

POLICY & ADVOCACY WORKGROUP

Winter/Spring 2024



Federal Updates

NEW

An Update on USCIS Filing Fees

USCIS announced last December that they are raising application fees for certain immigration applications beginning **April 1, 2024**.

- For a list of fee changes and updates, visit ILRC's resource fact sheet [here](#).
- **Other notable changes:**
 - There will no longer be a separate biometrics fee (\$85) for most applications.
 - There will be a \$50 discount for filing your application online (for some applications).
 - The total cost for DACA renewals will now be \$555 online or \$605 for paper filing,



Federal Bills



- [American Dream and Promise Act \(HR 16\)](#): The bill remains unchanged from its previous version. See our CIMH website archives for more information on the original bill's protections for DACA, TPS and DED holders and pathways toward citizenship.
- [Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act \(HR 1325\)](#): The bill would shorten the 180-day waiting period for asylum-based work permits down to 30 days. This bill differs from the Senate version in that it does not require asylum seekers to enter the U.S. through official ports of entry.
- The U.S. Executive Office for Immigration Review and Dept. of Homeland Security issued a directive that all courts should have a children's docket in immigration court. For more information and advocacy efforts, see [Kids in Need of Defense \(KIND\)](#).



What happened with the Senate supplemental funding bill?

A few months ago, a bipartisan group of Senators proposed a national security bill tied to federal aid to Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan. Read NIJC's full analysis [here](#).



- **Potential pros:**
 - Funding for newly arrived refugees & expanding legal pathways for Afghans.
 - Funding for legal counsel for unaccompanied children.
 - Increases to number of immigrant-based visas & work permits.



- **Cons:**
 - Mandatory border closing based on quotas - 5,000 per day.
 - Expedited screening process and new bars to eligibility for asylum.
 - Increased funding for immigrant detention and deportation.



Policy Reports

- [Outmatched: The U.S. Asylum System Faces Record Demands](#), Migration Policy Institute
- [U.S. Policy Toward Latin America Fueling Historic Numbers of Asylum Seekers](#), UIC Great Cities Institute
- [Refugees and Asylum Seekers Generate Billions of Dollars More Than They Cost the U.S. Government](#), American Immigration Council
- [Five Questions and Answers About the Senate Border Deal](#), Washington Office on Latin America
- [What's Hiding in the Immigration & Border Deal? More Mass Surveillance](#), American Civil Liberties Union
- ["Manifesting" Fear At the Border: Lessons from Title 42 Expulsions](#), Center for Gender Refugee Studies
- [Too Fast for Fairness: Expedited Removal](#), National Immigrant Justice Center
- [The Impact of Anti-Black Racism on African Migrants at Mexico's Southern Border](#), Black Alliance for Just Immigration
- [Torture and Inhumane Treatment in Solitary Confinement in U.S. Immigration Detention](#), Physicians for Human Rights
- [Do Family Separation and Detention Deter Immigration?](#), Center for American Progress
- [Frequently Requested Statistics on Immigration to the U.S.](#), Migration Policy Institute



Advocacy Tools

- [Border Management Solutions](#)
- [Immigration Dos & Donts in FY2024 Funding Debates](#)
- [Opportunities for Welcome: Lessons Learned for Supporting People Seeking Asylum in Chicago, Denver, New York City, and Portland, Maine](#), Women's Refugee Commission
- [Asylum-seeker reception toolkit](#), UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency

State/Local Updates

New Arrivals Update



As of March 8th, Chicago has received an estimated 36,585 new arrivals since the mission began.

- There are 11,593 residents in 23 active shelters run by the city and state.
- Total awaiting placement: 18.
 - 4 waiting at CPD districts, 0 at O'Hare, and 0 at Midway.
 - 14 awaiting placement at the Landing Zone.



For more information and updates, please visit the City of Chicago's New Arrival Dashboard.



To receive information on how other organizations are supporting new arrivals across the state, consider joining the Welcome to IL coalition. Email Nina for more information at nседено@latinopolicyforum.org.

- In partnership with the City of Chicago and Cook County Government, Governor Pritzker **announced a \$182 million budget investment** to support the new arrival response. Funding will go to shelter and support services.
- For more information on the Governor's proposed budget for FY 2024, see [here](#).

Work Permits for All

Business, labor, and immigration advocates are calling on President Biden to expand work permits to **new migrants and long-term undocumented immigrants**. Interested in learning more about the campaign? Email Ere Rendon at erendon@resurrectionproject.org.

If your organization would like to sign a letter of support for this campaign, fill out this [form](#).



Global Updates

- 5 months of **Israel-Hamas conflict** in Gaza has displaced close to 2M Palestinians and killed 31,302 Palestinians and 1,139 Israelis (death toll [here](#)) and led to a rise in anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim hate crimes in the U.S. ([TIME](#); [VOA News](#)).
 - **Action Alerts:** [Amnesty Now](#); [MoveOn](#); and [Jewish Voices for Peace](#)
- 11 months of **war in Sudan** between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces has displaced 8M and killed thousands.
- 2 years of **war in Ukraine** has killed over 30,000, displaced 3.7M, and 6.5M have fled Ukraine.
- Since the **assassination of Haiti's President** in October 2021, gang violence and armed conflict continues to escalate.



Civilians in armed conflict zones are in dire need of humanitarian assistance. They are at extreme risk of famine and disease outbreak due to lack of sanitation, water, and collapsed health care infrastructure.

See [Global Conflict Tracker for More](#)

Want more information? See more detailed notes [here](#). Visit the [CIMH website](#) for past updates. Join us for our next meeting on the 2nd Thursday of the month.



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