



November 21, 2014

The Church Council of Greater Seattle joins with faith organizations across the United States in applauding the Executive Order by President Obama to provide temporary relief from deportation for millions of immigrants.

The implementation of this order will humanize the situation for people who have been in the shadows for far too long and allow for families to stay together, without fear of detention and deportation. Furthermore, the opportunity to work without fear of exploitation will keep the dream alive for millions of people to achieve a sufficient, sustainable livelihood.

The President's reminder that "we too were once strangers" underlies the moral and Biblical imperative that grounds this life-affirming decision. This is a significant step on the journey toward the long-term goal of a Comprehensive Immigration Reform that allows for: a pathway to citizenship, family reunification, justice on the job and due process. Conscious that many will not qualify for temporary relief, we reiterate that our religious communities uphold the fundamental dignity of every human being as a child of God and urge follow-through to protect children, women, men and families as human beings who have migrated to the United States in order to survive, to work and to contribute to our communities.

Please see below for statements from religious organizations on this momentous occasion, details on the order from the American Immigration Council and the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and important resources from the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project. The Church Council will be publishing a resource guide for basic human services for immigrants in the coming weeks for use by churches and organizations throughout the area.

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Links to Statements from Faith Communities and Organizations:

[Bread for the World](#)

[Church World Service](#)

[Episcopal Church](#)

[Interfaith Immigration Coalition](#)

[Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service](#)

[United Church of Christ](#)

[United States Conference of Catholic Bishops](#)

[Unitarian Universalist Association](#)

From the American Immigration Council:

Under the new policies announced, the Obama Administration will build on the successful Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program by providing temporary relief for the parents of U.S. Citizens and lawful permanent residents. The new program, to be called Deferred Action for Parents (DAP), will ensure that millions of U.S. Citizen and lawful permanent resident children will remain unified with their parents. The President also announced new enforcement policies and steps to improve the adjudication of business and family visas.

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Details of the Executive Order, from the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA):

The President's plan as described on Thursday includes:

- Deferred Action for the parents of U.S. citizen and lawful permanent resident children who fit the eligibility requirements.
- Expansion of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) to remove the age cap and move the continuous presence date up to January 1, 2010. DACA will now be granted for 3 years (including those with pending renewal applications).
- Replacement of the controversial Secure Communities program with a "Priority Enforcement Program" program the details of which are still unclear.
- Ensuring that job-creating entrepreneurs have legal means to enter and operate in the U.S.
- Increasing access for university affiliated businesses to key talent.
- Allowing spouses and children of lawful permanent residents to apply for unlawful presence waivers from within the U.S. and ensuring appropriate standards for adjudicating those waivers.
- Enabling families of individuals trying to enlist in the armed forces to utilize parole in place to ensure legal status.
- Changing the procedures for adjustment of status to allow legal immigrants caught in the immigration quota backlogs to register their applications and thus begin the final step of the process.
- Directing agencies to look at modernizing the visa system, with a view to making optimal use of the numbers of visa available under law.
- Announcement of a new border security campaign and plan.

Important information from the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP):

NWIRP is making available resources in response to the President's announcement. All of these will be updated as additional information becomes available. NWIRP will be conducting a series of community events in different parts of the state. The first five are listed below, starting with one on December 1 in Highline College in Des Moines (South King Co). The links below have additional information. Please help spread the word.

Community Advisory from NWIRP: The advisory is available in English and Spanish in one document and is available at [this link](#).

The NWIRP website also has pages in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) that will be updated as information becomes available. Please note that USCIS also has posted information here: <http://www.uscis.gov/immigrationaction>

List of community events offered by NWIRP are listed below. Fliers available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) and will be updated as needed.

South King County (Des Moines)

Monday, December 1 - 6:30 pm

Highline College - 2400 S 240th Street, Des Moines, WA 98198

Wenatchee

Monday, December 8 - 6:00 pm

Wenatchee Community Center - 504 S Chelan Ave. - Wenatchee, WA 98801

Granger

Thursday, December 11 - 5:30 pm

NCEC/Radio KDNA - 121 Sunnyside Ave. #146, Granger, WA 98932

Brewster

Monday, December 15 - 6:00 pm

Brewster Jr/Sr High School - 503 S 7th St - Brewster, WA 98812

Moses Lake

Tuesday, December 16 - 6:00 pm

Frontier Middle School - 517 W 3rd Ave - Moses Lake, WA 98837