



# California Human Development

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## **California Human Development Receives \$136,000 Immigration Grant**

### **More farmworkers, families and others to gain legal status**

Santa Rosa, CA (January 26, 2016) – Extended immigration assistance is on the way for farmworkers, families, and others who live in California’s North Bay, North Coast, and Central Valley regions. California Human Development (CHD), a community non-profit based in Santa Rosa, has received a \$136,600 grant from the state Department of Social Services to provide increased immigration education and assistance in these areas. Additional services made possible through the new funding will focus on assisting applicants with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA).

"These two programs, in particular, are especially meaningful for those who are undocumented in our communities," says Christopher Paige, CEO. "DACA helps foreign-born teens and young adults who were primarily raised here to obtain legal status so they can pursue higher education and employment. DAPA, meantime, keeps families together by providing legal status for the parents of American-born children and children who are lawfully here as residents of the United States."

DAPA is currently on hold pending review by the U.S. Supreme Court with a decision slated for June 2016. "We feel hopeful for a favorable outcome and are moving forward to help prepare our clients to file for DAPA as soon as the Court hands down its decision," says Paige.

Beginning January 28, 2016 and continuing through June 2017, CHD will hold a series of workshops and outreach events to provide an array of services including education, assessment and direct representation to a minimum of 1,485 people. In addition to the DACA and DAPA programs, CHD will focus on assisting eligible applicants with the Naturalization process to become U.S. Citizens, will help obtain U-Visas for victims of violent crimes, and will provide assistance with other immigration applications. Workshops and outreach is slated for Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Lakeport, Ukiah, Pt. Arena, Gualala, Mendocino, Ft Brag, Lodi, Galt, Woodland, Sacramento, Walnut Grove, and Stockton, among others.

California Human Development is among 61 non-profit organizations across the state to receive the new immigration funding totaling \$14,460,000. With over 20 years of experience, CHD is one of the State's primary immigration services providers and is the only provider to receive funding that focuses on serving Northern California farmworkers.

“We’re thrilled to be able to provide extended immigration assistance to farmworkers, who by-and-large make up an essential—even critical—workforce for our communities but who largely remain undocumented and, thus, unable to access basic human services such as health care,” says Paige. “Many farmworkers and their families qualify to legally immigrate but are unaware of their options or unclear on how to navigate the process. Additionally, the costs involved are often prohibitive,” Paige adds.

The new funding aims to address these barriers to immigration in California. Legal immigration pathways will be opened up for tens-of-thousands of undocumented residents across the state in 2016, including hundreds of farmworkers and others of low income to be assisted by California Human Development.

**About CHD**

California Human Development is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and a leader in the War on Poverty for nearly 50 years. First inspired in service to our state's farmworkers, CHD now serves people of low income from many walks of life—giving 25,000 people a year in 31 counties a hand up in pursuit of the American Dream. Training & Jobs, Affordable Housing, Immigration, disABILITY services, Green Energy, and Drug-Free Living programs eliminate barriers and create opportunities for success.

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