

Proposed Resolution in Support of Codifying and Providing Annual Appropriations for the Shelter and Services Program (SSP)

Issue: Counties across the country are managing the need for temporary shelter, food, transportation and acute medical care for migrants who are awaiting the results of their immigration proceedings. This can impose a costly burden on counties. The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Shelter and Services Program (SSP) is critical to offsetting the financial burden that is placed on counties as they assist with the safe, orderly, and humane release of migrants from short-term holding facilities.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to pass legislation to codify the Shelter and Services Program (SSP) and provide annual appropriations to ease the fiscal burden that is placed on counties receiving influx of migrants, and to ensure they can continue to provide vital services to migrants while maintaining the public welfare of their communities.

Background: The Shelter and Services Program provides funds to non-federal entities that provide sheltering and other eligible services to noncitizen migrants who have been encountered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and released from custody while awaiting the outcome of their immigration proceedings. The intent is to support CBP in the safe, orderly, and humane release of noncitizen migrants from short-term holding facilities.

Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact: Multiple communities around the United States are currently experiencing influxes of non-citizens, straining support services. For example, El Paso County, Texas has received more than \$15 million to operate the Migrant Services Support Center, and multiple other local NGOs and agencies have received SSP support as well. The Shelter and Services Program is essential to helping receiving counties continue to assist federal agencies that are primarily managing migrant influxes while maintaining the public welfare of our communities.

Sponsor(s): Wendy Jacobs, Commissioner, Durham County, N.C.; David Stout, Commissioner, El Paso County, Texas and Chair of the NACo Immigration Reform Task Force