



# CBF Advocacy

## COVID-19 Immigrant Advisory

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is committed to seeking justice for immigrants and refugees. We believe the Christian value of loving our neighbor should guide our efforts to tell our community how the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in changes to the U.S. immigration system and the status of refugees on our southern border. Our goal is to help our Fellowship demonstrate love to our immigrant neighbors at this critical moment. In doing so, we ask you to follow the recommendations provided at the end of this advisory, to support organizations working directly with immigrants and to advocate for the health and safety of every person during this pandemic.

### What you should know

1. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has [suspended all in-person services](#) until April 1, 2020. USCIS staff will continue to perform duties that do not involve contact with the public. Therefore, application and filing deadlines are still in effect.
2. Immigration Courts [postponed all non-detained hearings and closed several court locations](#).
3. Immigration Courts are [postponing all court hearings presently scheduled through April 22, 2020 for those asylum seekers under the "Remain in Mexico" policy](#). Migrants should continue to present themselves at their designated port of entry on their previously scheduled date to receive a tear sheet and hearing notice containing their new hearing dates.
4. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) adjusted its enforcement posture to [focus on arresting immigrants](#) who represent a threat to public safety and those who are subject to mandatory detention based on criminal grounds.
5. ICE [suspended all family visitation](#) at detention facilities.
6. Asylum seekers under the ["Remain in Mexico"](#) policy fear mass deaths if the COVID-19 reaches the migrant camps.
7. Some immigrants are terrified of [seeking medical treatment for COVID-19](#).

### What you can do

1. Encourage immigrants to seek appropriate medical attention, regardless of their immigration status. **Remind immigrants seeking emergency medical services does not constitute a benefit under the public charge rule.**
2. Support ministries that serve immigrants and refugees during this pandemic. See the attached list of organizations that provide aid to immigrants, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Contact and pray for the immigrants you know. Many of them don't have family in the United States and may be concerned for their family members who live abroad.



### **Please support these CBF ministries to immigrants**

Please support the following organizations. They are providing immigrants with access to vital services during the coronavirus pandemic.

1. [Fellowship Southwest](#)
2. [Cooperative Baptist Fellowship](#)
3. [Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Global Missions](#)
4. [The Welcome House](#)

### **Other organizations that support immigrants**

1. [Bread for the World](#)
2. [Americares](#)
3. [Ayuda Center for Disaster Philanthropy](#)
4. [International Rescue Committee](#)
5. [Oxfam America](#)
6. [Save the Children](#)
7. [USA for UNHCR](#)

\*Updated 3/24/2020

