



**Hmong National Development, Inc.**

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## HND NEWS FLASH

August 2009

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### Legislative Updates

#### **Immigration and Customs Enforcement Announces Modifications to Immigration Detention System**

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) today announced it will enact several changes in order to better protect the rights of the more than 400,000 men and women kept in the nation's immigrant detention centers annually. These changes — which include creating an Office of Detention Oversight, allowing independent medical officers to examine detention centers' medical complaints and denials of requests for services, sending federal employees to monitor the largest facilities, and augmenting field operations — are indicative of movement toward better protecting due process rights of detainees. However, ICE announced last week that it would not make any of its own detention standards legally enforceable, and its latest announcement did not alter that position or include any clear statement on how detention facilities found to be in violation of the standards would be penalized. To ensure that immigration detention facilities meet the most basic standards of human decency, legislation is necessary.

#### **Protect Citizens and Residents from Unlawful Detention Act Introduced**

The Protect Citizens and Residents from Unlawful Detention Act was sponsored by Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Edward Kennedy (D-MA), and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY). It would establish screening mechanisms to ensure that U.S. citizens and vulnerable populations—such as children and pregnant women—who are swept up in immigration enforcement operations are considered for alternatives to detention, advised of their right to counsel, and notified of the immigration charges against them.

#### **Strong STANDARDS Act (Safe Treatment, Avoiding Needless Deaths, and Abuse Reduction in the Detention System) Introduced**

The Strong STANDARDS Act would require the Department of Homeland Security

(DHS) to provide adequate access to medical care, establish protocols to be followed when immigrants are transferred away from family and counsel, and improve conditions in detention centers. This bill also establishes an alternative to immigration detention which would ensure that people appear at immigration court hearings while redirecting vulnerable populations—such as pregnant and nursing women, the elderly, and asylum seekers—to community-based and cost-saving noncustodial alternatives to detention.

### **Asian American Week of Action for Comprehensive Immigration Reform August 17-24**

Hundreds of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders will spend the week of August 17-24 attending town hall meetings, sending postcards to Congress and visiting lawmakers, all in an effort to persuade Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation this year. The effort began August 14 in Boston and continues into September. People will share their personal stories about how our outdated immigration policies adversely affect their families, businesses and communities. Town hall meetings will be held in Chicago and New Jersey while activists in Los Angeles will hold a press conference. Anyone concerned about immigration policy is encouraged to submit letters to the editor, write a member of Congress, or participate in the post card campaign. That campaign will focus specifically on the need to reform the family immigration system as part of the broader immigration overhaul.

### **Health Care Reform Update**

Prior to the August recess, Congress was working hard on drafting health reform legislation. Three House committees produced a unified bill and the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee introduced draft legislation. Both proposals include health insurance "exchanges" (where individuals can choose from range of plans, including the public plan option); health insurance subsidies for low-income patients; and requirements on employers to provide coverage to workers. The Congressional Asian Pacific American, Black, and Hispanic Caucuses have also introduced the Health Equity and Accountability Act (H.R. 3090) that addresses health disparities in minority communities. All eyes are now on the Senate Finance Committee to see what they will produce as their bill.

### **President Obama Helps to Launch the Post-9/11 GI Bill**

On August 3 at George Mason University, President Obama spoke on the importance of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which he co-sponsored while in the Senate. The bill is modeled after the 1944 GI Bill signed into law by President Roosevelt. The Post-9/11 GI Bill would provide comprehensive education benefits to veterans and assure that our servicemen and women will be able to attend school after service. In the midst of economic hardships, the President pointed to the need for the skills and talents of our service men and women. President Obama stated, "We do it because these men and women must now be prepared to lead our nation in the peaceful pursuit of economic leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

## Announcements

### **Judge Sonia Sotomayor Confirmed to the Supreme Court**

On August 6, by a vote of 68-31, the U.S. Senate confirmed Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court, making her the first Latino Supreme Court justice in history. Justice Sotomayor brings more federal judicial experience to the Supreme Court than any justice in 100 years, and more overall judicial experience than anyone confirmed for the Court in the past 70 years. Born to a working class Puerto Rican family, Justice Sotomayor grew up in a public housing project in the South Bronx to parents born in Puerto Rico. Justice Sotomayor graduated summa cum laude from Princeton University and finally went on to graduate from Yale Law School, where she served as an editor of the Yale Law Journal. She was appointed by President George H.W. Bush to the federal district court for the Southern District of New York in 1992, President Clinton then appointed her to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in 1998. Judge Sotomayor is widely admired as a judge with a grasp of legal doctrine and a keen awareness of the law's impact on everyday life.

### **U.S. Department of Labor announces \$26.5 million to implement and expand unemployment insurance REA grants**

The U.S. Department of Labor today announced grants totaling \$26.5 million to 25 states to implement or enhance the Re-employment and Eligibility Assessment (REA) Initiative for unemployment insurance (UI) recipients. Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis says, "By expanding training and employment services, these grants will help prepare workers for employment in thriving regional industries, and give them a better opportunity to provide for their families." Today's funding will allow staff at one-stop career centers to conduct in-person assessments with individuals who are receiving unemployment compensation. These assessments are used to determine which services and/or training are appropriate for each worker. Each worker also develops an individual work-search plan and is provided with labor market information that allows for a more focused job search. For more information on unemployment insurance and the range of Department of Labor training and employment programs, visit <http://www.doleta.gov>.

## Upcoming Events

**The Advancing Justice Conference:** The Asian American Justice Center and its affiliates—the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, the Asian Law Caucus and the Asian American Institute—are hosting the 2009 Advancing Justice Conference in Los Angeles, Calif. The annual conference, which will focus on civil rights and social justice issues that impact the diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, will be held Oct. 29-30 at The Center at Cathedral Plaza in downtown Los Angeles.

**The 2009 Education Trust National Conference:** The conference focuses on effective strategies to raising achievement and closing the education gap. It will take place from November 12-14 in Arlington, VA. Registration is from August 3- November 6. For more information, please contact Josefina Velasco at [jvelasco@edtrust.org](mailto:jvelasco@edtrust.org).

## **Scholarships/Fellowships/Internships**

### **Aspen Collegiate Foundation's Diversity Scholarship**

This Aspen Collegiate Foundation's Diversity Scholarship was created to embrace diversity and help minority students achieve their 4-year Bachelor's Degree education. Recipients of this scholarship will be granted a full 4-year Bachelors Degree Scholarship, including full tuition and textbooks at Aspen University [www.aspen.edu](http://www.aspen.edu) a leading nationally accredited online university. Aspen University will grant this scholarship, and provide all courses through a 100% online Internet-based delivery system. Please send an email to the following address for an application: [seb1215@yahoo.com](mailto:seb1215@yahoo.com)

### **Organizing for America's National Organizing Internship**

Students and young people were critical in building the movement that helped elect President Obama last year. By becoming a National Organizing Intern, you'll be part of the grassroots effort to make the change we fought for a reality in 2009 and beyond. As an Organizing Intern, you'll work side by side with OFA staff and community leaders to help build support for President Obama's agenda. You'll learn core organizing principles that are crucial for any campaign and play an important role in building our organization in your state. If you're passionate about making sure every American has quality health care, reviving our economy, and building a clean energy future, do not miss this great opportunity. No previous experience is needed in order to apply. Applications are due Monday, August 24.

## **National Funding Opportunities**

### **Creative Capital: Multi-Arts Production (MAP) Fund**

The Multi-Arts Production (MAP) Fund, a program of Creative Capital supported by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, supports original new work in all disciplines and traditions of the live performing arts. The goal of the MAP Fund is to assist artists who are exploring and challenging the dynamics of live performance within our changing society, thus reflecting our culture's innovation and growing diversity. MAP is especially interested in supporting work early in its development; the touring of completed projects is not eligible for funding. Applications for MAP support must come from U.S. nonprofit organizations; nonprofit artist-services organizations may apply as fiscal sponsors on behalf of artists or ensembles. The online letter of inquiry process opens September 1, 2009 with a due date of October 19, 2009. Invited proposals must be submitted by January 11, 2010. Visit the MAP website for more information.

### **Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People**

The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) focuses its efforts on the empowerment of economically poor and disadvantaged people seeking to change the structures that perpetuate their condition. SDOP currently supports groups in the United States who are oppressed by poverty and social systems and want to take charge of their own lives. Funded projects must be presented, owned, and controlled by the groups of people who will directly benefit from them and must address long-term

corrections of the conditions that keep people bound by poverty and oppression.

#### [National Geographic All Roads Seed Grant Program](#)

The National Geographic All Roads Seed Grant Program supports film projects by and about indigenous and underrepresented minority-culture filmmakers worldwide. This program supports filmmakers who bring their lives and communities to light through first-person storytelling. Indigenous and underrepresented minority culture filmmakers, as well as filmmakers who can demonstrate that they have been designated by indigenous or minority communities to tell their stories, are eligible to apply. These grants of \$1,000 to \$10,000 should be used toward the development and production of a feature film, long documentary, short documentary, shorts, animation, or music video. Eligible expenses include equipment, travel for field research, editing time, etc. Requests are reviewed quarterly; the next application deadline is September 15, 2009.

#### [Pay It Forward Foundation Mini-Grant Program](#)

The Pay It Forward Foundation was established to inspire students to realize that they can change the world, and to provide them with opportunities to do so. Pay It Forward Mini-Grants are designed to fund one-time service-oriented projects that are identified by youth as activities they would like to perform to benefit their school, neighborhood, or greater community, and that include learning goals for the youth participants. Projects must contain a "pay it forward" focus – that is, they must be based on the concept of one person doing a favor for others, who in turn do favors for others, with the results growing exponentially. Schools, churches, and community youth groups (with an adult sponsor) in the U.S. and Canada may apply for funding. The application deadlines are September 15 and February 15 of each year; however, requests may be submitted at any time. Visit the Foundation's website to download the Mini-Grant guidelines.

#### [W.K. Kellogg Foundation: Community-Based Racial Healing Request for Proposals](#)

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation has announced a new grant opportunity in response to the Foundation's commitment to becoming an effective, anti-racist organization that promotes racial equity. Racial equity work describes actions designed to address historic burdens as well as to remove present day barriers to equal opportunities by identifying and eliminating systemic discriminatory policies and practices. The Foundation's Community-Based Racial Healing Request for Proposals will provide grants of up to \$400,000 to strengthen community-based approaches for racial healing and racial equity efforts targeting vulnerable and marginalized children in the United States. The targeted groups include vulnerable African American, Native American, Latino/Hispanic American, Asian American, Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian, Arab American, and European American children and families. Online proposals must be submitted by September 30, 2009. Visit the Foundation's website to review the Request for Proposals.

#### [Nickelodeon's Big Green Grants Program](#)

Nickelodeon's Big Green Grants Program provides support to schools and community-based organizations throughout the U.S. for environmentally friendly projects. Green Grants of \$2,500 and \$5,000 encourage projects that inspire kids to take care of the environment, be active and live healthier, and engage in community service. Applicants must participate in [Worldwide Day of Play](#) (September 26, 2009) or host a [Big Green Help](#) environmental project. Public and private elementary and middle schools as well as nonprofit community-based after-school organizations are eligible to apply. Applications from urban and rural/suburban areas as well as small and large

community-based organizations serving all ethnicities are encouraged to apply. Requests must be submitted by December 31, 2009. Visit the program's website for application guidelines and forms.

#### [Society for the Arts in Healthcare: Johnson & Johnson Grant Program](#)

The Society for the Arts in Healthcare promotes the use of the arts to enhance the healthcare experience for patients, their families, and caregivers. Johnson & Johnson, working in partnership with the Society, provides grants of \$60,000 over three years to collaborations of healthcare organizations and arts agencies in the U.S. and Canada that have established models of high quality healthcare through the use of arts. Programs must demonstrate a high potential for replication and may be located in a variety of settings, including clinics, hospitals, hospices, medical schools, and public health services. Applicants must be a current member of the Society. The deadline for letters of inquiry is October 15, 2009. Visit the Society's website for eligibility requirements and application guidelines.

#### [Surdna Arts Teachers Fellowship Program](#)

The Surdna Arts Teachers Fellowship Program supports the artistic revitalization of outstanding teachers from public arts high schools throughout the United States. Eligible schools include specialized public arts high schools, as well as arts-focused, magnet, and charter high schools. The program offers arts teachers the opportunity to immerse themselves in their own creative work, interact with other professional artists, and stay current with new practices. All fellows will be invited to convene during the fall of 2010 in New York City to share experiences and discuss relevant issues and concerns. Online applications for the program are due November 13, 2009. Visit the Surdna website for program details and application guidelines.

#### [J.M. Long Foundation](#)

The J.M. Long Foundation provides grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000 to nonprofit organizations in Northern California and Hawaii. The Foundation's areas of interest include healthcare, education, and conservation. Preference is given to new, innovative projects that can be completed with a contribution from the Foundation. Applications for new grant requests are accepted by invitation only. In order to receive an invitation, interested organizations should submit a single page "Request for Invitation" letter. Guidelines for developing the letter, which must be submitted by September 30, 2009, are available on the Foundation's website.

### **Federal Deadlines**

#### [\*\*Department of Health and Human Services: Straight Talk on Preventing HIV Program\*\*](#)

This program provides funding for a cross-generational HIV/AIDS prevention education program designed to establish effective communication between female teenagers and their mothers, grandmothers, aunts, cousins, and older sisters about health issues.

#### [\*\*Department of Education: Technical Assistance and Dissemination to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities--National Center on Postsecondary Outcomes for Students with Disabilities\*\*](#)

This program promotes academic achievement and improves results for children with

disabilities by providing technical assistance, supporting model demonstration projects, disseminating useful information, and implementing activities that are supported by scientifically based research.

**Department of Labor: Recovery Act-Health Care Sector and Other High Growth and Emerging Industries**

This program supports efforts to address current and forecasted workforce shortages, and provide workers with paths to career enhancing opportunities in high growth, high demand, and economically vital sectors of the American economy.

**Department of Commerce: FY2010 Community-Based Marine Debris Removal Project**

This program supports the implementation of locally driven, community-based marine debris prevention, assessment, and removal projects that will benefit coastal habitat, waterways, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration trust resources. **Department of Commerce: 2010**

**Open Rivers Initiative**

This program supports the implementation of locally-driven projects to remove dams and other river barriers, in order to benefit living marine and coastal resources, particularly diadromous fish.

**Department of Health and Human Services: Research Demonstration and Dissemination Grants**

The purpose of this program is to encourage the scientific community to conduct demonstration and dissemination studies to test the effectiveness of interventions in children, adolescents, and/or adults to promote healthful behaviors.

**Department of Labor: Recovery Act - Pathways Out of Poverty**

This program provides support for training and placement services to provide pathways out of poverty and into employment within multiple industries.

**Department of Homeland Security: International Research in Homeland Security Science & Technology Mission Areas**

This program is seeking international research projects designed to augment and complement, through international research and collaboration, the depth and breadth of homeland security science and technology research.

**National Science Foundation: Energy for Sustainability**

This program supports fundamental research and education in energy production, conversion, and storage and is focused on energy sources that are environmentally friendly and renewable.

**Hmong National Development, Inc.** (HND) is a national, 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization. Our mission is to build capacity, develop leadership and empower the Hmong American community. HND works with local and national organizations, public and private entities, and individuals to promote educational opportunities, increase community capacity, and develop resources for the well-being, growth, and full participation of Hmong in society.

**The HND News Flash** is a bi-weekly electronic newsletter with information regarding policy issues, HND updates, and current community news. For more updates, visit: [www.hndinc.org](http://www.hndinc.org).

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