

August 31, 2020

COVID-19 Update

The LGBT Asylum Project will continue working remotely with our current clients via email and postal service. We will resume regular operations once public health authorities advise that it is safe to do so. If you have an urgent concern regarding your immigration case, please email us at info@lgbt asylumproject.org and we will do our best to assist you.

The Asylum Office is currently building the interview protocol. For the time being, only one interview will be scheduled per day. Short notice interviews will start, followed by prioritization for rescheduled interviews due to COVID.

Applicants will receive new biometrics appointments in the mail for fingerprinting.

Please note the San Francisco Asylum Office has added the following two new inquiry phone lines to use during Shelter-in-Place due to coronavirus:

1-415-865-3586

1-415-865-3587

For inquiries, leave a voicemail with your name, case A#, and callback phone number.

If your asylum application is pending for more than 150 days, you may apply for your work permit. Work permit applications are still processed by USCIS.



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For those with cases at the San Francisco Immigration Court:

- All check-ins are suspended indefinitely. Rescheduling notices will be sent.
- All non-detained cases are being postponed through September 18. The Court will send new hearing notices.
- If you have a case in Immigration Court, you can check your case status by calling: 1-800-898-7180, and following the prompts.

These shut-downs will likely be extended and we will update you as we receive any updates!

We've received a lot of questions from clients regarding the interaction of unemployment benefits and the public charge rule, so we thought we would share this information with you:

1. **Asylees are NOT subject to the public charge rule.** Because of this, asylees do not need to worry about accessing any public benefits, as it will not be held against them.
2. **Unemployment benefits are NOT public benefits.** Regardless of your status (asylee or otherwise), applying for and accessing unemployment benefits will not be held against you under the public charge rule.

All this is to say that you can and should apply for unemployment benefits if you have been working legally in the United States and are now unemployed.



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For more information on the coronavirus (COVID-19) and how it affects the LGBTQ community, please visit: <https://transequality.org/covid19>

For more information on how you can best take care of yourself in these uncertain and challenging times & for regular updates on COVID-19, please refer to:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>



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Resources

LGBTQ+ Affirming & Immigrant Friendly Resources Providing Services During COVID-19:

https://asylumconnect.org/resource-list-for-lgbtq-asylum-seekers-and-other-lgbtq-people-during-covid-19/?mc_cid=676f0e6509&mc_eid=c83dd83117

Resource List By Parivar:

How can you get help? APPLY

LGBTQ community needs sign up here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/COVID19LGBTQ>

Relief Fund APPLY(Grocery) : transgenderdistrictsf.com/

Relief Fund APPLY(Artists):

<https://untitledart.s3.amazonaws.com/press/739c85/3c59132f8d.pdf>

Relief Fund APPLY(Non Profits):

<https://sff.org/for-nonprofits-apply-for-a-grant-from-the-sff-covid-19-emergency-response-fund/>

How can you help? DONATE/SHARE

Please sign up, Parivar needs more volunteers especially in East Bay:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LGBTQVolunteer>

Relief Fund DONATE(ALL):

https://connect.clickandpledge.com/w/Form/93216aa3-cdd1-41a7-b19c-52e857b51287?mc_cid=081f55656c&mc_eid=f1abdd5d60

Relief Fund DONATE(Oakland): <https://secure.donationpay.org/oaklandfund/>

Relief Fund DONATE(ALL): <https://www.siliconvalleycf.org/coronavirus-fund>

Resources SHARE: resource document

Resources SHARE(Know your rights): <https://transgenderlegal.org/>

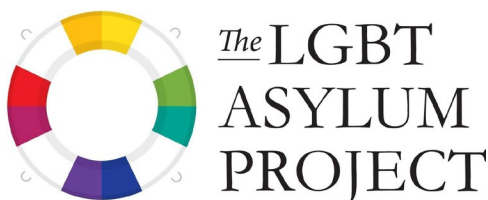
Resource APPLY (undocumented immigrants) <https://www.facebook.com/eodreamers>

OAKLAND COVID Resources(Chinese, English, Korean and Spanish)

[:https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XZwjMhfbS9nEIWfcls9E0kwuYHxNaxG8xjA0RgDc7uM/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XZwjMhfbS9nEIWfcls9E0kwuYHxNaxG8xjA0RgDc7uM/edit?usp=sharing)

SAN FRANCISCO COVID

Resources(English):<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BJ8eJyivQ1GA-BQZCosdPiSflaRki4JV-INZb5Bj57I/edit?usp=sharing>



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Self-Care and Mental Health Resources

By Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club

- The Trevor Project is a national 24-hour, toll free confidential suicide hotline for LGBTQ youth. Call 1-866-488-7386 or text START to 678678.
- The Felton Institute San Francisco Suicide Prevention provides a 24-hour hotline for people experiencing mental health crises. Call 415-781-0500.
- The Institute on Aging offers a 24-hour friendship line for people 60 years and older, adults with disabilities, and those feeling isolated. Call 1-800-971-0016
- The Mental Health Association of San Francisco has a 24-hour peer-run line for nonemergency emotional support. Call 1-855-845-7415.
- Headspace has a library of guided meditations.
- Ten Percent Happier offers guided meditations, coronavirus-focused sessions that are free of charge, and a daily virus-focused livestream and Q&A.
- The Virus Anxiety website has daily mantras, write-in mental health questions, and calming online distractions.
- The Disaster Distress Helpline provides crisis counselling and support for anyone in the United States experiencing distress or other behavioral health concerns. Call 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66764.
- The Crisis Text Line provides free, 24/7 text-based support. Text MHA to 741741 and you can connect to a trained crisis counselor.



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