



The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) supports the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as it secures the nation while preserving individual liberty, fairness, and equality under the law.



CRCL Stakeholder Call on Hurricane Efforts in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

Earlier this month CRCL hosted a national stakeholder call with communities in the U.S. mainland, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands affected by Hurricane Maria. The call was held to discuss the federal government’s response and provide information on available resources for affected communities. Given the severity of the issues raised CRCL offered to act as a liaison for concerns from its federal partners and the public.

CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn gave opening remarks, followed by senior officials from the DHS Center for Faith-Based & Neighborhood Partnerships; the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Offices of External Affairs, Equal Rights, and Disability and Integration Coordination; the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and the executive director of National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.

CRCL also conducted a follow-up call with disability stakeholders and groups on response and recovery for individuals with disabilities. CRCL will continue to monitor for civil rights issues and support ongoing hurricane recovery efforts. More information about CRCL’s work in disasters can be found at: <https://www.dhs.gov/antidiscrimination-group>. See FEMA’s infographic on Hurricane Maria response, available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

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CRCL Hosts ICCT Call on Las Vegas Shooting

CRCL activated the Incident Community Coordination Team (ICCT) call to address concerns from trusted community partners, and to provide information in the aftermath of the mass shooting in Las Vegas, Nevada on October 1, 2017. A cross-section of faith-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, local law enforcement agencies, and local and state governments participated in the call, which was attended by more than 150 stakeholders and groups. CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn gave opening remarks, followed by senior officials from across DHS including the Office of Community Partnerships, Office of Public Affairs, Office of Intelligence and Analysis, Office of Infrastructure Protection, and FEMA.

Community members expressed concerns over safety and security at future events, and what could be done to better prepare first responders for mass casualty incidents. The DHS Office of Infrastructure Protection shared information on resources and training to mitigate risk and respond in active shooter scenarios, offered by their Protective Security Advisors that are located in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. FEMA also gave information on mass casualty incident training and available community grants on disaster and incident preparedness.

CRCL also provided a list of DHS resources and training for communities and houses of worship which can be found at: <https://www.dhs.gov/community-outreach-and-training>. For additional information and resources, contact CRCL’s Community Engagement staff at: communityengagement@hq.dhs.gov.

CRCL Hosts Townhall with Diverse Communities in Atlanta

This month CRCL convened a townhall with more than 100 Somali-American community leaders in Atlanta. The U.S. State Department's Office of Overseas Citizen Services gave detailed information about recent incidents involving minors of Somali background sent by their families in the U.S. to alleged education centers in Kenya and Somalia where the centers abused the minors unbeknownst to their families. The speaker encouraged communities to research schools overseas to ensure the facilities are licensed and have good reputations. The information was well received by town hall participants.

While in Atlanta, CRCL also convened its quarterly roundtable with more than 30 community leaders and federal partners from the U.S. Department of State, the local U.S. Attorney's Office, the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the Transportation Security Administration. A representative from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services spoke on DACA rescission dates and procedures, and listened to concerns raised about the October 5, 2017 deadline in light of the recent hurricanes. Additional discussion topics included actions the federal government is taking to protect communities from hate crimes and threats of violence, as well as how to apply for DHS trusted travel programs such as CBP's Global Entry and TSA's Pre✓.

Next Steps for Phasing Out Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

The deadline to file DACA renewal requests was October 5, 2017. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will only adjudicate renewal requests received by October 5, 2017, from current beneficiaries whose benefits will expire between September 5, 2017 and March 5, 2018. (The following information for DACA recipients can be found on USCIS' website at: <https://www.uscis.gov/daca2017>, [version en Español](#)).

If you currently have DACA, you will be allowed to retain both DACA and your work authorization (EAD) until they expire, unless terminated or revoked. USCIS will adjudicate, on an individual, case-by-case basis:

- Properly filed pending DACA **initial requests** and associated EAD applications that USCIS accepted as of September 5, 2017.
- Properly filed pending DACA renewal requests and associated EAD applications that USCIS accepted as of September 5, 2017.
- Properly filed pending [DACA renewal requests](#) and associated EAD applications from DACA recipients whose DACA and EAD expire between September 5, 2017, and March 5, 2018, that we accepted on or before October 5, 2017. USCIS will consider DACA requests received from residents of the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico on a case-by-case basis.

If ...	Then ...
You currently have DACA	You will retain both your period of deferred action and your EAD until they expire, unless terminated or revoked.
USCIS received your properly filed initial or renewal DACA request and associated application for an EAD on or before September 5, 2017	We will continue adjudicating your request.
Your DACA expires between September 5, 2017 and March 5, 2018, and you wish to renew it	USCIS must have received your properly filed renewal request on or before October 5, 2017.
You did not request initial DACA on or before September 5, 2017	The DACA process is no longer available to you.
Your DACA expired on or before September 4, 2017, and you did not properly file your renewal request on or before September 5, 2017	The DACA process is no longer available to you.
You have DACA and your still-valid EAD is lost, stolen, or destroyed	You may submit Form I-765 to request a replacement EAD at any time during the validity period.

Civil Rights/Civil Liberties Committee Quarterly Meeting

CRCL participates in quarterly meetings with the Civil Rights/Civil Liberties Committee, an NGO-led group. The meeting provides a forum to share information on CRCL's activities and respond to NGO questions and concerns regarding civil rights and civil liberties issues related to DHS policies, programs, and activities. The next meeting is scheduled for **November 16, 2017**. Please contact CRCL at crcl@hq.dhs.gov if you are interested in participating in the upcoming meeting. Please include "November CR/CL Committee" in the subject line of your email.

DHS Celebrates National Disability Employment Awareness Month

DHS is proud to observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), a time to celebrate the varied contributions and accomplishments of America's workers with disabilities. This year CRCL hosted a day-long celebration which brought together more than 100 employees from DHS and other federal agencies. The event featured a keynote address from renowned disability employment policy expert Dinah F. Cohen, as well as morning and afternoon workshops on "Disability Etiquette," and "Service Animals in the Workplace."

During the announcement of this year's theme, "Inclusion Drives Innovation," Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta stated, "Americans of all abilities must have access to good, safe jobs. Smart employers know that including different perspectives in problem-solving situations leads to better solutions. Hiring employees with diverse abilities strengthens their businesses, increases competition, and drives innovation."



At DHS we are committed to building a diverse and inclusive workforce that embraces the talents of individuals with disabilities. We offer trainings for managers on hiring, retaining, and advancing employees with disabilities; promote information about reasonable accommodations and resources available to employees; hire through the Schedule A appointing authority; participate in the Department of Labor's Workforce Recruitment Program which connects federal employers with highly motivated students and recent college graduates with disabilities; and participate in the Department of Defense's Operation Warfighter to provide opportunities for wounded, ill, and injured service members.

Chaplain Opportunities with the Federal Bureau of Prisons

Chaplains administer, supervise, and perform work involved in a program of spiritual welfare and religious guidance for inmates in a correctional setting. All Chaplain vacancies are full-time positions. If you are an experienced, credentialed minister with an ecumenical spirit, there is a special community that needs you. The Federal Bureau of Prisons can provide you with an opportunity to do challenging, spiritually satisfying work. For more information, please [visit their website](#).

CRCL on the Road, October

October 12 – Los Angeles, California

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

October 21 – Nashville, Tennessee

CRCL delivered a presentation on community engagement.

October 18-19 – Portland, Oregon

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

October 26-27 – Houston, Texas

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

October 26-27 – Chicago, Illinois

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations, and other meetings.

October 26-29 – Phoenix, Arizona

CRCL completed its community engagement exchange program with stakeholders from the Netherlands.

For more information on community engagement events, email: communityengagement@hq.dhs.gov.

Additional information, and contacting us

The goal of this periodic newsletter is to inform members of the public about the activities of the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, including: how to file complaints; ongoing and upcoming projects; opportunities to offer comments and feedback; etc. We distribute our newsletters via our stakeholder email list and make them available to community groups for redistribution. Issues of the newsletter can be accessed online at: www.dhs.gov/crcl-newsletter.

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, want to request back issues, or have other comments or questions, please let us know by emailing crcloutreach@dhs.gov. For more information, including how to make a civil rights or civil liberties complaint about DHS activities, visit: www.dhs.gov/crcl.

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