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Rolling back Trump era changes is the first priority for the new Biden administration. These include increasing refugee admissions, adding back asylum protections and those for the DACA program. There is broad consensus supporting permanent legal status for these ‘Dreamers’.

Another urgent need is to make coronavirus-relief benefits available to all taxpayers regardless of immigration status, particularly those who provide essential services. These include frontline medical workers, harvesting and delivering food, and cleaning public spaces. Currently, the CARES Act penalizes citizens who have a family member here illegally from receiving stimulus checks. There is already some bipartisan support for repealing this.

Many donors increased their giving to immigration-focused charities. The Trump administration’s separation of children from their families was a direct cause, but that giving may not continue as the crisis improves. Nonprofits would do well to exploit this in the short-term.

Much of immigration support comes from state funding, which has been devastated due to the pandemic. This is where foundations can step in with funds for legal services to prevent many deportations. Be sure to see which ones are showing interest in the near future.

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