

T-visa, U-visa and VAWA-visas. Outreach meeting - Boston MA August 4, 2015.
Held at the JFK Building by the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services Agency (USCIS).

There were well over 100-125 people from non-profit groups in MA and other parts of New England. The primary information was provided by officers of the Vermont Service Center which is responsible for processing of all such visas nationally. There were also short speeches by ICE, DHS and US Attorney's Office. All information given is also available on the website www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign

The Community Relations Officer in Boston, John McCarthy, emphasized that many undocumented immigrants are victims of criminal action as well as victims of domestic violence. And all of them, everyone within the US, has statutory & constitutional rights and will not/cannot be deported for coming forward for any of these 3 visa types

Berta Petri, a national subject matter expert from Vermont, then went into the details of these visa petitions.

T Visa Primarily for trafficking victims, has a 5000 annual national cap., never been reached any time. The filing form is a I-914.

U Visa Primarily for victims of qualifying crimes, list on web site (<http://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/victims-human-trafficking-other-crimes/victims-criminal-activity-u-nonimmigrant-status/victims-criminal-activity-u-nonimmigrant-status>), has a 10,000 annual national cap which is usually hit, is a 4 year temporary visa. The filing form is I-918. It is important to note that a Supplemental B law Enforcement Certification is required to be filed for this visa. However, the Law Enforcement Agency (local or federal) themselves are under no obligation to provide it. A conviction or prosecution or arrest of the perpetrator is not necessary for the victim to be eligible for a U Visa. The names on a I-918 and the supplemental must match. A U Visa holder can travel abroad, even as a non immigrant.

Saheli could have survivors to whom U Visas may be relevant.

VAWA I-360 Self Petitions Probably the most relevant to us. This applies to all victims of DV who are either spouses of US citizens, permanent residents - spouses, parents of abusive US citizens, children under 21 and for some exceptions upto 25. There are 6 specific requirements of proof to be submitted along with the petition. all details on web site, I am attaching a general fact sheet here from the site. (<http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/News/Pre-2010%20-%20Archives/2009%20Press%20Releases/July%202009/VAWAFactSheet042208.pdf>)

All 3 visa types require that the individual be available and willing to participate and cooperate with the authorities, even after the filing and receipt of such visas or else the visa status expires. For more information on these topics:

John J. McCarthy
Community Relations Officer, District 1
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Boston, MA 02203
[\(617\)565-9430](tel:(617)565-9430)
Boston.CommunityRelations@uscis.dhs.gov