

Supporting the Migrant Population from Texas & Arizona: Overview of Montgomery County Efforts



Montgomery County **Department of Health and Human Services**



Background:

On April 2022 Texas Governor Greg Abbott began busing groups of undocumented migrants to Washington D.C. in of President Biden's decision to end Title 42 expulsions. In May 2022, Arizona's Governor Ducey followed suit.



Mobilizing Support in Montgomery County:

- *Commitment* to serve newcomers
- *Building the infrastructure*: Launched initiative comprised of various stakeholders and community partners functioning as a true network to support foreign-born individuals and families who have recently arrived in the United States through the provision of culturally and linguistically competent interdisciplinary services and supports.



Respite Relief for New Arrivals from Texas & Arizona:

- Initial Response:
 - Newcomers network, community and faith-based organizations responded with support
 - Shelter
 - Travel
 - Medical support
 - Food
- Turning-point:
 - Centralized respite support services through SAMU
 - Newcomer's network pivoted to provide support for families and individuals remaining in the region



Coordinating & Aligning Relief Efforts: SAMU

After the start of arrivals of migrants from Texas, SAMU First Response presented a funding proposal for FEMA's EFSP program.

The grant has been awarded and SAMU is now providing services to migrants arriving to Washington DC.



Coordinating & Aligning Relief Efforts: SAMU

Nonprofits initially stepped in to cover gaps before government funding. SAMU supported Carecen and Catholic Charities in the early months to understand the needs for service and develop our response.

Our partnership with Montgomery County has been crucial to a successful start of the operation.

How?

- Providing resources for migrants
- Making space available for respite care



Coordinating & Aligning Relief Efforts: SAMU



Call to Action:

- Respite Center in DC
- Support for families and individuals remaining in the region
- Additional overnight shelter space across the region
- Support with staff recruitment