

# MOTHERS DAY RALLIES FACT SHEET

Most parents would do anything to give their children a safer, freer, and more prosperous tomorrow. New immigrant parents, whatever their race or place of origin are just the same.

Today, more than 60% of Border Patrol apprehensions are children and families seeking safety at our shores. [1] Rather than giving these families who are seeking asylum due process and an opportunity to have their cases heard, the Trump administration has responded by separating children from their parents and closing legal avenues to apply for asylum.

There are solutions. Non-profit and faith-based organizations with proven track-records in serving immigrant communities are already in place and ready to help at the border. With government support, they can quickly mobilize to expand community housing programs that asylum-seeking families and kids need. Moreover, case management programs are very effective alternatives to detention and save taxpayers dollars.

In the 2019 funding bill, Congress gave the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) more than enough funding to humanely, safely, and efficiently process and support families and children at our borders.

Members of Congress must act now to ensure that the administration uses the money it already has to give asylum seekers due process, and to treat all children and families with dignity!

**Congress has authorized ever increasing amount of money for the Trump administration to pay for detention beds.**

**IN 2002, IMMIGRATION AGENCIES HELD 20,000 PEOPLE IN IMMIGRATION JAILS**



**IN 2019, 50,000 PEOPLE ARE IN IMMIGRATION JAILS INCLUDING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES** ←

SOURCE: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/01/opinion/sunday/border-detention-tear-gas-migrants.html>

## FIVE INVESTMENTS IN OUR IMMIGRATION SYSTEM TO PROVIDE PROACTIVE SOLUTIONS AT THE BORDER

### #1 Establish Regional Refugee Processing Centers

Our government can go a long way to alleviating the long lines at the border by investing in regional refugee processing in neighboring countries such as Belize, Costa Rica and Panama. The United States should also reinstate an expanded Central American Minors Refugee/Parole program, [2] which could create an orderly way for children and families in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras to apply for protection in their home countries without having to make the dangerous journey to the United States. These measures should not come at the expense of access to the U.S. asylum system.

### #2 Modernize the Ports of Entry

DHS should ensure that all asylum seekers are treated humanely and efficiently processed at the ports of entry. The Administration should modernize and ensure adequate staffing at ports of entry to efficiently, humanely, and expeditiously process asylum applicants and facilitate international trade and cross-border travel. Upgrading infrastructure and technology at ports of entry not only enables the United States to better manage the asylum and immigration process and promote trade and travel, but also improves border security.



**THE FAMILY CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM COSTS ONLY:**

**\$36 PER FAMILY PER DAY**

**FAMILY DETENTION COSTS ON AVERAGE:**

**\$798 PER FAMILY (2.5 INDIVIDUALS), PER DAY**

SOURCE: <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/images/zdocs/The-Real-Alternatives-to-Detention-FINAL-06-27-17.pdf>

**Detention, even with families, is traumatic for kids and can have long term effects, including:**

**DEPRESSION**

**POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS**

**ANXIETY**

**DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS**

### **#3 Use Existing Funding to Hire Child Welfare, Medical, and Language Professionals at the Border**

Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), must use existing funding to hire child welfare professionals and station them at Ports of Entry and Border Patrol Stations along the border. State-licensed professionals specially trained in the screening and care of children and in trauma-informed interviewing – not uniformed, armed CBP agents – should evaluate the needs of children and families and conduct all relevant screenings at the border.

### **#4 Fund Community-Based Support Services and Proven, Humane Alternatives to Detention**

Child welfare and medical professionals continue to warn that the use of detention – for any period of time – is irrevocably harmful for children.<sup>[3]</sup> Immigration detention has proven harmful and even deadly to those who pass through it, even while proven alternatives exist. It is a discretionary choice, not a requirement, to detain adults and families who seek asylum. Despite this choice, DHS continues to expand detention and needlessly lock up asylum seekers at enormous U.S. taxpayer expense. Congress should insist that, in place of detention, DHS dedicate more funds to case management programs and other alternatives to detention. These programs save taxpayer dollars and are extremely effective at ensuring compliance with immigration court hearings and even removal.<sup>[4]</sup>

A robust network of non-profit and faith-based organizations, with proven track-records, already exists at the border and throughout the United States providing support services to recently arrived migrants; with government support these organizations could quickly mobilize to vastly increase the capacity of welcoming centers and community housing programs for asylum seeking families, children and adults.

### **#5 Continuing Funding That Addresses Root Causes**

The White House has irresponsibly said that they plan to end aid to the Northern Triangle countries, even though its own administration believes such aid helps to stem the flow of migration.<sup>[5]</sup> If our government stops this funding they will be abandoning responsible, long-term efforts that is essential for regional stability and addressing underlying fundamentals that are pushing people out of their home countries.

People migrate for the same reasons they always have: to seek safety and opportunity for themselves and their children. Immigration is not a threat or a danger to our country or our values. At every point in our history new immigrants have been viewed with suspicion and hostility, and some political leaders have always tried to exploit and inflame those fears. But history also shows that in every case, new immigrants have fueled the American experience, have become part of the American people, have adopted English in every successive generation, and have contributed beyond measure to our intellectual, cultural, economic, and political life and success.<sup>[6]</sup>

[1] <https://www.wola.org/analysis/new-migration-numbers-us-mexico-border-show-growing-humanitarian-crisis/>

[2] <https://www.uscis.gov/CAM> [3] <https://www.aappublications.org/news/2018/07/24/washington072418>

[4] <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/images/zdocs/Backgrounder-FCMP.pdf>

[5] [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the\\_americas/us-officials-said-aid-to-el-salvador-helped-slow-migration-now-trump-is-canceling-it/2019/04/01/5a8ca570-540a-11e9-aa83-504f086bf5d6\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/us-officials-said-aid-to-el-salvador-helped-slow-migration-now-trump-is-canceling-it/2019/04/01/5a8ca570-540a-11e9-aa83-504f086bf5d6_story.html)

[6] [https://americasvoice.org/press\\_releases/resources-and-reminders-trumps-failed-policies-worsened-the-humanitarian-crisis-at-border-and-a-more-sane-and-effective-vision-exists/](https://americasvoice.org/press_releases/resources-and-reminders-trumps-failed-policies-worsened-the-humanitarian-crisis-at-border-and-a-more-sane-and-effective-vision-exists/)