

New President, New Hope?

Workshop on Immigration Issues

January 2021



Alianza Americas

Alianza Americas is the only transnational organization rooted in Latino immigrant communities in the United States focused on improving the quality of life for all people in the migration corridor of the United States, Mexico, and Central America. Our work brings an important perspective to all areas related to quality of life: economic, racial and social justice, humanitarian migration policies, and protection for children and families seeking refuge.

As a network of Latino and Caribbean immigrants, Alianza Americas works transnationally to promote safe, humane, stable, and democratic conditions in Central America, Mexico, and the United States.

For more information, visit alianzaamericas.org.

Basic Terms

There are people in the US with many different Immigration statuses:

- US citizens
- Lawful permanent residents
- Asylees/Refugees
- U/T visa holders
- Student/Employment based visas
- Deferred Action/DACA
- Undocumented

How People Migrate

- Family Based Immigration
 - 2 Steps & Bars
- Protection Based Immigration
 - U, T, VAWA, Asylum/Refugees
- Employment Based Immigration
 - Temporary, Long Term, Extraordinary
- Diversity Visas
- Other
 - Students

How We Got Here



1996 Laws, 9/11 & Detention Spending

- Barriers to obtaining lawful status
- Limiting asylum
- Mandatory detention
- Criminalization
- Limiting immigration judge's powers & discretion

AND

- Creation of the Department of Homeland Security
- Immigration policy through the lens of terrorism
- Arrests and evidence based on secret evidence

AND

- Limitless budgets for detention and enforcement
- Increasing ICE collaboration with local law enforcement
- "Secure" communities
- Privatization of detention

Immigration Enforcement & Detention

Detention (FY 2019)

Average daily population:
50,165

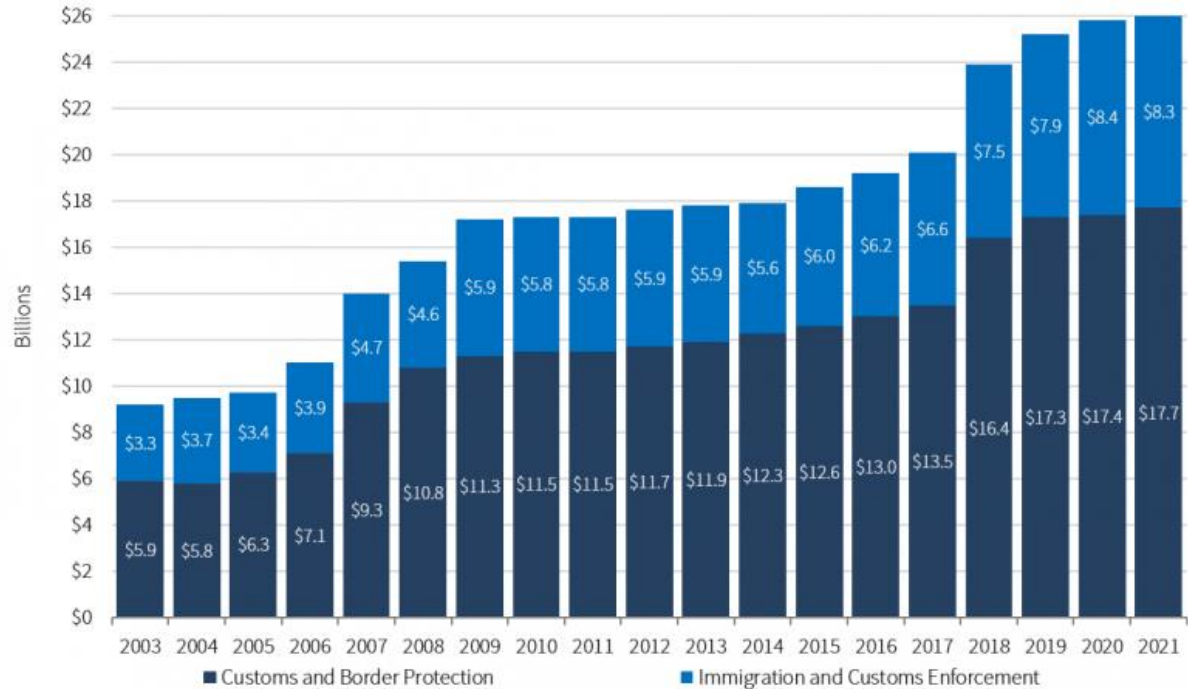
Average cost per day: \$126.52
(adults and \$318.79 per family)

Detention budget: \$3.2 billion

Number of facilities 215

Percent of people detained in
private prisons: 81%

There was a more than 500%
increase in deaths in detention
between 2019 and 2020



The Trump Years

- Everyone is a priority for deportation
- Family separation (began during the Obama years) - perfected by Trump
- Eliminating judge's power and discretion
- Creating additional barriers based on income, disability, vulnerability
- Ending DACA and TPS protections
- Undermining benefits giving part of immigration
- Increasing criminalization
- Increasing harsher enforcement practices (separating nursing baby from mother, detaining children in cages, raids, arrests in court houses and hospitals)
- Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP/Remain in Mexico) and other the erosion of asylum
- Demonizing immigrants, terrorizing communities, politics of fear, and much, much more

Where We Are



Where we Are

DACA - in litigation

TPS - in litigation and set to end 10/2021

Public Charge - new rule and information coming 1/29

MPP - ended MPP, waiting for more information on processing

Asylum - some limitations will take time to undo

Enforcement - updated priorities

Immigration courts - some harm will not be undone - appointment of judges

Executive Orders & Policy Memos

- 100 day pause on deportations
- New priorities for detention and deportation: terrorism, espionage, entered the US on or after 11/1/2020 reviewed by the director and required by law
- Ends MPP
- Ends Muslim & African bans
- Ends Trump enforcement priorities
- Ensures everyone is counted for the census
- Affirms DACA protections - “preserve and fortify”
- Ends border wall construction and re-allocates \$1+ billion
- Racial equity across all government actions

What to Expect (hope)



President Biden's Proposed Legislation

- Legalization for 11 million
- Permanent status for people with DACA and TPS
- Clears backlog for family based immigration (some folks waiting 20+ years)
- Changes the word “alien” to “noncitizen”
- Eliminates barriers for access to legal status
- Greater funding for integration and inclusion
- Eliminates 1 year deadline for asylum
- Increased U visas from 10,000 to 30,000

Other Possible Legislation

- DREAM Act
- Heroes Act (DACA+TPS)
- COVID Relief
- Essential Workers
- Access to healthcare/vaccine for all persons

Next Steps

- Be Informed
- Engage with Local Organizations
- Take the Lead from those Directly Impacted
- Meet with Your Member of Congress
- Take Action (Action Wednesdays!)
- Show Up
- Donate

Questions & Discussions

Thank you!!

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