

Planning for Migrant Arrivals

April 4, 2024

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Seattle Office of Emergency
Management



King County Office of Emergency
Management



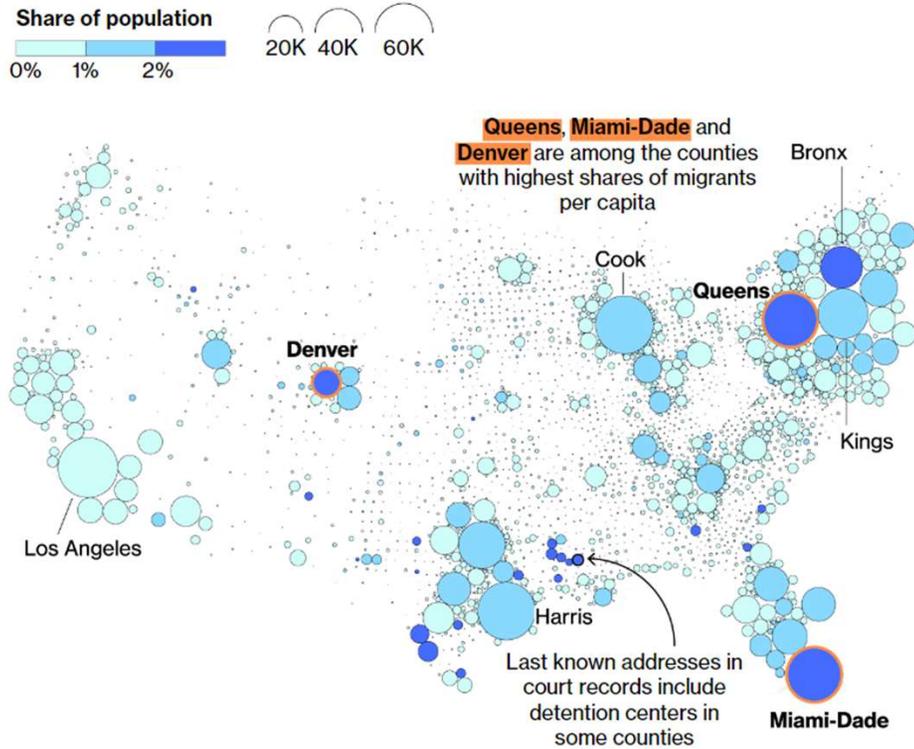
Some Thoughts Up Front

- Don't want to delve into the politics of the issue
- As an EM, my responsibility is to manage community consequence impact w/o passion or prejudice
- This is meant to be a discussion...participation and questions are encouraged



New Migrants Made Up More Than 2% of People in Some Counties

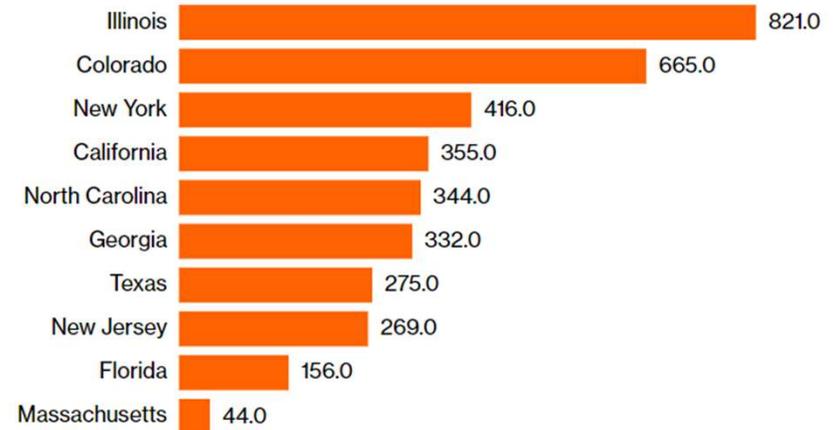
Number of migrants with new immigration court cases in 2023



Source: Department of Justice EOIR case data, released after FOIA requests by TRAC at Syracuse University

The Biggest Changes Are Far From the Southern Border

Percentage increase in the number of new immigration court cases from 2021 to 2023, among states with the most cases last year



Source: Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) at Syracuse University



Buses respond to Chicago's new penalties and restrictions by dropping migrants in secret locations

'When they come without notice and coordination, it starts to undermine what we're trying to do,' Mayor Brandon Johnson's office lamented
By Alexander Hall Fox News

Denver hospitals want federal bailout as illegal immigrants flood system

Story by Michael Dorgan • 2mo • 3 min read

Texas begins flying migrants to sanctuary cities with first flight to Chicago

Over 82,000 migrants have been transported to cities by Texas so far

By Adam Shaw Bill Melugin Fox News

Washington Examiner
NEWS POLICY CAMPAIGNS CRIME OPINION RESTORING AMERICA WATCH MAGAZINE NEWSLETTERS
Denver hospital raises alarm about \$136 million deficit it's scrambling to pay as migrant crisis worsens
By Eden Villalobos January 18, 2024 11:59 am

Denver pleads with property owners to rent to migrant 'newcomers'

The city wants residents to house the illegal migrants as its closing several shelters to save nearly \$60 million

By Michael Dorgan Fox News

Chicago to start evicting illegal migrants from shelters Saturday

Around 5,600 illegal migrants are expected to be evicted on a staggered basis over the coming weeks

By Michael Dorgan Fox News

New Jersey used as 'transit point' for migrant buses headed for NYC after new executive order, governor says

New Jersey officials say migrant buses bypassing New York City Mayor Eric Adams' executive order

By Danielle Wallace Fox News

Denver becoming overwhelmed after 40,000 spike in migrant population

As Denver increases 5% in its population, the city struggles to support the influx of immigrants

By Alba Cuevas-Fantuzzi Fox News

Denver cutting some city employees' hours down to zero in order to support migrants

Those Denver workers who may lose all their hours include lifeguards, front desk workers, and coaches

By Gabriel Hays Fox News

Denver put 'on notice' by nearby Aurora over transporting migrants to community: 'Not a sanctuary city'

City council passes resolution asserting the city's inability to fund migrant crisis

By Elizabeth Heckman Fox News

Denver scaling back migrant services, closing four shelters in effort to reduce budget, save millions

Mayor Mike Johnston says a shelter will close every week over the next month in effort to reduce budget by \$60M

By Stephen Price Fox News

Hundreds of migrants dropped off in New Jersey, bypassing New York City restrictions

By Zenebou Sylla and Polo Sandoval, CNN
6 minute read - Updated 8:54 PM EST, Tue January 2, 2024

Massachusetts closes community center to public to shelter migrants, prompting backlash

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu said city officials were 'working with the state to try to identify every other option'

By Lawrence Richard Fox News

What We Know....

- They will continue to come
 - “Trickle crisis” vs. mass influx
- Many have means to pay for travel inside the US
- A LOT are getting absorbed into existing communities and/or social structures
- Some are not
- FEMA/Feds only have limited assistance to offer



Denver warns new migrants to leave, says lack of resources means they will 'suffer'

Video obtained by 9NEWS shows a city official pleading with migrants to move along to other cities as Denver faces a \$120M budget crisis.



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Common Issues

- Funding
 - Federal funding is scarce; some funding as available through Shelter and Service Program, but not a lot
 - Most jurisdictions are relying on a combination of local, state funding along with private philanthropy
 - Stable long-term funding key to development of long-term solutions
- Housing: Short-term rental assistance and long-term rental assistance challenged due to funding and lack of suitable space



Common Issues

- Case management
 - Both Denver and Chicago have capitalized on this special expertise of community-based organizations by funding trusted community-based organizations to provide case management support services to people seeking asylum staying in shelters
 - One Federal program worth tracking: DHS Case Management Pilot Program: <https://www.dhs.gov/dhs-cmpp>
- Access to legal services



Lessons Learned from Other Cities...

- Embrace out of the box thinking...challenge yourself/organizations to advocate in circumstances that would otherwise prevent response
- Pre-identify and prioritize facilities for sheltering mission
- Develop an emergency staffing plan
- Develop a contingency transportation plan across all modes



Lessons Learned from Other Cities...

- When developing policies, identify the limits of your jurisdiction to implement said policy; be prepared for cascading effects and consequences
- Public-private partnerships act as force multipliers, capitalizing on the resources, funding, and infrastructure of public agencies while harnessing the community trust and expertise of local nonprofit organizations
- If you're not affected, help those who are





Denver Mayor Mike Johnston recently announced major city government budget cuts so that it may better deal with its migrant crisis. (RJ Sangosti/MediaNews Group/The Denver Post via Getty Images)



People camp as they wait to cross the border between Mexico and the United States in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico on December 27, 2023. (Christian Torres/Anadolu via Getty Images)



People who've recently arrived from the nation's southern border wait in line for food and clothes offered by community groups near a Green Valley Ranch Microtel, where many of them have been living. Jan. 21, 2024. Kevin J. Beaty/Denverite



The Melnea Cass Recreation Center has been closed since Sunday as it undergoes renovations to be converted to a migration shelter. (Melnea Cass Recreation Center/Facebook)





A bus carrying Venezuelan migrants to New York prepares to depart from the Centro de los Trabajadores Agricolas Fronterizos in El Paso, Texas, in September 2022. Paul Ratje/Reuters



Illegal migrants sit on cots and the floor of a makeshift shelter operating at O'Hare International Airport on Aug. 31, 2023. (Armando L. Sanchez/Chicago Tribune/Tribune News Service via Getty Images)



A group of migrants receives food outside a migrant landing zone during a winter storm in January in Chicago, Illinois. (KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI/AFP via Getty Images)



A group of migrants exits a bus near a Greyhound station after being transported from Texas Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023, in Chicago. (Armando L. Sanchez/Chicago Tribune/Tribune News Service via Getty Images)



A migrant flight takes off from Texas to Chicago on Tuesday. (Gov. Greg Abbott's office)



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Tents line the grounds of Riverton Park Methodist Church on Thursday afternoon in Tukwila. (Kevin Clark / The Seattle Times)



 Tukwila mayor declares state of emergency to get help for dozens of m... [Share](#)



TUKWILA MAYOR DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY TO HELP MIGRANTS

Watch on  YouTube



Refugees in Tukwila demand help with housing, healthcare and job services

After spending months sleeping in camps outside a church, they're calling on the government to fund better temporary shelter and permanent housing.

CALL 2 ACTION!

Emergency Support for Refugees in Tukwila

100+ African refugees from Congo, Angola, and Cameroon are explicitly denied clean, safe shelter and supplies this coming **BELOW FREEZING** weekend

Venmo @Super_Familia

Read about the urgent situation + how you can help >>>

Tukwila is swelling with asylum-seekers. What can be done?

By Dyer Osley · Libby Denkmann & Sarah Leibovitz
March 06, 2024 / 4:27 pm



Rita Ruemba of Angola holds hands with her 6-year-old son, Wilson Pedro, while helping to set up tents outside of the Riverton Park United Methodist Church, where nearly 200 people are sheltering while seeking asylum, on Monday, October 16, 2023, in Tukwila.

KUOW Photo/Megan Farmer



Adriana Figuera, center, leads a group of primarily Venezuelan asylum seekers, once housed at the Sleep Inn in SeaTac, to Seattle City Hall along with activists, mutual aid organizations and allies to ask for further assistance with housing from Seattle city councilmembers on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024, in Seattle.

KUOW Photo/Megan Farmer

Venezuelan migrants booted from Seattle-area hotel after nonprofit credit card maxes out

Gustavo Sagrero Álvarez
January 29, 2024 / 9:18 am



Frey is an organizer with the Venezuelan asylum hopefuls. He says they've been so busy trying to find safety, he's speaking here alongside an interpreter in front of the Kent Quality Inn Jan. 29th.

KUOW Photo/Gustavo Sagrero

DOW CONSTANTINE NEWS King County Executive



Feb. 27, 2024

Contact: Chase Gallagher
206-263-8537

NEWS: King County announces \$1 million in additional support for asylees and refugees in Tukwila

City of Seattle to cover Kent hotel costs for refugees for a week

Venezuelan migrants testified before Seattle City Council to seek emergency housing help

By Steve Hunter · February 2, 2024 4:36 pm



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Situation and Assumptions

- Assistance for Immigrant and Refugee communities
 - Current lack of resources (housing, funding)
 - Sheltering funding directed at homeless population
 - Also need case management, other services
- Emergency Management
 - Large, rapid influx of immigrants/refugees/asylees by bus or plane (>100)
 - EOC activation with ESF 6
 - Stand up reception center and short-term (2-3 days) sheltering operation
 - Executive Office
 - Affected jurisdiction(s)



KC OEM Migrant Arrivals Playbook

- Training aid to familiarize roles and responsibilities
- Operational guidance to partners and decision-makers
- Information flow and communication
- Builds on existing roles and responsibilities in CEMP and annexes

King County
Emergency Management

Migrant & Refugee Arrival PLAYBOOK
KING COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
October 2023

PLAYBOOK OVERVIEW

The scope of this Migrant & Refugee Arrival Playbook is to address initial roles and responsibilities of King County agencies in responding to unplanned arrival of mass migrants / refugees into King County. This Playbook does not address State and Federal sponsored Repatriation efforts facilitated within King County by Washington State Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

This Migrant & Refugee Arrival Playbook is designed to accomplish the following:

- Serve as a training aid to familiarize the reader with the roles and responsibilities of [partners](#);
- Offer operational guidance to responsible partners and decision-makers by providing thresholds and checklists; and
- Outline the flow of information among partners.

PREPAREDNESS

King County has, and will continue, to welcome migrants and refugees entering and resettling inside of the county. Migrants and refugees may enter King County at any time as individuals or as part of a group. King County Office of Emergency Management in conjunction with enterprise partners will conduct preparedness activities. This phase includes critical tasks and activities necessary to build and improve the Counties' operational capabilities to prepare for, respond to, mitigate the impacts of, and assist with recovery in the event a large number of migrants and/or refugees arriving in the area.

CITY Roles and Responsibilities – ADD

ACTIVITY	ROLE/RESPONSIBILITY	COMPLETED	REQUIRED ACTION
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KC OEM Migrant Arrivals Playbook

- Address initial roles and responsibilities of King County Agencies and partners
- Unplanned mass arrival of migrants/refugees into King County
- Not for Federal-sponsored and State-managed repatriation efforts

- Preparedness activities
- Advanced notification of mass arrival
- Imminent mass arrival
- Mass arrival (no-notice)



KC OEM Migrant Arrivals Playbook

- Establish coordination group
 - Review guidance from state and federal partners
 - Sharing of situational awareness
 - Inventory of potential housing options
 - Review contracts with service providers
- Equipment and supplies
 - Mass care caches (cots, blankets, pillows, other mass care supplies)
 - Hydration, washing, sanitation
 - Feeding, security, other wrap-around services
- Other considerations
 - Interpreters
 - Case management services



KC OEM Migrant Arrivals Playbook

- Notify appropriate and relevant officials (city, County)
- Engage coordination group
- Assess reception center, shelter, and other resource capabilities
 - County-owned/operated facilities for potential options
- Ensure law enforcement is aware
- Determine need for health/medical assets
 - Engage Medical Reserve Corps as necessary
- Determine/choose sheltering/housing options
- Call with State partners for long-term sheltering needs
- Coordinate messaging



Early Seattle Planning: No Notice Bus Arrival

- Asked the question: What if a bus shows up in the middle of the night?
- A: Leverage existing processes beginning with emergency sheltering
- Planning assumption: this would be a short-term solution
- Mission: Get them off the street and out of the elements
- Limitation: Using emergency shelters/rec centers only buys a few days and cannot be extended



WA Intergovernmental Task Force on Asylum Seekers

- Initially convened to address situation in Tukwila
- Co-chaired by WA DSHS and Seattle OIRA
 - State, county (King), and city (Tukwila) officials (elected and appointed)
- Information sharing and situational awareness
 - Individual efforts of various entities
 - Coordination
- Expansion of Task Force
 - Federal agencies
 - Congressional staff
 - Other cities in King County



HB 2368

- Coordinate statewide efforts of immigrant needs and includes \$32 million
- Gives the authority to serve those ineligible for federal assistance and engages with locals on doing that
- More than \$25 million is poised to go to the State's Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (DSHS)
 - \$5 million to King County
 - \$2.5 million to the City of Tukwila, which is home to Riverton Park United Methodist Church
 - \$1 million of it would go to school districts that have seen a significant increase in homeless students seeking asylum
- Contract with CBP to provide services (in other words DSHS coordinates and does not provide services)



Thank You!

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