

The Cost of...

BIDEN'S BORDER CRISIS

The Cost Of... breaks down the budgetary impact of what's driving our political discourse, giving context and analysis of its impact on our exploding \$33.2 trillion in national debt. There's no better place to start than assessing the fiscal cost of President Biden's immigration policies.

PRESENTING THE PROBLEM

Since President Biden came into office, there have been over [5.8 million illegal alien encounters](#) at the southern border in addition to nearly [1.5 million know got-aways](#). Millions of illegal immigrants have cross the sovereign border of the United States unabated and are by no means facing prosecution for breaking the law but, rather, are being clothed, housed, fed, educated, and cared for at the expense of the American taxpayer.

In the fact, the border crisis has gotten so bad that Democrat officials have started to abandon their insistence on open border policies. Even President Biden [announced yesterday](#) that his Administration would begin construction of portions of the border wall in Texas. But is it too little, too late?

COUNTING THE COST

When calculating the financial burden of illegal immigration on the American taxpayer, estimates range from [\\$150.7 billion](#) to nearly [\\$200 billion](#) annually. The Federation for American Immigration Reform states that the annual fiscal burden of \$150.7 billion is cumulative cost at the federal, state, and local levels after subtracting any tax revenue that governments may have received from illegal immigrants. This gap is unsustainable and illustrates the fecklessness of the Biden Administrations border policy.

State and local governments are struggling to address the onslaught of illegal immigrants flooding their communities and have little recourse with the federal government. The table below shows the cost of illegal immigration for states along the southwest border.

Border State	Est. Number of Illegal Aliens	Avg. Cost to Taxpayer per Illegal Alien	Education Costs	Police, Legal & Corrections Cost
TEXAS	2.2 million	\$4,466	\$10 billion	\$1.5 billion
ARIZONA	453,000	\$5,230	\$1.4 billion	\$631.3 million
NEW MEXICO	119,000	\$4,628	\$532 million	\$135.9 million
CALIFORNIA	3.2 million	\$7,074	\$19.5 billion	\$4.3 billion

**Federation for American Immigration Reform, 2023 Report*



Unaccounted for medical, public assistance, and general government services add dramatically to the annual tax burden that Americans suffer due to illegal immigration. In early 2023, Mayor Eric Adams of New York stated that the city would need \$2.8 billion in the next fiscal year to “clothe, house, educated, and care for” illegal migrants. This extra \$2.8 billion would be for an influx of 43,000 migrants that were dropped off in New York by the federal agencies. The cost per migrant, should he receive this funding, would be over \$65,000.

In Texas, Governor Abbott has recognized that the federal government has all but abandoned his state when it comes to the crisis at the border. Operation Lone Star, launched in March of 2021 due to incompetence at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), has cost Texans [\\$4.5 billion](#) as of July 2023. This funding comes from straight from state coffers which further adds to the burden on taxpayers in Texas.

Wasted Federal Dollars:

Sadly, the federal dollars that have been sent to states are not purposed to prevent more illegal immigration rather, they are given to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with very little oversight to provide “humanitarian relief” to illegal aliens. For FY2023, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released grants totaling [\\$332.5 million](#) through their Emergency Food and Shelter program. Meanwhile, [over \\$350 million](#) of unused border wall steel in stacks 20 feet high sit rusting away like the sovereignty of the United States.

Top Recipients of Federal Grants for FY2023:

- Catholic Charities of San Antonio - \$40 million
- Catholic Charities of San Diego - \$34 million
- New York City Office of Management and Budget - \$30 million
- United Way of Southwest New Mexico – Dona Ana County - \$28 million
- Pima County Grants Management & Innovation - \$26 million

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) reported earlier this year that DHS is [lacking proper oversight of humanitarian grant funding](#) and must account for every taxpayer dollar given to NGOs supporting illegal immigrant populations.

Had the Biden Administration prioritized border security from day one the taxpayer would have saved hundreds of millions of dollars. Biden’s border policy has exacerbated the migrant crisis and has now caused a true humanitarian emergency. Since 2021, NGOs in the following states have [received](#) hundreds of millions in Emergency Food and Shelter Program – Humanitarian (EFSP-H) grant funding:

- \$197 million in Texas
- \$152 million in California
- \$65 million in Arizona
- \$34 million in New Mexico



When we include grant funding from the Shelter and Services Program (SSP) to the EFSP-H grant funding, over \$800 million in federal funding has gone to states to defray the cost of illegal immigration in FY 2023 alone (see chart below). Yet, even with this cascade of federal dollars, state and local governments are still in need of more funding.

New York City, according to the [Migration Policy Institute](#), from January to July of this year has already spent \$1.7 billion on “shelter, food, and other services.” Chicago expects to have spent \$255.7 million and Denver clocks the cost at \$24 million with new migrants costing the city \$2,000 each. Estimates from Mayor Eric Adam of New York City show that by mid-2025 the migrant crisis will cost New Yorks upwards of \$12 billion. Had the Biden Administration prioritized border security from day one, billions of dollars would still be in the pockets of American taxpayers.

Funding for Shelter and Services Program and Emergency Food and Shelter Program-Humanitarian, by Recipient Location, FY2023*



**Migration Information Source, September 2023*

Providing for the Common Defense?

The chief duty of the American President and the federal government is to provide for the common defense. This Administration has categorically [failed to protect Americans](#).

- So far in FY23, CBP has arrested 32,097 aliens with criminal convictions including 564 known gang members.
- 20,274 Chinese nationals have been encountered at the Southwest border in FY23.
- 151 individuals listed on the terrorist watchlist were apprehended at the Southwest border.
- FY23 alone, CBP, including Air and Marine Operations, has seized 25,901 pounds of fentanyl, coming across the Southwest border—enough to kill around 6 billion people.

