

Exploring Immigration in Our Community



JUSTICE AND **MERCY**
LEGAL AID CENTER

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www.JAMLAC.org



JUSTICE AND MERCY

LEGAL AID CENTER

Our mission: JAMLAC's mission is to **seek justice for people struggling with poverty and oppression** (primarily through civil legal representation) in a way that affirms their dignity and strengthens their ability to positively lead their own lives.

We provide NO COST legal representation to low-income and vulnerable individuals who cannot afford an attorney.

Our legal services include:

- **Immigration** Law (Statewide Colorado)
- **Family Law** (limited to Denver Metro Area)
- Pro Bono Program
- **Older Adult** Legal Services (Wills, Powers of Attorney, etc.)
- Legal Clinics / Workshops
- Resource Navigation / Holistic Services

Agenda

1. Current policies
2. One Big Beautiful Bill
3. Detention Updates
4. What can we do??

*please mute yourself

*please submit your questions in the chat



Travel Ban

- USCIS changed discretionary factors for individuals from 38 countries named in June 2025 and December 2025 Travel Bans
 - USCIS can now consider country-specific facts outlined in June 2025 and December 2025 Travel Bans as a “significant negative factor” in decisions on immigration applications
 - Not clear how policy will be implemented, but expected effect is it is more likely that USCIS officers deny immigration benefits

Country	Ban Type
Afghanistan	Banned
Angola	Partially restricted
Antigua and Barbuda	Partially restricted
Benin	Partially restricted
Burkina Faso	Banned
Burundi	Partially restricted
Chad	Banned
Cuba	Partially restricted
Dominica	Partially restricted
Equatorial Guinea	Banned
Eritrea	Banned
Gabon	Partially restricted
Gambia	Partially restricted
Haiti	Banned
Iran	Banned
Ivory Coast	Partially restricted
Laos	Banned
Libya	Banned
Malawi	Partially restricted
Mali	Banned
Mauritania	Partially restricted
Myanmar	Banned
Niger	Banned
Nigeria	Partially restricted
Republic of Congo	Banned
Senegal	Partially restricted
Sierra Leone	Banned
Somalia	Banned
South Sudan	Banned
Sudan	Banned
Syria	Banned
Tanzania	Partially restricted
Togo	Partially restricted
Tonga	Partially restricted
Venezuela	Partially restricted
Yemen	Banned
Zambia	Partially restricted
Zimbabwe	Partially restricted

Implications of Travel Ban

Re-review of all approved immigration benefits applications for individuals from 38 countries named in June 2025 Travel Ban

Includes individuals who entered US on or after January 20, 2021

Re-review could include interview or re-interview to assess national security and public safety threats

Re-review includes approved applications for asylum, green cards, naturalization, humanitarian parole, etc.

It seems this review has not started yet

Currently no guidance on how review will be implemented or remedies available

Indefinite Freeze on Visa and Asylum Applications

- People from 75 countries are affected by this ban.
- Currently, there is a pause on all affirmative asylum applications filed with USCIS. All asylum-seekers who have filed an asylum application with USCIS are affected. Asylum interviews might be scheduled even though decisions on these cases are NOT being made.
- It is unclear how long this pause is going to last.
- Currently, there is a pause on any annual asylum fees. This means that applicants are not required to pay the \$102 filing fee. This pause is temporary. If you chose to pay, keep records of that payment.

The Donald Trump administration announced on January 14 that it would indefinitely freeze visa processing for people coming from seventy-five countries, the latest effort to advance Trump's immigration agenda. Countries on [the list](#) include Afghanistan, Brazil, Egypt, Iran, Russia, and Somalia.

U.S. Immigrant Visa Processing for 75 Countries Shut Down Indefinitely

Map Table

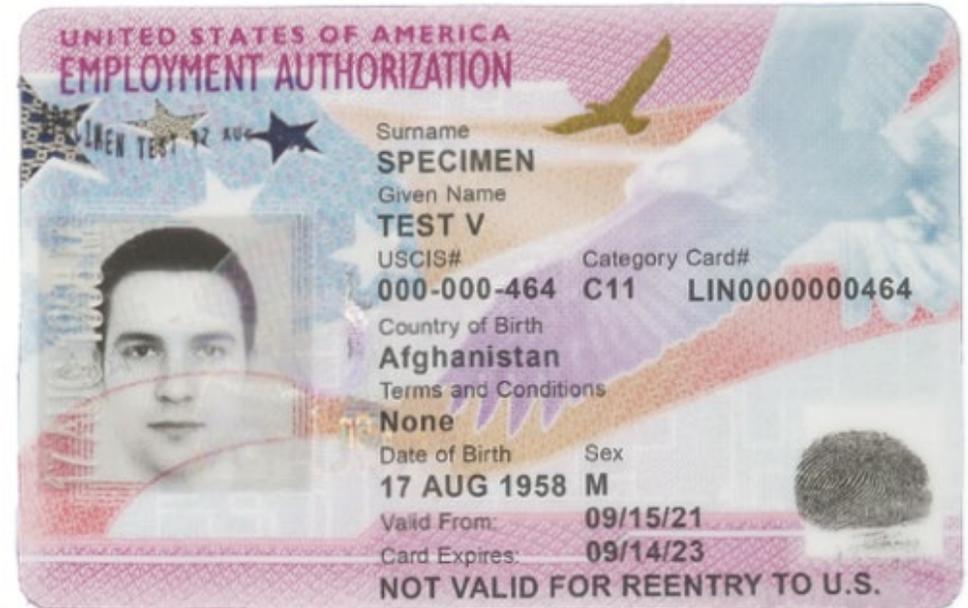


Source: U.S. Department of State

sfr

December 2025 Changes to Validity Periods for Work Authorization

- USCIS has reduced the validity period of employment authorization documents (work permits) for many applicants, from 5 years to 18 months.
- **This affects any work permit application pending or submitted on/after December 5, 2025.**
- Additionally, USCIS has stopped automatic extensions of work permits for:
 - Asylum Applicants
 - Asylees
 - Refugees
 - Applicants for Lawful Permanent Residence
- It is advised that applicants apply for renewal of work authorization 6 months prior to their work permit expiration date.



OBBB (One Big Beautiful Bill)

- Signed on July 4, 2025
 - Tax Cuts
 - Significant Federal Spending Reductions in Social Programs
 - Large Increases in defense and border security
 - Enforcement
 - Detention

Increase in Defense and Border Security

- OBBB allocated \$170 billion to border security
- \$46.5 billion allocated for wall construction
- \$150.5 billion in defense spending
- \$29.9 billion for ICE to hire 10,000 new officers
 - \$100 million in marketing
 - Up to \$50,000 sign up bonus for recently hired ICE agents



Enforcement



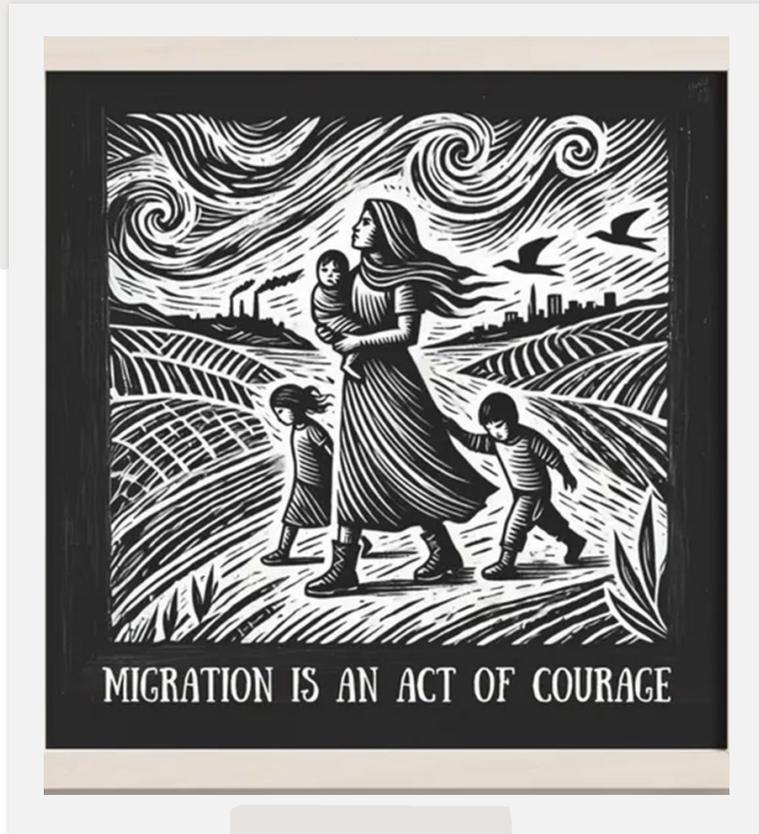
- Increased presence in public spaces
- Increased cooperation with law enforcement
- Increased detention for people enrolled in the ISAP program
- ICE Check-Ins
- Arrests at USCIS Field Office and Immigration Court

Detention

- New Facilities and reopened shuttered sites
 - Tent Camps
- Difficulty in providing legal representation to migrants in detention
 - Lack of access to legal counsel
 - Move migrants around the country
- Migrants are experiencing long term detention
 - No longer giving bonds
 - Habeas Corpus Petitions
 - Detention at the border



So, what can we do???



- **Vote** in mid term elections
- **Get involved** and **Stay Informed**
- **Volunteer**
- **Pray**
- **Donate**
- Report ICE enforcement **misconduct**
 - <https://crow.house.gov/transparency/ice-accountability-report>



Organizations
to support



Questions?



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Announcements

- Coffee on Us – **Feb 19th at 9am**
(every 3rd Thursday of the Month)
- JAMLAC's 20th year Anniversary and Grand Opening – **April 25th**
- **We're hiring** – Immigration Attorney and Events Coordinator -
<https://justiceandmercylegalaidcenter.applytojob.com/apply/>



www.jamlac.org/get-involved

Thanks for joining us!



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Please reach to Nikki Koster if
you have additional questions
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