

## Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid Network Demands

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After over three and a half months of inaction from the DC government, the community that has been welcoming the people bused to DC by Governors Abbott and Ducey demand Mayor Bowser and the DC Council step up and respond.

The DC government must choose a side — either the side of welcome with the DC community, or the side of xenophobia with Texas Governor Abbott.

### **The DC Government Must:**

1. **Provide Staff Capacity:** Invest in either funding a local NGO that has deep experience working with asylum seekers or dedicate district staff to expand capacity to welcome migrants. Staff must commit to prioritizing the health and safety of migrants and must not collaborate with DHS or police in any form (including MPD). As an example, the city of San Antonio staffs a table at their airport to provide accompaniment for migrants traveling out of their airport. Other border cities lend their city staff to migrant shelters during times of influx.
2. **Demand Dignified Arrivals from Governors Abbott and Ducey:** Ensure buses arrive during daylight hours and with advanced notice so that people on the buses can be safely welcomed. Cities across the borderlands have negotiated with federal agencies to ensure safe drop-offs. The Texas Department of Emergency Management is instead coordinating directly with DC residents.
3. **Provide Respite Space for the Arrivals:** Provide respite space for people arriving on the buses to receive intake, food, medical care, and necessities before departing on their trip.
4. **Provide Emergency Services:** Support the costs of purchasing tickets, food, petty cash, cell phones, and emergent medical needs of the arrivals.
5. **Provide Access to COVID Isolation Hotels:** Allow migrants with COVID access to isolation hotels so they can quarantine until they are not infectious before they move on to local housing or their final destination.
6. **Provide Short-Term Housing for the Arrivals:** Provide dignified short-term housing, that allows for autonomy, for individuals who need to stay for less than 5 days before moving on to more long-term housing or to their final destinations. In Las Cruces, New Mexico, the city has received FEMA funding to open a shelter and respite space that is operated by the city.
7. **Invest in Housing Solutions:** Invest in long-term housing solutions that address the long-standing housing crisis and impending eviction crisis in DC, house the unhoused population, and provide stable housing for newcomers who are looking to make DC their new home. This includes halting any further encampment evictions.
8. **Fund Pro Bono Asylum Programs:** Every migrant in DC seeking asylum deserves pro bono legal assistance.

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