

ECDC NEWS

Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.

901 S. Highland Street, Arlington, VA 22204

Phone: (703) 685-0510 Fax: (703) 685-0529 Email: info@ecdcus.org website: www.ecdcus.org

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 20, 2012**

**For more information, contact:
Kimberley Hughes (703) 685-0510 Ext. 239**

ECDC Applauds Action of Fair Enforcement of Immigration Laws to Protect Young Immigrants

The Ethiopian Community Development Council applauds President Obama's announcement today authorizing the Department of Homeland Security to stop the deportation of undocumented young adult immigrants, a policy that could affect an estimated 800,000 individuals.

"It is important that we praise decision makers when they do something positive for immigrants who have worked hard to contribute to this country and become productive members of American society", said Dr. Tsehaye Teferra, founder and President of the Ethiopian Community Development Council. "This directive gives law enforcement agencies the opportunity to act in the best interest of these youth, upholding humanitarian principles, and for that we are proud to commend the White House and DHS on this policy."

Renewable deferred action will be offered to those who were brought to the U.S. when they were under the age of 16 and are currently under 30, who meet other criteria relating to education and time lived in the country, as well as who can be shown to pose no threat to public security. In addition to providing legal reprieve to individuals that arrived in this country as children, the policy will allow this group of previously illegal immigrants the ability to work. Employment is crucial to individuals' success in this country. ECDC expects this initiative to make a positive impact on immigrants all over the country, especially those young people who may not know another home, as this provides them with the ability to openly and actively participate in American society and work to improve their communities.

ECDC's mission is to resettle refugees, promote cultural, educational, and socio-economic development in the refugee and immigrant community in the United States, and conduct humanitarian programs in the Horn of Africa. ECDC continues its work of helping refugees and immigrants re-establish their lives as productive, self-sufficient members of new communities, strengthening the support systems that help them succeed. Cultural and ethnic diversity is a proud hallmark as its multi-cultural staff speak over 30 languages.

#