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November 2014 | Issue Six

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## Happy Thanksgiving from the Mayor's Office

Mayor Karl Dean, the Mayor's Office of New Americans and the rest of the Mayor's Office staff would like to wish you a very happy Thanksgiving. Whether you are a New American who is freshly adopting this holiday or a family who has been here for generations, we hope you have an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks this November 27th.

This year, we are particularly thankful that, even as it grows and changes, Nashville remains a vibrant and welcoming city. With your help, we know this will continue to be the case.

Happy Thanksgiving!



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## White House Announces Administrative Relief for Immigrants

## President Obama's Announcement What Does It Mean, and What's Next?

On November 20, 2014, President Obama announced executive orders to make changes to our immigration policy in five different areas: (1) changes to immigration enforcement; (2) expansion of federal courts; and (3) changes to our legal migration system. More information will be available in the coming weeks and months. Stay connected with TIRRC and other community organizations to make sure you are getting news you can trust. Visit [www.tennessee.org](http://www.tennessee.org) whenever for the latest.

**Top 5 Things You Need to Know About Executive Action**

1. **There is no application yet.** For those that are eligible for the expanded DACA program, USCIS estimates the application won't be available for approximately 3 months after the announcement. For parents of DREAMers or parents of children who are eligible for the DREAM program, USCIS estimates the application won't be available until approximately 6 months after the announcement.
2. **Protect yourself! Hire Immigration Legal Services Firms.** After the executive action announcement, many reform and oversight advocates will try to take advantage of the confusion and uncertainties in the community to try and make money. There is no application, don't pay anyone who says they can get you fast or help you apply today. Report bad treatment or [www.tennessee.org](http://www.tennessee.org) to help.
3. **If you are currently in deportation proceedings and you think you might be eligible for one of these programs, call us at 615-242-9309.**
4. **Get involved!** Veterans like the policy change are only made possible when community members demand change. Join us today. Increase a number and get involved with TIRRC on your community. Visit [www.tennessee.org](http://www.tennessee.org) to learn for more information.
5. **Stay informed.** Follow us on social media and call TIRRC's Community Outreach Line at 615-242-9309 if you have any questions.

### Get more information!

TIRRC and our partners are holding information sessions across the state. Find one near you by visiting [www.tennessee.org](http://www.tennessee.org) or calling 615-242-9309.

Check the website of USCIS: <http://www.uscis.gov>

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Last week, President Obama announced that he is taking executive action to grant temporary legal status to millions of immigrants who are currently undocumented.

In response, Mayor Dean released the following statement of support:

"I am proud that Nashville is a welcoming place that recognizes the many contributions of the New Americans who have chosen to make our city their home. Immigrants and refugees make Nashville stronger and more vibrant.

Congress needs to pass comprehensive immigration reform, but until they do, the President's action will allow some families in Nashville to participate more fully in our community. From a local perspective, our Mayor's Office of New Americans will work with our nonprofit partners to help immigrants access the information they need. In the coming months, we will have

resources available at New Americans Corners that are located at Metro branch libraries and community centers throughout Davidson County."

We are grateful for the work of the local organizations with whom we are partnering to meet the needs of the immigrants who may qualify for legal status under the President's directive. Some of these organizations are [holding regular information sessions](#) about the President's announcement.

## Join Mayor Dean at our December 9 Immigration and Naturalization Information Session

As part of our ongoing partnership with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the Mayor's Office of New Americans will host a free immigration and naturalization information session on Tuesday, December 9 at 6:00pm at the [Southeast Regional Community Center](#). Mayor Dean will deliver opening remarks, and USCIS staff will provide an overview of the naturalization process, a mock naturalization interview and more.

Following the information session, the [Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition](#) will hold a free workshop where individuals can get one-one-one counseling to determine if they meet the requirements to become a U.S. citizen and schedule a future appointment to get help filling out the necessary paperwork.

Please note that these sessions are targeted at lawful permanent residents interested in naturalizing and will not go into detail about President's Obama's recent executive action to grant temporary legal status to some undocumented immigrants.

The Southeast Regional Community Center is located at 5260 Hickory Hollow Parkway in Antioch.

**FREE Immigration and Naturalization Information Session and Prescreening of Citizenship Eligibility**



**Tuesday, December 9, 2014 - 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM** (Guest seats 10 minutes prior)

**Southeast Regional Community Center**  
5260 Hickory Hollow Parkway, Antioch, TN 37013 - 615-862-9902

**Free parking**

**Networking remarks by Mayor Earl Dean**

**Free Immigration and Naturalization Information Session**  
Presented by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)  
The immigration and naturalization information session will include:

- Answers to your questions of the immigration process
- Review of the eligible requirements to become a U.S. citizen
- Mock naturalization interview with an USCIS officer
- Review of official citizenship study resources and services

**Free Prescreening of Citizenship Eligibility**  
by the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC)  
It is a free one-on-one session. TIRRC will help determine if individuals are eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship. The prescreening will include:

- Determining if an individual meets the general eligibility requirements to become a U.S. citizen and
- Identifying if there are obstacles to help fill out and
- Submitting an application for citizenship to USCIS.

\*Please call us to learn if you are eligible for this program. Subject to space.



## Participate in the Mayor's Season of Giving



Share your community service and giving events with the entire community in the weeks between Thanksgiving and Martin Luther King Day as part of the Mayor's Season of Giving! Throughout this special season, New Americans groups and neighborhood organizations will be posting events on the [Welcoming Nashville Community Calendar](#) and using #seasonofgiving on social media

The Mayor's Office of New Americans and the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods started the Welcoming Nashville Community Calendar this year to connect our city and bring communities together. It serves as an online platform where Nashvillians can share information about their upcoming cultural events and neighborhood activities, including those related to the Season of Giving. For instructions on posting, [follow this link](#) or visit the [Mayor's Office of New Americans homepage](#).

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## Apply Now to be the Mayor's New Americans Fellow

The Mayor's Office of New Americans is seeking a fellow! The New Americans Fellow will work closely with senior Mayor's Office staff to conduct community outreach and to plan and administer the Office's New American's programs.

A successful candidate will be a self-motivated leader who has excellent writing skills and a demonstrated interest in issues related to New Americans. This unpaid position is open to candidates of all educational levels.

To apply to be the New Americans Fellow, please send a resume, a cover letter and a brief writing sample to [newamericans@nashville.gov](mailto:newamericans@nashville.gov). The application deadline is **December 5, 2014**.