

Advocating for UU Values in the Nation's Capital

Immigration Priorities for 2023-2024

(February 2023)

The Immigration Action Team's overarching priority is to support the long-term goal of comprehensive immigration reform— updating America's dysfunctional and unfair immigration system with new laws, policies, and procedures that provide just, fair, and humane treatment of immigrants seeking to enter our country.

In 2023-24 the Immigration Action Team will focus on a few essential priorities that address specific problems or individual aid groups of immigrants:

- Restoring a fair, efficient, and humane asylum process, including discontinuing Title 42 and the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP); strengthening Executive and Congressional oversight of immigration agencies.
- Ending the detention of immigrants who pose no threat to national security or public safety and using the savings for community-based case management also end the use of private-sector detention facilities.
- Providing pathways to permanent residency for specific migrant groups such as DACA recipients (Dreamers), Afghan evacuees, farm workers, other essential workers, and immigrants with Temporary Protected Status.
- By increasing funding for refugee processing and resettlement, the U.S. can honor its commitments and welcome its fair share of refugees.
- Increasing funding and personnel for U.S. Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) to permit the timely processing of immigrant applications.
- Reforming immigration courts to make them independent; increasing funding for more judges and staff to reduce the huge backlog of current cases and to permit timely resolution of new cases.

In developing specific activities, we will seek guidance from those most affected by immigration rules, regulations, laws, and actions. We will also assess our partnerships to ensure they include a diverse cross-section of immigrants and professionals in the field.