



July 6, 2022

Via FOIA Portal

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Freedom of Information Act Office
500 12th Street, S.W., Stop 5009
Washington, D.C. 20536-5009

Freedom of Information Act Request: Communications with Non-governmental Organizations (NGO)

Dear FOIA Officer:

America First Legal Foundation is a national, nonprofit organization working to promote the rule of law in the United States, prevent executive overreach, and ensure due process and equal protection for all Americans, all to promote public knowledge and understanding of the law and individual rights guaranteed under the Constitution and laws of the United States. To that end, we file Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests on issues of pressing public concern, then disseminate the information we obtain, making documents broadly available to the public, scholars, and the media. Using our editorial skills to turn raw materials into distinct work, we communicate with a national audience through traditional and social media platforms. AFL's email list contains over 34,000 unique addresses, our Facebook page has over 39,000 followers, our Twitter page has over 15,000 followers, the Twitter page of our Founder and President has over 192,000 followers, and we have another 30,000 followers on GETTR.

I. Introduction

The Biden Administration has confirmed that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has released more than one million illegal aliens into the United States in a mere 17 months.¹ This number does not include the unaccompanied alien children who are smuggled into the United States and housed at taxpayer expense or released to alleged family members, nor does it account for illegal aliens who have evaded apprehension or detection.

¹ Byron York, *Biden lets in 1 million illegal border crossers. Maybe 2 million*, WASHINGTON EXAMINER, June 28, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/2p976tye>.

Buses and planes filled with illegal aliens, who have been shipped around the country and released into communities in the dead of night, had previously been in government custody. These aliens should have been promptly returned to their home countries, detained for illegal entry, or required to remain in Mexico while their claims were adjudicated in accordance with the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP).

In a letter to Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, Senator Ron Johnson outlined the extent to which the Biden Administration is using DHS to funnel taxpayer funding to left-wing non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to transport illegal aliens further into the interior of the United States.² Senator Johnson identified a number of specific NGOs that operate in California, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona that have probably or actually received taxpayer funding to aid in the transport of illegal aliens throughout the country.

Therefore, AFL requests the following records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552.

II. Requested Records

The timeframe for each request is January 1, 2021, to the date this request is processed.

- A. All communications with, and all financial records, including contracts, invoices, and receipts, sent to or received from, any of the following organizations:
 - a. Bethany Christian Services
 - b. U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
 - c. Jewish Family Services (JFS)
 - d. Galilee Center
 - e. Catholic Charities San Diego
 - f. TBC New Shelter
 - g. Catholic Charities Laredo
 - h. Holding Institute Community Center
 - i. Catholic Charities RGV
 - j. Loaves & Fishes
 - k. La Posada Providencia
 - l. City of Brownsville
 - m. Good Neighbor Settlement House
 - n. Ozanam Center
 - o. Endeavors
 - p. Annunciation House

² Letter from Sen. Ron Johnson to Alejandro Mayorkas, Sec'y, Dep't of Homeland Security (June 22, 2022), <https://tinyurl.com/mr38rpch>.

- q. El Paso Migrant Center Christian Ministry
- r. Border Servants Corps
- s. 5 Site Council
- t. Colores United
- u. North Star
- v. Regional Center for Border Health (RCBH)
- w. International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- x. The Vineyard
- y. Alpha y Omega Church
- z. Centro Cristiano De Restauracion
- aa. Vino Nuevo
- bb. Iglesia El Buen Pastor
- cc. The Grove
- dd. King Jesus Christ Ministries
- ee. Casa Alitas

III. Processing Requirements

The Department must comply with the processing guidance in the Attorney General's Memorandum on Freedom of Information Act Guidelines.³

IV. Fee Waiver

Per 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and 6 CFR § 5.11(k), AFL requests a waiver of all search and duplication fees associated with this request. We believe AFL's non-commercial commitment to public education and transparency justify this fee waiver. We are, of course, available to provide additional information in writing or offline in support of this request.

V. Production

To accelerate release of responsive records, AFL welcomes production on an agreed rolling basis.

If possible, please provide responsive records in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive records in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive. Please send any responsive records being transmitted by mail to America First Legal Foundation, 611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231, Washington, DC 20003.

VI. Conclusion

If you have any questions about how to construe this request for records or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient

³ U.S. Dep't Just. (Mar. 15, 2022), <https://tinyurl.com/4duy4r5k>.

production of records of interest to AFL, please do not hesitate to contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org. Finally, if AFL's request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making that determination.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tyler J. Sanderson
Tyler J. Sanderson
America First Legal