



NYIC

Freedom Together: Citizenship, Relief and Recovery

NYIC priority demands for the incoming presidential administration.

Citizenship

- Restore **DACA** to the 2012 guidelines, including for initial applicants, and immediately resume two year grants and the granting of Advanced Parole.
- Direct USCIS and the Department of State (DOS) to develop recommendations on **Temporary Protected Status (TPS)** for the Bahamas, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Venezuela, and Yemen; and direct the DHS Secretary to issue initial designations and redesignations for these countries.
- **Repeal the bans** that prevent individuals from Muslim-majority countries and refugees from entering the United States.
- Restore access to critical **humanitarian protections**, including:
 - Notifying Congress of the President's intent to increase the FY21 Presidential Determination (PD) on **Refugee Admissions** to 125,000 refugees, along with a request of supplemental appropriations for the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) and the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).
 - Restoring integrity to the country's **lifesaving asylum** processes by at minimum: dismantling Trump policies eviscerating access to asylum, including the Remain in Mexico program, "metering" policies, expanded restrictions on who qualifies for asylum, the Prompt Asylum Claim Review (PACR) and Humanitarian Asylum Review Process (HARP) and "safe" third-country agreements; reuniting families separated by these policies; ending information-sharing between HHS and DHS used to apprehend children's family members; and restoring the Central American Minors (CAM) program.
- Reaffirm the country's commitment to preserving and expanding the **Diversity visa program** and **family-based visa categories**.
- Ease **access to citizenship** with a goal of 2 million newly naturalized citizens by 2022 by:

- Rescinding the **USCIS Fee Schedule rule** that makes immigration benefits less accessible to low-income and other vulnerable immigrants and creates significant challenges to non-profit organizations serving those communities.
- Reversing **administrative and adjudicative barriers to naturalization**, including reducing the issuance of Requests for Evidence, implementing same day oath ceremonies, simplifying the N-400 Form and related forms, rescinding changes to the citizenship test and eliminating the use of denaturalization as a weapon of discrimination.
- Rescind the immigrant wealth tests by reversing the **DHS and DOS Public Charge regulations** that deters immigrants from seeking the basic needs programs for which they are eligible and rescind **Trump's Health Insurance Proclamation** that suspends the entry of immigrants who "will financially burden the U.S. healthcare system."
- Send a Day One bill to Congress that includes a **broad, accessible road to citizenship** for the 11 million undocumented people in the United States.

Relief

- Institute a **moratorium on all immigration enforcement** until a robust and broad affirmative relief program is implemented.
- **Release as many immigrants as possible** from prisons and detention. Reform the immigration bond system, and set release on own recognizance as a presumption and the prevailing policy alternative to detention. Terminate all existing contracts with private prisons and place a moratorium on future contracts or expansion of detention.
- Immediately **repeal two Trump Executive Orders on enforcement**: "Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States" and "Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements."
- Rescind the rule expanding **expedited removal**.
- **Protect sensitive locations** such as courts, schools, and hospitals from immigration enforcement activity.
- **End all collaboration** between Immigration and Customs Enforcement and local law enforcement by eliminating programs such as 287(g) and Secure Communities.
- **Ensure access to meaningful due process** in Immigration Court by reversing the Trump administration's attacks on judges and impartiality within immigration courts and providing every person facing removal with legal counsel paid for by the government if they cannot afford it.
- **Decriminalize migration** by ending criminal prosecutions for migration-related offenses, particularly under sections 1325 and 1326.
- **End the decades of dangerous border policies and out of control border militarization spending** that have violated human rights and civil liberties, separated families, criminalized migrants and have now led to the deployment of border patrol agents throughout the country.
- Offer a **chance to return home** to ensure that families separated by unjust immigration policies have the opportunity to reunite in the United States.
- **Establish a White House Task Force on Black Immigrants** to examine and address issues affecting Black immigrants in order to meaningfully address systemic, anti-Black racism.

Recovery

- Ensure all **stimulus and economic recovery programs (including direct stimulus checks)** **include everyone**, regardless of immigration status, and create targeted programs to support those hardest-hit by the crisis, including communities of color and immigrants.
- Provide **universal coverage for COVID-19** testing, treatment and vaccines, including through Emergency Medicaid, and raise awareness through multilingual public outreach campaigns.
- **Support community-based organizations** that serve immigrants and refugees to connect families with key resources during the pandemic and beyond.
- Create a **National Office of Immigrant Advancement** to create a comprehensive plan that connects citizenship to education, language access, professional development, and civic engagement.
- **Provide and fund language access** and enforce existing federal law requiring language access.
- **Ensure worker protections** by supporting enhanced T and U visa protections and reversing rules that target J-1 au pairs, H-1B spouses and H-2A workers.
- Incentivize states to **remove barriers to professional licensure** for immigrants and refugees, especially those trained abroad, to ensure that all workers can access jobs that fully utilizes their skills and experience, and thus make greater contributions to the U.S. economy.