

NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS FOR FREEDOM ISSUE PAPER:

BIDEN REGIME GIVES TAXPAYER \$\$ TO LEFTWING GROUPS AIDING ILLEGAL ALIENS.

BACKGROUND. Not content with directly providing federal taxpayer handouts to illegal aliens to enjoy welfare benefits and other privileges, the Biden Regime is handing millions to radical leftist nonprofits to subsidize illegal aliens entering our country. Annually, the 11-22 million illegal aliens living in the U.S. cost American taxpayers \$163 billion. That amount does not include the social and economic costs, such as higher housing prices, depleted wages, lost jobs, increased crime, and strained public resources at hospitals, welfare sites, and schools.

A TAXPAYER TRAVESTY. The Biden Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS) is appropriating millions to leftist nonprofits to help illegal aliens cross the border and disperse across the U.S. Its secretary, Alejandro Mayorkas, dispatched over \$12.2 million to Catholic Charities, the Salvation Army, United Way, a Baptist Church association, an Episcopal Diocese, and Lawyers for Good Government. Most of this money flows through the Biden Shelter & Services Program, which funnels funds to these nonprofits and sanctuary cities. For this effort, Biden seeks an additional \$600 million as a

supplement to his current budget, that amount in addition to the \$290 million already announced and \$77 million pegged earlier. The Biden Regime already has awarded nonprofits about \$800 million total,¹ the vast majority of the money going towards efforts to settle illegal immigrants in the U.S. For more than 2 years, the Biden Regime has been encouraging and mass-releasing millions of illegal aliens into the country. To accomplish its goal of unlimited illegal immigration, the Regime relies heavily on non-government/nonprofit agencies to receive, process, transport, house, and counsel illegal aliens. The Regime pays nonprofits billions of taxpayer dollars through

several federal departments, including DHS, Health and Human Services, State, and Justice for this migration weaponization used against taxpayer interests. These nonprofits of the Left hide behind faith-based organizations to keep their federal grants flowing and to distract from the horrific results in terms of [human degradation](#), death, sex trafficking, forced child labor, [national security](#) risks, and public safety threats. Faith-based organizations are more than willing to lead the pressure campaigns to safeguard their revenue streams. What began decades ago as faith-based organizations supporting the State Department to resettle genuine refugees in the U.S. after a legitimate application process has evolved into mass illegal immigration activities, creating an immigration industrial complex worth billions of dollars. Worse, those same faith-based organizations also advocate for more migration to the U.S. and against immigration enforcement. They claim they are merely helping vulnerable populations, but these nonprofits clearly benefit financially from uncontrolled immigration in this corrupt money-grabbing scheme.

WORST CULPRITS. The leftwing Vera Institute partly funded by anti-American billionaire George Soros has received more than \$10 million from his Open Society Foundation. The Vera Institute of Justice is a massive nonprofit based out of NYC, with over a \$140 million budget, which it uses to fund a slate of radical causes and initiatives across the country like criminal justice and bail liberalization. The group believes immigration enforcement agencies a threat to civil liberties. It became a primary beneficiary in the past 2 years, grabbing about \$350 million from government contracts for immigration services. The Washington, D.C.-based Acacia Center for Justice, a nonprofit linked to the Vera Institute, also pocketed tens of millions in recent federal contracts. The Vera Institute received an initial \$171 million Health & Human Services-funded contract to help illegal alien minors avoid deportation. The contract since has paid out about \$180 million with supplemental agreements. The arrangement will reach as high as \$983 million if renewed until March, 2027. If extended, it will become the largest federal contract the group has received for immigration-related services dating back to the mid-2000s. Vera has secured other large government contracts since early 2021, including a \$168 million contract in March, 2021, for the same purpose of helping illegal alien minors avoid deportation. During this time, the group also obtained smaller contracts ranging between \$4 million and \$12 million from other federal departments. Taxpayer-backed government grants and contracts propel Vera Institute operations. The most recent financial audit on its website shows that between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021, \$152 million of its \$191 million in revenue came from government sources. The following is HHS cash that will fund 5 Vera programs: \$9.4 million for EOIR, which refers to the Executive Office for

¹ Breitbart. John Binder, [Open Borders Boondoggle: Biden's DHS Sends Millions in Taxpayer Money to NGOs Facilitating Illegal Immigration](#), Sept. 28, 2023.

Immigration Review, \$12.7 million for a legal orientation program, \$4.7 million for family group legal orientation programming, \$4.6 million for immigration court help, and \$5.3 million for legal orientation for illegal alien children guardians. The Acacia Center for Justice has received several legal services contracts from the Dept. of Justice that netted the group about \$41 million in payments. It launched to expand Vera's work with illegals detained at the border. However, unlike the Vera government contracts for illegal alien minors, Acacia Center contracts do not specify an age group for its legal services. The objective of the Acacia Center is to expand on Vera's work over the past 20 years to provide legal support and representation to illegals facing deportation through the development, coordination, and management of national networks of legal services providers serving illegal aliens across the country. Its objectives are to support immigrant legal services and defense networks to provide exceptional legal services to illegals and to advocate for the expansion of these programs and the infrastructure supposedly critical to guaranteeing illegal aliens access to justice and



fairness. Capital Area Immigrant Rights directs an adult defense program that provides information, support, and legal representation to illegal immigrants. It also has a detained illegal alien children's program that works with minors at Office of Refugee Resettlement juvenile immigration detention centers in Maryland and Virginia.² According to *Forbes*, Catholic Charities USA was the 13th-largest U.S. charity in 2022. Of its total \$4.7 billion in revenues, it received \$1.4 billion from government support, compared with \$1 billion in private donations. According to its

2021 financial statement, it receives generous government funds annually and operates as a network of local charities. In addition to anti-poverty programs, Catholic Charities also helps illegal immigrants, including efforts to offer humanitarian aid to illegal migrants along the southern border. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service reported it received more than \$93.1 million in U.S. government grants, making taxpayer-funded grants more than 80% of its total support. In FY 2022, the Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued this group \$182.6 million in grants for illegal alien children and refugee services. According to its 2022 financial report, of Church World Service's \$51.1 million in assets, more than \$20.5 million came from government grant funds, only \$511,000 from contributions. This New York City-based entity is a nonprofit, so it pays no federal income taxes, but it spent more than \$3.7 million in illegal alien advocacy and receives more than 40% of its assets from taxpayer-funded grants. In 2021, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society reported receiving over \$40.9 million in grants from the departments of HHS, State, and Homeland Security, compared with \$46 million in private contributions to aid illegals. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services lists 10 federal grants for migration and refugee services on its website, including 8 from HHS, to provide services for illegal aliens and for illegal alien children placement and reunification in the U.S. It won 1 DHS grant to process, receive, and place Cuban and Haitian parolees. The Regime describes the role of nonprofits both along the border and in the interior of the U.S. as "key partners, providing shelter and other key social services to migrants and facilitating the onward movement of those conditionally released from DHS custody."³ The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) operates the Emergency Food and Shelter program, which provides tens of millions of dollars every year to fund nongovernmental groups helping illegals, according to its website. On its website, a page specifically outlines funds for organizations assisting migrants, which includes \$350 million in already used funds in FY 2023. Former Border Patrol Chief Rodney Scott, who testified to Congress that the U.S. government is using tax dollars to aid illegal immigrants, called this program "basically money being laundered to the NGOs." The program also has provided more than \$300 million to organizations helping migrants between FYs 2019 and 2022. The Emergency Food and Shelter Program provided more than \$282 million in humanitarian relief grant funding to nonprofit and non-governmental organizations. The Border Patrol releases illegal migrants to leading nonprofit organizations that help connect them with transportation as they await adjudication of their asylum claims. Nonprofit organizations such as the United Way, American Red Cross, The Jewish Federations of North America, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, and the Salvation Army all lead FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter program and receive funding to help illegal immigrants through the program.⁴

THE PROBLEM. These leftist nonprofits present themselves as charities or religiously-affiliated nonprofits but spend most of their money and time helping illegal immigrants settle in the U.S. The Border Patrol simply does not have the capacity to hold the massive number of illegal aliens crossing the border every day who would normally transfer to

² Fox News, Joe Schoffstall, Biden admin gives left-wing groups hundreds of millions to help illegal immigrants fight deportation, Jan. 24, 2023.

³ Heritage Foundation, Lora Ries, Biden Shovels Millions to Nonprofits to Aid His Open-Border Schemes. Congress Must Cut Off Cash Spigot, May 5, 2023.

⁴ The Daily Caller, Jennie Taer, Biden Admin Claims the US Doesn't Give 'Financial Support' To Illegal Migrants. There's Just One Problem, May 25, 2023.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Enter the non-government agencies (NGOs), which shelter and feed the illegals and buy plane and bus tickets and other resources. Much of their money comes from American taxpayers, thus hiding the true cost of the border crisis behind “charities.” Ultimately, these NGOs operate as the final link in a vast, transnational human-smuggling operation. At one end, the cartels promise that those who pay them to reach the border can go wherever they want once in the U. S. The NGOs make that a reality. Naturally, this enables and encourages more illegal immigration. The Heritage Foundation purchased commercially available, bulk cellphone data from mobile devices that pinged at more than 30 NGO facilities in border states in the month of January, 2022. They tracked where those cellphones ended up. Altogether, it collected data from about 30,000 phones in multiple phases. In one phase, it traced 22,000 devices that pinged at 20 border -state NGOs, which ended up scattered across the country in 431 of 435 congressional districts. Then it captured 3,400 unique device pings on the premises of Catholic Charities’ facility in San Juan, Texas. Despite such a limited sample over only 30 days, the phones from this 1 location later pinged from all but 2 congressional districts. The Biden border crisis has turned every town and state in this country into a border town and state.⁵

LUSH WELFARE BENEFITS. Under Biden Regime rules, states can receive federal funds for TANF, Medicaid, and the Childrens Health Insurance Program to serve specific categories of legal and illegal aliens, such as refugees, asylees, Cuban and Haitian parolees, Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants, and active-duty military personnel and their dependents. Also, children who receive federal foster care. Over half of the states have used state funds to provide TANF,



Medicaid, and/or CHIP to illegals. Examining federal matching funds, 40 states have chosen to cover illegal immigrant children and/or pregnant people. 21 states use federal funds to provide prenatal care regardless of immigration status, under the CHIP program option. Under this option, the fetus is technically the recipient of CHIP-funded services. This approach limits the scope of services available to the pregnant person directly related to the fetus. The District of Columbia, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont use state *or* local funds to provide prenatal care regardless of the pregnant person

immigration status. Although a 1996 law severely restricted immigrant eligibility for the Food Stamp Program, subsequent legislation gave access for many illegals. Qualified immigrant seniors who were born before August 22, 1931, may become eligible, if they legally resided in the U.S. on August 22, 1996. Other qualified illegal immigrant adults, however, must wait until they have earned qualified status for 5 years before they can secure food nutrition assistance.⁶

CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSE. The House Homeland Security Committee, led by its [chairman, Rep. Mark Green](#) (TN), debated the role of nonprofits in the border crisis and successfully voted the Border Reinforcement Act out of committee. The bill would prohibit nonprofit funding for unlawful activity and illegal aliens. A few conservative members of Congress are threatening to reduce or eliminate funding for Catholic Charities and other faith-based groups that offer aid to illegals at the U.S. southern border. Another attempt to end appropriations for a key DHS program supporting faith-based border efforts is awaiting a vote in Congress. Rep. Lance Gooden (TX.), who serves on the House Judiciary Committee, wrote a letter to DHS Sec. Mayorkas. In the letter, co-signed by Reps. Tom Tiffany (Wis.) and Jake Ellzey (TX.), the lawmakers complained that the Biden Regime was allowing non-governmental organizations the freedom to aid and abet illegal aliens. In addition, lawmakers sent letters to Catholic Charities, Jewish Family Services, and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service demanding that they preserve documents related to expenditures submitted for reimbursement from the federal government related to illegal migrants encountered at the southern border. In May, Gooden wrote another letter to Mayorkas, accusing NGOs that use federal funds to aid immigrants of creating an incentive for illegal immigration and demanded access to a wide array of records about DHS funding practices. Gooden published an open letter to House colleagues that accused NGOs, including faith-based groups, of abusing their tax-exempt status by “play(ing) a disturbing role in the inflow and spread of illegal immigration throughout the country.” Gooden expressed particular frustration with FEMA’s Emergency Food and Shelter Program, which is transitioning to an effort titled the Shelter and Services Program that reimburses NGOs and local governments that offer specific aid to illegals. Conservative reps recently called for Catholic Charities USA to testify before the House Judiciary Committee to explain “what they’re doing down on the border to facilitate this illegal immigration.” The antipathy for Catholic Charities arose after Michael Voris, founder of the conservative Catholic website Church Militant, interviewed Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (GA.). Voris, whose organization has referred to Catholic Charities as an “enemy of the people,”

⁵ [New York Post](#). Mark Morgan & Mike Howell, [How feds use charities to hide the true cost of the US border crisis](#), Dec. 21, 2022.

⁶ National Immigration Law Center, Tanya Broder and Gabriel Lessard, [Overview of Immigrant Eligibility for Federal Programs](#), March, 2023.

complained to Greene about the American bishops supporting illegal immigrant aid through religious agencies such as Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Charities. Greene responded by framing the work as Satan controlling the church. Addressing a crowd from a podium at the National Press Club, Sheena Rodriguez, head of Alliance for a Safe Texas, said that Catholic Charities was one constellation of groups incentivizing mass illegal migration worldwide and creating a modern-day slavery scheme. The movement to defund Catholic agencies also found its way into the GOP signature border-security bill, known as the Secure the Border Act. It included a provision that would cut all funding to the Shelter and Services Program. Catholic bishops sent a letter to congressmen urging them to vote against it. Sister Donna Markham, a nun who oversees Catholic Charities USA, wrote a letter to the congressional leadership decrying the proposed cuts, saying they would dismantle the public-private infrastructure currently in place to manage the humanitarian crisis at the southern border and its impact throughout the country.⁷ Unfortunately, none of this remedial legislation has progressed in Congress.

THE SCHEMING. Though the White House claims that Biden is not soft on crime, his regime will give almost \$200 million to a Soros-linked group to help criminal illegals escape punishment. Federal budget watchdog Open the Books revealed that HHS awarded a \$164 million contract to leftwing advocacy organization Vera Institute of Justice to fund lawyers for criminal illegal aliens. The award started as a \$158 million contract in 2021, but this year HHS added an additional \$6 million to the sum. Biden is considering increasing the contract to \$198 million. If illegals think that any crime they perpetrate will disappear because of lawyers paid for by the very government whose laws they are breaking, nothing will stop them from continuing to stream over the border. Vera is a non-profit entity. Therefore, it is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act, so watchdogs cannot follow the money.”⁸ Based on the Regime knowledge of the cartels and nongovernmental organization services,



it is reasonable to allege that the Regime is paying nonprofits to help smuggle illegal aliens the final miles of their journey. An HHS whistleblower testified to Congress that the U.S. government and its nonprofit allies have become the middleman in a large-scale, multibillion-dollar, child-trafficking operation operated by criminals seeking to profit from the lives of kids.⁹

TAKE ACTION NOW. Congress can no longer sit silently while the Left and faith-based organizations claim the moral high ground in their mass illegal migration operations as they seek to protect their billion-dollar government funding. Their corrupt transactions result in national security, public safety, and economic security threats for America, together with their indirect involvement in sex trafficking, forced child labor, and human misery for illegal migrants. Timing is crucial. Additional members of Congress must find the courage to follow the money and defund these criminal illegal alien operations and also defund taxpayer money funneled through federal agencies for leftist non-government agencies and nonprofits. American taxpayers should not become forced to pay for the mass resettlement of illegal immigrants only because the Left wants to repopulate the nation with acquiescent new voters who will follow the Socialist Democrat line. Using the information above, lobby your representative and 2 senators to stop ALL taxpayer funding for nonprofits and non-governmental organizations that aid the entrance and settlement of illegal aliens. Email netaxpayers@gmail.com for Capitol Hill contact information and join our NTF *Project Immigration*.

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⁷ Jack Jenkins, GOP lawmakers once praised Catholic Charities. Now they want to defund the group, July 28, 2023.

⁸ THE WESTERN JOURNAL. Warner Todd Huston, Outrage as Biden Gives Soros Nonprofit \$164 Million to Help Criminal Migrants Escape Punishment, Feb. 7, 2022.

⁹ Heritage Foundation, Lora Ries, Biden Shovels Millions to Nonprofits to Aid His Open-Border Schemes. Congress Must Cut Off Cash Spigot, May 5, 2023.