



Exploring Immigration in our Community

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Nearly 20 Years of fighting for justice

we have been providing free legal services, including full representation, consultations, and advocacy for:

- Victims and survivors of abuse or crimes
- Vulnerable groups
- Older adults **and**
- Children who have been abused or are in need of protection

Our work focuses on **immigration, family, and older adult law**. Additionally, we are fortunate to have approximately **75 pro bono attorneys** donating their time to serve people in the Denver metro area.



Things to Know

1. We will prioritize pre submitted questions
 - Q&A at the end.
 - We cannot answer specific immigration case questions.
2. For translations, please press the CC or closed captions icon and select the language of your preference at the bottom of your menu.

Agenda

Introduction

Overview of Immigration Policies

Myths vs. Facts

Call to Action

Questions



Overview of Immigration Policies



Birthright Citizenship

- **What is it?**

The relevant portion of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution states: “All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.”

- **What can executive branch do?**

Issue executive orders.

- **Current status:**

The president’s executive order would restructure the 14th amendment to dictate that, beginning Feb. 20, 2025, children born to migrant women who are "unlawfully present in the United States" to not be American citizens.

As of today, 22 states have sued in federal court to block this order. A federal judge in WA has temporarily stopped this order from taking effect.

Recission of Protected Areas Policies

On January 20, 2025, the president rescinded a Biden-era policy that protected certain areas from immigration enforcement.

ICE agents were given power to take enforcement actions in any of these spaces using “common-sense.”

Immigration advocates believe this rescission is a fear tactic by the president’s administration to make immigrant communities feel less safe even in spaces that are at the heart of a civil society.

Individuals will now need to rely on their Constitutional rights and protections in these spaces. ICE still needs a warrant to enter private spaces.

Protected areas included:

- Schools
- Churches
- Hospitals
- Other places where children gather
- Social services establishments



DHS Memorandum Regarding Parole

This directive “will phase out any parole programs that are not in accordance with the law.”

Right now, it is unclear what will happen with people who currently have temporary protected status.

The current administration has indicated their intent to terminate programs that temporarily allow the entrance of more people fleeing Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

Expansion of Expedited Removal

A process where an immigration officer can quickly deport someone caught entering the U.S. without proper documentation at a port of entry

- usually the individual is not allowed a hearing before an immigration judge
- the individual is removed to their home country rapidly
- within a short period of time
- without the opportunity for extensive legal challenges or review

Exception: If an individual expresses fear of persecution, they may be granted an asylum hearing to pursue an asylum claim

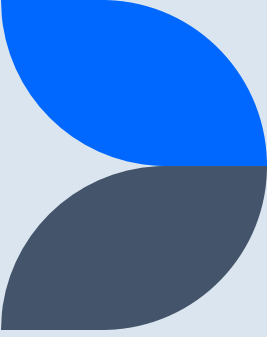
EXPANSION:

Previously, ICE and CBP only used expedited removal against people within 100 miles of the border and within 14 days of their arrival

What changed?

As of 01/21/2025, expedited removal can be used anywhere in the country against any undocumented person who can't prove they have been in the U.S. continuously for two years before their detention/arrest.

Exception still applies!



Cuts to Federal Funding

- There is currently an effort by the current administration to review federal spending.
- The current administration signed an executive order directing the Pentagon to end all programs that encourage diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).
- This directive impacts federal funding for a wide range of programming including providing immigration services

Resurfacing of Previous Policies

Executive Order "Declaring a National Emergency at the Southern Border of the United States"

- The Southern Border

Executive Order "Protecting the American People Against Invasion"

- 287(g) programs
- Creation of Detention Facilities
- Possible restoration or expansion of country-based travel bans

Executive Order: "Securing our Borders"

Executive Order: "Securing our borders"

- Reinstatement of Remain in Mexico Program
- Ending the CBP One App
- Suspending refugee admissions and resettlement

Quick Q&A

- 1. What are the legal ramifications for non-profits and individuals?
Are there legal protections?**



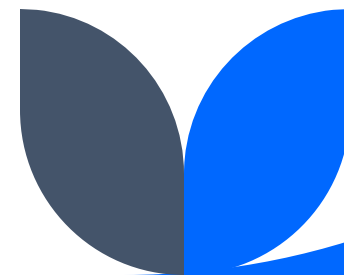
Quick Q&A

2. What do we do if we witness what might be a violation of a person's rights (but I am not an immigrant), such as by police or ICE?



Quick Q&A

3. How can a community conduct KYR training in a safe place and publicize it to reach immigrants without it becoming a target?



Quick Q&A

4. Has there been any changes to DACA recipients and if so, what changes?





MYTH VS. FACT

**McKenna Newsum-
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Myth: Immigrants commit more crimes

Overall: the data showed that as the immigrant share of the population grew, the crime rate declined.

Year	Number of Property Crimes per 100,000 People	Number of Violent Crimes per 100,000 People	Number of Total Crimes per 100,000 People	Foreign-Born Share of Total Population
1980	5,319	581	5,900	6.2%
1990	5,073	730	5,803	7.9%
2000	3,618	507	4,125	11.1%
2010	2,946	405	3,350	12.9%
2020	1,958	399	2,357	13.5%
2022	1,954	381	2,335	13.9%

Myth: Immigrants are a burden on our Public Benefits System

Noncitizens living in the United States face significant restrictions on access to public benefits funded by the federal government, including programs such as:

1. Medicaid
2. SNAP (food stamps)
3. Cash assistance programs
 - a. SSI
 - b. TANF

Undocumented individuals: No access to benefits

Temporary Visa Holders (international students or seasonal workers): No access to benefits

Lawful Permanent Residents, will have access to the benefits ONLY after 5 years of residency.



Myth: Immigrants pose a financial burden on taxpayers

- On average, immigrants pay more in taxes than they consume in benefits
- Undocumented migrants are not eligible for social security benefits and Medicare, so the taxes they pay are a positive net to those programs
- The United States needs immigration to remain competitive and drive economic growth *

*fwd.us education fund

Myth: Immigrants are taking American Jobs

Immigrants are highly Entrepreneurial and launch new companies at a faster rate than native-born Americans

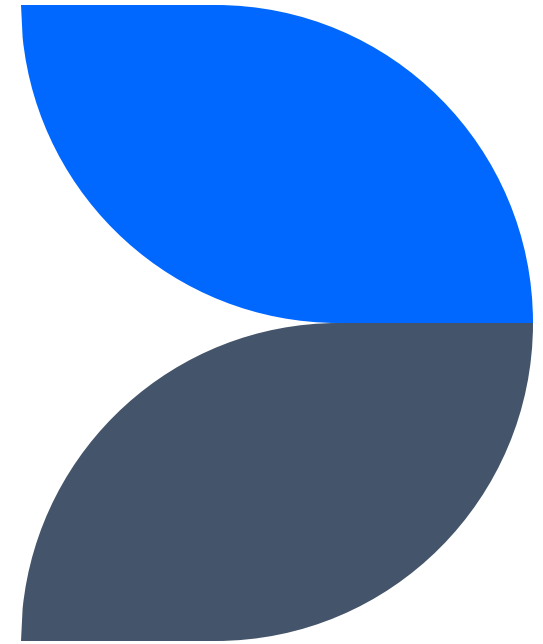
Immigrants complement more than compete with American workers

The U.S. Economic is dynamic and not sum-zero. When one person gets a job, it doesn't mean another person loses a job.

*fwd.us education fund

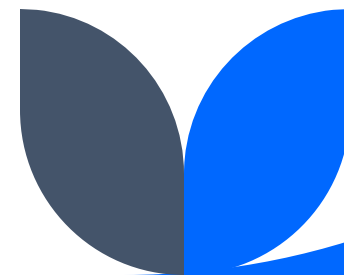
Myth: Immigrants can come the legal way

1. Many do not qualify because they do not have the familial or employment relationships
2. Long wait times
3. Complex and expensive process
4. Limited number of Visas



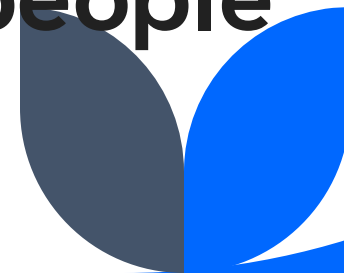
Quick Q&A

1. What are the best talking points to use to counter the myth that immigrants are criminals?



Quick Q&A

2. Please talk about the relationship between immigrants and crime. I know it is an inverse relationship (undocumented folks commit the least crime, immigrants here legally are in the middle and US citizens commit the most - on a crime rate standpoint). Most people do not know this.



Quick Q&A

3. How can we describe what is going on in a trauma informed/understandable way to clients who are affected by immigration policies.



Quick Q&A

4. I work closely with a group of New Americans. My organization wants to send them communication that their personal information will be kept safe. Is it true to say " In compliance with federal and state laws, we will not disclose any personal data, including immigration status, without your explicit consent, unless legally required."?



What Can We Do?

- Help folks prepare using the family protection plan
- Stay informed about executive orders
- Attend Know Your Rights presentations and encourage others to attend
- Volunteer with JAMLAC
- Donate to organizations or causes that you are connected to and passionate about
- Validate various emotions and perspectives





Thank you

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Justice and Mercy Legal Aid Center

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