

Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia

El 15 de junio de 2012 la Administración de Obama anunció un cambio de política en la aplicación de nuestras leyes de inmigración. El Presidente ordenó al Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS) a detener la deportación de ciertos jóvenes inmigrantes que vinieron a los Estados Unidos como niños y han estado esforzándose en sus estudios. Individuos que califican bajo el nuevo programa estarán puestos en un estatus de "acción diferida" y podrán permanecer en los Estados Unidos y solicitar un permiso de trabajo.

Se puede aplicar para la acción diferida en este momento. El proceso para aplicar fue implementado el 15 de agosto de 2012.

¿QUE ES LA ACCIÓN DIFERIDA PARA LOS JOVENES INMIGRANTES?

Se trata de una decisión del gobierno de no tratar de deportarlo por un periodo de tiempo determinado. No es una manera de obtener su tarjeta verde o la ciudadanía:

¿QUIÉN ES ELEGIBLE PARA APLICAR?

- Usted es elegible para aplicar si:
- entró a los Estados Unidos antes de cumplir los 16 años de edad;
 - usted ha vivido en los Estados Unidos continuamente desde el 15 de junio de 2007;
 - usted tiene al menos 15 años de edad pero no más de 30 años de edad;
 - estuvo físicamente presente en los Estados Unidos el 15 de junio de 2012;
 - está actualmente en la escuela, o es un graduado de la secundaria, o ha obtenido su GED, o
 - obtenido una baja honorable de la Guarda Costa o las Fuerzas Armadas de los Estados Unidos; y
 - no tiene una condena por un delito grave, un delito menor serio, tres delitos menores, o de otra manera es considerado una amenaza para la seguridad nacional o seguridad pública.

Si cumple estos requisitos puede aplicar - incluso si usted ha recibido una orden de deportación.

¿QUÉ SE NECESITA PARA APLICAR?

Usted necesitará documentación que demuestre que cumple con los requisitos anteriores. Las pruebas que debe reunir incluyen, pero no se limitan a:

- certificado de nacimiento y pasaporte, u otra identificación con foto emitida por el gobierno;
- registros de la escuela;
- registros militares;
- registros financieros;
- registros médicos;
- registros de empleo;
- certificados de disposición, si ha estado alguna vez en un tribunal penal.

¿EXISTE ALGÚN RIESGO EN APLICAR?

Sí. Asegúrese de consultar con un abogado de inmigración antes de aplicar. Si aplica para el programa pero no califica, el gobierno podrá colocarlo en proceso de deportación. Si DHS encuentra que usted presentó una solicitud fraudulenta, el gobierno podrá colocarlo en proceso de deportación.

¿HAY ALGUN FIN DE PLAZO PARA APLICAR?

No. No hay un fin de plazo para aplicar.

¿HAY UN LÍMITE EN LA CANTIDAD DE PERSONAS QUE PUEDEN APLICAR?

No. No hay un límite en la cantidad de personas que pueden aplicar.

¿CUÁLES SON LOS BENEFICIOS?

Es un estatus que dura dos años y puede ser renovado y permite que uno pueda aplicar por un permiso de trabajo.

¿QUÉ DEBERÍA ESTAR HACIENDO AHORA?

Si cree que cumple los requisitos debe

consultar con un abogado de inmigración. No utilice a una agencia de viajes, "notarios" o cualquier otra entidad que no tenga una licencia para practicar leyes de inmigración. En la Fiscalía de Nueva York se puede verificar el registro y buena reputación de los abogados, llamando al (212) 428-2800, o vaya al www.nycourts.gov y haga un clic en "Abogados" y luego "Directorio de abogados." Si cree que cumple los requisitos debe empezar a recoger los documentos que necesitará para aplicar.

TENER EN CUENTA

Todavía no se sabe si la gente con la acción diferida podrá viajar fuera de los EE.UU., obtener una licencia de conducir, o calificar para recibir la matrícula estatal en colegios y universidades. A medida que más información esté disponible nos aseguraremos de que se mantengan informados.

¿DONDE PUEDO APRENDER MÁS?

Puede aprender más acerca del programa en la línea directa de Servicio de Ciudadanía e Inmigración de Estados Unidos (USCIS): (800) 375-5283 o su página web: www.uscis.gov

Usted puede comunicarse con:

- Empire Justice Center al: (914) 422-4329
- John Jay Legal Services, Inc. en la Facultad de Derecho de la Universidad de Pace al: (914) 422-4333



New for 2012, Neighbors Link launched a Summer Links Pre-K program to enhance kindergarten readiness.

"THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE THIS INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE WITH THE KIDS OF NEIGHBORS LINK THIS SUMMER! THEY ARE SWEET AND REALLY DO WANT TO LEARN AND GROW AS STUDENTS; THEIR FOCUS, INTEREST, AND EFFORT MOTIVATES ME TO DO MY BEST IN MY SCHOOLWORK AND EVERYTHING I DO OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL AS WELL! I WOULD ALSO LOVE TO WORK WITH THE KIDS THIS YEAR IN THE LEARNING LINKS PROGRAM... THANK YOU SO MUCH."

—JUSTIN LANDZBERG, SUMMER LINKS HIGH SCHOOL VOLUNTEER

The Friends of Neighbors Link invite you to

LATIN LINKS 2012 IMMIGRANT VOICES

IMMIGRANT VOICES – FILM AS STORY TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2012

JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER

6:00pm – pre-film reception

7:00pm – screenings, panel and Q&A

A post-film reception will immediately follow the discussion.

Tickets online at www.neighborslink.org/events

IMMIGRANT VOICES – “THE DREAMERS” WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2012

MOUNT KISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Chung-Wah Hong, Exec. Dir., New York Immigration Coalition and The “Westchester Dream Team” – Maria Jaime and Marlen Fernandez

6:00pm – Reception

7:00pm – Panel

Free - Reservations Required

(mdelaney@neighborslink.org or 914-666-3410 ext. 14)



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Neighbors Link



VOLUME 18

OUR MISSION: To strengthen the whole community by actively enhancing the healthy integration of immigrants. OUR STRATEGY: Educate, Empower, Employ



LATIN LINKS IMMIGRANT VOICES

FILM AS STORY
TWO SHORT FILMS & DISCUSSION
AT JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER
October 9th 6:00PM

SIN PAIS (“WITHOUT COUNTRY”)—is Winner of a Student Academy Award® and an intimate portrait of one “mixed-citizenship-status” family and their traumatic journey of separation. The film spotlights the precarious plight of millions of families in America today.

LIFE AS A NOVELA (“LA VIDA COMO UNA TELENOVELA”)—is a pioneer project of the Jacob Burns Film Center and Neighbors Link, in which members of the Mount Kisco migrant community are developing an original television script based on their own lives, hopes and fears.

THE DREAMERS
PANEL PRESENTATION
& DISCUSSION AT
THE MOUNT KISCO LIBRARY
November 28th 6:00PM

Join us for a discussion of the new “Deferred Action” policy and its impact on those brought to the U.S. as children. Panelists include Chung-Wah Hong, Executive Director of the NEW YORK IMMIGRATION COALITION and the “WESTCHESTER DREAM TEAM”—immigrant college students Maria Jaime and Marlen Fernandez.



Learning Links After School Program Raises the Bar on Academic Rigor



For the growing number of elementary students enrolled in Neighbors Link’s Learning Links after school program, learning does not stop at the end of the traditional school day. Instead of zipping up their backpacks and heading home, children in the program, located at the Mount Kisco Elementary School (MKEs), benefit from instructional support that helps them keep up with their peers and the district’s curriculum.

And beginning this fall, the Learning Links experience is being enriched to offer more academic rigor than ever before.

Launched seven years ago with 20 students, the program has served

largely as a homework help group for children of low-income families. In September of 2012, in partnership with the Bedford Central School District and as part of our strategic plan, Neighbors Link has refocused the direction of Learning Links towards more intense academic instruction together with focused homework help in reading and math. It now serves the needs of 75 students from first through fifth grade.

“We were looking for a way to make gains on the achievement gap that exists between low-income children and their classmates,” said Neighbors Link Executive Director Carola Bracco.

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The walls of Neighbors Link are alive with the vibrant paintings of artist Patti Goldberg Ettinger. “A Couple of Cowboys” is one of several pieces on display that captures on canvas the spirit of Latin American culture.

The Meija family is at the heart of SIN PAIS, one of the films to be screened at the Latin Links October 9th event at Jacob Burns.



“AS IMMIGRATION CONTINUES TO BE ONE OF THE MOST COMPLICATED SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES IN OUR COUNTRY, I AM MORE PASSIONATE THAN EVER ABOUT CREATING NUANCED AND INTIMATE REPRESENTATIONS OF IMMIGRANT STORIES. I BELIEVE THAT A UNIFYING NATIONAL CONVERSATION ABOUT IMMIGRATION IS POSSIBLE, AND THAT DISSEMINATION OF STORIES LIKE THAT OF THE MEIJA FAMILY CAN HELP STEER THE CONVERSATION TO A MORE HUMANE, INCLUSIVE AND POSITIVE PLACE.”

—THEO RIGBY, DIRECTOR/PRODUCER, SIN PAIS

Police Training Course Enriches Cultural Understanding

In an excellent example of shared community assets, Mount Kisco police officers recently took part in cultural sensitivity training developed and taught by Northern Westchester Hospital (NWH).

Offered in cooperation with Neighbors Link, The Mount Kisco Police Department and PACT (Police and Community Together), the training is designed to enhance communication and trust between local law enforcement and the community of roughly 4,000 immigrants living in the Mount Kisco area.

"It is the unexplained cultural differences that can cause tension,"



Mount Kisco Police Officer Edwin Ramirez (center), one of the founders of PACT (Police and Community Together), is a familiar face at Neighbors Link and around Mount Kisco.

nored Carola Bracco, Executive Director of Neighbors Link and NWH Board Trustee. "These types of initiatives help to ease any tensions that may arise between police and immigrant communities."

Northern Westchester Hospital has conducted cultural competency training for all its staff members since 2006.

"We are pleased that Neighbors Link invited us to be part of this community collaboration," said

Kerry Flynn-Barrett, NWH's Vice President of Human Resources. "Programs such as these enable information sharing and discussion, and contribute to better relationships with the immigrant communities we all serve."

Neighbors Link would like to thank Northern Westchester Hospital, the Mount Kisco Police Department and the Elias Foundation for providing the resources and support necessary to make this groundbreaking program possible.



Participation in the Summer Links program increases school readiness and helps prevent "summer slide."



Social gatherings like the recent Family Night Barbecue help immigrants build connections in their new community.



Neighbors Link clients discuss scriptwriting and production as part of the "Life as a Novela" filmmaking project at the Jacob Burns Film Center.

Learning Links Refocuses on Academic Rigor (Continued from page 1)



Kim also provides an essential communications link to the students' regular MKES teachers.

Grace Postigliano will continue in her role as program coordinator.

With the understanding that extra-curricular activities can motivate and support academic

To address these needs, Learning Links has engaged new expert teachers and instructional assistants, as well as teaching interns from nearby Manhattanville College. MKES Principal Susan Ostrofsky expressed that she and her elementary school staff who have opted to participate in the program are fully engaged partners in the process.

"All have been so generous of their time because they support the endeavors of Learning Links and know that for many of our students, this after school program can be a turning point," she said.

New to the team is teacher Kim Moriarty, who is responsible for directing the academic focus of the program, assessing student data and progress, and organizing the children into targeted skill-building groups.

learning, Learning Links will also introduce interesting new enrichment opportunities this fall in partnership with Arts Westchester and others.

"We know it's about more than just the academics," said Carola. "So we've enhanced our extra-curricular offerings to provide a well-rounded experience for the kids."

A typical afternoon at Learning Links includes a full hour of focused

academic instruction that is closely aligned with the district curriculum and individual student needs. Teachers usually work with small groups of up to 12 students. The remaining hour is spent reading and practicing math facts, engaging in extra-curricular activities, completing long term projects and studying for tests.

"We are excited about this new path," said Susan. "And hopeful that this extra focused academic support will help narrow the achievement gap for all." ■



Photos by Mary Ann Van der Meer

"WITH HER GRACE UNDER FIRE, AND HER DEEP BELIEF IN TREATING EVERYONE WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY, REBECCA IS SIMPLY A GEM. SHE WILL BE SORELY MISSED."

—MKES PRINCIPAL
SUSAN OSTROFSKY



Learning Links bids a fond farewell to Rebecca Jamo (left, with a student), and wishes her well in her future endeavors. Rebecca is a long-time Neighbors Link volunteer who began as an ESL teacher in our Job English class in 2004, joined our staff in 2005, and then took on the role of co-coordinator of the fledgling Learning Links program in 2006.

From the first day we opened our doors, Rebecca dedicated herself fully to the children of Learning Links. She gifted us with her dedication, her energy, and her commitment to high quality work.



With the artistic guidance of a master art teacher from Arts Westchester, students in the Summer Links program created this picturesque mural of the Mount Kisco community, proudly on display at Neighbors Link.

For DREAMers: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

In June of 2012, President Barack Obama announced to the nation a new policy that will offer a two-year deferral from deportation to young immigrants who were brought to the United States as children and who meet other specific requirements. Immigrants who qualify will also be eligible to apply for work permits. Although Deferred Action is not a way to obtain a green card or U.S. citizenship, the policy has the potential to lift the fear of deportation for an estimated 800,000 young people.

Starting August 15, 2012, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) began accepting requests for consideration of Deferred Action from those young immigrants who qualify.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

You may request consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals if you:

1. Were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012
2. Came to the United States before reaching your 16th birthday
3. Have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007, up to the present time
4. Were physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012, and at the time of making your request for consideration of deferred action with USCIS
5. Entered without inspection before June 15, 2012, or your lawful immigration status expired as of June 15, 2012
6. Are currently in school, have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, have obtained a general education development (GED) certificate, or were honorably discharged from the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States
7. And you have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, three or more other misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety.

WHAT WILL I NEED TO APPLY?

You will need documentation that proves you meet the above eligibility requirements – see www.uscis.gov for details. Examples of required documentation include the following:

- birth certificate, passport or other government issued photo ID
- school records
- military records
- financial records
- medical records
- employment records
- certificate of disposition if you have ever been in criminal court

ARE THERE ANY RISKS IN APPLYING?

Yes. Make sure that you consult with an immigration attorney before you apply. If you apply for the program but do not qualify, you may be placed in removal proceedings. If the Department of Homeland Security finds that you submitted a fraudulent application, you may be placed in removal proceedings.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Deferred action status lasts for two years, can be renewed, and allows you to apply for work authorization.

WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING NOW?

If you think you qualify, you should consult an immigration attorney. Do not use a travel agency, "notario," or other entity not licensed to practice immigration law. In New York State, attorney registration and good standing can be verified by calling (212) 428-2800, or by going to www.nycourts.gov and clicking on "Attorneys" and then "Attorney Directory." There is no deadline for applying and no limit on how many people in a family may apply.

KEEP IN MIND

We do not yet know if people with Deferred Action status will be able to travel outside the U.S., get a driver's license, or qualify to receive in-state tuition at colleges and universities.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

You can learn more about Deferred Action by contacting:

- The USCIS hotline at (800) 375-5283 or website at www.uscis.gov
- The Empire Justice Center at (914) 422-4329
- John Jay Legal Services at Pace Law School at (914) 422-4333



Vibrant Scenes of Latin American Life

"I HAVE BEEN IN LOVE WITH THE COLORS AND VITALITY OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES MY WHOLE LIFE. HOUSES ARE BLUE, WALLS ARE GRANGE, CLOTHES HAVE STREAMERS OF BRIGHT YELLOW AND RED, ART IS EVERYWHERE. IT IS THIS SENSE OF JOY AND BEAUTY IN EVERYDAY LIFE THAT I HOPE TO CAPTURE IN MY WORK."

—PATTI GOLDBERG EYTINGER



Patti's colorful depictions of Latin American life, including "Peruvian Marketplace" (left) and "Jicama Man" (above), will be on display at Neighbors Link throughout the year. Visit pattiettingerfinearts.com to view more of her work.