



U.S. and Mexico *Border Program*

BUILDING BRIDGES FOR OUR NEWEST NEIGHBORS

CWS supports migrants and asylum seekers at the United States-Mexico border and throughout the interior of the U.S. CWS partners with more than twenty border shelters in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California.

After asylum seekers are released from federal custody, they are received by border shelters. Here, they are provided with a warm welcome, food, shelter and other essential services, such as arranging transportation to meet their family members and sponsors across the U.S. In July 2021 alone, U.S. Border Patrol encountered nearly 200,000 individuals along the southern border, many of whom were released to border shelters to facilitate their onward movement to their destination cities.

CWS provides shelters with necessary resources to support their reception efforts, such as material aid, CWS blankets, hygiene kits, onward movement packets, and emergency cash grants. CWS also supports border shelters with infrastructure improvements to meet reception capacity demands, and provides training, technical assistance, and connections to other stakeholders and resources to build shelter staff capacity.



CWS works with UNHCR, UNICEF, UMCOR, Save the Children and other partners to deliver a range of programs and activities including

- The CWS Border Volunteer Corps Program, in which volunteers help shelter staff address mental health and psychosocial support, child protection, and other asylum seeker needs.
- The Border Asylum Shelter Coalition, a coalition of shelters that engage in collaborative advocacy efforts and knowledge sharing of best practices.
- Protection monitoring at border shelters to better understand protection concerns and risks asylum seekers undertake during their journey.
- Advocacy efforts and engagement with national stakeholders on different asylum policies.