

# NEWS ARTICLES ON KEY ISSUES – JUNE 14, 2023

## LATEST STATISTICS

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2019		
USBP	Demographic	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Alien Child	76,020
	Family Units	473,682
	Single Adult	301,806
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		<b>851,508</b>

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2020		
USBP	Demographic	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Alien Child	30,557
	Family Units	52,230
	Single Adult	317,864
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		<b>400,651</b>

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2021		
USBP	Demographic	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Alien Child	144,834
	Family Units	451,087
	Single Adult	1,063,285
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		<b>1,659,206</b>

Data Sources:

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration/fy-2019> ; <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration-fy2020> ; <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2022														
USBP	Demographic	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Alien Child	12,625	13,745	11,704	8,607	11,779	13,892	11,857	14,420	14,929	13,003	10,993	11,539	149,093
	Family Units	41,556	43,279	49,437	30,419	25,165	34,052	37,082	51,166	44,071	42,851	39,305	44,579	482,962
	Single Adult	104,932	109,991	109,461	108,851	122,226	163,237	154,565	158,784	133,399	125,980	131,476	151,479	1,574,381
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		159,113	167,015	170,602	147,877	159,063	211,181	203,504	224,370	192,399	181,834	181,774	207,597	<b>2,206,436</b>

Data Source: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2023											
USBP	Demographic	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	Total	
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Alien Child	11,652	12,780	11,829	9,034	10,419	11,853	11,064	9,458	88,089	
	Family Units	46,752	49,823	60,818	25,829	25,644	33,269	46,514	44,900	333,549	
	Single Adult	146,728	145,084	149,331	94,648	94,458	118,527	125,501	114,886	989,163	
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		205,132	207,687	221,978	129,511	130,521	163,649	183,079	169,244	<b>1,410,801</b>	

Data Source: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

## SOUTHERN BORDER MIGRANT CROSSINGS

### BEFORE AND AFTER TITLE 42 WAS LIFTED ON THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023



❖ Sources: <https://www.msnbc.com/morning-joe/watch/drop-in-migrant-border-crossings-after-title-42-causes-anxiety-at-shelters-174397509965> ; <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/border-patrol-encounters-10000-migrants-third-day-numbers-swell-before-title-42-drops>

## EXPLAINER: TITLE 8

### "Title 8: Aliens and Nationality"

- ❖ **Restraints on who is admissible to the country or eligible for a visa.**
  - Title 8 allows for migrants to seek asylum, which can be a lengthy and drawn out process that begins with what's called a credible fear interview by asylum officers before migrants' cases progress through the immigration court system.
- ❖ **Criminal penalties for crossing the border without inspection, or for reentering unlawfully after deportation.**
  - Under Title 8, migrants who are deported are banned from entering the U.S. for at least five years. And if they reenter the U.S. unlawfully, they could face charges and jail time.
- ❖ **Expedited removal of migrants who are deemed inadmissible.**
  - Under "expedited removal" proceedings, migrants can be quickly deported, without a court hearing, if they don't claim asylum. If migrants processed under expedited removal claim asylum, they must pass an initial screening with an asylum officer to avoid deportation. These initial screenings are known as "credible fear" interviews.
- ❖ News Article Sources: <https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/2023/04/26/what-is-title-8-immigration-law-us-mexico-border-enforcement-when-title-42-ends/70136205007/> ; <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/what-is-title-8-immigration-law-vs-title-42-border-policy/> ; <https://www.cnn.com/2023/05/11/us/title-42-what-happens-next/index.html>

## NEW IMMIGRATION INITIATIVES

### Here are new Biden immigration policies to expect as Title 42 ends

By Suzanne Gamboa, NBC News, May 9, 2023

- ❖ Here are some of the policies and requirements the Biden administration is using or has announced it plans to use as Title 42 ends Thursday, May 11:
  - Replace Title 42 with Title 8, the section of the U.S. law dealing with immigration and nationality that was used at the borders before the pandemic.
  - Levy penalties allowed under Title 8 from \$50 to \$250 in fines and six months to two years in prison for each attempt to cross the border without legal permission and twice the fines for anyone previously fined or imprisoned. Penalties are more severe if a person has a criminal record and re-enters the country illegally. Title 42 had suspended those penalties, which led to an increase in the number of people who repeatedly crossed the border after they had been expelled.
  - Require anyone who wants to apply for asylum to make an appointment through the CBP One phone app. The number of appointments available per day through the app expands from about 800 to about 1,000, and appointments can be made 23 hours a day.
  - Toughen rules about asylum so applications are open only to people who can show they applied to third countries and were rejected and that they tried to make appointments through CBP One. The tougher rules propose some exceptions for unaccompanied children, people in imminent danger and certain trafficking victims.
  - Allow 30,000 Haitians, Venezuelans, Nicaraguans and Cubans per month who have U.S. sponsors to apply for humanitarian parole in the U.S. Those who qualify get to work in the country for two years.
  - Add asylum officers and immigration judges to expedite processing times. Conduct "credible fear interviews" of people asking for asylum earlier in the process and provide legal services so removals can be expedited.
  - Deploy 1,500 active-duty military personnel to help Border Patrol with processing paperwork.
  - Bring in thousands of contractors and non-uniformed employees to support administrative tasks usually done by Border Patrol agents.
  - Expand Border Patrol capacity for holding migrants and increase Immigration and Customs Enforcement removal flights, doubling and tripling some for certain countries.
  - Open processing centers in countries where people can apply for legal immigration to the U.S., Canada, Spain and other countries.
  - Increase Panamanian, Colombian and U.S. personnel in the Darien Gap region to counter smugglers and turn back migrants traveling through it to get to the U.S.
  - Create a legal way for families from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Colombia to reunite with family members in the U.S.
  - Apply an agreement with Mexico to accept more migrants turned away from the U.S. border.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/are-new-biden-immigration-policies-expect-title-42-ends-rcna83448>

## LATEST NEWS

### 3 more GOP governors sending National Guard troops to US-Mexico border

By Sarah Rankin, Associated Press, June 1, 2023

- ❖ The governors of Virginia, West Virginia and South Carolina joined a growing list of Republican leaders sending their state National Guard soldiers or other state law enforcement officers to the U.S. border with Mexico. President Joe Biden announced in early May plans to send 1,500 active-duty troops to the border, in addition to the 2,500 National Guard members already there. Those military personnel were tasked with data entry, warehouse support and other administrative duties so that U.S. Customs and Border Protection can focus on fieldwork.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://apnews.com/article/glenn-youngkin-national-guard-mexico-texas-border-a5b5c4410c4eba5abef5c017d26965f1#:~:text=RICHMOND%2C%20Va.,the%20U.S.%20border%20with%20Mexico>.

### House Members Offer Rare Bipartisan Immigration Measure

By Michelle Hackman and Siobhan Hughes, Wall Street Journal, May 23, 2023

- ❖ Legislation—led by Reps. María Elvira Salazar (R., Fla.) and Veronica Escobar (D., Texas) and backed by at least half a dozen more lawmakers—offers millions of immigrants in the country illegally a 12-year path to citizenship, along with changes streamlining the asylum system at the border and an expansion of available work visas. The bill has no immediate hope of passing, with House Republicans vowing not to take up any immigration legislation this term other than to tighten the border amid a record number of illegal border crossings in President Biden’s first two years in office. Among the measure’s main components:
  - It would pay for more Border Patrol agents, as well as additional surveillance technology and border fencing.
  - Asylum-seeking migrants would be sent to new “humanitarian campuses” along the border that are managed by the federal government. There, they would have access to legal counsel and receive an asylum decision within 60 days.
  - It would create a new seven-year “dignity” program for immigrants in the country illegally to pay a \$5,000 penalty and gain a legal status. After seven years, if they pay an additional \$5,000 penalty, they would become eligible for permanent resident status, known as a Green Card.
  - It would require the use of E-Verify, an online system that checks whether an employee is legally authorized to work, for every sector of the economy including agriculture. The system is popular among many conservative Republicans but has drawn criticism from some lawmakers and industry groups worried about its effect on the labor pool.
  - It would fund five “regional processing centers” throughout Latin America where migrants could apply to come to the U.S. as a refugee or on a work visa.
  - It would make more green cards and temporary visas available, including creating a new year-round visa for farmworkers that has been a top request of the agriculture industry.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/house-members-offer-rare-bipartisan-immigration-measure-6c76fcc>

### Immigration backlog has a U.S. asylum-seeker feeling like he's 'imprisoned in a country'

By Anagilmara Vilchez, Noticias Telemundo, June 2, 2023

- ❖ There are almost 1.6 million asylum-seekers waiting for an asylum hearing in the U.S., according to 2022 data from the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, or TRAC, at Syracuse University in New York. The average wait time for a case before an immigration court is 1,572 days — that is, 4.3 years — from the time the process reaches the court and until it receives a hearing, TRAC detailed. Many immigrants complete their paperwork without the advice of a lawyer. One in 10 asylum-seekers were unrepresented in cases resolved in fiscal year 2022, and among pending asylum cases, “one in five (21%) are registered as unrepresented,” according to TRAC.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/asylum-seekers-are-limbo-years-immigration-backlog-rcna87228>

### End of Title 42 changes calculus of migrants at U.S.-Mexico border

By Arelis R. Hernández and Danielle Villasana, Washington Post, June 1, 2023

- ❖ The number of migrants intercepted by U.S. Border Patrol is down more than 70 percent since the order [Title 42] expired, a Department of Homeland Security official said. Officials say that at the same time, they have returned more than 10,000 migrants to their homes in Colombia, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, Honduras and El Salvador on flights in recent weeks.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2023/06/01/immigration-border-title-42-asylum-seekers/>

## 2nd plane carrying more than a dozen migrants lands in California capital

By Isabel Rosales and Jacqueline Hurtado, CNN, June 6, 2023

- ❖ A private plane carrying 20 migrants from Texas arrived in California's capital city of Sacramento Monday morning [June 5], officials said – the second such arrival of migrants in the city from a conservative state in several days. Investigators have determined the migrants were asylum seekers and, like migrants who were flown in Friday [June 2], were carrying documents purportedly from the Florida government. The papers listed Vertol Systems Company Inc., as the contractor behind the flights. California and Sacramento officials are not aware of plans for additional charter flights carrying migrants to California, but there is “probably a reasonable expectation” they will continue and the city is prepared, Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg said in a news conference. The 16 migrants who arrived Friday, June 2, had been taken from Texas to New Mexico, then flown in a private chartered jet to California, where they were “dumped on the doorstep of a local church without any advance warning,” California Gov. Gavin Newsom said in a statement. The migrants, who were originally from Colombia and Venezuela, were also carrying paperwork purporting to be from Florida, officials said. Members of the first group told authorities while in Texas they were told to sign documents before they could board the plane to Sacramento, Gallegos said. However, not all the migrants, who are not fluent in English, understood where they were headed and not all signed the forms, she said. The migrants shared documents with investigators, including waivers saying they agreed “to participate in the state of Florida’s voluntary transportation program,” Gallegos said. The consent form indicates they understood “this program is administered by the Florida Division of Emergency Management.” The Florida Legislature has set aside \$22 million for migrant transport.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/second-plane-migrants-lands-sacramento-officials-say-florida-involved/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

## What to know about latest migrant charter flight dispute between California, Florida

By Natalie Neysa Alund and Zac Anderson, USA Today, June 6, 2023

- ❖ Here's what we know so far about the case:
  - **The migrants had documentation from Florida:** Although circumstances about the group's relocation remained under investigation, Attorney General Rob Bonta confirmed the migrants – which included men and women – had documentation “purporting to be from the Florida government.” “While we continue to collect evidence, I want to say this very clearly: State-sanctioned kidnapping is not a public policy choice, it is immoral and disgusting,” Bonta said in a statement, adding he is looking into whether any civil or criminal law violations occurred.
  - **How did the migrants enter the U.S.?** The migrants entered the U.S. through Texas, the Tallahassee Democrat, part of the USA TODAY Network reported. Eddie Carmona, campaign director at PICO California – a faith-based group that helps migrants, said American immigration officials had already processed the group and “given them court dates for their asylum cases when individuals representing a private contractor” approached them outside a migrant center in El Paso, Texas, the Associated Press reported. There, Carmona told the outlet, they offered to help them get jobs and get them to their final destination. “They were lied to and intentionally deceived,” Carmona told the AP, adding the migrants did not know where they were after being dropped off in Sacramento. The migrants, he said, have court dates in cities throughout the country and none of them planned to wind up in California. The group was then transported from Texas to New Mexico and flown by private plane to Sacramento, California officials aid. Tara Gallegos, a spokesperson for Bonta, told the AP the migrants' documents indicated they were transported through a program run by Florida's Division of Emergency Management and carried out by contractor Vertol Systems Co.
  - **Florida's governor's stance on immigration:** Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has been a critic of federal immigration policy under the current presidential administration. In September, DeSantis took credit after 50 undocumented immigrants arrived unannounced in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. The migrants – many if not all of whom are from Venezuela and included children as young as 3 – spent the night on a church property after arriving unexpectedly on one-way charter flights. Also on Monday, June 5, a Texas sheriff in Bexar County, where the migrants were approached for the Martha's Vineyard flight, recommended several charges of unlawful restraint. The charges include both felonies and misdemeanors, according to the sheriff's office. The case was forwarded to the local district attorney to decide whether to prosecute. It's not clear which individual or entity could face charges. A spokesman for the Bexar County Sheriff said “At this time we are not naming the suspects involved in the case.”
  - **How California's governor reacted:** California's Democratic governor, Gavin Newsom said in a statement he also met with the migrants and said officials are making sure they are being “treated with respect and dignity” through this process.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2023/06/06/florida-blamed-migrant-flight-sacramento-fast-facts/70290016007/>



## Florida confirms it transported migrants from Texas to California

By Molly Hennessy-Fiske and Lori Rozsa, *Washington Post*, June 6, 2023

- ❖ A Florida emergency management official confirmed Tuesday, June 6, that the state had transported migrants from Texas to Sacramento in recent days, defending the controversial flights as voluntary even as California investigators considered whether the movements broke the law. “Florida’s voluntary relocation is precisely that — voluntary,” Alecia Collins, a spokeswoman for Florida’s Division of Emergency Management, said in a statement released Tuesday, June 6, to *The Washington Post*. “Through verbal and written consent, these volunteers indicated they wanted to go to California. A contractor was present and ensured they made it safely.” California Attorney General Rob Bonta said in an interview Tuesday, June 6, that some of the 36 migrants told investigators they had been recruited with promises of employment and didn’t know they were going to California until they arrived in Sacramento, “dumped and deserted.” Some have asylum hearings scheduled in Chicago, Denver and New York City, he said. The migrants were picked up outside a shelter in El Paso and other nearby sites, driven across the border to Las Cruces, N.M., and flown by private jet to Sacramento, according to Bonta. He said he is investigating whether those involved in the transport violated laws against false imprisonment or kidnapping. One flight landed Friday, June 2, and the second on Monday, June 5. The movement of the migrants by Florida followed its decision last year to transport 49 migrants from San Antonio to Martha’s Vineyard, the tony resort off the coast of another Democratic state, Massachusetts. And it has revived a battle between Florida’s Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis and California’s Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom. On Monday, June 5, the sheriff in San Antonio’s Bexar County recommended that the local district attorney file criminal charges following an investigation into the Martha’s Vineyard flights. It is not clear whom the charges would be filed against, but the case would include both felony and misdemeanor charges of unlawful restraint, the sheriff’s office said. “The complaint will undergo our normal and meticulous intake review. The process of determining whether enough evidence exists to charge anyone with a crime ... may be lengthy and labor-intensive under the best of circumstances,” District Attorney Joe Gonzales said in a statement. “If a review of the facts reveal that a felony offense has been committed, we will present that case to a grand jury for their deliberation.”

- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2023/06/06/florida-california-migrants-flights/>

## Texas Sheriff Calls For Criminal Charges Over Migrant Flights Organized By Ron DeSantis

By Marita Vlachou, *HuffPost*, June 6, 2023

- ❖ A Texas sheriff’s office is calling for criminal charges in the cruel political stunt involving the transportation of 49 migrants from San Antonio, Texas, to Martha’s Vineyard on false pretenses last September. While the Bexar County Sheriff’s Office has not identified suspects in the case, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) previously took credit for the scheme. DeSantis allegedly used funds from a state program in Florida to pay for the flights that took migrants to the wealthy Massachusetts island. “The charge filed is Unlawful Restraint and several accounts were filed, both misdemeanor and felony,” the sheriff’s office said in a statement to *HuffPost*. “At this time, the case is being reviewed by the DA’s office. Once an update is available, it will be provided to the public.” The migrants, most of which were from Venezuela, were lured away from the Texas facility by a hired scout, which *The New York Times* identified as Perla Huerta, and told they would be flown to Boston where they would receive expedited work papers. Instead, they were boarded on planes destined for Martha’s Vineyard. A spokesperson for DeSantis had confirmed the flights were paid for by a state program. “States like Massachusetts, New York and California will better facilitate the care of these individuals who they have invited into our country by incentivizing illegal immigration through their designation as ‘sanctuary states’ and support for the Biden administration’s open border policies,” Taryn M. Fenske, DeSantis’ communications director, said at the time. Meanwhile, DeSantis is reportedly facing an investigation from the state of California into whether he was involved in organizing migrant flights in recent weeks from the Texas border to Sacramento. California Attorney General Rob Bonta said a second flight of migrants landed in the state’s capital Monday, June 5, following the arrival of “over a dozen migrants” in the city last week. The flights were operated by the company Vertol Systems Inc., which was commissioned by Florida to transport the asylum-seekers to Martha’s Vineyard last year, Bonta said, according to *The Associated Press*. California’s attorney general issued a statement Saturday saying the asylum-seekers who landed in the state “were in possession of documentation purporting to be from the government of the State of Florida.” “We are investigating the circumstances by which these individuals were brought to California,” Bonta said. “We are also evaluating potential criminal or civil action against those who transported or arranged for the transport of these vulnerable immigrants.” California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D), who has spat with DeSantis in the past, suggested the Republican governor could face kidnapping charges over his alleged involvement.
- ❖ News Article Source: [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/texas-sheriff-migrant-flights-ron-desantis\\_n\\_647ecd8ae4b0b4444c80af72?ncid=APPLENEWS00001](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/texas-sheriff-migrant-flights-ron-desantis_n_647ecd8ae4b0b4444c80af72?ncid=APPLENEWS00001)

## OPERATION LONE STAR

### Operation Lone Star Repels Illegal Immigrants From Crossing Border

By the Office of the Texas Governor, Press Release, May 19, 2023

- ❖ As of May 19, 2023, **Texas** has bused:
  - **More than 9,400 migrants** to our nation's capital since April 2022
  - **Over 6,700 migrants** to New York City since August 5, 2022
  - **More than 1,900 migrants** to Chicago since August 31, 2022
  - **More than 1,000 migrants** to Philadelphia since November 15, 2022
  - **40 migrants** to Denver on May 18, 2023
  - According to public records obtained by Insider, Abbott's migrant bus program cost the Texas Division of Emergency Management **\$8.97 million** over the **November and December** holidays.
  - Gov. Greg Abbott's Operation Lone Star has **cost about \$4.5 billion** since it began in March 2021.
- ❖ Sources: <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/operation-lone-star-repels-illegal-immigrants-from-crossing-border#:~:text=Texas%20has%20also%20bused%20more,bus%20that%20departed%20this%20week%20;%20https://www.businessinsider.com/texas-spent-nearly-9-million-busing-migrants-over-holidays-2023-1#:~:text=According%20to%20public%20records%20obtained,cost%20taxpayers%20roughly%20%2429%20million.> ; <https://www.businessinsider.com/texas-spent-nearly-9-million-busing-migrants-over-holidays-2023-1#:~:text=According%20to%20public%20records%20obtained,cost%20taxpayers%20roughly%20%2429%20million> ; <https://inthesetimes.com/article/operation-lone-star-abbott>

## STATE OF ARIZONA BUSING PROGRAM

### N4T Investigators: State provides records of the cost of transporting undocumented immigrants

By Chorus Nylander, KVOA NBC News Tucson, May 18, 2023

- ❖ On May 9, 2022, the State of Arizona began a busing program to transport migrants/asylum seekers to Non-Governmental Organizations in the Washington, D.C. area. As of May 14, 2023, the state-sponsored busing program has transported 112 buses with 4,116 migrants/asylum seekers at a cost of \$8,771,086. Of the 112 total buses, 24 buses were in 2023 with 1,038 migrants/asylum seekers at a cost of \$1,699,712.
- ❖ News Article Source: [https://www.kvoa.com/news/n4t-investigators-state-provides-records-of-the-cost-of-transporting-undocumented-immigrants/article\\_eefe1876-f50d-11ed-8fc6-3b0dd115bb66.html](https://www.kvoa.com/news/n4t-investigators-state-provides-records-of-the-cost-of-transporting-undocumented-immigrants/article_eefe1876-f50d-11ed-8fc6-3b0dd115bb66.html)

## STATE OF FLORIDA MIGRANT FLIGHTS PROGRAM

### DeSantis readies more migrant flights as he intensifies fight with Biden

By Andrew Atterbury and Gary Fineout, Politico, May 10, 2023 / By Nicholas Nehamas and Sarah Blaskey, Miami Herald, Nov. 18, 2023

- ❖ Gov. Ron DeSantis' administration has so far paid more than \$1.5 million to a politically connected contractor for a program to fly migrants from Texas to northeastern states. Newly released public records show the contractor, Destin, Florida-based Vertol Systems Company, was quoted a price of roughly \$153,000 for two charter plane trips from San Antonio, Texas, to the Massachusetts island of Martha's Vineyard. The quote for the Martha's Vineyard charter flights priced out to roughly \$2,550 per passenger. It's not clear how much Vertol was ultimately billed. Florida has dedicated \$22 million in total to fund the migrant flights, which includes \$10 million approved in a February special session and \$12 million in the immigration bill DeSantis signed Wednesday, May 10.
- ❖ Sources: <https://www.tampabay.com/news/florida-politics/2022/11/18/desantis-migrant-flights-texas-vertol-spending/#:~:text=The%20state%20has%20budgeted%20a,Klas%20contributed%20to%20this%20report> ; <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/05/10/desantis-migrant-flights-00096216>

## THE COST FOR MIGRANT CARE

### San Antonio to seek federal grants to keep Migrant Resource Center open through rest of 2023

By Troy Kless, KENS5 San Antonio, March 9, 2023

- ❖ As of March 9, 2023, the city of San Antonio has spent \$13 million assisting migrants who are legally traveling through San Antonio seeking asylum.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.kens5.com/article/news/local/san-antonio-migrant-resource-center-open-2023/273-38b6c706-4f33-4202-98ed-4508bf882bf1#:~:text=San%20Antonio%20City%20Council%20approved,through%20San%20Antonio%20seeking%20asylum.>

## **Bennet, Hickenlooper Urge DHS Secretary Mayorkas to Support Colorado Amid Surge in Migrant Arrivals**

*By the Office of U.S. Senator Michael Bennet, Press Release, May 10, 2023*

- ❖ On May 5, Congressman Joaquin Castro and Congressman Greg Casar announced that their offices have expedited more than \$38 million in funding to meet the humanitarian needs of migrant families in San Antonio, including providing shelter and food
- ❖ Press Release Source: <https://www.bennet.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2023/5/bennet-hickenlooper-urge-dhs-secretary-mayorkas-to-support-colorado-amid-surge-in-migrant-arrivals>

## **City of El Paso: Migrant Crisis**

*By the City of El Paso City Hall, FAQs, 2023*

- ❖ The cost has risen from \$55,000 a day to up to \$250,000 daily. As the number of migrants rises, so do the costs accrued by the City of El Paso. El Paso continues to request reimbursement through FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.elpasotexas.gov/migrant-crisis/faqs/>

## **NYC Spends \$8 Million a Day to House Migrants**

*By Laura Nahmias, Bloomberg, May 8, 2023*

- ❖ New York City is spending about \$8 million a day to house the 37,500 asylum seekers currently in shelters. The migrant crisis will cost the city \$4.3 billion by July 2024, punching a sizable hole in the city's \$106.7 billion annual budget.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-05-08/nyc-spends-8-million-a-day-to-house-migrants-as-influx-swells?sref=kSIFpzcT#xj4y7vzkg>

## **Where is money going for Chicago's recently arrived migrants?**

*By Lauren Victory, CBS News Chicago, May 2, 2023*

- ❖ The city of Chicago has been spending \$20 million a month, but the bill between January and June could be more than that, around \$25 million. By some estimates, the cost for migrant care is \$7,000 per person, per month. That comes out to about \$225 a day for each asylum seeker.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/millions-chicago-migrants/>

## **Amid expected surge of border crossings, a costly predicament for D.C.**

*By Antonio Olivo, Washington Post, May 11, 2023*

- ❖ Washington D.C.'s new Office of Migrant Services has spent more than \$15.1 million on hotel lodging, food and other services, according to the Department of Human Services (DHS), which oversees the agency.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2023/05/11/dc-migrant-buses-immigration-tite-42-costs/>

## **Bennet, Hickenlooper Urge DHS Secretary Mayorkas to Support Colorado Amid Surge in Migrant Arrivals**

*By the Office of U.S. Senator Michael Bennet, Press Release, May 10, 2023*

- ❖ Since December 2022, Denver and Colorado together have spent over \$24 million to serve 8,500 migrant arrivals, straining local and state resources.
- ❖ Press Release Source: <https://www.bennet.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2023/5/bennet-hickenlooper-urge-dhs-secretary-mayorkas-to-support-colorado-amid-surge-in-migrant-arrivals>

## **Migrants Stretch Resources in Cities Near and Far From Southern Border**

*By Jimmy Vielkind, Alicia A. Caldwell and Joe Barrett, Wall Street Journal, May 20, 2023*

- ❖ California has spent a total of \$1.2 billion on a program to temporarily shelter and assist migrant arrivals after launching it with an investment of \$25 million in 2019.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/migrants-stretch-resources-in-cities-near-and-far-from-southern-border-9c4a66d5>

## TEXAS IN THE NEWS

### The killing of a migrant on the border looms over this West Texas town

By Alfredo Corchado and Angela Kocherga, Dallas Morning News, May 23, 2023

- ❖ Amid concerns about a large influx of migrants, Texas Republicans are proposing legislation that would make it a state felony to enter the country from Mexico without documents and would deputize private citizens to create a new border police force. The controversial bill, known as HB 20, was killed by Democrats, but Republicans successfully added the border unit to different legislation that passed the House and is now in the Senate. The new unit was added on an amendment to a bill by Rep. Ryan Guillen, R-Rio Grande City, but only after agreeing to Democrats' demands that everyday residents who joined the unit would pass background checks and not be allowed to detain or repel migrants. Only commissioned officers of the unit would have the power to arrest migrants. It's the latest attempt by the state to assume a role in border enforcement and immigration control, despite multiple court rulings that only the federal government has that authority.
  - **The Republican proposals in the Texas Legislature would continue support for Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's \$4 billion border mission known as Operation Lone Star. That has included the deployment of up to 10,000 National Guard troops to the border with Mexico, "enhanced safety inspections" of commercial trucks arriving from Mexico, slowing down cargo shipments, and fundraising to build a new wall along the Texas border.**
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/immigration/2023/05/18/the-killing-of-a-migrant-on-the-border-looms-over-this-west-texas-town/>

## ASYLUM SEEKERS

### The number of migrants crossing the border has hit its lowest point since Biden took office. Here are four reasons there was no post Title 42 surge.

By Julia Ainsley and Didi Martinez, NBC News, June 2, 2023

- ❖ **More migrants are using the asylum app:** Shelter operators in Tijuana say migrants in their shelters are increasingly turning to the CBP One App, the mobile application to book appointments at U.S. ports of entry to seek asylum. With more migrants applying to legally present themselves for asylum, fewer are trying to cross illegally.
- ❖ **"Consequences":** Customs and Border Protection officials also attribute the slowdown in illegal border crossings to "consequences." Under Title 42, migrants could repeatedly try to cross the U.S.-Mexico border and face no consequences if they were turned back. After Title 42 ended, migrants who are caught illegally entering the U.S. are charged with a felony if they are deported and caught trying to re-enter the U.S. within five years, a reimposition of an older regulation called Title 8. A CBP official said word of the increased penalties and deportations — of the "consequences" — has reached migrants considering crossing.
- ❖ **Weather:** A Colombian official said fewer migrants have been crossing from Colombia into Panama along the dangerous Darien Gap in recent weeks because of the rainy season, which has made the journey all the more muddy, slick and treacherous. The Colombian official said that as the weather improves, he expects the number of migrants, particularly those from Venezuela, to increase.
- ❖ **New asylum restrictions:** A Department of Homeland Security official said the agency also attributes the decline to the policy known as asylum ineligibility put in place after the ending of Title 42. Under the new policy, migrants who do not first seek asylum in countries they pass through on the way to the U.S. are deemed ineligible to apply for asylum at the U.S. border, unless they were denied by a country they passed through or they prove they meet a special set of criteria, such as being potential victims of torture if they are deported.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/four-reasons-there-was-no-post-title-42-migrant-border-surge-rca87325>



Members of the Border Patrol and U.S. Military help a migrant woman in a wheelchair as she and others migrants illegally crossed the border between Mexico and the U.S. to request political asylum, as seen from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, July 6, 2019. Credit: Jose Luis Gonzalez/Reuters



## New U.S. immigration rules send asylum requests soaring in Mexico

By James Fredrick, NPR, June 6, 2023

- ❖ There is a refugee shelter in the Mexican capital that is normally known among advocates and migrants as a calm, comfortable place to wait months for asylum. It prioritizes families and people in need of specialized post-traumatic care. Its rows of dormitories look like a budget hotel, where asylum-seekers can make themselves at home in a foreign country. But on a recent afternoon, the shelter known as CAFEMIN was in chaos. The shelter's 100-person capacity has been stretched above 500 on some nights as it tries to make space for thousands of migrants in limbo in Mexico City. Its covered recreational courtyard is now packed with migrants throughout the day and blanketed with sleeping mats at night. "This is extremely painful for me," says Sister Magdalena Silva, director of CAFEMIN, a nonprofit shelter run by the Roman Catholic community Hermanas Josefinas. Just a few minutes earlier, the nun had to turn away multiple families with babies. Stays at the shelter are now limited to one week, meaning many will be back to sleeping on the street. "We're between a rock and a hard place." NPR spoke to administrators at four of the five major migrant shelters in Mexico City and each reported being well over capacity in May. Unlike in the United States where organizations that help resettle refugees receive funding from the federal government, these shelters rely entirely on private donations and U.N. funding. One of the new asylum restrictions implemented by the Biden administration states people must first request asylum in another country and be denied before trying in the U.S. The Mexican government is also receiving up to 1,000 migrants expelled from the U.S. each day. It's putting pressure on Mexico's asylum system. "The United States is transferring responsibility for people to Mexico," says Melissa Vértiz of the nongovernmental Migration Policy Working Group in Mexico. "But the Mexican government has only received people without necessarily creating the conditions that allow them to stay." She says Mexico, in line with existing U.S.-Mexico agreements, prioritizes detention and deportation of migrants instead of integration. This is clear in Mexico's federal budget. In 2023, the National Migration Institute, the agency responsible for stopping, detaining and deporting undocumented migrants, has a budget of \$90 million, in addition to support from up to 30,000 National Guard troops deployed for migration enforcement. In contrast, the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR) has a budget of \$2.5 million, with an additional \$6 million provided by UNHCR. Mexico's refugee budget has not kept pace with the rise in asylum-seekers. From January through April, the national refugee assistance commission received 48,970 applications, 35% more than in the same period of 2021, a record year.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.npr.org/2023/06/06/1179808179/mexico-immigration-title42-asylum>

## Chicago migrants out of police stations, into transitional housing at local colleges

By Sarah Schulte, ABC News Chicago, June 5, 2023

- ❖ Over the next few weeks, the Johnson administration's goal is to move the 800 asylum seekers out of Chicago's police stations and into transitional housing. Daley and Wright colleges are being used to house the migrants. Ald. Sigcho-Lopez said the city will likely announce a third location soon. He has been working closely with the mayor's office on a comprehensive plan.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://abc7chicago.com/chicago-migrants-daley-college-wright-how-to-help/13348386/>

## U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION CBP ONE APP

### U.S. plans to admit nearly 40,000 asylum-seekers per month through mobile app

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, May 31, 2023

- ❖ The Biden administration is planning to dramatically expand the processing of asylum-seekers along the U.S.-Mexico border by admitting nearly 40,000 migrants at official crossings each month, an unprecedented number, Department of Homeland Security officials told CBS News. Starting in June, officials will allow more migrants waiting in Mexico to secure an appointment to enter the U.S. through a government phone app known as CBP One, which the Biden administration has transformed into the main gateway to the American asylum system. U.S. border officials are preparing to distribute 1,250 appointments each day — or roughly 38,750 each month — to migrants in Mexico so they can present themselves at ports of entry for an opportunity to be allowed inside the country to request asylum, DHS officials said. Previously, U.S. officials processed just over 20,000 asylum-seekers each month under the CBP One system, which President Biden unveiled in January as an orderly process to discourage migrants from entering the U.S. illegally by crossing between ports of entry. Seeking asylum at a port of entry is legal under U.S. law. Since its use began in January, more than 120,000 migrants have secured appointments to enter the U.S. through CBP One, according to unpublished government figures. In addition to the CBP One process and the asylum restriction, administration officials have also sought to deter illegal border crossings by allowing up to 30,000 migrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela to fly to the U.S. directly per month if they have American sponsors. In just several months, that program received over 1.5 million applications.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/asylum-seekers-cbp-one-mobile-app-u-s-plans-admit-nearly-40000-monthly/>

## U.S. IMMIGRATION PAROLE

### DHS Announces Upcoming Re-parole Process for Afghan Nationals

*By the Department of Homeland Security, Press Release, May 5, 2023*

- ❖ The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced it is establishing a process to re-parole eligible Afghan nationals so they can continue living and working legally in the United States. Beginning in June, Afghan nationals who arrived in the United States under humanitarian parole through Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) will be able to request a re-parole through online and paper filing. As with any parole request, these requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons and significant public benefit. Additional details regarding the process will be available soon. Afghan nationals are encouraged to pursue a permanent status in the United States for which they may be eligible, including through the Special Immigrant and Asylum processes, and should create or update online accounts on myUSCIS.
- ❖ Press Release Source: <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2023/05/05/dhs-announces-upcoming-re-parole-process-afghan-nationals>

### The Use of Parole Under Immigration Law

*By American Immigration Council, Fact Sheet, January 10, 2023*

- ❖ The American Immigration Council has developed a fact sheet describing the use of parole. Key facts discussed include:
  - What is Parole?
  - Who Has Authority to Grant Parole?
  - What is Humanitarian Parole?
  - What is Significant Public Benefit Parole?
  - What is Advance Parole?
  - What Factors Are Considered in Making a Parole Decision?
  - The Parole Process and How It Works: Step-by-Step
  - Must an Applicant for Parole into the United States Have a Sponsor within the United States?
  - Parole from Immigration Detention
  - Special Parole Programs
- ❖ Press Release Source: <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/use-parole-under-immigration-law>

## DEVELOPING STORIES

### NYC Pays Over \$300 a Night for Budget Hotel Rooms for Migrants

*By Laura Nahmias and Fola Akinnibi, Bloomberg, June 9, 2023*

- ❖ The Holiday Inn in Manhattan's Financial District has had a tough few years, shutting twice during the pandemic and struggling with too much debt. In November, owner Jubao Xie put the 50-story hotel, the world's tallest Holiday Inn, into bankruptcy. Just weeks later, New York City Mayor Eric Adams's administration came with a lifeline: It wanted to rent all 492 rooms to house roughly 15,000 migrants over the next 15 months. The hotel, typically charging \$110 a night, would get 73% more, or \$190 a room. Plus, the city would guarantee full occupancy at a time when it expected to be just 70% full. Not only would the Holiday Inn be a "good corporate citizen" by agreeing to the contract, it was expected to rake in a "significant" \$10.5 million profit, according to a bankruptcy filing. The judge on the case urged the hotel operator to take the deal. The Holiday Inn declined to comment. The deal with the city is one of more than 140 that is now benefiting the hospitality industry beyond filling otherwise empty rooms: An analysis of records shows that in many cases, the city is paying premium daily rates to house the migrants — forking over \$311 a night at the two-star Holiday Inn Express on Kings Highway in Brooklyn and \$200 a night at the once-posh Roosevelt Hotel in Manhattan that shuttered during the pandemic. The hotels range from seedy, "hot-sheets" rented by the hour to historic, century-old Midtown Manhattan palaces that have made cameos in Hollywood movies. They're helping house the more than 72,000 migrants who've entered the five boroughs over the last year from Venezuela, El Salvador and other Latin American countries. The cost of housing migrants is so extraordinary — an estimated \$4.3 billion between April of 2022 and July 2024 — that Mayor Adams says he must cut city services to afford it. Yet city property records and travel booking websites show that many of the hotels now housing migrants historically rented rooms for far less than the current citywide average hotel room rate of \$316.94. Several were in significant debt, some were the sites of sordid incidents — like sex trafficking, assault and drug arrests — and many earned scathing reviews from previous guests on hotel review websites like Trip Advisor and Yelp. Data provided by the comptroller's office shows 37 hotels contracting directly with the city's Department of Homeless Services are being paid daily rates ranging from \$55 a day to \$385 per day, sometimes far in excess of what the hotel rooms might otherwise rent for.
- ❖ News Article Source: [https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-06-09/nyc-migrants-how-nyc-is-finding-housing-and-what-it-costs?utm\\_campaign=news&utm\\_medium=bd&utm\\_source=applenews&sref=kSIFpzct](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-06-09/nyc-migrants-how-nyc-is-finding-housing-and-what-it-costs?utm_campaign=news&utm_medium=bd&utm_source=applenews&sref=kSIFpzct)

## **Biden names a Border Patrol veteran in Texas to be the agency's next chief**

*By Joel Rose, NPR, June 9, 2023*

- ❖ The Biden administration is tapping Jason Owens, a 27-year veteran of the Border Patrol, to be the agency's next chief. Owens currently leads the Border Patrol's sector in Del Rio, Texas, which has emerged in recent years as one of the busiest parts of the border. Owens will take over when the current Border Patrol chief, Raul Ortiz, steps down at the end of the month. Ortiz announced his retirement after the end of Title 42, the pandemic border restrictions that expired last month. The number of border apprehensions has dropped sharply since then, though the Biden administration warns that those declines could be temporary. Owens will be the third chief to lead the Border Patrol and its workforce of roughly 19,000 agents under Biden, and the 26th overall. Owens took over as head of the Del Rio sector in late 2021, a few months after thousands of migrants, largely from Haiti, attempted to cross the border into Del Rio and found themselves confined in a camp on the banks of the Rio Grande. He previously served as sector chief in Maine, and also led the Border Patrol academy in New Mexico.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.npr.org/2023/06/09/1181440878/biden-names-a-border-patrol-veteran-in-texas-to-be-the-agencys-next-chief>

## **White House ramps up efforts to slow migration in the hemisphere, capitalizing on low border crossings**

*By Priscilla Alvarez, CNN, June 9, 2023*

- ❖ Biden administration officials are doubling down on efforts to stem the flow of migrants journeying to the US-Mexico border, capitalizing on nearly a month of low border crossings in the wake of the lifting of a Covid-era restriction. The handling of the US southern border has dogged President Joe Biden over the course of his presidency, starting with an influx of unaccompanied migrant children just weeks into his administration and followed by thousands of primarily Haitian migrants who gathered under a bridge along the Texas-Mexico border. It's a political vulnerability for Biden, as the 2024 presidential election kicks into gear and Republican presidential candidates attack his border policies on the campaign trail. House Republicans are also making the issue a centerpiece, as they push forward with potential impeachment proceedings of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. Last month, officials braced for another surge following the expiration of a public health order, known as Title 42, that allowed authorities to swiftly turn away certain migrants during the coronavirus pandemic. Biden warned it could be "chaotic for a while." Instead, border crossings dropped, leading to a collective sigh of relief among officials. Shifting migration patterns in the Western Hemisphere have posed an immense challenge for the Biden administration amid an increase of people from multiple nations fleeing deteriorating conditions in their home countries that were exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic. And officials caution crossings can spike again. But in the meantime, the Biden administration is taking the unprecedented step of standing up centers in the hemisphere that would allow migrants to apply and be screened for programs to legally migrate to the US, among other countries. Since May 12, US Border Patrol has averaged around 3,400 daily encounters, according to the Department of Homeland Security, a marked shift from the around 10,000 daily encounters days before Title 42 lifting. Over the last month, officials have focused on setting up processing centers in the region where migrants can be screened for immigrant programs and visas to legally migrate to the US, and eventually, Spain or Canada. Last week, the White House sent a high-level delegation to Guatemala, where officials met with President Alejandro Giammattei and senior Guatemalan officials to discuss migration.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2023/06/09/politics/white-house-border-migration/index.html>

## **City of New York to sue 30 New York Counties for Illegally Walling off Their Borders to Asylum Seekers**

*By the City of New York, Press Release, June 7, 2023*

- ❖ New York City Mayor Eric Adams and New York City Corporation Counsel Sylvia O. Hinds-Radix announced that the City of New York is filing suit against more than 30 New York localities that issued unlawful emergency executive orders (EO) intended to prohibit New York City from arranging for even a small number of asylum seekers to stay in private hotels within their jurisdictions — at the City of New York's expense — amidst a major humanitarian crisis and statewide emergency. New York City has had more than 74,000 asylum seekers ask for shelter since last spring and has opened up more than 160 sites to handle the influx of migrants. While many elected officials, community groups, and faith institutions have worked to welcome the small number of arrivals in each locality — in most cases less than ¼ of one percent — at least 30 local jurisdictions across the state have filed EOs to wall out asylum seekers. In today's suit, New York City is asking the court to declare each of these EOs null and void and to stop the counties from taking any steps to enforce them any longer.
- ❖ Press Release Source: <https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/395-23/city-new-york-sue-30-new-york-counties-illegally-walling-off-their-borders-asylum>

## U.S. suspends asylum appointments in Texas border city after extortion reports

By *Daina Beth Solomon and Ted Hesson, Reuters, June 12, 2023*

- ❖ U.S. asylum appointments at a dangerous Texas-Mexico border crossing can no longer be scheduled via an online app following reports that migrants face extortion in Mexico. Advocates for migrants in the Mexican city of Nuevo Laredo, just across the border from Laredo, were informed of the suspension by a U.S. consular official, a June 2 message reviewed by Reuters showed. No reason for the change was stated. A website for the app, called CBP One, no longer lists Laredo as a city where asylum seekers can schedule appointments. Nuevo Laredo has long been notorious for widespread kidnapping and extortion of migrants. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) did not respond to requests for comment. The appointments are a key part of a border system put in place by U.S. President Joe Biden last month when COVID-era restrictions known as Title 42 expired. Biden's administration opened up legal pathways, including via the app, while also implementing a strict new regulation that could deny asylum to many migrants crossing the border illegally. Advocates and some Democrats argue that migrants should not be forced to wait in dangerous conditions in northern Mexico, particularly as demand outstrips the 1,250 CBP One appointments available per day. The suspension was first reported by the Associated Press. Lately, criminal groups in Nuevo Laredo have allegedly demanded payment from migrants headed to the port of entry, including those with CBP One appointments, according to a May report from the Strauss Center at the University of Texas at Austin. An advocate in Nuevo Laredo, who requested anonymity due to safety fears, said criminals have demanded as much as \$500 per person. Human Rights First recorded over 13,000 reports of violent attacks against migrants in Mexico in 2021 and 2022.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-suspends-asylum-appointments-texas-border-city-after-extortion-reports-2023-06-12/>
- ❖ To learn more about CBP One App and the list of cities where asylum seekers can schedule appointments, visit: <https://www.cbp.gov/about/mobile-apps-directory/cbpone>

## Texas governor announces plan to deploy marine floating barriers on Rio Grande to deter migrant crossings

By *Raja Razeq, CNN, June 9, 2023*

- ❖ Texas Gov. Greg Abbott announced plans to deploy a floating marine barrier along the Rio Grande to deter illegal crossings at the US-Mexico border. Abbott, a longtime critic of the Biden administration's border policies, said he intends to float the first 1,000 feet of the barrier in the river near the city of Eagle Pass in Maverick County. "This is a new water-based barrier ... we can put mile after mile after mile of these buoys," the governor said while showing an artist's illustration of the buoy barrier. "What we are doing right now, we are securing the border at the border – what these buoys will allow us to do is to prevent people from even getting to the border," he added.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2023/06/09/us/texas-marine-floating-barriers-migrants/index.html>

## Human smugglers use TikTok to recruit countless immigrants seeking path to US

By *Anna Giaritelli, Washington Examiner, June 12, 2023*

- ❖ Human smugglers who work for foreign criminal organizations use social media platforms such as TikTok to lure or trick immigrants into paying them thousands of dollars per person to get to the U.S. southern border. Immigrants are quick to put their lives in the hands of cartels and their affiliates, who are eager to profit off of unsuspecting people in desperate situations and see the humanitarian crisis in the Western Hemisphere as a chance to rake in money. Smugglers across South and Central America, as well as Mexico, share videos that claim to show the trek they can lead customers through on their journey to the United States. "The TikTok platform is used to promote the 'services' offered by human traffickers through short videos. These videos showcase successful cases of irregular border crossings and captivating images aimed at capturing the attention of individuals seeking to migrate irregularly with the assistance of a third party," according to a report by the U.N. International Organization for Migration. Smugglers, as well as immigrants who pay to be smuggled, post to social media with pictures and videos of the journey. They include hashtags on posts to appeal to and draw in others who may want to make the same journey and reach out to the smuggler. Immigrants who crossed the border illegally have shared with the Washington Examiner that they used social media to connect with people who could help them get across. USA Today reported that the hashtag #Darien, the name of the jungle immigrants in South America would walk through to get to Central America, had been viewed more than 1 billion times on TikTok.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/immigration/human-smugglers-use-tiktok-recruit-migrants-seeking-path>



## Texas sues feds over new asylum rule, saying phone app encourages illegal immigration

By the Associated Press, May 23, 2023

- ❖ The state of Texas is suing the Biden administration in an attempt to have a newly-introduced asylum rule thrown out, saying a phone app used by migrants to set up appointments at the border to seek entry into the United States is encouraging illegal immigration. The lawsuit is the latest legal salvo attacking various aspects of the administration's plan to manage migration in the aftermath of the end of a key pandemic-era immigration regulation called Title 42. In the lawsuit, Texas argues that the asylum rule encourages the use of a cellphone app — called CBP One — for migrants who don't have proper documentation to make an appointments to come to a port of entry and seek entry into the United States. Texas argues the Biden administration is essentially encouraging people to come to the U.S. even though they don't have legal basis to stay. While the lawsuit focuses on the phone app, it seeks to throw out the entire asylum rule, called the Circumvention of Lawful Pathways. The rule went into effect when Title 42 expired May 11. The rule makes it extremely difficult for migrants who travel to the southern border to get asylum if they don't first seek protection in a country they passed through before reaching the U.S. or if they don't apply online through the app. Texas argues that according to federal law, people entering the country illegally — with rare exceptions — should be expelled but that the app doesn't verify whether the migrants seeking appointments would qualify for exceptions. Therefore, the state argues, the Biden administration's use of the app essentially encourages people to come to the U.S. even if they don't qualify. Texas also argues that it has to pay the financial burden of migrants coming to the U.S. through things like health care or education.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/texas-sues-feds-over-new-asylum-rule-saying-phone-app-encourages-illegal-immigration-5886983a>

## Unorthodox immigration bill catches both parties by surprise

By Rebecca Beitsch, The Hill, May 26, 2023

- ❖ A new bipartisan immigration bill is spurring mixed reactions from lawmakers eager to reform the system following an unorthodox rollout that caught many by surprise. The legislation, spearheaded by Reps. María Elvira Salazar (R-Fla.) and Veronica Escobar (D-Texas), was unveiled Wednesday, with Republican sponsors wearing blue and some Democratic sponsors in red. The 500-page Dignity Act is seeking to become the first bipartisan immigration bill to gain traction in a decade. But it's packed with priorities and pitfalls for both parties, and some grumbled they were blindsided by the release of closely held legislation. The legislation includes significant resources for beefing up security at the border, a priority for the GOP, but primarily focuses on creating a 12-year pathway to citizenship at a \$10,000 cost for those already in the U.S. — a priority for Democrats. The legislation would also revise the process for seeking asylum, which has been at the center of the controversy around the removal of the COVID-era Title 42 rule, and create new immigration options for those seeking to come to the U.S.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://thehill.com/homenews/house/4021514-unorthodox-immigration-bill-catches-both-parties-by-surprise/>

## U.S. to renew deportation relief for more than 300,000 immigrants

By Ted Hesson, Reuters, June 13, 2023

- ❖ The United States will extend deportation relief and work permits through 2025 for more than 300,000 immigrants from El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Nepal but will not expand the program to cover additional people, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said. The move by President Joe Biden's administration maintains the status quo and stops short of a broader expansion of the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program supported by some Democrats and immigrant advocates who say more pathways are needed for people to live and work legally in the United States. Former President Donald Trump, sought to end TPS for the four countries and others during his tenure, but his effort was rebuffed by U.S. courts. Biden's Democratic administration is rescinding Trump's earlier decisions as part of the process of extending the relief for immigrants from El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Nepal. TPS allows people who cannot return to their home countries due to natural disasters, armed conflict or other extraordinary measures to remain in the United States and obtain work permits. Designations typically last six to 18 months but can be renewed indefinitely. Some TPS designations have been in place for decades, but they do not lead to permanent U.S. status. The latest decision by the Biden administration will allow TPS renewals for 239,000 Salvadorans who have resided in the U.S. since 2001. Some 76,000 Hondurans and 4,000 Nicaraguans in the U.S. since 1998 are eligible, along with 14,500 Nepalese in the country since 2015. Hundreds of thousands of immigrants from El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua living in the U.S. illegally will not be covered by the TPS extension since they arrived after the cutoff dates.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-renew-deportation-relief-more-than-300000-immigrants-2023-06-13/>

## Housing plan for migrants proposed by group of Latino City Council members

By Michael Loria, *Chicago Sun-Times*, May 24, 2023

- ❖ Amid Chicago's ongoing migrant crisis, where many wound up on police station floors and some residents have balked at providing beds for them, a group of City Council members proposed what they said is the solution. The group of several Latino alderpersons are proposing a ward-by-ward search for unused buildings that, pending community approval, could be turned into temporary shelters where social workers could connect asylum-seekers and other unhoused people with transitional quarters and, eventually, place them in permanent, affordable housing. The plan would be an amplified version of temporary shelters that Sigcho-Lopez has set up in Pilsen and which he said is already an improvement on the "dire situation" of asylum-seekers and unhoused people staying in "inhumane conditions in police districts, in airports, in viaducts." The plan, of course, still needs funding and has yet to be introduced to the Council, but Lucia Calderon, Sigcho-Lopez's chief of staff, said they have the support of the administration of Mayor Brandon Johnson — and already have a few places lined up. The proposed locations are: four unused buildings at Daley College in West Lawn, where they said they could house 400 people; a vacant building at Archer and Kedzie avenues in Brighton Park, where they said they could house 30 people; and, in Little Village, a former CVS store and the Arturo Velasquez Institute, a satellite campus of Daley College, where they said they could house 200 people. Calderon said Johnson had already toured the West Lawn and former CVS locations, and a tour of the Velasquez location was planned soon. Based on the cost to run the Pilsen facilities, a facility housing 200 to 250 people was expected to cost around \$875,000 annually. Locations housing 30 people would cost about \$80,000 a year. The plan would be the latest way to deal with the migrant crisis in Chicago which started after Texas Gov. Greg Abbott began busing migrants from the border to Chicago last August. Since then, around 10,000 migrants have arrived in the city, according to the city's Office of Emergency Management. A plan to house migrants this summer at Wilbur Wright College in the Dunning neighborhood got a mixed reception from residents at a public forum at the Northwest Side campus. Still, the plan got more support than efforts in other parts of the city, where plans to settle migrants have faced fierce backlash. A lawsuit has been filed to stop migrants from being housed at the vacant South Shore High School.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://chicago.suntimes.com/city-hall/2023/5/24/23735745/migrant-housing-plan-chicago-city-council-latino-hispanic-members-unused-buildings-temporary-shelter>

## Unlawful southern border entries down 70% from record highs since end of Title 42

By Luke Barr, *ABC News*, June 6, 2023

- ❖ U.S. Customs and Border Patrol has averaged 3,400 encounters in between ports of entry per day and fewer than 300 non-CBP One Office of Field Operations (OFO) encounters at ports of entry per day, for a total of approximately 3,700 unscheduled encounters per day, according to statistics released by DHS. From May 12 to June 2, DHS repatriated over 38,400 noncitizens under Title 8 authorities, including single adults and families, to more than 80 countries. This includes over 1,400 noncitizens from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela who were returned to Mexico under Title 8 authorities -- the first time in our bilateral history that the Mexican government has allowed the repatriation of non-Mexican nationals at the border under Title 8 authorities. The top three nationalities encountered during that time period were Mexican, Honduran and Venezuelan, which collectively accounted for 70% of the encounters per day, according to DHS. The CBP One app, which was rolled out by DHS as a hub offering a variety of CBP services, saw 1,070 noncitizens presented "in a safe and orderly manner at a port of entry each day to be processed during their scheduled appointment time," DHS said. CBP has, as of June 1, expanded the number of appointments available to 1,250 each day.
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