



National Immigration Forum 2021 Impact Report



Dear Friends,

In 1980, there were approximately 14 million immigrants in the United States, making up just over six percent of the population. Realizing the nation's immigration system had not seen significant reform since the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act, a group of advocates came together in 1982 to launch the National Immigration, Refugee & Citizenship Forum.

By 1986, the organization had built the coalition necessary to pass the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, legalizing approximately 3 million undocumented immigrants. And, in 1993, that organization became the National Immigration Forum.

Forty years later, approximately 45 million foreign-born people live in the United States, making up about 14 percent of the U.S. population. From skilled farmworkers to engineers, immigrants and refugees are contributing to our nation's towns and cities. And, more recently, foreign-born residents have worked shoulder-to-shoulder with native-born Americans to help the nation respond and recover from COVID-19.

At the same time, we are a more polarized nation than any other time in recent history. We lack empathy for one another. We don't trust each other. Our political identities seem all powerful. And, we are often quick to strip immigrants and refugees of their dignity.

This is the challenge the Forum steps into every day. We are not satisfied working with one side of the divide or the other. We firmly believe that as much as certain forces want to use immigration to divide us — immigration is core to the American identity and can help bring the nation together. We will meet people where they are. But, as we seek constructive, compassionate solutions, we won't leave them there.

Our policy team is engaging lawmakers across the ideological political spectrum, offering legislative analyses, fact-based information and innovative strategies. As a result, we are trusted as honest brokers and transparent partners.



Our communications team is advancing cutting edge digital strategies and shifting the nation's immigration narrative. We are persuading and mobilizing conservative and moderate audiences, engaging religious and mainstream press, and bringing new voices into the immigration conversation.

And, in communities across the country, our teams are working with pastors, police chiefs, national security experts and corporate leaders to make the case that all Americans thrive when immigrants and refugees live to their fullest potential.

Our success is built on 40 years of leadership at the board, executive, and staff level. Over the course of our history, the Forum family includes those who have served as influential faith leaders, presidential advisors, corporate decision-makers, and pillars of the immigrant and refugee community.

As we celebrate 40 years of work, we are excited about what lies ahead. Innovative coalition building, high-impact communications work and strategic advocacy, with the next generation of leaders showing the way.

What has guided us over our history is what will guide us into the future: Leadership rooted in trust, driven by dignity.

Onward.



Becky Tallent

Chair, National Immigration Forum Board of Directors
Senior Director of U.S. Government Affairs, Dropbox



Ali Noorani

President and CEO
National Immigration Forum

Our Vision

The National Immigration Forum is a nonpartisan advocacy organization, that builds trusted relationships to create a shared vision for immigration in America. Our innovative approach leads the conversation on the value of immigration for a stronger, richer, and more vibrant America.



Our Last Decade

Realizing a progressive-only strategy was out of line with a majority of Americans, the Forum shifted its approach to focus on conservative and moderate leaders in the Southeast, Midwest and Mountain West.

2012

Formally launched “Bibles, Badges and Business (BBB) for Immigration Reform”



2013

Began offering citizenship services (2013) and industry contextualized English language training (2016) to corporate partners

2017

Launched Welcome Campaign to engage evangelical women



2019

Launched the Corporate Roundtable to normalize immigrant integration programs and advocate for reforms

2020

Under America is Better, our 501c4 launched an electoral campaign “Choose Welcome” in North Carolina

2020

Integrated and scaled BBB grassroots and Welcome grassroots strategies

2021

Launched the Council on National Security and Immigration to bring center-right security voices into the debate

2022

Launched the Alliance for a New Immigration Consensus





Legislative Efforts in 2020-21

The Forum contributed to the following pieces of legislation:

Dec. 31, 2020
MISSING PERSONS UNIDENTIFIED
REMAINS ACT (S.2174)

MPURA takes steps to prevent migrant deaths on the Southwest border and helps border counties and nonprofit organizations locate and identify missing migrants. It creates grants for humanitarian and state actors to report and identify missing persons and unidentified remains, including migrant border crossers. It also provides resources for rescue beacons, which are used effectively to rescue migrants in danger.

Mar. 25, 2020
THE CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF,
AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES)
ACT (H.R. 748)

A \$2.2 trillion [economic stimulus](#) bill passed by the [116th U.S. Congress](#) and signed into law by President [Donald Trump](#) on March 27, 2020 in response to the [economic fallout](#) of the [COVID-19 pandemic](#). The CARES Act passed quickly, however it barred mixed-status families from receiving stimulus checks.

Sept. 2021 – PRESENT
AFGHAN RESETTLEMENT

Collectively advocated for resettling Afghan refugees in the U.S. with dignity. Resettlement efforts include successfully passing \$6.3 billion in supplemental funding (Sept. 2021), designation of Temporary Protected Status (March 2022) and continued efforts to pass an Afghan Adjustment Act to provide a path to permanent legal status.



Making An Impact

Constituency Organizing + Strategic Communications results in advocacy on Capitol Hill.

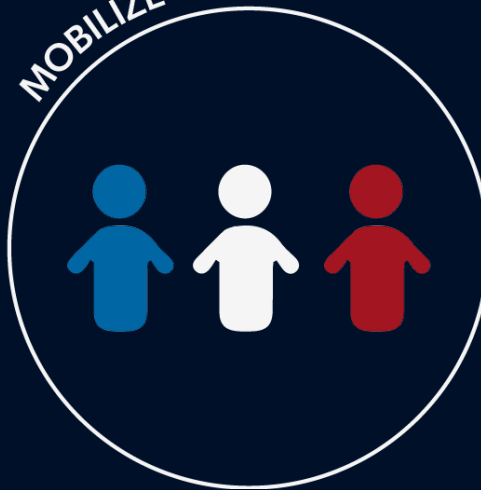
PERSUADE



WE ARE A FORUM

We lead, convene, and guide a meaningful immigration debate, with the purpose of influencing policy.

MOBILIZE



WE ACTIVATE PEOPLE

Through media and events, we gather thinkers, leaders, policy makers, legislators, and everyday people to take action to advance informed immigration policy.

ADVOCATE



WE ARE CREATING A 21ST CENTURY IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

We develop and advance innovative immigration policy solutions that serve the needs of the American worker and their family.

2021

By the Numbers



The Forum understands and engages moderate and conservative constituencies:

- ★ Through our innovative immigrant integration programs, we engage companies like Amazon and Bashas' as service providers and policy advocates;
- ★ We are on the Hill, in the media and in the room with our partners sharing expertise, convening conversations and advancing policies;
- ★ Whether directly through the Forum brand, or through our various campaigns and coalitions, the organization's digital footprint has never been larger;
- ★ We continue to build and energize faith, law enforcement, national security and business coalitions that engage policymakers, shape narratives and educate voters;
- ★ In the eyes of media, policymakers and partners, the Forum is a trusted voice.



Field & Constituencies

We have established national networks of moderate and conservative faith, law enforcement and national security coalitions advocating for immigration reforms. In 2021, these networks accomplished the following:



- A national movement of the 10 largest Christian organizations and denominations committed to encouraging distinctly biblical thinking about issues of immigration.
- 59 educational resources
- 90 press hits



- 132 members from 31 states
- 12 new members in 2021
- 19 Blogs/op-eds
- Members met with DHS leadership, including Sec. Alejandro Mayorkas multiple times throughout the year.
- Former member, Chief Chris Magnus confirmed as Customs and Border Protection Commissioner.



- 21 national security expert members
- 18 Hill/Administrative Meetings
- 9 Educational Materials Published



Council on National Security and Immigration

We saw a need for politically conservative national security experts to be more involved in the immigration debate, so we started the [Council on National Security and Immigration](#) in March 2021. Today, CNSI is comprised of a group of twenty-one [American national security leaders](#) who believe immigration reforms are imperative to bolster and maintain national security and the United States' global leadership in the 21st century. These trusted leaders have weighed in on important immigration issues as you can see in select highlights below.

Afghan Resettlement

- ★ [Amid Afghanistan chaos, refugee vetting process is sound: OPINION - ABC News \(go.com\)](#)
- Elizabeth Neumann, ABC News Online
- ★ [The US Must Help Afghans Who Have Helped Us](#)
- Rick "Ozzie" Nelson, The Hill
- ★ [Congress should pass an Afghan Adjustment Act](#)
- Stewart Verdery, Roll Call

Border Challenges

- ★ [As Border Challenges Persist, Let's Not Confuse the Real Threats](#)
- Elizabeth Neumann, The Dispatch Pubbed
- ★ [Don't Let the Humanitarian Crisis at the Border Excuse Congressional Inaction on Immigration](#)
- James M. Loy, Morning Consult
- ★ [How We Can Meet the Challenge at the Border](#)
- Douglas Baker, Washington Examiner

High-Skill Visas

- ★ [Reforming Our High-Skill Immigration System is a National Security Imperative](#)
- Stewart Verdery and Elaine K. Dezenski
- ★ [National Security Leaders Praise Policy Changes to Increase Competitiveness](#)
- Press Release, CNSI

Grassroots Engagement



WOMEN OF
WELCOME

**We
Welcome.**

A community of moderate and conservative evangelical women engaged and prepared to advocate for constructive immigration reform.

The Welcome Project consists of two subgroups: Women of Welcome (WoW) and We Welcome (WW). Of the two, WW shows a greater comfort level with immigrants and refugees given many have volunteered with this demographic overseas or in their local communities. While WoW's perspective tends to be more conservative and generally has a positive view of immigrants, they would prefer that immigrants take legal avenues to enter the U.S.



702,563
Video Views



4,662,659
Digital Reach



13
Webinars



183,805
Social Media Following



Welcome – Testimonials

“Growing up super conservative, I went along with a lot of that rhetoric against immigrants and refugees. But my heart has changed so much in the past two years and I’m looking for like-minded people and resources on the topic! I love love love what I’ve seen of your content so far!”

- Welcome community member

“I have been on a journey with Jesus over the past several years...I have found myself in situations where a better understanding of these issues, especially from a Christian perspective, would be helpful and I feel ill-equipped to share my heart with others. I am hoping to gain a better understanding and better tools of how to have hard conversations with those around me.”

- Welcome community member

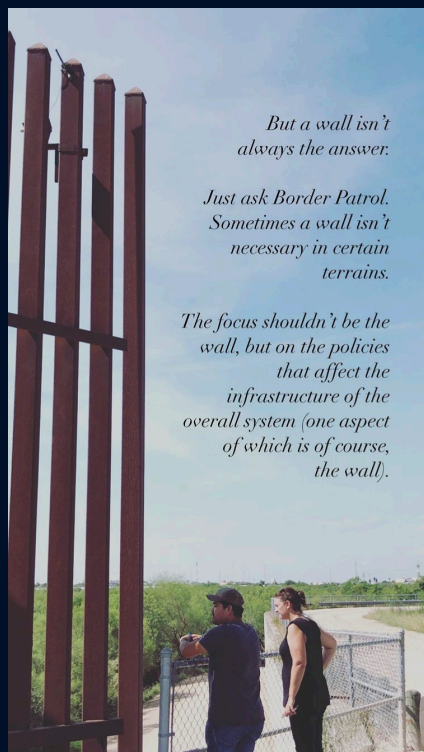
“Thank you...My mind is changing from one who thought that people should ‘go the legal route, etc.’ to remembering that there is no scarcity in Jesus. And no matter who someone is, they are imago Dei (“image of God”) and I need to love them. Thank you for your resources.”

- Welcome community member

Welcome – Border Delegations

On November 14 – 19, 2021, Women of Welcome members were on the ground in El Paso, Texas, with partner Abara Frontiers co-hosting two carefully selected groups of women. The first group of 10 women were at the border for three days and were chosen from 60 applicants. The second group included 8 influencers invited personally by both Bri Stensrud, Executive Director of Women of Welcome and Jamie Ivey of The Happy Hour podcast. Among the influencers was Jenny Yang from World Relief who provided a lecture on Immigration 101 and the Theology of Migration.

Part of the immersion experience included a presentation from U.S Customs and Border Patrol agents, visiting parts of the border fence, helping put together hygiene kits, and sorting clothes and food in a shelter. During the trip, participants recounted and shared images, ideas, and inspiration from the experience.



Corporate Roundtable

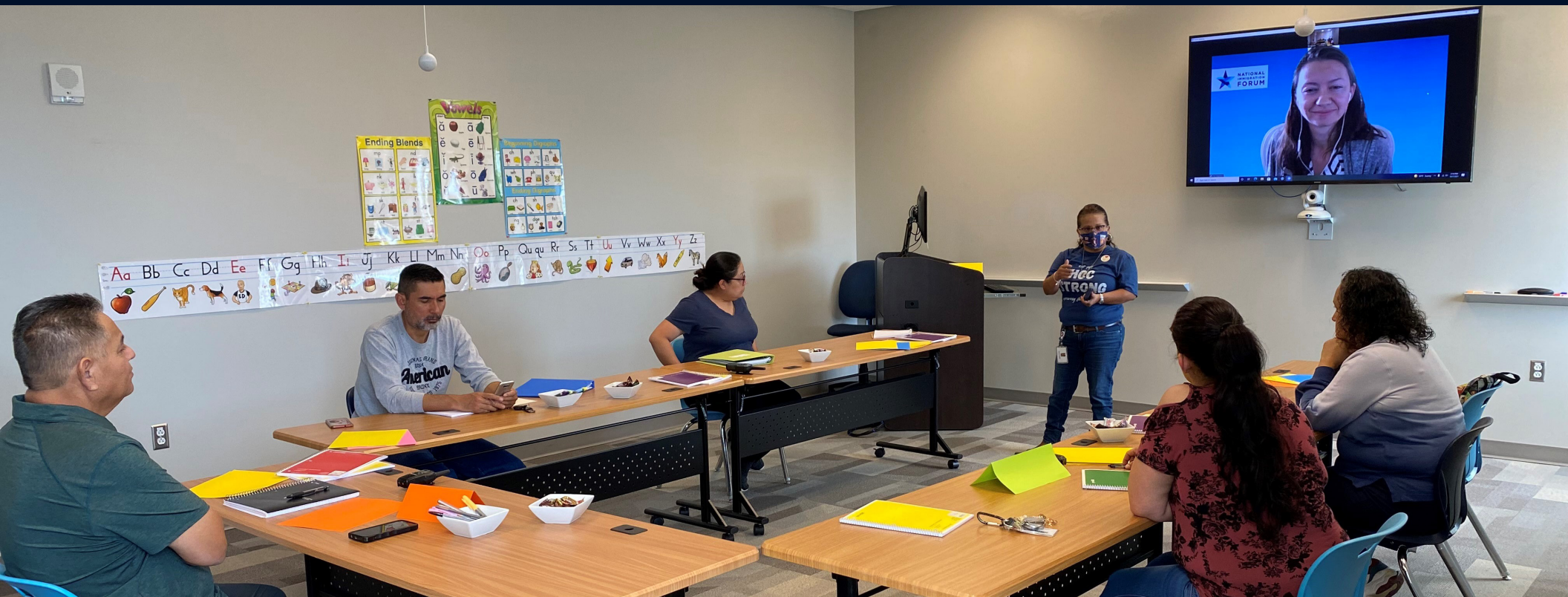
Convenes the nation's leading businesses to advance strategies that integrate new Americans into the U.S. labor market and improve their opportunities to thrive.

- ★ 35 members - Google, Levi Strauss and Company, and Bank of America officially joined in 2021
- ★ 6 advocacy activities encouraging bipartisan action on immigration policy including a fly-in, congressional briefing, Phone2Action and email campaigns
- ★ Secured 80+ businesses signatories for the Forum's Statement in Support of Bipartisan Immigration Reform
- ★ Launched new Corporate Roundtable Workforce Development Working Group which developed Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) recommendations to better support employers and immigrant workers
- ★ Corporate Roundtable partners and friends contributed \$177,000 in sponsorships for our annual Leading the Way convening.
- ★ Shared our work with the broader adult education community to increase awareness and engagement



English at Work (EAW)

- ★ Trained 1,621 limited English proficient employees to date. In 2021, with the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, we trained 104 foreign-born workers from four companies in six states across three industries; retail, manufacturing, and food service.
- ★ Developed a unique partnership with the Western Association of Food Chains with 10 employers signing up for classes through Q1 2022 in preparation for high potential management certificate program.
- ★ [Watch the EAW video.](#)

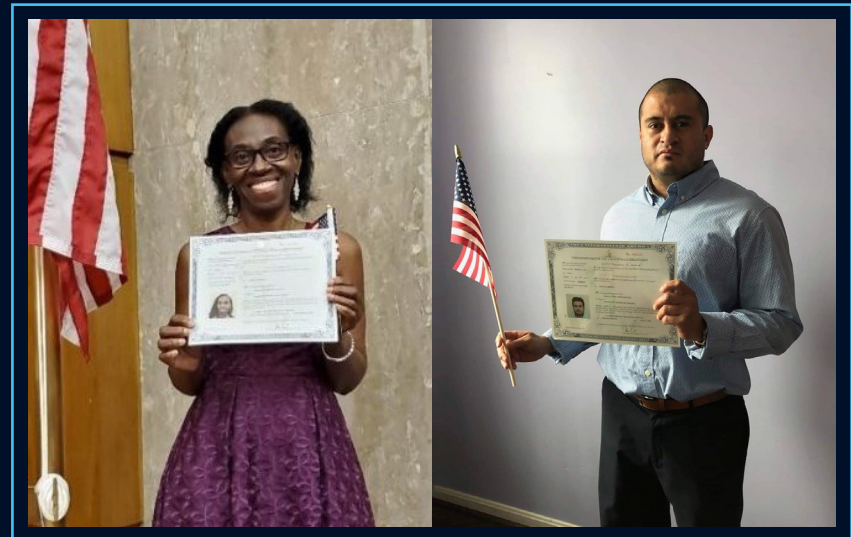


New American Workforce Citizenship Services

A customized, secure and confidential online portal to complete citizenship applications.

In 2021:

- ★ 3,370 users accessed
- ★ 2,234 applications started
- ★ 528 applications completed
- ★ Developed a generic portal for Houston-based companies to reach 350k Legal Permanent Residents
- ★ Developed partnership with California Farm Bureau Federation to offer Forum's citizenship services as a benefit to its 31,000 employer members



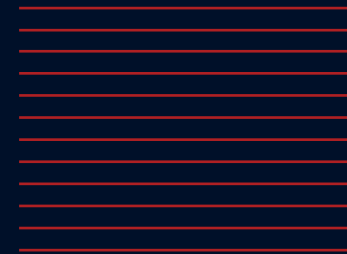
Policy & Advocacy



248
Hill Visits

70

Policy Products



- Bill Summaries
- Policy Explainers
- Fact Sheets
- Infographics
- Reports
- Weekly “Legislative Bulletin”
- Blog posts

Room to Grow: Setting Immigration Levels in a Changing America

Immigrants — working together with U.S.-born Americans — have long been essential in helping to build a more prosperous country that can live up to the ethos of the American dream. Now, immigrants have another increasingly important role to play, this time in response to the country’s rapidly changing demographics. A year ago, we published [Room to Grow](#) and workforce demands have only increased.

This paper provides a recommendation for setting evidence-backed immigration levels that combat the worst effects of demographic decline and protect the nation’s social and economic health. A modern immigration system is necessary to respond to modern challenges and increasing immigration levels will help us both provide for our elderly population and give us confidence in the country we are leaving to our children and grandchildren.



Media mentions in:

 **THE BULWARK**

CNN

Forbes

AXIOS

Los Angeles Times

Roll Call

Vox

**The
New York
Times**

Digital & Strategic Communications

Our communications team is advancing cutting edge digital strategies and shifting the nation's immigration narrative.



17,808
Facebook



28,675
Twitter



Advocacy
campaigns

Advocacy Campaigns



In 2021, the Communications team started using Capitol Canary (formerly Phone2Action) – a mobile-first, multi-channel advocacy platform – and ran multiple online campaigns to garner support for pressing immigration-related issues.

- ★ Support Dreamers
- ★ Immigrant Farmworkers
- ★ Title 42
- ★ Afghan Allies
- ★ Unaccompanied Minors
- ★ Haitian Migrants

Financials



To learn more about our organizational health and the Forum's investment strategies [Read our Financials - National Immigration Forum](#)

Thank you to our Board of Directors

The National Immigration Forum's work is made possible by our broad national network of partners and community members. We are grateful for each and every one of you. A big thank you to our dedicated board members:

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Dropbox



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Philanthropic Consultant



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