



GRANTMAKERS CONCERNED WITH IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

**ADMINISTRATIVE RELIEF AND PHILANTHROPY
WEBINAR SERIES**

**Program 1: Understanding the
President's Executive Actions on
Immigration**

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Tuesday, November 25, 2014

Dial-in: 866-740-1260; Access Code: 8244374

Darane Petsod, president of Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR), has worked on social and economic justice issues for more than 25 years. Prior to joining GCIR in 1998, she was a program and communications consultant for foundations and nonprofits. Daranee previously held leadership positions at the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and was a program officer at the Field Foundation of Illinois, Inc. and the Sophia Fund. She has served on the boards of the Donors Forum and the Heartland Alliance, both in Chicago, and the Asian American Justice Center in Washington, D.C.

DARANEE PETSOD, GCIR



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AGENDA

- **Welcome, Introductions, and Context Setting**
 - *Daranee Petsod, President, GCIR*
 - *Tara Magner, Program Officer, MacArthur Foundation*
- **Overview and Analysis of The President's Immigration Accountability Executive Action**
 - *Marielena Hincapié, Executive Director, National Immigration Law Center*
- **Facilitating a Response by Funders**
 - *Tara Magner, Program Officer, MacArthur Foundation*
- **Discussion and Q & A**
- **Closing Remarks and Wrap Up**

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Understand key provisions of the President's Immigration Accountability Executive Actions
- Learn who is eligible, opportunities for applying, and barriers that exist
- Examine implications for philanthropy and central funding priorities and strategies

Tara Magner is a program officer in the policy research area of the MacArthur Foundation's U.S. programs. She previously served as senior counsel to the chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont, from 2009 to 2012. After the 2008 election, Ms. Magner was a member of President Obama's Transition Policy Working Group on Immigration. Previous positions include commissioner on the American Bar Association's Commission on Immigration, director of policy at the National Immigrant Justice Center in Chicago, and counsel and professional staff member to Senator Leahy on the Committee on the Judiciary. Ms. Magner earned a B.A. at Wesleyan University and a J.D. at Georgetown University Law Center.



TARA MAGNER, THE MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

CONTEXT SETTING

- It has been **over 25 years** since the last major legislative overhaul of our nation's immigration system.
- **More than 11 million undocumented** immigrants currently living on the margins of our society.
- The President's executive actions will have **implications for all of philanthropy** – regardless of a foundation's grantmaking area or strategy.



OVERVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF THE PRESIDENT'S IMMIGRATION ACCOUNTABILITY EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

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Marielena Hincapié, National Immigration Law Center

- **Marielena Hincapié** is the executive director of the National Immigration Law Center (NILC), the main organization dedicated to defending and advancing the rights of low-income immigrants in the U.S. Under her executive leadership, NILC has grown, and has been able to more strategically use a combination of litigation, policy, communications, and alliance-building strategies to effect social change for everyone striving to achieve the American Dream. She holds a juris doctor degree from Northeastern University School of Law, served on the American Bar Association's Commission on Immigration, and is currently a member of the Jobs with Justice Board of Directors. An immigrant from Medellín, Colombia, Ms. Hincapié is the youngest of 10 children.



MARIELENA HINCAPIÉ, NATIONAL IMMIGRATION LAW CENTER

OVERVIEW

Summary of Key Provisions

Announced on November 20, 2014, the President's Immigration Accountability Executive Actions will modify 10 areas of immigration policy, including:

- Extending protection from deportation and provide work authorization to an estimated 4.1 million unauthorized immigrants who are parents of U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents.
- Expanding the eligibility criteria for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).
- Facilitating green cards for spouses of lawful permanent residents & U.S. citizens through waivers.
- Adjusting priorities relating to enforcement and border security.
- Creating additional visa options for immigrant entrepreneurs, high-skilled workers, and students in STEM fields.
- Promoting U.S. citizenship among eligible immigrants.

OVERVIEW

To be eligible for the **Deferred Action for Parental Accountability** (DAPA) program, you must:

- Be the parent of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident.
- Have continuously lived in the U.S. since January 1, 2010.
- Have been present in the U.S. on November 20, 2014.
- Not have a lawful immigration status.
- Have not been convicted of certain criminal offenses, including any felonies and some misdemeanors.

OVERVIEW

To be eligible for the expanded **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)** program, you must:

- Have come to the United States before your sixteenth birthday.
- Have continuously lived in the U.S. since January 1, 2010.
- Have been present in the U.S. on November 20, 2014, and every day since then.
- Not have a lawful immigration status.
- Have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, have obtained a general education development (GED) certificate, or “be in school” on the date that you submit your deferred action application.
- Have not been convicted of certain criminal offenses. Pass a background check.

OVERVIEW

Facilitating **green cards** for spouses & children of lawful permanent residents:

- Many undocumented immigrants who qualify for permanent residence must leave the U.S. first before they can get a green card. However, when they leave the U.S. they trigger a 3- or 10-year waiting period.
- Spouses and children of lawful permanent residents will now be able to apply for a waiver from that 3- or 10-year penalty before obtaining their green card.
- The administration will be changing the standard individuals must meet to make it easier for people to be approved for the waiver and get their green card.

OVERVIEW

Immigration Enforcement and Border Security

- The **Priority Enforcement Program** will replace the Secure Communities Program and prioritize the apprehension and deportation of terrorists, convicted felons, gang members, and those apprehended at the border. Those with significant or multiple misdemeanors or unauthorized immigrants who have entered the country since January 1, 2014 will be second-tier priority.
- **The Southern Border and Approaches Campaign Strategy** will assemble three law enforcement task forces to evaluate border security and consider means to more effectively deploy resources.

OVERVIEW

High-Skilled Workers, Students, and Entrepreneurs

- The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) will modernize the employment-based visa system to allow beneficiaries to move easily between jobs; assure all available visas are used; and improve communications with visa recipients.
- The number of degree programs eligible for “optional practical training” (OPT) will be expanded.
- OPT permits foreign nationals studying in the United States on student visas to remain in the country for an additional 12 to 29 months.
- More non-citizens with advanced degrees or exceptional ability, as well as inventors or founders of start-ups with substantial U.S. investor financing, will be able to pursue green cards or temporary visas.

OVERVIEW

Naturalization

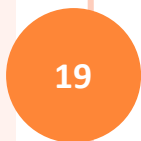
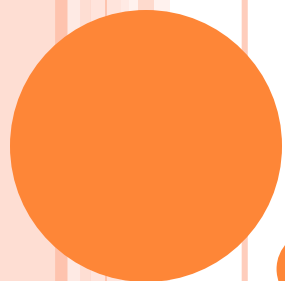
- A citizenship-focused media campaign will target the 10 states that are home to 75% of the citizenship-eligible population: California, New York, Texas, Florida, New Jersey, Illinois, Massachusetts, Virginia, Washington, and Arizona.
- USCIS will begin to accept credit cards as a payment option for the \$680 naturalization fee no later than the end of 2015.
- USCIS will study the feasibility of a partial naturalization fee waiver, which would cover a portion of the \$680 fee, for applicants who are above the current all-or-nothing threshold for a waiver.

FACILITATING A RESPONSE BY FUNDERS

Tara Magner, MacArthur Foundation

FACILITATING A RESPONSE BY FUNDERS

- **Public education on what the program is and is not**
- **Protecting the executive order**
- **Ensuring full and fair implementation**
- **Anti-fraud activities**
- **Collection of documents needed to prove eligibility**
- **Legal screening**
- **Legal representation**
- **Loan funds and/or donations for application fees**



FUNDER Q & A

Learn. Connect. Share.



CLOSING REMARKS AND WRAP UP

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Want to learn about joining GCIR?

GCIR is a network of local, state, and national funders.

Members have a variety funding areas related to immigrants and refugees. Many do not have a specific immigrant-focused portfolio.

Key member benefits include:

- **An individual consultation**
- **Access to a national network of peers**
- **Discounts on conferences**
- **Influence on GCIR's priorities**
- **A partner to share your foundation's resources**
- **And more!**

Contact camellia@gcir.org and visit our membership page www.gcir.org/membership

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Visit our Administrative Relief Resource Page:

https://www.gcir.org/immigration/policy/administrative_relief

Or Contact:

Harmony Karp Hayes

Director of Programs, GCIR

Email: harmony@gcir.org



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