



Immigration Reform

The lack of a coherent and consistent federal immigration policy continues to pose a serious challenge to municipalities due to its escalating impact on local budgets, service delivery, and community life.

Message to Congress

- *Comprehensive legislation.* Immigration reform must occur in a comprehensive, thoughtful manner that focuses on the creation of economic opportunities, strengthens families, and our communities.
- *Legalization of undocumented immigrants.* NLC supports the establishment of process whereby undocumented immigrants currently living in the U.S. may earn legalized status through payment of appropriate fees and back taxes and other reasonable requirements.
- *Federal, not local, enforcement.* The federal government must improve the enforcement of its immigration laws. Local law enforcement officers should not be mandated to enforce civil enforcement laws that raise constitutional questions and divert local personnel from their primary public safety duties.
- *Federal-local partnership without unfunded mandates.* The federal government should not require local law enforcement personnel to detain criminal aliens without sufficient reimbursement. Congress should increase funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCCAP) to provide communities with the necessary resources they need to detain criminals.
- *Guest worker program to address employer needs.* NLC supports an efficient program that enables businesses to hire foreign workers and meet local economic demands.

Request to Congress

- **Enact** comprehensive immigration reform that addresses: (1) border security and interior enforcement; (2) workplace enforcement; (3) guest workers; (4) legalization of undocumented workers currently in the U.S.; and (5) necessary service delivery.
- **Provide** federal funds to help communities integrate new residents into their communities.