

# African Advocate

Voice of African Immigrants & Refugees In Illinois

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED AFRICAN ORGANIZATION (UAO)

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## OUR MISSION

The United African Organization is a dynamic coalition of African community-based organizations that promotes social and economic justice, civic participation, and empowerment of African immigrants and refugees in Illinois.

## OUR GOALS

- ◆ Build the leadership and organizational capacity of the community
- ◆ Advance public policies to increase opportunities and support for immigrant and refugee integration
- ◆ Ensure that African immigrant and refugees have an active role in multiple civic arenas
- ◆ Promote community development and access to social services
- ◆ Serve as a viable model of African Unity and Empowerment

## UAO African Summit a Huge Success

We are so grateful to all of you for participating and contributing in diverse ways to the success of the Chicago African Summit and Resource Fair! We would like to thank our panelists who provided in-depth perspectives on key policies that affect the African immigrant and refugee community, resource fair participants, PK's Christian Catering & [Restaurant](#) for lunch, and **you** for being there!



As we continue the fight for a fair and inclusive comprehensive immigration reform, UAO called on Summit participants and allies to support our campaign for inclusion of [Diversity Visa Program](#) in CIR. [Want to join the campaign?](#) Click [here](#) to send a letter to your Member of Congress now. Call us at 312-949-9980 or e-mail [action@uniteafricans.org](mailto:action@uniteafricans.org) for other ways to remain engaged in the campaign. It takes an organized community to build power and achieve victory!!



The Summit videos will soon be available on CAN TV and our website. As always, we appreciate your questions, comments, and feedback!

Are you a UAO member? Become a UAO member today, visit: <http://uniteafricans.org/become-a-member>. [#ChicagoAfricanSummit](#)

## Upcoming UAO Events:

### FREE CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOPS

*GET THE ASSISTANCE  
YOU NEED TO BECOME A  
U.S. CITIZEN*

All residents who are Green Card holders for at least 5 years, or 3 years and married to a U.S. citizen are invited to attend our citizenship workshops where they can get free assistance with their application to become a U.S. Citizen.

Attend our upcoming citizenship workshop:  
Saturday, June 21st  
9:00am to 11:00am  
Truman College Students' Cafeteria  
1145 W Wilson Ave  
Chicago, IL 60640  
[Please see list of documents needed to apply](#)

## DACA Renewal Process Announced

On June 05, 2014, Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson announced the process for individuals to renew enrollment in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

The first DACA approvals will begin to expire in September 2014. To avoid a lapse in the period of deferral and employment authorization, individuals must file renewal requests before the expiration of their current period of DACA. USCIS encourages requestors to submit their renewal request approximately 120 days (four months) before their current period of deferred action expires.

Individuals may request DACA renewal if they continue to meet the initial criteria and these additional guidelines:

- Did not depart the United States on or after Aug. 15, 2012, without advance parole;
- Have continuously resided in the United States since they submitted their most recent DACA request that was approved; and
- Have not been convicted of a felony, a significant misdemeanor or three or more misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety.

Renewal request may be submitted about 120 days (4 months) before the current period of deferred action expires.

## Community Events

### WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Friday, June 20  
11 am - 3 pm  
Soccer Tournament: 9 am  
Foster Beach

Do you have events going on in your community? Let us know by emailing:

## Medicaid is still open for business Apply Today!

We are so excited by the stories we hear everyday from individuals who now have health insurance, some for the very first time. United African Organization has been instrumental in the Affordable Care Act rollout. We educate individuals in the community about healthcare options, help them gain access by assisting with enrollment applications, and enhance their understanding and use of health care benefits.

However, our enrollment work is not done. Now all low-income individuals, children, and families may be eligible for Medicaid. People denied for Medicaid in the past may now qualify thanks to Illinois' passage of **Medicaid Expansion** under the Affordable Care Act.

Medicaid covers Essential Health Benefits, including pediatric dental and vision care. That means low-income children, individuals, and families will have access to preventive care, emergency room care, behavioral health care services, doctors' visits and other critical services.

**Medicaid enrollment is open all-year round.** If someone you know is eligible and needs health insurance, they have

**SAVE THE DATE!**

African Unity Gala  
and Awards

Saturday, September  
20th, 2014  
6:30am to 9:00pm  
10 West 35th Street  
Chicago, IL 60616

For inquiries about  
sponsorship and ad-  
vertisement opportu-  
nities, please call  
(312) 949-9980 or  
email: ga-  
la@uniteafricans.org

## Understanding Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

Individuals from the following TPS countries are currently eligible for TPS designation as long as they meet these eligibility requirements: Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Haiti, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Syria.

The Immigration Act of 1990 first introduced the concept of Temporary Protected Status (TPS). TPS is granted to immigrants who are physically present in the United States and who are unable to safely return to their home country because of ongoing armed conflicts (such as civil war); environmental disasters (such as earthquakes, hurricanes, or epidemics); or other extraordinary and temporary conditions. Temporary protected status is rarely granted and only in extreme situations. The current situation in Nigeria, for example, does not seem to meet the threshold for Department of Homeland Security to grant TPS. The 2010 earthquake in Haiti, however, resulted in USCIS granting all Haitians in the United States TPS in 2011. Further, the recent situation in South Sudan also lead to TPS designation.

Beneficiaries of temporary protected status may remain in the United States and obtain work and travel authorization; however, TPS does **not** lead to permanent resident status--i.e., Green Card--and may be terminated at any time, thus reverting individuals back to their previous immigration status. In order to be eligible, individuals must:

- Be a national of the designated country;
- File during open registration period;
- And have been continuously physically present (CPP) and have been continuously residing (CR) in the United States since the date specified for the designated country. [READ MORE](#)

If you have any questions regarding this matter or any other immigration related questions, please feel free to contact our staff attorney Sondra Furcajg at (312) 949-9980.

**Proverb of the Month**

"Where there are many, nothing goes wrong."  
~Swahili proverb

**Share Your Story**

We all have stories about how we, each in our own way, enrich our communities. Tell us how you GIVE BACK to YOUR COMMUNITY...

You could be featured in the next issue of African Advocate! Email: editor@uniteafricans.org

## Scholarships and Education Grants for Africa

The Funmi Adewole Foundation (FAF) Education Trust Fund is accepting nominations for the LEAP ((Leading and Empowering Academic Progress) award. The LEAP award recognizes and gives assistance to schools, students, and teachers who are committed to the pursuit of quality education in Africa. The award provides grants and scholarships to students and programs that promote educational development.

### What You Should Do

Nominate a school, teacher or student anywhere in Africa to receive a scholarship or program support for: Computer and library resources, Classroom and student supplies, School renovations, Professional development for teachers, and Tuition and Exam Fees.

Please complete the nomination form online at [www.funmi.org](http://www.funmi.org) or download and send a complete form to: Email: [ed@funmiadewolefoundation.org](mailto:ed@funmiadewolefoundation.org)

Fax: 312-448-7223

Mail: Funmi Adewole Foundation

Attention: Education Trust Fund/LEAP

4332 N Kedzie Avenue,

Chicago, IL 60618

Nominations for the 2014-2015 school year must be received by June 30.



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**United African Organization**

**Advocacy, Unity, Empowerment**

