

## 2025 U.S. Immigration Policy Changes: Counselor Cheat Sheet

### Executive Order 14163: Suspension of U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (Jan 20, 2025)

**Previous:** U.S. accepted up to 125,000 refugees annually.

**Current:** Program suspended Jan 27, 2025; no new refugees admitted pending 'review and realignment.'

**Implication:** Clients in the refugee pipeline face indefinite delays and family separation.

**Reference:** White House. (2025, Jan 20). Executive Order 14163 — Realigning the United States Refugee Admissions Program. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/realigning-the-united-states-refugee-admissions-program>

### Executive Orders on Citizenship & Border (Jan 20, 2025)

**EO 14160:** Seeks to end birthright citizenship.

**EO 14159:** Expands expedited removal processes.

**Implication:** Fear among mixed-status families.

**Reference:** The White House. (2025, Jan 20). *Protecting The Meaning And Value Of American Citizenship*. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/protecting-the-meaning-and-value-of-american-citizenship/>

### Laken Riley Act (January 29, 2025)

**New:** Mandates DHS detention of undocumented individuals charged with specific crimes.

**Implication:** Heightened detainment risk for clients.

**Reference:** U.S. Congress. (2025). *H.R. 7511 - Laken Riley Act*. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/7511>

### Proposed 'Gold Card' Program (February 25, 2025)

**Previous:** EB-5 visa required a business investment.

**Proposed:** Replace with a \$5M payment to the U.S. government, fewer job creation requirements.

**Implication:** Uncertainty for wealthy immigrant investors.

**Reference:** Fragomen. (2025, Feb 26). *President Trump's "Gold Card" Proposal and the Future of EB-5*. <https://www.fragomen.com/insights/president-trumps-gold-card-proposal-and-the-future-of-eb-5.html>

### Termination of Welcome Corps Sponsorship Program (Feb 26, 2025)

**Previous:** Allowed private groups to sponsor refugees.

**Current:** Program terminated; pending applications void.

**Implication:** Community sponsorship networks disrupted; fewer pathways for family reunification.

**Reference:** Welcome.US. (2025, Feb 26). *US Refugee Admissions Program Suspended Until Further Notice*. <https://welcome.us/explainers/us-refugee-admissions-program-suspended-until-further-notice-welcome-corps-terminated>

**DHS Interim Final Rule: Alien Registration Requirement (Mar 12, 2025; effective Apr 11, 2025)**

**Previous:** Registration required only for specific visa holders or adjustment cases.

**Current:** All non-citizens in the U.S. over 30 days must register and provide biometrics.

**Implication:** Heightened fear and confusion among immigrants; risk of non-compliance penalties.

**Reference:** Federal Register. (2025, Mar 12). *Alien Registration Form and Evidence of Registration* (90 FR 17124). <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/12/2025-03944/alien-registration-form-and-evidence-of-registration>

**Termination of Humanitarian Parole for Venezuelans (March 25, 2025)**

**Previous:** Allowed Venezuelans to enter legally under humanitarian parole.

**Current:** Program terminated; work permits and protections revoked.

**Implication:** Clients may face anxiety and deportation fears.

**Reference:** U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (2025, Mar 25). *Termination of Parole Process for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans*. Federal Register (90 FR 13611).

**Use of Alien Enemies Act (April 7, 2025)**

**Previous:** Rarely used since wartime era.

**Current:** Reinstated to deport suspected gang members with judicial review.

**Implication:** Community fear and uncertainty.

**Reference:** The Guardian. (2025, April 7). *US Supreme Court expands deportation powers*.

<https://www.theguardian.com>

**Daily Fines for Non-Compliant Migrants (April 8, 2025)**

**Previous:** Deportation without fines.

**Current:** Up to \$998/day fines for failing to comply with deportation orders.

**Implication:** Financial stress and fear of enforcement.

**Reference:** Holland, S. (2025, April 8). *Trump plans to fine migrants \$998/day*. Reuters.

**Revocation of CBP One Parole Entries (April 8, 2025)**

**Previous:** Migrants entering via CBP One app received temporary parole and work permits.

**Current:** DHS revoked parole status for hundreds of thousands of entrants; many placed in removal proceedings.

**Implication:** Loss of work authorization and legal status → widespread distress in immigrant communities.

**Reference:** Politico. (2025, Apr 8). *Biden Administration Ends CBP One Parole Program.*

<https://www.politico.com/news/2025/04/08/cbp-one-parole-revoked-00150235>

### **Data Sharing Between IRS and ICE (April 2025)**

**Previous:** IRS data not shared with immigration enforcement.

**Current:** IRS now shares data with ICE for deportation purposes.

**Implication:** Fear around filing taxes or financial disclosure.

**Reference:** Associated Press. (2025). *IRS and ICE data sharing policy.* <https://apnews.com>

### **Travel Proclamation 10949 ('National Security Entry Restrictions') (Jun 4, 2025; effective Jun 9, 2025)**

**Previous:** No broad national-origin entry ban since 2021.

**Current:** Entry barred for nationals of specified countries on security grounds.

**Implication:** Family separation, visa denials for certain regions; fear of profiling.

**Reference:** White House. (2025, Jun 4). *Proclamation 10949.* <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2025/06/04/proclamation-10949-restricting-entry-of-foreign-nationals>

### **Asylum Procedural Rule Change (Summer 2025)**

**Previous:** Asylum applicants could file inside U.S. without 'transit country' bar.

**Current:** New rule requires proof of seeking protection in transit countries; stricter credible-fear screening.

**Implication:** Fewer approved asylum cases; clients may feel hopeless or silenced.

**Reference:** U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (2025). *Procedures for Credible Fear and Asylum Eligibility Determinations.* <https://www.dhs.gov>

### **Refugee Admissions Cap Reduced to 7,500 for FY 2026 (Oct 31, 2025)**

**Previous:** FY 2025 ceiling 125,000 under prior determination.

**Current:** Ceiling slashed to 7,500; priority criteria narrowed to limited nationalities.

**Implication:** Dramatic drop in refugee arrivals and resettlement agency closures.

**Reference:** USCRI. (2025, Oct 31). *Amid Record Global Displacement, U.S. Lowers Refugee Admissions to Historic Lows.* <https://refugees.org/press-release-amid-record-global-displacement-u-s-lowers-refugee-admissions-to-historic-lows>

### **DHS Increased Enforcement & Detention Funding (Nov 2025 continuing)**

**Previous:** Enforcement focused on recent border crossers and criminal cases.

**Current:** Expanded enforcement operations nationwide and increased funding for detention beds.

**Implication:** Heightened fear among mixed-status families; clients avoid public spaces or appointments.

**Reference:** Department of Homeland Security. (2025, Nov). *FY 2026 Budget Justification —*

*Immigration Enforcement Priorities.* <https://www.dhs.gov>

### **Immigrant Rights & Public Benefits Resources**

#### **CLASP – Immigrant Access to Public Benefits**

<https://www.clasp.org/issues/children-youth-families/immigrant-children-and-families/immigrant-access-to-benefits/>

#### **Mental Health America (MHA) – Immigrant Mental Health**

Culturally adapted tools for Latino, Arab, and immigrant communities

<https://www.mhanational.org/resources/communities-latine-hispanic-descent>

#### **American Immigration Council**

Trusted source for immigration research, advocacy, and legal policy

<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org>

#### **Justice for Immigrants**

Faith-based legal and advocacy support for immigrants

<https://justiceforimmigrants.org>

#### **KIND (Kids In Need of Defense)**

Free legal support for unaccompanied immigrant children

<https://supportkind.org>