

IMMIGRATION UPDATES

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March 2025

Northwest
IMMIGRANT
RIGHTS
Project

Areas of Concern

- Expanded Criminalization
 - Under the Laken Riley Act, certain immigrants *accused* of an expanded list of crimes, not *convicted*, including shoplifting, may be forced into mandatory detention with no bond.
- Expanded Deportation and Expedited Removal
 - The administration is looking to expand immigration detention capacity across the U.S. and beyond.
 - Capacity at the Northwest ICE Processing Center (formerly NWDC) in Tacoma is 1500; currently 1300+ persons detained.
 - Individuals who have been in the U.S. for less than two years may be subject to expedited removal, even if they're already in removal proceedings in immigration court, and even if they're not located near the border.
- Registration Requirement
 - In February, USCIS announced a new policy requiring all immigrants to register with the government, based on Section 262 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Requires individuals 14 years or older who were not fingerprinted or registered when applying for a U.S. visa, to apply for registration and fingerprinting. This could include individuals without inspection, admission, or parole. USCIS is setting up a process online.
 - NWIRP's current position on this is we are waiting for the process to be implemented.
 - A reminder that all individuals have a right to remain silent and a right to not self-incriminate.
 - Individuals should seek advice and counsel from reputable immigration attorneys.
- Stripping Protections from Survivors
 - ICE formally rescinded the Victim-Centered Approach to dealing with immigrant survivors. We anticipate that survivors with pending forms of humanitarian relief, such as VAWA Self-Petitions, U visas, and T visas, will be subject to enforcement actions.
 - As of this week, DHS announced that they will re-implement the Notice to Appear policy that we saw in Trump 1.0, which means that any immigration petition that is denied, including VAWA Self-Petitions, U visas, and T visas, will cause the applicant to be referred to immigration court for removal proceedings. This will have a chilling effect on applications.

How Can the City of Seattle Support Immigrants and NWIRP's Work?

- Providing continued legal defense funding directed toward removal / deportation defense.
- Providing continued funding directed toward representing immigrant survivors of DV/ SA/ Human Trafficking.
- Continue Involvement and Support with the DCYF Family Separation Rapid Response Team.