

Residing but Not Residents: The Lack of Long-Term Support for Asylum-Seekers in Washington, DC

Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid Network¹
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Executive Summary

In April 2022, Texas Governor Abbott began busing migrants from Texas to DC; in May, Arizona Governor Ducey followed suit. Since then, hundreds of buses have arrived from both states carrying close to 10,000 people, including infants and children; hundreds more have arrived in DC by other modes of transportation. In October 2022, DC established the Office of Migrant Services (OMS) to serve recently arrived asylum-seekers (recent migrants). OMS' mandate primarily focused on helping migrants relocate to other cities. There was little to no focus on resettlement support for recent migrants who chose to stay in DC long-term. The lack of resettlement meant that while more families entered the OMS shelters weekly, few were able to become self-sufficient enough to move out. On April 26th, 2023, the OMS shelters reached capacity and the city began turning away families who came to the welcome centers, resulting in multiple families with young children sleeping on the streets of DC.

DC's current system of supporting recent migrants who chose to stay in the city is ineffective at best. Many, if not most, families report a strong desire to move out of the shelters but are unable to because of barriers to stability they face at the local and federal level. These

barriers include: **1)** lack of resettlement focused case management, **2)** inability to obtain identification cards, **3)** lack of adequate legal support, and **4)** lack of childcare support. In this brief we summarize the issues these barriers cause and offer policy solutions to mitigate them.

Lack of resettlement focused case

management: The residents of OMS shelters continue to be treated as transitory and therefore do not receive the appropriate case management required for families who plan to resettle in the District long-term. Because of this most families staying at the shelters have not filed their asylum applications and therefore cannot apply for work authorization, making them more susceptible to wage theft and exploitation. Additionally, without support with financial orientation and budgeting, many families are unable to save enough to afford rent or a security deposit. We propose that the DC Council pass robust permanent legislation that expands OMS' mandate to include resettlement support and a clear plan for recent migrants to transition out of temporary shelter that includes helping families obtain identification cards, financial orientation support, medical and prenatal support, English classes, support with school enrollment, and a matching funds saving program.

¹ The Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid Network (MSMAN) is made up of community organizations and hundreds of individual volunteers who are committed to supporting migrants arriving in DC. Anchored by Peace House DC, Beloved Community Incubator, East of the River Mutual Aid, and Sanctuary DMV, the network has been showing up, since the first Texas bus arrived in April 2022, to welcome our new neighbors through solidarity, not charity.

Inability to obtain identification cards: Currently, recent migrants bused to the District are largely unable to obtain DC identification cards. While DC has a Limited Purpose Credential (LPC) available to residents who do not have social security numbers, recent migrants are unable to provide the documentation required to obtain this ID. Without ID, recent migrants struggle to open bank accounts, sign leases, obtain marriage and birth certificates, and access community resources. We propose that the DC Council pass emergency legislation directing the Mayor to amend Title 18 DCMR, Vehicles and Traffic, to expand the list of documents accepted as primary and secondary sources for proof of identity and make proof of residency requirements equitable and consistent with broader DC law.

Lack of adequate legal support: The migrants arriving in DC are asylum-seekers, they are therefore not eligible for public benefits or given work permits on arrival. Most of the migrants staying at the OMS shelters have to apply for asylum before they can apply for work authorization. Without work authorization, recent migrants struggle to find stable work in DC and are susceptible to exploitation by employers, making it harder to save and become self-reliant. Currently, there are 359 families² staying at OMS shelters, a maximum of 40 of which have turned in their asylum applications so far. We propose that the DC Council allocate funding in FY23 Supplemental Budget and FY24 Budget for grants to immigration legal service providers for the purpose of supporting recent migrants with asylum and work authorization applications.

Lack of childcare support: Most of the recent migrants housed at the OMS shelters have children under the age of 5, which means when

they go to work, they require childcare. At the shelter, migrants care for each other's children — if a family chooses to move out, they have to navigate the District's prohibitively high childcare costs. We propose that DHS create a childcare voucher program for low-income residents who do not qualify for federally funded childcare subsidies. This could be done by either supplementing existing childcare programs and expanding eligibility or creating a separate program under DHS or OSSE.

With the end of Title 42 and the resulting increase of migrants arriving in the District, the DC Council should take immediate steps to implement the proposals described in this brief.

² Reported by the Office of Migrant Services at a meeting on May 24th, 2023.

Background

On April 13th, 2022, Texas Governor Greg Abbott began busing migrants from the southern border to DC. In May 2022, Arizona Governor Doug Ducey followed suit. Since then, hundreds of buses carrying close to 10,000 migrants have reached DC, out of which 80-90% have moved on to their final destinations, with the rest choosing to resettle in the DMV area. Hundreds more migrants have arrived in DC through other methods of transportation, their travel often paid for or organized by nonprofits in other cities.

For the first few months, migrants who chose to remain in DC were housed by community members in their homes, hotels, and Airbnbs. In late June 2022, the DC government provided housing to arriving migrants for the first time, at a hotel that was serving as a Pandemic Emergency Program for Medically Vulnerable Individuals (PEP-V) facility. In the following weeks, the DC government began housing families with minor children at a second local hotel as well. These facilities were operated and funded through the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) rather than the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Once the Office of Migrant Services (OMS) was established in Fall 2022, the hotel shelters transitioned to being operated by OMS contractors. In March 2023, OMS opened a third hotel shelter. On April 26, 2023, OMS reported they had reached capacity at their shelters and began denying shelter to migrants arriving in DC, resulting in many families sleeping on the streets. Since then, no families have entered the shelters despite some families moving out. On April 26th there were 370 families³ residing at the OMS shelters, currently, there are 359.

³ Office of Migrant Services presentation at the April 26th, 2023, Community Based Organization Partner Meeting

Legislative History

Migrant Services and Supports Act

On September 20th, 2022 the DC Council, at the behest of the Mayor, passed the Migrant Services and Supports Emergency Amendment Act ([B24-0990](#)), followed by the corresponding Temporary Act ([B24-0991](#)). Title I of the legislation created the Office of Migrant Services, under the Department of Human Services, and defined its function to include greeting buses, helping people move on to their final destination, and providing temporary shelter and services. There was no long-term resettlement support outlined in this bill. Title II amended the Homeless Services Reform Act (HSRA) to redefine who is considered a resident by excluding many migrants from accessing homeless services and continuum of care (CoC) in the District. Most concerning, the legislation amended HSRA such that a person's immigration status determined eligibility for services, whether they could provide the documents required to prove residency or not. These two titles together 1) created an alternative "stream of services" for migrants that doesn't include any long-term housing support or wraparound services and 2) excluded many migrants from accessing homeless services that are available to others.

B24-0990 and B24-0991 excluded the following migrants from accessing homeless services:

1. Anyone in Section 240 of Immigration and Nationality Act ([66 Stat.182; 8 U.S.C. §1229a](#)) proceedings, until every appeal is completed.
2. Anyone paroled into the country under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act ([66 Stat.182; 8 U.S.C. §1182\(d\)\(5\)](#)) after April 1st, 2022. This includes everyone who was bused here and

any other recent migrant who found their way to DC after this date.

On October 20th, 2022, the Committee on Human Services had a hearing for the permanent Migrant Services and Supports Act ([B23-0992](#)). Due to [strong opposition](#) from immigration and housing advocates, the bill was tabled. The temporary legislation will remain in effect till August 3rd, 2023.

Migrant Services Eligibility Clarification Act

On April 4th 2023, over six months after the introduction of B24-0990, the DC Council passed the Migrant Services Eligibility Clarification Amendment Act ([B25-0197](#)), followed by the corresponding temporary legislation ([B25-0198](#)) on May 2nd. This legislation aims to rectify many of the issues caused by B24-0991 by:

- Requiring OMS to publish both eligibility and termination criteria for services.
- Requiring DHS to demonstrate that an asylum-seeker is eligible and will receive shelter through OMS before denying them CoC services.
- Allowing immigrants in Section 240 proceedings to access CoC services if they can prove residency prior to April 1st, 2022.
- Introducing health and safety standards to OMS hotel shelters.
- Requiring OMS to provide adequate notice in a person's primary language when denying or terminating services.
- Including baby supplies and formula under support OMS should provide.

⁴ Title 42 is a provision in the Public Health Service Act of 1944, aimed at stopping the spread of communicable diseases in the US. In March 2020, the Trump administration invoked Title 42 to stop people from crossing the US-Mexico border under the premise of curbing the spread of COVID-19, even though public health experts, including those at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have said, on multiple occasions, that there was no public health

Need for Future Legislation

With the temporary legislation that established OMS (B24-0991) expiring on August 3rd, 2023, it is important to consider the future of the program. The Texas buses were paused from January 11th to May 10th, but DC continued to receive 1-2 Arizona buses weekly as well as 15-20 migrant families by other methods of transportation. Furthermore, with the end of Title 42⁴, there has been an uptick in the number and frequency of buses arriving from the southern border, with a particular increase in the arrival of migrant families rather than single adults. With OMS denying all newly arriving families shelter, the number of unhoused and unsheltered families in DC will continue to rise, putting dozens of children at risk.

DC's current system of serving migrants is based on the false premise that all migrants are planning on leaving the District eventually. Currently, long-term support for the hundreds of migrant families staying in hotel shelters remain tenuous as Mayor Bowser's FY2024 budget contains no support for OMS and makes [deep cuts to housing and human services](#), which will cause many DC residents to become unhoused and housing insecure in the near future. With the end of Title 42, end of federal COVID relief funds and the looming housing crisis, the current, ineffective system of serving migrants must change.

justification for the use of Title 42. President Biden has continued and expanded the use of Title 42. Title 42 allows the US government to expel migrants who cross the border immediately, thereby circumventing the larger immigration system and denying them the right to seek asylum. On May 11th, Title 42 implementation ended with the end of the COVID-19 public health national emergency declaration.

Current Barriers to Stability and Proposed Policy Changes

There are currently 359 families living in the OMS hotel shelters, some of which have been there since July 2022. Now that OMS is not allowing any new families into the shelter, regardless of room openings, all new arrival families are left without shelter. Prior to the shelter's hitting capacity, 15-20 new families were entering every week, with around five families moving out in a month. This is not for the lack of trying; in fact, many, if not most, recent migrants report a strong desire to move out of the shelters but are unable to because of barriers to stability they face at the local and federal level. These barriers include: **1)** lack of resettlement focused case management, **2)** inability to obtain identification cards, **3)** lack of adequate legal support, and **4)** lack of childcare support. Here, we summarize the issues these barriers cause and offer policy solutions to mitigate them.

Lack of Resettlement Focused Case Management

In September 2022, the Office of Migrant Services was created with the mandate of only providing [time-limited services](#) to migrants arriving from the border. In fact, in her [Sep 20th legislative meeting letter](#) about the emergency legislation, Mayor Bowser specifically refers to the needs of asylum-seekers as "immediate and temporary" and urges "the Council to oppose any further amendments to this legislation," referring to amendments offered by Councilmember Pinto that would strike exclusionary language in Title II of the bill, thereby allowing migrants who choose to settle in DC access to long-term case management services. Support outlined in B24-0990 and B24-0991 include relocation services, including cash assistance for travel; however, it wasn't until B25-0197 was passed almost six months later that resettlement was included in

OMS' mandate. Because the residents of OMS shelters continue to be treated as transitory, they do not receive the appropriate case management required for families who plan to resettle in the District long-term. From the beginning, there has been more of a focus on supporting migrants to leave the District rather than supporting their ability to resettle here independently.

Resulting barriers to self-sufficiency

- a) No work authorization: Limited to no legal support is provided to recent migrants, resulting in very few families having applied for asylum and therefore even fewer have applied for work authorization. Without work authorization recent migrants have a difficult time finding stable work and are susceptible to exploitation and wage theft. Migrants who arrived in the first 8 months of buses were paroled into the U.S. for short periods, making them only eligible for work authorization 180 days after they submit their asylum application. Migrants who have arrived in recent months are largely entering with one year parole periods which means they are immediately eligible to apply for work authorization, but the application fee is a steep \$410.
- b) Lack of financial orientation: No financial orientation support is provided to recent migrants – this coupled with the inability to obtain DC identification cards, means few migrants can open bank accounts. This makes it harder for families to build savings or budget in order to afford living independently for the first time in the United States.
- c) Language barrier: Most recent migrant families staying at OMS shelters do not speak English when they arrive. This makes it difficult for them to access services, [including medical support](#). It can be even more difficult for children who are often

enrolled in schools without strong English Language Learner (ELL) programs and therefore struggle to keep up with their studies. Currently, OMS does not provide English classes or support families in navigating the school lottery to enroll their children in schools that have ELL programs.

Proposed policy changes

We propose that OMS case management include the following:

- a) Legal support
 - (1) Connect migrants to legal service providers for asylum and work authorization application support.
 - (2) Support migrants with their immigration paperwork for their check-ins and court appointments.
- b) Help obtaining DC identification cards
 - (1) See the following section for policy changes required to enable recent migrants to obtain DC ID.
 - (2) Provide proof of residency letters to migrants staying at the shelters so they can obtain IDs.
- c) Financial orientation support
 - (1) Support setting up bank accounts.
 - (2) Host workshops on cost of living and rental costs in the DMV area.
 - (3) Host know your rights workshops on wage theft and exploitation.
- d) Matching funds saving program
 - (1) We propose that OMS establish an optional matching funds program to incentivize saving and moving to more long-term housing.
 - (2) For example: if a family deposits \$200 per month in an account, OMS will match that amount monthly for up to 5 months (\$1,000). When the family is ready to move out of the shelter, they can use the funds in that account to pay for a security deposit or rent.

- (3) This will create a non-punitive method by which families are encouraged to save and transition out of the shelters.
- e) English classes
 - (1) Host or facilitate access to English classes for recent migrants.
- f) Support with school enrollment
 - (1) Enroll children in schools.
 - (2) Support parents in navigating the DC school lottery so children can have the opportunity to go to schools where they will have access to federally mandated English Language Learner services. Additionally, 3- to 4-year-olds are required to participate in the lottery to be able to go to school.
- g) Medical and prenatal support
 - (1) Enroll recent migrants in DC Alliance Healthcare insurance.
 - (2) Provide additional support to pregnant people to ensure they have the appropriate checkups and essential supplies leading up to birth and for postnatal care.

We propose that the DC Council pass robust permanent legislation that expands OMS' mandate to include resettlement support and a clear plan for recent migrants to transition out of temporary shelter, that includes all the supports we outlined above.

Jurisdiction

Agency or Office: Department of Human Services (DHS)

Committee: Housing

Councilmembers: R White (chair), Frumin, McDuffie, Parker, Pinto

Inability to Obtain Identification Cards

Currently, recent migrants are unable to obtain DC identification cards. While DC has a Limited Purpose Credential (LPC) available to residents who do not have social security numbers, recent migrants are unable to provide the [documentation required](#) to obtain this ID. Most recent migrants who arrive in DC have had their documents (i.e., passport, birth certificate) confiscated by Customs and Border Protection at the border and if their documents are returned it will only be after the culmination of their immigration case which may last years. Therefore, many recent migrants only have photocopies or pictures of identity documents from their home countries or expired documents that were not confiscated. DC should change the proof of identification documents required for an LPC to include photocopies of foreign documents, as well as foreign documents that have expired within the last five years (e.g. [New Jersey](#) and [Oregon](#)).

The Department of Homeland Security considers parole and/or notice to appear documents as acceptable forms of identification, as they have name, date of birth, photo, and other biographic and biometric information and can be used to travel and gain access to government buildings. However, neither the DC DMV nor other DC agencies accept immigration paperwork as a form of identification. DC DMV employees regularly advise recent migrants to get passports or consular cards from their embassies which 1) is not possible for asylum-seekers who come from countries the US does not have consular relations with (e.g. Venezuela); 2) immigration attorneys regularly advise asylum seekers to not have contact with the consulates or embassies of their countries because it could be used against them in their asylum hearings as they must prove they are actually seeking protection from their countries of origin; 3) embassies and

consulates function poorly and are unresponsive; 4) most embassies require an applicant to have a government issued ID to apply for a passport and will not make an exception if a person's documents have been confiscated. So, even if migrants can contact their embassies without jeopardizing their asylum cases, they are stuck in a bureaucratic Catch-22 in which they cannot get a passport without an ID and cannot get an ID without a passport. DC should change the proof of identification documents required for an LPC to include federally issued immigration documents (e.g. [NJ](#) and [OR](#)).

A second barrier that recent migrants face to obtaining identification cards is proof of residency. Currently, the list of acceptable documents is limited, and few recent migrants are able to supply the required proofs despite having established residency in the District. The list of documents should be expanded, and shelters should give migrants residency documents upon request. Furthermore, LPCs require two documents to prove that you live in DC. This is inconsistent with other parts of DC law, for example accessing homeless services under HSRA only requires one document to prove residency ([§ 4-751.01\(32\)\(A\)\(iii\)](#)). Additionally, LPCs have a six month residency requirement which is also inconsistent with DC law – 1) DMV REAL IDs do not have the same requirement ([18 DCMR § 103 \(2022\)](#)), 2) it is not a requirement to access public benefits ([§ 4-205.03](#)), and 3) it is not a requirement to vote ([§ 1-1001.02\(2\)\(C\)](#)). When the [Local Residents Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022](#) goes into effect many DC residents who are immigrants will be able to vote but not able to obtain an LPC. DC should change the number of documents required to prove residency to obtain an LPC to one and remove the six-month residency requirement. Furthermore, DC should provide residency documents for individuals who are in OMS

shelters such that there is equal access to identification regardless of housing status.

Limited purpose IDs exist to provide access to identification for all DC residents regardless of immigration status, however, current implementation means that recently arrived migrants do not have access to DC ID.

Resulting barriers to self-sufficiency

- a) Bank accounts: Recent migrants cannot open bank accounts without an ID. This makes it harder for them to save money and therefore become self-sustainable.
- b) Leases: Many landlords require an ID to rent an apartment and sign leases. Without IDs, the pool of housing available to recent migrants is extremely limited.
- c) Marriage certificates: The DC Marriage Bureau [requires a US ID or a passport](#) to procure a marriage certificate. So, recent migrants cannot get married in DC. This is an issue in some asylum cases where it may be beneficial to get married before submitting an application so a spouse can be a dependent.
- d) Birth certificates: Mothers who don't meet the [identification requirements](#) have not been able to get birth certificates for their newborns through Vital Records. Currently, there are 11 babies born to recent migrant parents in DC without birth certificates.
 - (1) In the case of couples who are not married, fathers without U.S. identification have faced barriers in having acknowledgement of paternity forms notarized in order to be added to the birth certificate.
- e) Access to Community Resources: Certain community resources such as adult education programs, food, libraries, community centers, etc. require identification and/or proof of residency to

access their services which are particularly critical for recent migrants.

Proposed policy changes

We propose the following changes to the eligibility requirements for the [DC DMV Limited Purpose Credential](#):

- a) Expand the list of documents accepted as primary sources for proof of identity to include:
 - (1) Foreign birth certificate
 - (2) Foreign driver license/ other municipal ID
 - (3) Foreign passport expired within the past 5 years
 - (4) Federally issued immigration documents that contain photo identification, including but not limited to
 - (a) [Form I-385](#): Notice to Report or Alien Booking Record
 - (b) [Form I-220A](#): Order of Release on Recognizance
 - (c) [ICE check-in log](#)
 - (d) Other [commonly used immigration documents](#) with photo id
- b) Expand the list of documents accepted as secondary sources for proof of identity to include:
 - (1) Federally issued immigration documents, including but not limited to
 - (a) [Form I-862](#): Notice to Appear (NTA)
 - (b) [Form I-94](#): parole document
 - (c) Other [commonly used immigration documents](#) without photo id
 - (2) Photocopies of foreign documents, including but not limited to
 - (a) Foreign passport
 - (b) Foreign birth certificate
 - (c) Foreign driver license
 - (3) Foreign driver license expired within the past 5 years

- c) Make proof of residency requirements equitable and consistent with broader DC law
 - (1) Require only one document for proof of residency
 - (2) Remove six-month residency requirement
 - (3) Expand the list of accepted residency documents (e.g., bank statements, voter ID)
- d) Provide residency documents for migrants residing in shelters.
- e) Consider establishing a point-system policy, similar to [New Jersey](#) and [New York City](#), where documents are assigned point values and the combination of documents you provide needs to meet a minimum number of points.

We propose that the DC Council pass emergency legislation to direct the Mayor to publish rules to amend [Title 18 DCMR, Vehicles and Traffic](#) to make the changes outlined in the previous section. The Fiscal Impact should be low enough that the Department of Motor Vehicles can absorb it. A second option would be to pass these amendments as part of the FY24 Budget Support Act.

[Jurisdiction](#)

Agency or Office: Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)

Committee: Transportation and Environment

Councilmembers: Allen (chair), Frumin, Henderson, Lewis-George, Parker

[Lack of Adequate Legal Support](#)

The migrants arriving in DC are asylum-seekers. Unlike refugees, asylum-seekers do not enter the country with status – they are not eligible for public benefits or given work permits on arrival. From April to December 2022, migrants arriving

in DC were typically either given a Notice to Appear at the border or between 60 to 90 day parole. They then have one year to apply for asylum. 150 days after the government receives a person’s asylum application, they can apply for work authorization, which may be issued after 180 days. This is a long and complicated process, and most of the recent migrants at OMS shelters do not have the support needed to turn in their asylum applications, and therefore are unable to obtain work permits. Following President Biden’s new border policy changes, asylum-seekers who use the CBP One mobile app to make an appointment to present themselves at a port of entry and receive parole for at least one year can apply for work authorization. These applications cost \$410 and still require support to file.

Currently, there are 359 families staying at OMS shelters, a maximum of 40 of which have turned in their asylum applications so far. The Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid Network has been running monthly *pro se* asylum clinics since December. Some legal service providers are supporting recent migrants with their applications as well, but they do not have the capacity to take on more clients. DC should invest in expanding the capacity of immigration legal service providers so they can help recent migrants get work authorization as soon as possible, which will in turn help them become self-reliant enough to move out of the shelters.

[Resulting barriers to self-sufficiency](#)

- a) Inability to find stable work: Without work authorization, recent migrants struggle to find work in DC and often have to rely on cash economy jobs, like day labor, that do not provide a steady stream of income. This makes it harder for them to save and show proof of income to landlords and

therefore harder to move out of the OMS shelters.

- b) Wage theft and exploitation: The lack of work authorization also makes recent migrants susceptible to exploitation by employers, including wage theft and unsafe work conditions. Migrants feel scared to report exploitative work conditions because they are working without authorization and are concerned that it could affect their asylum cases, or worse, result in detainment or arrest.

Proposed policy changes

We propose that the DC Council allocate funding in the form of grants to immigration legal service providers for the purpose of supporting recent migrants with asylum and work authorization applications. This will have a direct and positive impact on recent migrants' ability to save and move out of the OMS shelters.

We propose the DC Council allocate funds to cover the additional staffing costs required by DC legal service providers to expand their capacity to take on more clients who are applying for asylum. We propose that the DC Council allocate \$700,000 in the FY23 supplemental budget and \$1.4 million in the FY24 budget for grants through the Office of the Attorney General for community-based organizations providing legal assistance to asylum-seekers. \$700,000 is the amount required for a legal service provider to take on 200 additional asylum cases, which would include creating four additional staff positions and overhead⁵.

Jurisdiction

Agency or Office: Office of the Attorney General
Committee: Judiciary and Public Safety

Councilmembers: Pinto (chair), Allen, Bonds, Gray, Henderson

Lack of Childcare Support

Most of the recent migrants housed at the OMS shelters have children under the age of 5, which means when they go to work, they require childcare. At the shelters, caregivers have created an informal childcare network where neighbors trade off taking care of each other's children based on their work schedule. If a family chooses to move out of the shelter, they lose access to this network and have to face the District's prohibitively high childcare costs.

DC is the most expensive place in the country for childcare; a [2022 study](#) found that, on average, daycare costs \$419 per week in DC, 85% higher than the national average. Because of this, many low-income families in DC rely on childcare subsidy or voucher programs. Unfortunately, only a handful of recent migrants who have a child born in the US qualify for these programs, and even those parents face barriers completing the application due to their inability to procure DC residency and identification documents.

Resulting barriers to self-sufficiency

- a) Full time caregiver: If a family moves out of the shelters, one parent or guardian must become a full-time caregiver and cannot work. It is close to impossible for recent migrants who do not have work authorization to afford rent in DC on a single income.
- b) Single parents/guardians: Single parents or guardians are not able to work without childcare support.

⁵ This estimate was provided by a local immigration legal service provider.

Proposed policy changes

We propose that DHS create a childcare voucher program for low-income residents who do not qualify for federally funded childcare subsidies. This could be done by either supplementing existing childcare programs and expanding eligibility or creating a separate program under DHS or OSSE.

Jurisdiction

Agency or Office: Department of Human Services (DHS)

Committee: Housing

Councilmembers: R White (chair), Frumin, McDuffie, Parker, Pinto

Agency or Office: Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)

Committee: Whole

Councilmembers: All

Conclusions

In this brief we highlight the need to create a migrant services system in DC that provides the support recent migrants need to transition out of the shelters and resettle in the area. Additionally, we outline four concrete barriers that recent migrants face and propose legislative and financial avenues the DC government can use to combat them. We recommend that the DC Council immediately take steps to implement the proposals described here.

This policy brief was prepared by the Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid Network. For questions email Madhvi Venkatraman at madhvi.v@gmail.com. Learn more: www.dcmigrantmutualaid.org.