

Federal Action Required:

Homelessness & the Immigration Crisis in NYC

The Immigration Crisis is a Homelessness Crisis

Win is the country's largest provider of shelter and supportive housing to families with children experiencing homelessness.

Win provides housing and shelter for:

- More than 11,000 people **each year**
- Over 6,000 people including nearly 3,500 children **each night**

We have always welcomed immigrants to our shelters and are committed to ensuring a safe place to rest, heal, and recover for all New Yorkers in need.

In the United States, immigration and homelessness are inextricably linked. This past year, thousands of asylum-seeking families with children have arrived in New York City, the majority entering the shelter system. Without federal intervention, most of these families will remain in high-cost emergency shelter, as they are unable to access housing assistance or other basic federal, state, and local safety net supports.

More than **1 in 3** Win clients in shelter are immigrants

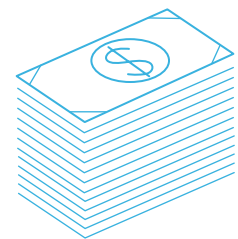
Win is calling on the federal government to financially contribute its fair share and provide the means for asylum seekers to support themselves through expedited work authorization, expanded access to federal benefits, and legal support.

1 **FEMA should award New York City \$650 million in reimbursement for costs associated with providing shelter and other essential services for asylum seekers.**

"They've helped us with everything in shelter: School, housing, metrocards."

—Win client & mother of four

Despite the immense challenges posed by the influx of asylum seekers, New York City has stepped up and provided essential resources and support to the newest New Yorkers. In the absence of adequate federal humanitarian aid, New York City has had to shoulder the high costs of the influx of asylum seekers almost entirely on its own. Without additional federal resources, the City has not been able to increase funding to organizations like Win that are providing services to asylum seekers, leaving New York City and front-line organizations with major budget deficits.



\$650m

needed to provide shelter and other essential services for asylum seekers.

2

Congress should pass H.R. 1325 (Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]), the Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act, to amend the required and arbitrary wait time (EAD clock) for asylum seekers to access work authorization from 180 to 30 days.

“If I were to speak to politicians, I would ask that they help us with work authorization. Because when we work, we devote ourselves fully to it, with our heart and care...I would ask that they especially help the families with kids, because our children will provide tax dollars for this country, and we have just and studious children. If you give us the opportunity to work, to live independently, our children will give their expertise and earnings to this country.”

—Win client and mother to 3-year-old daughter

Our clients constantly emphasize their eagerness to work legally and safely. A stable job will allow families to move out on their own or qualify for housing subsidies. For employment, families need to receive work authorization as soon as possible after they’ve submitted their asylum claim.



Pass the Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act to amend the required and arbitrary wait time for asylum seekers to access work authorization from 180 to 30 days.

3

Congress should extend benefits like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to noncitizens and lift the federal five-year bar to these benefits with the LIFT the BAR Act, H.R. 5227 (Rep. Jayapal, Pramila [D-WA-7]).

“If I weren’t an immigrant, my experience in shelter would be much better...the reason is because an American born child is worth more than an immigrant—they can’t compete with an American child; they don’t have the same opportunities.”

—Win client and mother to 6-year-old son

Immigrants are denied essential, lifesaving benefits that other Americans receive. Instead, they are forced into unsafe situations or receive subpar and expensive emergency response services. Community based providers shoulder these costs without compensation.



Extend benefits with SNAP, CHIP, TANF, and SSI to noncitizens and lift the federal five-year bar to these benefits with the LIFT the BAR Act.

4

Congress should pass the FAIR Proceedings Act, S. 901 (Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]) to provide counsel at government expense to children and vulnerable individuals in any immigration proceeding.

“Since I arrived in Texas, I’ve been looking for a lawyer. I’ve been on the internet to see how I can secure one, but it costs so much. I called a few immigration lawyers one day and began to speak with them, but once they told me the price to open a case, my god, I said that I would have to just continue living here illegally.”

—Win client and mother to 3-year-old daughter

Eligible immigrants are often denied citizenship status only because they lack an attorney to oversee their case. Access to representation is paramount to upholding the integrity of the law and assuring fair proceedings, yet the country’s most vulnerable immigrants are often unable to afford legal representation or to access aid.



Pass the FAIR Proceedings Act, S. 901 to provide counsel at government expense to children and vulnerable individuals in any immigration proceeding.