



DECEMBER 2020

BLUEPRINT FOR THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION

THE IMMIGRANT LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER'S POLICY PRIORITIES

In our [Blueprint for the Next Administration](#), the Immigrant Legal Resource Center calls on the Biden administration to go beyond restoring what has been lost over the past four years to build a new way forward toward dignity and justice. We must reject notions that certain community members are disposable and policies that undervalue and exploit immigrants.

We urge the Biden administration to immediately prioritize a commitment to ensuring a compassionate and humane, rather than punitive, immigration system by:

- Ensuring agencies tasked with setting immigration policy are led and staffed by Black people, immigrants, and people of color, and that these individuals demonstrate a strong record of fighting for racial equity and immigrant justice.
- Committing to centering the experiences of directly impacted individuals when creating policies pertaining to immigrants. This requires continuous, intentional, and accessible engagement with immigrants at every step of the policy process and a seat at every policy table.
- Pledging that the administration's policies and practices will support the larger struggle to dismantle systemic racism inherent in both the criminal legal and immigration systems.

Among the myriad policies that must immediately change, the ILRC calls on the Biden administration to prioritize:

» **Restoring USCIS's mission to ensure immigration benefits and protections are broadly accessible and affordable by:**

- Fully restoring immigration benefits such as DACA, asylum, protections for gender-based violence survivors, TPS, and rescinding the racist immigration bans executed by the Trump administration.
- Ensuring immigration benefits are accessible to all by rescinding the public charge rule in its entirety; fee rules that gut fee waivers and drastically increase application fees; memoranda regarding Notices to Appear, Requests for Evidence, Notices of Intent to Deny, and referrals to ICE; and removing measures that punish those who use marijuana or work in the marijuana industry in accordance with state laws.
- Improving naturalization adjudications and increasing naturalization accessibility by reducing cost prohibitive filing fees, improving processing times, reducing extreme vetting, revoking the newly issued civics test, and actively promoting naturalization through partnerships with community-based organizations.
- Removing the barriers to acquisition and derivation of citizenship.



- » **Dismantling immigration enforcement, surveillance, and detention systems and policies by:**
 - Establishing an indefinite and inclusive moratorium on immigration enforcement, detention, and deportation.
 - Ending expedited removal and ensuring that immigrants receive a meaningful opportunity to present a defense to deportation.
 - Eliminating immigration detention entirely, in all its forms including private, public, and e-carceration. The administration must immediately abandon its lawsuit against California’s AB 32 which ends for-profit prisons and detention in California; cancel the search for new detention facilities throughout the country; eliminate cash bonds; and redirect investment to community-based alternatives for those who need it.
 - Ending the use of local and state law enforcement agencies as front-line immigration enforcement agents, by terminating programs such as Secure Communities, 287(g), the Criminal Alien Program, the use of detainers, and other partnerships or contracts such as IGSA with local and state law enforcement.
 - Ending attacks and lawsuits against sanctuary jurisdictions and pro-immigrant state laws.
 - Protecting immigrant youth by expanding access to relief, rescinding the currently-enjoined *Flores* regulations, and ending the current detention system for children (including information-sharing between the Office of Refugee Resettlement and ICE) and replacing it with a model that welcomes and temporarily cares for unaccompanied children before releasing them to family as soon as possible.
 - Ending surveillance tactics and ensuring complete transparency of information collected.
 - Creating a national reentry program to support individuals affected by immigration enforcement, detention, and deportation.
- » **Vacating all decisions issued by Attorneys General that abuse their authority and erect additional barriers to access immigration relief.**
- » **Signing into law legislation, such as [The New Way Forward Act](#), that is inclusive and broad and works to dismantle the enforcement and detention systems.**

