the number of paid sick days you have accrued.
- Citizenship and immigration status do not affect eligibility for paid sick leave.

### **California State Disability Insurance (SDI)**

- If you cannot work due to having or being exposed to COVID-19, as certified by a medical professional, you may be able to file a [Disability Insurance](#) (DI) claim.
- Citizenship and immigration status do not affect eligibility for DI.
  - Online and paper applications ask for a Social Security Number (SSN). Undocumented applicants who do not have an SSN can either leave the SSN question blank on a paper application or enter all zeros in the online application.

- California has waived the usual one-week unpaid waiting period for people missing work due to coronavirus. You can collect DI payments for the first week you are out of work.

### **California State Paid Family Leave (PFL)**

- If you cannot work because you are caring for an ill or quarantined family member with COVID-19, as certified by a medical professional, you may be able to file a [Paid Family Leave](#) (PFL) claim.
- Citizenship and immigration status do not affect eligibility for PFL.
  - Online and paper applications ask for a Social Security Number (SSN). Undocumented applicants who do not have an SSN can either leave the SSN question blank on a paper application or enter all zeros in the online application.
- PFL does not have a waiting period for benefits.
- If eligible, you can receive PFL payments for up to 6 weeks.

### **Workers' Compensation**

- If you are unable to do your usual job because you contracted COVID-19 during the regular course of your work, you may be able to file a claim for [workers' compensation](#) benefits such as temporary disability payments or medical treatment.
- Citizenship and immigration status do not affect eligibility for workers' compensation.

### **Protections for Tenants**

- In California, a landlord may not force a tenant to leave the rental unit without written notices and a court order. A three day notice simply starts a process that may well take over a month to finish. Do not believe a landlord who is threatening immediate action.
- The Sacramento City Council has established in Sacramento an emergency temporary moratorium on the eviction of tenants unable to pay rent due to a loss of income caused by the Coronavirus pandemic. For more details, including the specific wage loss reasons that are covered and the dates of the moratorium, please view the [City's FAQ page](#).
- The Fresno City Council has [established](#) in Fresno a one-month moratorium on evictions, with six months to catch up on deferred payments.

### **School Meals**

Even though most K-12 schools have closed, many school districts will continue providing meals Monday through Friday for any child, regardless of free or reduced eligibility or school of attendance. Meals are typically provided in a drive-through format and children must be present in order for meals to be provided. Citizenship and immigration status do not affect eligibility for school meals.

- List of [Shasta County](#) schools offering free school meals.
- List of [Butte County](#) schools offering free school meals.
- List of [Yuba City Unified School District](#) schools offering free school meals.
- List of [Marysville Exempted Village School District](#) schools offering free school meals.
- List of [Sacramento region](#) schools offering free school meals.
- List of [Stockton Unified School District](#) schools offering free school meals.
- List of [Modesto City Schools](#) schools offering free school meals.
- Map of [Merced County](#) schools offering free school meals.
- List of [Fresno area](#) schools offering free school meals.
- If your school district or region is not listed here, please visit the school district website for any announcements or information about school meals during school closures.

## **Public Utilities**

- PG&E has [announced](#) that it will not disconnect services for non-payment.
- SMUD has [announced](#) that it will not disconnect services for non-payment, through March 31.
- The city of Fresno has issued a 30-day [moratorium](#) as of March 16 on shutting off water or garbage services for non-payment due to coronavirus impacts.
- The city of Clovis has suspended water shut-offs for non-payment, until further notice.

## **Census 2020**

Census 2020 is here! In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, it is still crucial to complete the census to make sure your community is accurately counted and receives the resources it needs. Some households are now receiving census forms via postal mail from the Census Bureau containing a unique 12-digit Census ID.

Census participation takes roughly 10 minutes and can easily be completed:

- Online by visiting [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov) (Support in various languages)
- Over the phone by calling 844-330-2020 (Support in various languages)
- Returning by mail the paper questionnaire containing your unique 12-digit Census ID

You can prevent Census Bureau takers and field representatives coming to your door by completing the census via online, phone, or mail as early as possible. The 2020 census will not ask about citizenship or immigration status. The Census Bureau does not share any personally identifiable information with any other agency, including federal immigration authorities. This information is kept confidential under law.

## **Other Resources**

You can find other important public health information and resources at the following county websites (in geographic order): [Shasta County](#), [Tehama County](#), [Butte County](#), [Yuba County](#), [Sutter County](#), [Yolo County](#), [Sacramento County](#), [San Joaquin County](#), [Stanislaus County](#), [Merced County](#), [Madera County](#), [Fresno County](#), [Kings County](#), [Tulare County](#), [Kern County](#)