



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Cook County Building, Board Room,
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

New Items Agenda

Thursday, June 29, 2023, 10:00 AM

Third Set

[23-3172](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING DONATIONS TO SUPPORT ASYLUM SEEKERS

WHEREAS, as declared in 2007, Cook County is a Fair and Equal County for Immigrants; and

WHEREAS, since August of 2022, more than 10,000 asylum seekers have arrived in the Chicagoland area; and

WHEREAS, many of the asylum seekers which include families and individuals, require medical care, food, housing, clothing, toiletries, and other personal effects; and

WHEREAS, Cook County has worked in partnership with the State of Illinois and City of Chicago to support the ongoing needs of newly arrived asylum seekers; and

WHEREAS, to ensure the protection of the public health, safety, morals and welfare of this county and its residents, Cook County and its residents should provide assistance to these individuals, and families to the extent able; and

NOW THERE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners encourages those wishing to make donations to aid the newly arrived asylum seekers and immigrants, donate directly to organizations serving the needs of these individuals and families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to support the newly arrived immigrants in asylum-seekers the Cook County Board President

and the Cook County Board of Commissioners encourages those wishing to make donations to consider donating using the links below to make a direct impact:

Cook County Foundation:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2U1RRRNQ0PYNA?ref_=wl_share&eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=5d25de10-c266-4ca2-b7bc-6e8858324800

City of Chicago:

<https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/texas-new-arrivals/home/donations.html>

Rincon Family Services:

<https://www.rinconfamilyservices.org/>

[23-3810](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF DEFERRED ACTION FOR LABOR ENFORCEMENT (DALE)

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board supports the decision made by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that noncitizen workers who are victims of, or witnesses to, the violation of labor rights, can now access a streamlined and expedited deferred action request process.; and

WHEREAS, deferred action protects noncitizen workers from threats of immigration-related retaliation from the exploitive employers; and

WHEREAS, effective immediately, this process will improve DHS's longstanding practice of using its discretionary authority to consider labor and employment agency-related requests for deferred action on a case-by-case basis; and

WHEREAS, workers will be able to visit DHS.gov for additional information in English and Spanish and to submit requests; and

WHEREAS, these improvements advance the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to empowering workers and improving workplace conditions by enabling all workers, including noncitizens, to assert their legal rights; and

WHEREAS, unscrupulous employers who prey on the vulnerability of noncitizen workers harm all workers and disadvantage businesses who play by the rules; and

WHEREAS, these predatory actors will be held accountable by encouraging all workers to assert their rights, report violations they have suffered or observed, and cooperate in labor standards investigations; and

WHEREAS, through these efforts, and with the federal labor agency partners, the American labor market will be effectively protected, along with the conditions of the American worksite, and the dignity of the workers who power our economy; and

WHEREAS, workers are often afraid to report violations of law by exploitative employers or to cooperate in employment and labor standards investigations because they fear removal or other immigration-related retaliation by an abusive employer; and

WHEREAS, agencies tasked with enforcing labor and employment laws depend on the cooperation of

these workers in their investigations; and

WHEREAS, refraining from reporting violations due to a fear of immigration-based retaliation creates unfair labor market conditions and perpetuates the commission of unlawful and inhumane acts by employers, including nonpayment of wages, the imposition of unsafe working conditions, and chilling workers' ability to organize and collectively bargain to improve such conditions; and

WHEREAS, DHS's practice of offering discretionary protection on a case-by-case basis to noncitizen victims facilitates the ability of labor and employment agencies to more fully investigate worksite violations, supporting the agencies in fulfilling their mission and holding abusive employers accountable; and

WHEREAS, by streamlining this process and helping to improve workplace conditions for all workers, today's announcement is one of many ways in which DHS is taking action to fulfill its commitment to U.S. workers, pursuant to the White House Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment; and

WHEREAS, in addition to providing new guidance to labor agencies regarding processes to seek deferred action for certain workers, DHS will also provide for a single intake point for deferred action requests from noncitizen workers that are supported by labor enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, the centralized intake process will allow DHS to efficiently review these time-sensitive requests, provide additional security to eligible workers on a case-by-case basis, and more robustly support the mission of labor agencies; and

WHEREAS, these process enhancements are consistent with Secretary Mayorkas' October 2021 memorandum, which directed DHS offices and agencies to ensure that DHS fulfills its critical role supporting the important work of labor agencies to enforce wage protections, workplace safety, labor rights, and other laws and standards; and

WHEREAS, DHS has long considered requests for deferred action submitted by noncitizen workers who fall within the scope of a labor agency investigation and/or enforcement action; and

WHEREAS, noncitizens will now be able to submit such requests to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) through a central intake point established specifically to support labor agency investigative and enforcement efforts; and

WHEREAS, for deferred action requests from noncitizens who are in removal proceedings or have a final order of removal, upon reviewing the submission for completeness, USCIS will forward such requests to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to make a final determination on a case-by-case basis; and

WHEREAS, USCIS will consider all other deferred action requests on a case-by-case basis and will also consider all related employment authorization applications, including those related to deferred action

requests decided by ICE; and

WHEREAS, given the often time-sensitive labor agency enforcement interests, efficient processing of deferred action and related applications for employment authorization will reduce potential risks to workers and retaliation by their employers under investigation; and

WHEREAS, in addition to satisfying individual criteria to facilitate case-by-case determinations, requests for deferred action submitted through this centralized process must include a letter (a Statement of Interest) from a federal, state, or local labor agency asking DHS to consider exercising its discretion on behalf of workers employed by companies identified by the agency as having labor disputes related to laws that fall under its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, consistent with existing practice, discretionary grants of deferred action under this process will typically last for a period of two years, subject to termination at any time. Individuals granted deferred action may be eligible for employment authorization under existing regulations, which require that they demonstrate an economic necessity for employment; and

WHEREAS, they may also be eligible for subsequent grants of deferred action if a labor agency has a continuing investigative or enforcement interest in the matter identified in their original letter supporting DHS use of prosecutorial discretion; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Commission on Human Rights (CCCHR) investigates and mediates complaints made by members of the public including employment discrimination, minimum wage violations, and earned sick leave violations that are considered labor disputes for purposes of requesting deferred action; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and Members of the Cook County Board Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby extend their support for Deferred Action for Labor Enforcement to continue to protect workers' rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the (CCCHR) may provide "Statements of Interest" to request deferred enforcement from DHS because of a pending investigation that affects the labor market; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and a suitable copy of same be tendered to the State of Illinois.

[23-3813](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

COOK COUNTY HONORED WITH RECORD 36 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

WHEREAS, Cook County was recently honored with 36 Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo); and

WHEREAS, the awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents; and

WHEREAS, the recognition of so many essential programs and initiatives spearheaded by the County is admirable; and

WHEREAS, this level of excellence doesn't happen in a vacuum, and all County employees are dedicated and collaborate in launching these critical programs for residents; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Office of the President won for its Equity Fund program that invests in specific ways to intentionally re-align government policies, practices and resource allocation to advance racial equity and ensure all Cook County residents can live healthy, prosperous lives; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development (BED) was recognized for the Manufacturing Reinvented program that helps manufacturers improve competitiveness as they continue to rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, BED also led the Small Business Source program that received recognition; and

WHEREAS, BED was also recognized for its Emergency Rental Assistance Program and coordinated with the state and city to address housing instability throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, subsequently, BED also established a unique court-based program that positions case managers in the courts to directly support eviction applicants; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Economic Development greatly appreciates this recognition for the quality and innovation of our programs designed to ensure the well-being of residents and the recovery of the local economy; and

WHEREAS, the Assessor's Office was recognized for the Property Tax Simulator, or PTAXSIM: a software code package implemented in the coding language R, designed to recalculate changes to

property tax bills; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County (CCC) was recognized for developing a proprietary COVID-19 Attestation Management System (CAMS) to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19 infections in the court system during an unprecedented pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Sheriff's Office was recognized for the Vehicle Light Replacement Program designed to assist residents of Cook County who need automotive light repair yet cannot afford it; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Finance was recognized for the Property Tax Bridge Funding Program to provide streamlined and transparent access to no-interest loans; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Technology was recognized for the Everyone Counts application which allows users to explore demographic changes within their communities across specific timeframes; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Asset Management was recognized for the Facilities Management Engineer Trainee Program to train selected candidates in real-life operational and stationary engineering, with an emphasis on equity and inclusion among the trainees; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Forest Preserves was recognized for forming the Racial, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (REDI), a group of employees empowered to focus on analyzing and understanding internal agency challenges and barriers to implement solutions based on racial equity; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Human Resources was recognized for being an Employer of Choice through innovative strategic sourcing, recruitment branding and marketing efforts, and best practice approaches to recruitment operations and employee retention; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security (EMRS) was recognized for launching a community preparedness program in an effort to build systems that serve the emergency preparedness needs of Cook County residents; and

WHEREAS, Cook County Health (CCH) won an achievement award for its work providing health care to asylum seekers arriving in Chicago; and with less than twenty-four hours' notice, CCH established a Refugee Health Center that offered medical, dental, behavioral health, a pharmacy, transportation, care coordination and social services to asylum seekers; and

WHEREAS, this center is still in operation and has provided health care to nearly 8,000 patients since it was launched; and

WHEREAS, caring for asylum seekers is at the heart of what Cook County Health does and has done to set up and run this clinic, which helps ensure that these men, women and children have access to compassionate and culturally competent care as they begin their new chapter in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, awards are given in 18 categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President, and Members of the Cook County Board Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby extend their congratulations for Cook County being honored with record 36 National Association of Counties Achievement Awards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and a suitable copy of same be tendered to the State of Illinois.

[23-3803](#)

Presented by: ALMA E. ANAYA, County Commissioner

REPORT

Department: Cook County Committee on Social Innovation

Report Title: Cook County Committee on Social Innovation

Report Period: January 2022- December 2022

Summary: The final report for the Cook County Committee on Social Innovation

[23-3804](#)

Sponsored by: ALMA E. ANAYA and ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A HEARING OF THE LABOR COMMITTEE FOR A REPORT FROM THE BUREAU OF HUMAN RESOURCES (BHR) ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE AND RETENTION BONUS PAY PROGRAM

WHEREAS, in 2022, Cook County Board of Commissioners authorized the Cook County Bureau of Human Resources to enter into a Recruitment Incentive and Retention Bonus Pay Program; and

WHEREAS, this program came to be after the County experienced the effects of the Great Resignation during and after the COVID-19 pandemic which lead to many vacancies in various fields; and

WHEREAS, the goal of this program is to recruit more employees and increase the workforce; and

WHEREAS, this program was proposed for the remaining Fiscal Year of 2022 and 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board of Commissioners are tasked with implementation of programs the Body votes for and requests an update on the status of this pilot program and its outcomes of it; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby request a hearing of the Labor Committee to receive an update on the implementation of the Recruitment Incentive and Retention Bonus Pay Program, including:

- a. The status of the implementation of this program;
- b. The status of how many agencies and/or offices that have submitted proposals;
- c. The status of any challenges that the Bureau of Human Resources and the different agencies and offices have faced with the implementation of the program;
- d. An update on the funding limitations for this program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bureau of Human Resources in partnership with the Chief Financial Officer and Budget Director are asked to appear before the Labor Committee to update the Committee on the implementation of the Recruitment Incentive and Retention Bonus Pay Program, including the matters discussed above

[23-3567](#)

Presented by: ISRAEL ROCHA JR., Chief Executive Officer, Cook County Health & Hospitals System

REPORT

Department: CCH Behavioral Health

Report Title: Behavioral Health Semiannual Report

Report Period: December 2022-May 2023

Summary: