



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

February 10, 2015

Ms. Cecilia Muñoz
Assistant Secretary to the President and
Director of the Domestic Policy Council
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. Leon Rodriguez
Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Fifth Floor - Director's Suite
Washington, DC 20259

Dear Directors Muñoz, Rodriguez, and Members of the Task Force on New Americans:

The President's executive action on immigration creates a tremendous opportunity for the City of Los Angeles to integrate a substantial number of immigrants and help them better contribute to our intellectual, cultural, and economic success. It is estimated that more than 220,000 residents in the City of Los Angeles can potentially benefit from these administrative changes.

Due to the size of the region's immigrant community, the City of Los Angeles is ground zero for the enrollment of Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) applicants. These individuals already contribute greatly to our local economy and will make a greater economic impact when they are fully integrated. My office has developed a plan of action to encourage these individuals to step out of the shadows and we stand ready to implement local programs. I recently launched a campaign, STEP FORWARD LA, to engage 100,000 eligible applicants to learn more about the benefits of the programs and to enroll in both DAPA and DACA.

To ensure the best outcomes, I recommend the White House Task Force on New Americans develop policies focused on the following topics to leverage federal resources and integrate immigrant communities:

- Broaden opportunities for immigrants with limited English proficiency through adult education programs that are easily accessible.
- Support coordination of state and local initiatives to deliver English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and adult basic education programs for immigrants.
- Reduce application fees for citizenship, DACA, and DAPA applicants.
- Deploy U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service staff to regional offices to assist with application processing.
- Direct U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service to put resources into outreach in multiple languages for enrollment and citizenship education.
- Ensure that there are federal resources for funds to promote citizenship promotion with grants and other funding.
- Alter Pell Grant, and other federal financial aid programs, eligibility requirements to allow DACA student access.
- Create youth job training opportunities for DACA eligible populations with Workforce Investment Act funds.
- Direct the U.S. Department of Justice to develop a local service corps of legal advisors to assist immigrants with their application process.
- Expand workforce development programs focused on helping immigrants and refugees.
- Promote volunteerism for immigrants by increasing outreach with AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs.
- Regularly convene local jurisdictions to ensure best practices are shared and replicated to promote linguistic, economic and civic integration of immigrants and refugees in cities.

Thank you for considering these recommendations. These policy recommendations support immigrant integration and will enhance the ability for all to participate fully in the economic, political, and social fabric of our communities. I look forward to partnering with you to implement these changes on the local level to support our immigrant communities, which will strengthen all of our communities and our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Garcetti', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

ERIC GARCETTI

Mayor