



Friends:

We hope that you are having a great summer. This edition of our Immigration Action Update includes summaries from two recent meetings the White House held with key leaders representing Irish, Polish, Macedonian and African immigrant communities. Additionally, we include a blog post on a recent announcement the President's Jobs and Competitiveness Council and USCIS made around immigrant entrepreneurs and the EB5 visa program as well as an announcement from USCIS around the E-Verify self check tool recently launched in Spanish. Lastly, find links to updates on our listening sessions on immigrant integration most recently in New York City and Houston, Texas and the one year anniversary of the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign focused on human trafficking. As always, please share with your networks!

-Stephanie

[Broadening the Conversation on Immigration Reform](#)

Last week, leaders from a variety of ethnic communities – from Irish, to Polish, to Macedonian and many others - met at the White House to discuss the way forward on immigration reform. It was a spirited discussion featuring representatives from communities that do not necessarily share common domestic or foreign policy goals. What they do share – and what came through at the meeting – was their deep pride for their immigrant heritage and the agreement that their voice is critical to the debate on fixing our broken immigration system. White House Chief of Staff Bill Daley stopped by to reiterate the President's commitment to addressing this issue, and to listen to ideas about how the Administration and the country can make progress. Read more [here](#).



Senior Administration officials meet with ethnic immigrant community leaders

[Continuing the Conversation on Immigration Reform – The African Immigrant Diaspora Voice](#)

On Friday August 12th, White House and senior administration officials – including representatives from the [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services](#) (USCIS), Department of Education, and HHS [Office of Refugee Resettlement](#) - met with African community leaders to discuss immigration issues specific to the African immigrant and refugee population. The convening brought together leaders and advocates representing communities from the countries of Mauritania, Somalia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Guinea Bissau. Read more [click here](#).



Senior Administration Officials meet with African immigrant community leaders

[USCIS Offers E-Verify Self Check in Spanish](#)

Self Check™

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) today announced that [Self Check](#), a free online service of E-Verify that allows workers to check their own employment eligibility status, is now available in [Spanish](#) and accessible to residents in 16 additional states: California, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Utah and Washington. This week's announcement expands on the [initial launch of Self Check](#) in March 2011 for residents who reside in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Mississippi, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

[Helping Immigrant Entrepreneurs Create Good U.S. Jobs](#)

Over the last six months, the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness, the Small Business Administration, and leaders throughout the administration have traveled around the country and heard a resounding message from hundreds of entrepreneurs and small business owners. As a result, the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services recently announced 5 steps to move in a better direction that include immigrant entrepreneur qualifying requirements for a green card under an existing EB-2 visa program to accelerate the review of applications for immigrant investors who seek to invest capital and create jobs in the United States using the EB-5 visa program. Efforts like these to streamline government have been a top priority across the administration and with the Jobs Council. These steps are just a start, but what is clear is that we must move forward now to maximize the impact that immigrant entrepreneurs have on our economy. To read more click [here](#).

[Informing the National Immigrant Integration Strategy in New York](#)



At LaGuardia Community College in Queens, members of the Administration engaged with immigrant students and alumni.

On July 28th and 29th, Administration officials from the White House Domestic Policy Council and the Departments of Education and Labor held three outreach sessions with immigrant students and workers, service and advocacy organizations, policy makers and funders in New York City to discuss challenges and opportunities in immigrant integration. These sessions were held as a part of the New Americans - Citizenship and Integration

Initiative. LaGuardia Community College (LAGCC), with the help of their [Center for Immigrant Education and Training](#), in Queens on Thursday, July 28th held their first roundtable. After a warm-welcome from Gail Mellow, President of LAGCC, both immigrant students, alumni and leading service organizations provided helpful feedback and discussed how their best work on the ground related to the Initiative's pillars of civic, economic, and linguistic integration. TO read more [click here](#).

[Immigrant Integration in Houston: Building Upon a Strong Foundation](#)

This past week, Deputy Director Stephanie Valencia traveled to Houston---one of the most diverse cities in the nation home to 88 consulates, the third largest consular corps in the nation with a very strong infrastructure of organizations and community leaders who are committed to providing resources to people who are working to fully integrate into American society. It was clear that the administration's support and listening sessions held across the country are helping us to identify ways we can be the strongest federal partner and can be supportive of the great work communities across the country like Houston are already doing. The trip was a learning experience that entailed conversations with folks who represented the local city government and community based organizations serving Latino and Asian immigrants. To read more click [here](#).

[The Blue Campaign to Combat Human Trafficking Marks 1 Year](#)

Earlier this month, Secretary Napolitano met with anti-human trafficking NGOs and victim service leaders to discuss DHS's progress in combating human trafficking. This event marked the one-year anniversary of the launch of the [Blue Campaign](#)—a first-of-its-kind, DHS-wide initiative to fight human trafficking through improved public awareness, victim assistance programs, and law enforcement training and initiatives.

Secretary Napolitano joined Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director John Morton, US Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Alejandro Mayorkas, Customs and Border Protection Deputy Commissioner David Aguilar, and Federal Law Enforcement Training Center Director Connie Patrick and Senior Counselor Alice Hill to highlight the important work of NGOs committed to ending human trafficking by providing vital services to victims and supporting them as they integrate into their communities. To learn more go to <http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/humantrafficking.shtm>

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