



Positive immigration solutions for strong Nebraska communities, families and workforce.

It's clear that Nebraska recognizes the contributions of immigrant community members and the urgent need for updated immigration laws to address long-standing issues — and meet the evolving and future needs of our state. Here is a breakdown of positive immigration laws and policy needs tailored to Nebraska's communities, workforce needs, and future.

Stability and Permanency:

Prioritize pathways to permanent residency for long-time community members, including Dreamers, DACA and TPS residents, agricultural and other workers, and their families who have contributed to Nebraska for decades. Providing stability for these individuals not only benefits them but also strengthens communities and local businesses and services.

Skill Diversity and Workforce Development:

Acknowledge the long-term need for people across the skills spectrum and in the many sectors crucial to Nebraska's communities and economy, including healthcare, education, agriculture, and hospitality — as well as the many systems that support those sectors, such as transportation, construction, maintenance, and more.

Streamlined Immigration Processes:

Simplify and update immigration processes to make them more accessible and efficient. This includes reducing bureaucratic barriers, eliminating backlogs, and enhancing infrastructure for immigration processing.

Family Reunification:

Increase the availability of family-based immigrant visas and employment-based immigrant visas and streamline processes for family reunification. Strengthening family ties fosters community cohesion and supports the well-being of Nebraska families.

Improvements to Temporary Visa Programs:

Improve temporary (non-immigrant) visa programs to better meet the needs of both employers and workers, by allowing spouses to work, allowing non-seasonal agricultural employers to utilize the H-2A program, and creating clearer pathways from temporary to permanent residency.

Enhanced Asylum and Refugee Programs:

Improve asylum, refugee, and humanitarian programs to provide protection for those fleeing persecution and violence. Nebraska can play a role in offering refuge and support to vulnerable populations seeking safety and opportunity.

Investments in Community Infrastructure:

Make state-level investments in community infrastructure to support the inclusion and success of all residents. This includes housing that is affordable for working families, quality and affordable childcare, transportation, and other policies aimed at valuing and retaining the talents of both long-time and new residents.

Border Governance and Policies:

Collaborate on border policies that complement updated immigration laws, prioritize humanitarian concerns, and ensure the safe and dignified movement of people and goods. This includes investing in ports of entry and implementing efficient vetting processes.

By addressing these policy needs, Nebraska can foster a more welcoming and inclusive environment, harness the talents of its diverse population, and ensure long-term prosperity for all residents.

Did you know?

It has been nearly 40 years since Congress has meaningfully updated our immigration laws, causing unnecessary harm and uncertainty for Nebraska families, employers, and communities. Updating the laws so that longtime immigrant community members with strong ties to local communities have a way to apply for residency would create stability for local families, employers, and whole communities.

Millions of baby boomers have been retiring nationally each year, and **Nebraska has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country**, so our state also faces a growing need for more families and workers in order to keep community systems and services functioning for all. Nebraska leaders from the Nebraska Hospital Association, Nebraska Cattlemen, Nebraska State Education Association, Nebraska Hospitality Association, Nebraska Health Care Association (nursing homes and assisted living), and many others describe an urgent need for people across the skills spectrum — not only doctors, nurses, teachers, dairy farmers, and cattle ranchers, but all the related support systems — maintenance, transportation, food service, technology, and construction.

Immigrant Nebraskans are an important part of the fabric of local communities, raising families and contributing talents, work, taxes, volunteerism, and cultural richness together with other neighbors — and working as teachers, health care professionals, entrepreneurs, manually skilled construction and agricultural workers, and many other community roles. **Immigrant Nebraskans create jobs for U.S. born and contribute \$1.3 billion annually in taxes. Undocumented Nebraskans alone contribute more than \$113 million annually in state and local taxes alone** (not including substantial contributions to social security and federal taxes).

(American Immigration Council, Map the Impact. Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy 2024)

15 years is the median amount of time local community members have lived in the U.S. who are currently stuck in immigration limbo with no way to apply for residency due to outdated immigration laws.

(Pew Research Center 2019)

There is broad Nebraska support for positive immigration laws that would help ensure local families and communities can thrive, and local systems and services can continue functioning effectively for all:

AGRICULTURE

Nebraska Cattlemen
Nebraska Corn Growers Association
Nebraska Farmers Union
Nebraska Pork Producers Association
Nebraska Soybean Association
Nebraska State Dairy Association

CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE

Associated General Contractors of Nebraska
Midwest Maintenance
RabFak Construction & Workers Faculty

LABOR

Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) Locals 88 & 388
International Association of Machinists Local Lodge 180
International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART) Transportation Division (TD) Local 286
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1920
Midwest Nebraska Central Labor Council
Nebraska State AFL-CIO
Omaha Federation of Labor
Sheet Metal Air Rail Transportation Union 200
Teamsters Local 554
United Food & Commercial Workers 222

HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION & HOSPITALITY

Great Plains Health (North Platte)
Home Instead
Nebraska Health Care Association
Nebraska Hospital Association
Nebraska Hospitality Association
Nebraska State Education Association

BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

City of North Platte
Curley Immigration Law
Flatwater Bank
Greater Omaha Chamber
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Kearney Area Chamber
Latino Economic Development Council
Lincoln Chamber of Commerce
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Nebraska Independent Community Bankers
North Platte Area Chamber & Development
Omaha Public Power District

FAITH, NON-PROFIT & COMMUNITY

ACLU of Nebraska
Aksarben Foundation
Asian Community and Cultural Center
Center for Immigrant and Refugee Advancement
Center for Rural Affairs
Centro Hispano (Columbus)
El Centro de las Americas (Lincoln)
Empowering Families (Scottsbluff)
Hastings Multicultural Association
Heartland Workers Center
Iglesia Comunitaria de Omaha
Las Voces
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) of Nebraska
Lutheran Family Services
Mercy & Justice Team, Great Plains Conference, United Methodist Church
Mother and Others, Justice and Mercy for Immigrants
Nebraska Appleseed
Nebraska Clergy Action Network
Nebraskans for Peace
Omaha Together One Community
Schlegel Center for Service & Justice (Creighton University)
TPS Alliance
Unity in Action (South Sioux City)
Urban Abbey
Voices for Children in Nebraska

[\(List in Progress\)](#)

