



**State of Florida
Department of Children and Families**

Rick Scott
Governor

David E. Wilkins
Secretary

**MIAMI-DADE REFUGEE TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES
April 12, 2013**

ATTENDANCE:

Bajic Bojan, Dilme-Bejel Adria, Bustelo Ileana, Erica Perdomo, Marianela Nunez, Steven Koch Lourdes Castenada, Yvette Cohen, Diego Castro, Arlene Diaz, Francisco Figueroa, Ileana Ceberio, Kelly Browne, Kristen Guskovict, Julia Gridley, Mabel Hernandez, Nicola Roxburgh, Yamara Medina, Julio Iglesias, Mark Keen, Guillermo De Nacimiento, Yleinia Galeano, Miriam J. Garcia, Joanie Grillo, Nancy Lledes, Muslima Lewis, L, Guillermo Luna, Yasmine Malbranche David Legrand, Sylvia Lopez, Dorothy Martin, Rose Roberts, Sabine Balmir-Derenoncourt, Marie Guillaume, Rose Roberts Desir, Marie Philogene, Jose Sanchez, Ileana Gonzalez, Claudio Micieli, Marta Pizzaro, Yeen Perez, Melissa Pierre, Rassi Rosa, Darion Smalls, Ana Someillan, Elmer Morales, Michael Davis, Carmen Gimenez, Alvaro Vargas, Edgar Tobon. Lourdes Leconte, Veronica Rodríguez,

INTRODUCTION:

- Lourdes Leconte called the meeting to order.
- Attendees introduced themselves.
- The VOLAGs reports were presented.
- Bertha Cassidy from USCIS, who was accompanied by the USCIS's Deputy District Director announced the following:
 - USCIS has increased the availability of Info-Passes at the Miami Dade Field Office.
 - The CBP is automating the I-94s; will move from paper to electronic issues.
 - The TPS for Honduras and Nicaragua have been extended.
 - USCIS has an initiative to reach out to the Migrant Community. The agency aims to talk to migrants about the "Notarios"/ Public Notaries and about deferred action.
 - USCIS can arrange to have CBP present its intended changes on the I-94s.

PRESENTATIONS:

- Maribel Hernandez from Church World Services presented on serving the LGBT Community. Her informative presentation included:
 - Wide scope of case management concerns relevant to adequately serving the LGBT community.

401 NW 2nd Avenue, Suite N-812 Miami, Florida 33128

Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

- Those concerns included housing discrimination, employment discrimination, and shared housing/roommate arrangements, amongst others.
- Displaying welcoming signage, creating a safe, private space, and creating an inclusive environment were recommended empowering actions.
- Resources shared were:
 - The Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
 - LGBT Community Center
 - American Liberties Union (ACLU)
 - Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD)
 - WWW.gaychurch.org
- Randy McGrorty, from Catholic Charities Legal Services conducted an outreach in support of a broad “Naturalization Outreach” initiative that will take place on 6/22/2013. Randy highlighted the following:
 - True success of our work implies the naturalization and full integration of refugees in the United States.
 - CCLS is a lead organization promoting a “New American Campaign.” The goal of the initiative is to assist 1,000 people obtain their citizenship; presently, 400,000 people are eligible to adjust from LPR to citizenship. The 1,000 people goal is thus a modest number.
 - The effort will require a lot of man power. CCLS is requesting agencies send volunteers who are willing to support the effort with making copies and other duties.
- Muslima Lewis, from the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission presented on equal employment regulations. Her presentation covered the following important subjects:
 - Function of the US EEO’s Outreach and Education unit.
 - Title VII, ADEA, ADA, GENO
 - Geographic scope of the US EEO’s Miami District Office and its satellite office in Tampa and San Juan.
 - The office received 100,000 complaints nationwide, the Miami District office; inclusive of Tampa and San Juan, Puerto Rico received 7,000.
 - These numbers suggest a need for greater outreach.
 - US EEO has a Strategic Enforcement Plan with each District Office having to develop their own as well.
 - Both levels of plans must advance USEEO’s National priorities but the District Offices must also customize their plans to reflect their unique geographic priorities.
 - Collaboration and communication with the broader community (such as through the RS Task Force) helps the USEEO further clarify trends and needs.
 - Ms. Lewis described the process for filing discrimination charges

- Charges must be filed within 300 days from the time of the alleged discriminatory action
- Systematic, persistent discrimination charges are prioritized as the USEEO hopes to maximize benefits to the broadest possible aggrieved groups.
- Out of 100,000 charges filed; only about 200 went into litigation
- Ms. Lewis answered a few questions from some attendees:
 - Title VII does not cover sexual orientation although local laws do explicitly protect it.
 - Discrimination based on criminal records need to be
 - Position related
 - Consistent with the course of business
 - Major cases take multiple years to resolves; the vast majority of the 200 cases being litigated are probably still in progress.
 - Distinction between USEEO or the District EEO Offices and other local agencies that protect Human Rights is that the local agencies are able to take on cases involving smaller business (as measured by the number of employees) whereas EEO (National or Regional) handle cases involving larger employers. In addition, the local agencies tend to have protection for sexual orientation.
 - Additional information on USEEO can be retrieved from EEOC.gov.
 -
- The following subcommittees presented their reports
 - Immigration and Legal Issues
 - Everyone should be alerted of the revision of certain USCIS forms (the N660, for example).
 - USCIS has received many “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival.”
 - Education
 - SAVES enrolled 3,719; 1,849 are new
 - Health
 - Claudio Micieli has accepted a promotion in a private hospital. His agency is seeking to fill the vacancy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 2013 Refugee Services Statewide Consultation
Wednesday May 8th, through Friday May 10th 2013 @ the Portofino Hotel near Universal Studios in Orlando
- 2013 World refugee Day Celebration in Miami will be Friday June 14. In lieu of a task Force meeting, all members and representatives of other organization will join us for an outreach event at the Stephen P. Clark Government Center from 10 AM to 2:30 PM Task Force Schedule

- **Adjournment**
- Meeting was adjourned on time.

REFUGEE SERVICES UPDATE (*Sent via E-Mail in April*)

- Refugee Home Based Child Care RFP and Refugee Microenterprise
- ORR Funding Opportunity Announcement - Refugee Microenterprise Development
- Grant Announcement: Navigators in Federally-Facilitated and State Partnership Exchanges
- HEALTH CENTER ADMINISTRATOR – vacancy . This position is located at the Refugee Health Assessment Program in Miami Dade
- Letter from ORR Director Eskinder Negash ORR Consultation Photo
- World Refugee Day on Wednesday, June 19, 2013 at Broward College - a Family Fun Day! Future Resettlement Populations
- CBP's initiative to automate some I-94 admissions
- Heartland Alliance International Webinar--LGBT Refugees and Asylees: Ensuring Mental Health and Wellness
- ORR Funding Opportunity Announcement - Individual Development Accounts (IDA) Program
- Citizenship and Immigration Related Employability Services Procurement
- Employment opportunity with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami, Inc.

NEXT MEETING: **June 14, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**
Stephen P. Clark Government Center
111 NW 1st Street Lobby Area Miami, FL

VOLAGS REPORT JUNE 2013

SOUTH FLORIDA VOLAG CONSORTIUM

June 6, 2013

MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

Evelyn Soto	(CCI)
Francisco Figueroa	(CWS)
José Sánchez	(CWS)
Ivette Cohen	(IRC)
Veronica Rodriguez	(Youth Coop)
Carmen Torres	(LSF)
Gloria Mazariegos	(WR)

Charlande Michel (EMM)

The meeting was held on Thursday June 6, 2013 at the offices of World Relief. Veronica Rodriguez called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Minutes from previous minutes were reviewed and approved. The agenda was approved and the following items were discussed:

Match Grant Enrollments –

- 2013 – YTD Matching Grant Enrollments
- October 1, 2012 to May, 2013

Agency	Trafficked Person/IV	Entrants	Asylees	Refugees	Total
CWS	0	317	26	61	404
EMM	0	160	0	88	248
IRC	0	321	43	176	540
LIRS	0	123	0	79	202
USCCB	0	253	34	79	366
USCRI/YC	0	733	29	90	852
WR	0	106	1	39	146
TOTAL	0	2013	133	612	2758

Parolee Orientation (POP)

- 346 parolees were processed during the month of May 2013.
- Since October 1, 2012 to May 2013, 5277 parolees from Cuba have been processed through Parolee Orientation Program at CWS.

Other Items

1. 2013 Florida Refugee Services Consultation.

Participants shared experiences and information gathered during the sessions at the consultation in Orlando Florida. Most of participants agreed that sessions were very informative and very well organized. The quality of plenary speakers was also highlighted by attendees.

During the Florida Services Consultation Resettlement pre-meeting with Volags, Barbara Day from PRM shared the following information:

- Emphasis on safe and stable housing for refugees.
- Refugees must be connected to services past the Reception and Placement Program period.
- Case notes must show follow ups and resolutions to problems encountered. Case notes from all case workers, job developers, volunteers and staff working with the refugee case must be cohesive and connected to each other.
- All affiliates should have a training plan for staff and cross training is highly recommended.
- PRM does not expect a large flow of Congolese Refugees arriving for 2014.

2. IRC informed that for 2014, 60 slots were cut from their budget.

3. Catholic Charities informed that for 2013, their MG budget was cut by 3%.

4. EMM reported they are having delays with appointments for the initial health screening in Miami.

5. IRC reported that they have been alerted by several Refugee clients that they have received a phone call from an office called "Children and Families Immigration Services" located in 4501 Palm Ave in Hialeah, FL. Tel: 786-502-2840, requesting that clients go to their office to file for an EAD at a cost of \$35 including fee waiver. The clients that were called were initially referred to the ACCESS office on 107th. They are very concerned about how this office is obtaining client's information and they suspect it may be coming from one of the ACCESS Offices or their clinics.

Announcements

Volags are pleased to announce that Evelyn Soto (Catholic Charities) kindly accepted to become the new Chair of the South Florida Volag Consortium and Charlande Michele (EMM) will assume the duties of Secretary.

Next meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2013 (2:00 PM) at the offices of Catholic Charities located at 7607 NW 2 AVE 2nd Floor Miami, FL 33150

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned

IMMIGRATION AND LEGAL ISSUES SUB COMMITTEE APRIL 2013

MIAMI AREA REFUGEE TASK FORCE

Immigration and Legal Issues Sub Committee

Minutes for meeting on March 7, 2013

By Miriam Johana Garcia

Attendance: Oscar A. Alvarez, Haydee Cañas, Berta Cassidy, Luz Castilla, Christie Anne Darias, Nancy Denis, Elizabeth Dinnen Parker, Maria R. Dominguez, Miriam Johana Garcia, Brad Ginter, Marie Guillaume, Raul Hernandez, Ursula Herrera,

Steve Koch, Eileen Lopez-Tome, Dorothy Martin, Randy McGrorty, Yauheniya Nechyparenka, Lucio Perez-Reynoso, Ihosara Quintero, Amelia Ramirez, Christine Reis, Pamela Rogers, Alexandra O. Yaya.

The Immigration and Legal Issues Subcommittee meeting was held on March 7, 2013 at the offices of World Relief where Berta Cassidy introduced to the members Eileen Lopez-Tome, Acting Chief of Staff for the Miami District Office and Steve Koch, Deputy District Director for the Miami and Caribbean District. They provided the USCIS update and answered questions as follows:

- **ENHANCEMENTS AT FIELD OFFICES.** They are making a lot of changes at the Field Offices, especially at the information counters. They recently enhanced the infopass system and they have now about 30% extra numbers (about 125 numbers a week) for appointments at the Miami Field Office. Starting this coming Monday, March 11, 2013 you will be able to notice the change. They will have an adjudicator officer at the front area. They will be pulling files that are in house and if the case can be adjudicated they will do it there. If an applicant comes to a different location the information officer will call the correct field office and try to resolve the situation. Information Service Officers are attending trainings and comment cards are available on each window. All comments are welcome. Supervisors available if applicants need to talk to a supervisor. Section Chiefs and the Field Office Director are also available. Every field office has 2 section chiefs. Supervisory positions will soon be filled. Rescheduled cases will be handled at the spot if applicant is ready and if the case is not denied.
- **HAITIAN RE-PAROLE GUIDANCE.** Form I-134 is not required. Request has to be filed locally or at the lockbox. Must include copy of I-94, supporting documents (medical consideration or any family reunification), Form I-131 with the fee and 2 photos.
- **PROVISIONAL UNLAWFUL PRESENCE WAIVER.** This applies to persons who entered without inspection and they will go out for consular processing. It is only for immediate relatives (IR) spouse, parent or minor children of U.S. citizens. They must have an approved I-130 and inadmissible only due to unlawful presence. They must show extreme hardship to the U.S. citizen relative. Form to be filed is the I-601A. See complete instructions on the USCIS website. If a person is in removal proceedings and depart they are self-deporting themselves. I-601A cannot be filed if applicant does not have the receipt of payment for Immigrant Visa. If IV fee receipt is unavailable it must be obtained by sending an e-mail to: nvci601A@state.gov.
- USCIS is having their first Stakeholder/Community Based Organization (CBO) information session for 2013 and will be held on Monday, March 11, 2013. The featured topic is: The **Child Status Protection Act (CSPA)**. Bruce Marmar is the guest speaker for this session. The meeting will run from 10am -12noon and will take place at the USCIS Miami Field Office located at: 8801 NW 7 Avenue, Miami, Florida 33150. If you wish to attend this session, please RSVP to berta.cassidy@dhs.gov no later than tomorrow March 8, 2013.
- **DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS STATISTICS.** As of February 14, 2013 USCIS has received 438,372 applications nationwide. 199,460 has been approved and 19,336 were received from Florida.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 11, 2013 from 10:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M. at the Offices of World Relief located at 2150 SW 8th Street, 2nd Floor, Miami, Florida 33135.

EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT FOR APRIL 2013

**2013 REFUGEE TASK FORCE EDUCATION
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

April 12, 2013

- The REVEST Program has been able to retain over 2500 students enrolled in VESOL classes and over 230 Vocational students enrolled during the current term (2012-2) which began January 8th and will finish on April 25th of 2013.
- REVEST is about to finish the registration process for VESOL classes for the summer term, which will begin next May 1st. Almost 2800 students have been enrolled as of April 11, 2013. Registrations for vocational Programs corresponding to the summer 2012-3 started on March 4, 2013. Around 200 registrations have been processed up to this date and students are still being registered.
- Faculty meetings for all REVEST instructors took place from March 14 to March 22 in our four locations (Hialeah Outreach Center, West-Dade Outreach Center, Kendall Outreach Center, and Wolfson Center) and topics included preparation, protocol and schedules for CASAS test which will be administered from April 10th to 12th. REVEST is currently preparing for this test and students have been receiving individualized instruction and tutoring aimed at the completion of required competencies. Other topics of the meeting included REVEST Final Test details and Final grades review as well as initiatives to reinforce student commitment.
- On March 6th, Ms. Adilen Cruz and Mrs. Adria Dilme-Bejel from the Department of Children and Families, hosted a training on Mental Health for all of REVEST staff at Hialeah Outreach Center. Topics covered learning to identify mental health issues and resources to handle situations or refer clients.
- On March 7th all REVEST Advisors and several administrators participated in an eligibility training for Refugee Service Providers/ Southern Region. The training took place at the DCF building in downtown and it was conducted by *Ms. Lourdes M. Leconte*, CPM (Community Liaison of the Department of Children & Families).

- SAVES reports that as of April 9, total enrollment at its 16 sites numbered 3,719 students. Of these, 1,849 are new students to the program. The current trimester ends on April 18. The next academic trimester (2012-3) will begin on April 22 and end on July 31.
- SAVES is preparing for the summer term. Registration has begun for both Adult General Education (AGE) and Vocational classes. The program expects to register and provide services to over 3,500 students next trimester.
- SAVES continues offering evaluation and translation services to its students through Joseph & Silny. The last session was held on March 12. The next one will be on April 18. Students greatly benefit from these services since they facilitate the process of finding employment.
- New SAVES success stories, which highlight the achievements of some of our students, have been uploaded to the SAVES website (<http://saves.dadeschools.net>)
- Career Pathways, a new initiative implemented by MDCP-S, will benefit SAVES students. Students will enroll in a mandatory 12 hour orientation course before being registered into their ESOL/ABE courses. This course will assist students in creating an educational plan, writing short/long term goals, and becoming informed with all vocational/technical programs, requirements, and opportunities available to them. This orientation has proven to keep students on track and improve attendance and performance.
- The next SAVES Program District Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 15, 2013 from 3 P.M. to 5 P.M. at Lindsey Hopkins Technical Education Center. Please contact our office if you are interested in attending and/or presenting.
- If you have any questions about our program, you can call us or visit the SAVES website at <http://saves.dadeschools.net>

Maria Miranda

Instructional Supervisor, SAVES Program

SAVES PROGRAM

Lindsey Hopkins Building G, Room 162

750 NW 20 street

Miami, Florida 33127

305-548-3046

FLORIDA HIGHWAY SAFETY & MOTOR VEHICLE UPDATE MAY 2013

Modesto Burgos provided the following community update bulletin for May 2013

Information of Interest to Florida Drivers

May is National Bike Month: Sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists, National Bike Month is an opportunity to celebrate the unique power of the bicycle and the many reasons we ride. Whether you bike to work or school; to save money or time; to preserve your health or the environment; to explore your community or get to your destination, the League urges you to get involved in Bike Month — and help get more people in your community out riding bikes.

During the last ten years, 1,094 bicyclists have died on Florida highways and an additional 45,643 have been injured. Bicycle fatalities have increased 20.5 percent over the last ten years as the state's population has increased 17.7 percent. By total numbers or as a percentage of the population, Florida has been the nation's deadliest state for bicycle riders for many years.

One way to reduce bicycle crashes and fatalities is to raise the awareness of motorists to the likelihood they will encounter bicyclists on the road and that the law gives the bike riders the same rights and responsibilities that motorists have. Here are some safety tips for all to follow:

- Motorists should only pass bicycles when it's safe to do so, slowing down to give cyclists three feet of passing room.
- Motorists should yield to bicycles like any other vehicle. Never cut off bicyclists.
- Bicyclists should obey all traffic laws, stop signs, and traffic lights.
- Bicycles are required by law to be equipped with lights if used at night. Whether you ride or drive, please share the road.

DHSMV and Donate Life Florida Seek Donors: The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is working with Donate Life Florida to make Floridians aware of the life-saving role they can play by registering as an organ, tissue and eye donor. More than 66,000 new donors registered during last year's month-long event, and DHSMV is hoping to exceed that number this year.

Florida's organ registry recently reached a milestone of 7 million registrants. It is the second largest state registry in the nation. More than 4,500 Floridians currently await organ transplants, and more than 118,000 patients are on the nationwide list.

Florida offers four simple ways to register as a donor. Registration can be done when obtaining a driver license or identification card in an office, when renewing driver licenses online through www.GoRenew.com, on Donate Life Florida's website www.DonateLifeFlorida.org, or by calling Donate Life Florida at 1-877-35-SHARE (1-877-357-4273). In addition to providing an online registry, www.DonateLifeFlorida.org also provides useful information about organ donation.

More Seniors Driving in Florida: More seniors are on the road than ever before in the USA, especially here in Florida. It is critical that our state be ready for the increase. If current trends continue, older drivers will also be staying behind the wheel longer. This is particularly true for Florida, which claims five of the nation's top 10 cities with the highest median age, including Fort Lauderdale and Hialeah.

Statewide, more than 17% of the population is 65+, and those older residents make up nearly 20% of all drivers. As the baby boomer generation ages, demographers predict that by 2030, Florida's 65 + group will make up almost 30% of the population, which is 1 in 4 drivers.

The number of elderly drivers keeping their licenses has grown at a faster clip than the number of young drivers applying for them. A University of Michigan study published last year in the journal *Traffic Injury Prevention* found that older licensed drivers now make up a greater percentage of total drivers than they used to. More of them are also continuing to drive well into their 80s and 90s. At the same time, the number of drivers under age 40 has dropped by 10 percent.

Florida will be especially affected by this significant increase in older drivers. Though many transportation experts across the nation are pushing for more alternatives to car travel, most senior drivers insist that they don't necessarily want alternative transportation. They want to drive their own vehicles for as long as they possibly can. Seniors want to keep their independence, and are reluctant to turn in the keys even if they are no longer able to drive safely.

Florida has created a special statewide coalition—the first of its kind in the nation—with members from 26 different agencies and organizations. The Safe Mobility for Life Coalition is taking the lead by bringing all the important partners together to develop a master plan that addresses aging road users and their transportation needs in Florida. The Coalition has developed a new resource publication for senior drivers, *Florida's Guide for Aging Drivers*, which is made available free of charge upon request. Postcards to request the guide will soon be available at all Driver License and Tax Collector's offices statewide.

FHP's Training Academy Begins a New Class: The 125th Basic Recruit Class of FHP's Training Academy started April 8th with 65 new recruits beginning the 23 week course to become new Troopers. The Academy has reduced the length of the course from 28 weeks to 23 weeks by changing the work day to 11 ½ hour shifts. This facilitates providing the same level of training to new recruits however it gets them on the job (and out on the road) 5 weeks earlier than usual.

Half of Florida's Drivers have Real ID-Compliant Licenses: The number of Floridians who have a REAL ID-compliant driver license or identification card recently surpassed the halfway mark (more than 8 million Floridians have been issued the license/card). DHSMV continues to promote www.GatherGoGet.com, a website that helps Floridians prepare for their next trip to a driver license office.

Florida Documentation Requirements: We urge our customers to visit www.GatherGoGet.com, a website dedicated to assist Floridians and visitors with driver license and identification card requirements. Floridians renewing or obtaining a new license or ID are required to show proof of: 1) identification, 2) Social Security number and 3) residential address (two items). The website and its tools are also available in Spanish at www.ReunaVengaObtenga.com and in Creole at www.RasanbleAlePran.com. The Department is issuing driver licenses and identification cards that meet Real ID federal standards.

An Appointment Helps: All customers who must visit one of our offices to renew, replace, or file a change of address to their driver license or identification card, are urged to secure an appointment prior to their visit. Connect via Internet at <https://services.flhsmv.gov/Oasis/> for an appointment to reduce the length of the visit. Driver license offices are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please check our website at www.flhsmv.gov/offices/ for the most up-to-date information on office locations and schedules.

Fees for Driver Licenses and Identification Card

Class E (original and renewal) \$48 Commercial Driver License (original and renewal) \$75

ID Card (original and renewal) \$25

Replacement License or ID \$25
Endorsements \$ 7
Driver License Services at Tax Collector Office Service Fees \$ 6.25
Office hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (except official holidays)

The Department uses a combination of vehicle information to determine registration fees. This includes registration use, license plate type and class code. The class code is determined by the vehicle weight, body type, vehicle type and registration use. To see a sample, click [here](#).

Buckle Up Every Time, Everyone!

USCIS UPDATE FOR NOVEMEBR AND DECEMEBR 2012

The following update was provided by Berta Cassidy.

USCIS Miami April 2013 Update

- **May 2013** - Miami and Oakland Park Field Offices will devote the month of May to processing long-standing pending cases. In an effort to provide more efficient processing, new cases at the Oakland Park and Miami Field Offices will be transferred to the Hialeah and Kendall Field Offices for interview during that time frame. Oakland Park applicants who have their naturalization cases transferred to the Hialeah Field Office for an interview, if approved, will have the option of participating in a same-day naturalization ceremony.

- **USCIS to Implement Customer Identity Verification at Field Offices** - On Monday, May 6, 2013, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will implement Customer Identity Verification (CIV) in its field offices. Individuals will now be required to submit biometric data, specifically fingerprints and photographs, when appearing at USCIS offices for interviews or to receive evidence of an immigration benefit.

To read more about CIV -

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=093dfa77369ed310VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=e7801c2c9be44210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD>

- **Citizenship and Integration Grant Program** – On April 18, 2013, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced the availability of a competitive grant funding opportunity to promote immigrant civic integration and prepare permanent residents for citizenship. USCIS will offer nearly \$10 million in competitive funding for citizenship preparation programs in communities across the country. This funding opportunity is for organizations that prepare permanent residents for citizenship by offering both citizenship instruction and naturalization application services. Applications are due by May 22, 2013.

To read more about the program -

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=ea0e0b89284a3210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=ea0e0b89284a3210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD>

- **Temporary Protected Status Extended for Honduras and Nicaragua** – U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano has extended Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for eligible nationals of Honduras and Nicaragua for an additional 18 months, beginning July 6, 2013, and ending January 5, 2015. Current Honduran and Nicaraguan beneficiaries seeking to extend their TPS status must re-register during the 60-day re-registration period that runs from April 3, 2013, through June 3, 2013. USCIS is automatically extending current TPS Honduras/Nicaragua EADs that have a July 5, 2013, expiration date for an additional six months. These existing EADs are now valid through Jan. 5, 2014.

To read more about TPS for Honduras -

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=8b0f3e4d77d73210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=8b0f3e4d77d73210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD>

To read more about TPS for Nicaragua -

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=e64f3e4d77d73210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=e64f3e4d77d73210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD>

- **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Process** –

To view the most recent data on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, please refer to:

<http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Resources/Reports%20and%20Studies/Immigration%20Forms%20Data/All%20Form%20Types/DACA/2013-0412%20DACA%20Final%20Monthly%20Report.pdf>

- **Upcoming Naturalization Ceremonies** - Below are scheduled dates for Administrative N-400 Oath Ceremonies and the corresponding field offices where the ceremonies will take place. Please note that although these dates are current on the date of issuance of this update, the dates are subject to change without notice.

Miami Field Office – April 25
May 23, and 30

Hialeah Field Office - April 30
May 10, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, and 23

Oakland Park Field Office – April 26 and 30
May 31

Kendall Field Office – April 26