

Greetings colleagues in immigration ministries,

Thank you for your attention to the pressing matter of migrant busses arriving in Sanctuary Cities across the country. As previously stated, these busses will continue arriving not only in DC, NYC, and Chicago, but likely other cities very soon as well.

We at Global HOPE have been engaging with partners to discern an appropriate response. Clearly, the church cannot handle alone thousands of migrants with a wide range of needs. Unfortunately, because the situation is so politically charged, government at all levels -- city, state, and federal -- are poorly responding or not responding at all. While delivering resources we have capacity to provide, it's paramount at this time that we advocate for governmental organizations to cooperate in making the situation manageable for the community. Based on the information we've gathered, our recommendation from Team Global HOPE is as follows:

1. **Combine efforts** in your area with ecumenical, interfaith, and professional partners. Please contact Rev. Irene Hassan if you'd like to be connected to other churches in your area interested in responding to this situation.
2. **Contact your local VOAD** (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster): [State/Territory VOADs | VOAD \(nvoad.org\)](#) VOADs will have resources for acute humanitarian emergencies.
3. **Seek education on disaster response, in particular Mass Care.** FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) is hosting an informational meeting Wednesday, September 14 at 1pm ET on this topic. Register here: <https://fema.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltceipqDkpGg2G61uXJnU7cVRxLAX9SIM>
4. **Register with Willing to Respond:** [About | Willing To Respond | Disaster Response](#) share your **Congregations Willing To Respond** in times of crisis and emergencies. Co-founded by UCC and Disciple of Christ, this is a joint venture between partner organizations to help congregations work better together and connect with their local emergency and humanitarian response infrastructure.
5. **Decide what resources your local church can offer.** A list of possible things you could offer are:
 - a. Hygiene kits
 - b. Infant care kits
 - c. Clothing
 - d. Access to telephones

- e. Limited or ongoing volunteer hours in coordination with a larger network, ideally guided by city government officials
 - f. Funding for final destination bus tickets
 - g. Spanish interpretation
 - h. Asylum accompaniment for a family without a final destination (see here for how to do asylum accompaniment): [Microsoft Word - Asylum Accompaniment UCC TLB NA edits.docx \(d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net\)](#)
 - i. Transportation to medical services
 - j. Meal kits
 - k. Emotional and spiritual care
 - l. Childcare while adults are navigating a plan
6. With ideas in mind of what you can offer, and your partnerships lined up, approach your city government and request that they make a plan in the event that migrant busses arrive in your city. **City governments, in our professional opinion, should be taking the lead on this.**
 7. *******Advocate for your city governments to create a preparation plan.*******
 8. **Apply for the UCC Refugee & Migration Solidarity Grant** to fund migrant emergency situations: <https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/83744-United-Church-Of-Christ>

The most important element in any location is to advocate that the city government provide guidance. We the church can be instrumental in meeting this critical need, but not without solid partnerships that can offer sustainability. Please reach out if you have any questions. Blessings on your ministries!