

# UNDERSTANDING MIGRATION TO ILLINOIS

Briefly informing on the state of the migrant crisis since 2022 and the response by all levels of U.S. government. The migrant crisis is a developing situation since the publication of this document. Please follow the cited sources in the footnotes and other outlets for more up-to-date information on the state of the migrant crisis.

## MIGRATION TO CHICAGO VIA THE U.S.-MÉXICO BORDER

- Governor Greg Abbott has forced migrants out of Texas, many of them not knowing where they would be sent.
- Since the summer of 2022, over 24,000 migrants have arrived in Chicago, with more expected to arrive due to continued forced migration from Texas.<sup>1</sup>
- Most migrants seek asylum. According to U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS), migrants are legally eligible to apply for asylum if they are seeking protection from serious harm, are physically at a port of entry, and are not U.S. citizens.<sup>2</sup>

## WELCOMING AND SUPPORTING MIGRANTS IN CHICAGOLAND <sup>3</sup>

### Local support includes:

- The Office of Immigrant, Migrant & Refugee Rights has operationalized the Welcoming City Ordinance across city departments and agencies to place new arrivals on a path to self-sufficiency and resettlement.
- Hundreds of community-based and mutual aid organizations, faith communities, and individual volunteers provide resources and support to new arrivals every day including shelter, food, clothing, basic items, and healthcare.

### State support includes:

- Expanding the Asylum Seeker Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ASERAP)
- Increasing support for Chicago Public Schools:
  - Students in Temporary Living Situations (STLS) services for all students
  - Additional resources and flexibility in licensing of bilingual educators
  - Expediting existing capital projects and new construction for replacement purposes
- Creating sustainable funding streams for Chicago and two other municipalities directly supported and operated by the State to cover costs from shelter to resettlement services

### Federal support includes:

- Additional flexible funding streams to address immediate need and assure resettlement efforts funded by the State
- Flexibility in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Shelter and Services Program (SSP) funding guidelines
- Expanding funding for infrastructure benefiting all Chicagoans
- State expedited work authorization with "Significant Public Benefit" designation by the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Waiving fees for work authorization requests
- Improving backlog on asylum applications and workforce authorization requests

1. Chicago's Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights. "Data." Andre Vasquez 40th Ward Alderperson, <https://40thward.org/cirrr/>.

2. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. "Asylum." U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-and-asylum/asylum>.

3. City of Chicago. "The Welcoming City," City of Chicago, <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/texas-new-arrivals/home.html>.

**Contact us:**



(312) 372-6600



[ywcachicago.org](https://www.ywca.org)

For more information on how to support new arrivals scan QR code or visit [bit.ly/supportnewarrivals](https://bit.ly/supportnewarrivals)

