



Reform the Country's Immigration System

America's immigration system is broken, and the nation's hometowns are suffering the consequences. The inability of government at all levels to reach consensus on a solution to immigration has created financial, cultural and political strains in communities across America. Comprehensive reform is needed to fix the system and to provide cities and towns with the support they need to integrate immigrants into American communities.

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 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.; (5) a path to citizenship for immigrants now in the country; and (6) resources to alleviate the local impacts of delivering services to new immigrants.
- **Provide** federal funds to help communities integrate new residents into their communities.