

# **San Antonio Migrant Response**



**City Council A Session – March 7, 2024**

**Presented by: Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager  
Chief William McManus, San Antonio Police Department**

# Purpose



**Migrant Dashboard**

The City of San Antonio, in collaboration with non-profit partners, continues to serve people legally traveling through San Antonio to their host city destinations across the country.

The graphic features a teal background with a silhouette of a city skyline and a group of people walking. The City of San Antonio logo is in the top left corner.

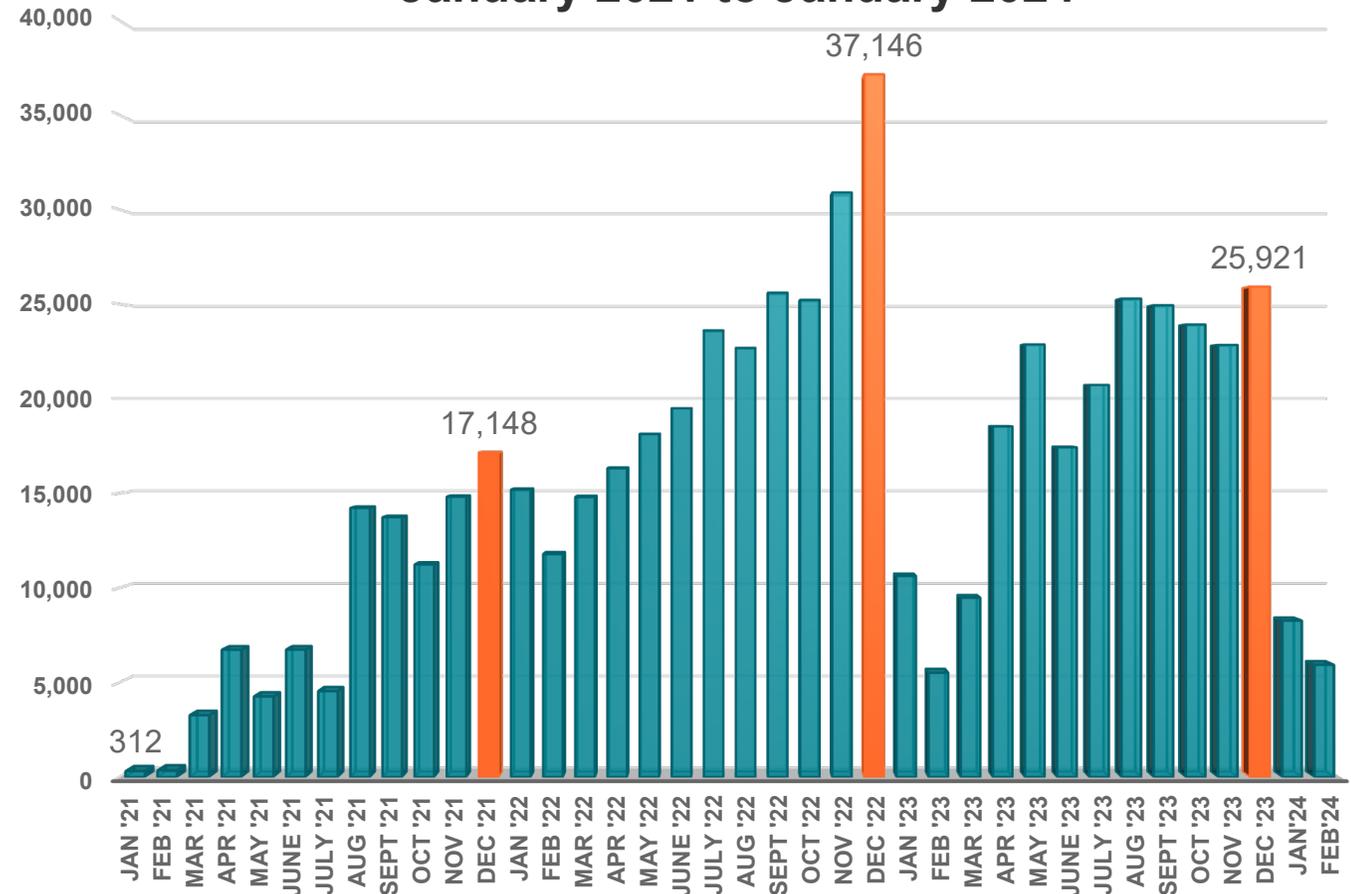
- Background
- Operations Overview
- Federal Funding
- Challenges
- Funding Contingencies
- Law Enforcement Efforts

# Background

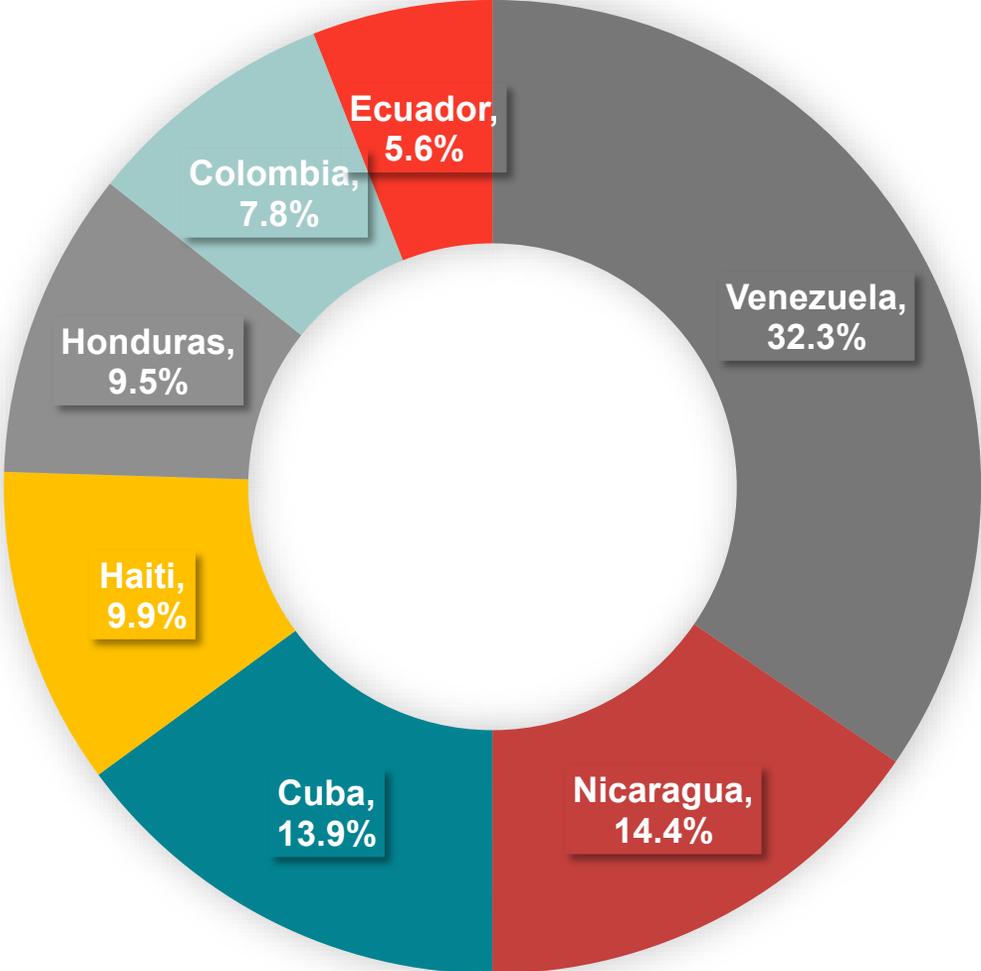


- Since Jan. 2021, more than 600,000 asylum seekers, processed and legally released from the border, have traveled through San Antonio
- San Antonio is nearest transportation hub for border cities and federal Detention Facilities

Monthly Migrant Arrivals in San Antonio  
January 2021 to January 2024



# Top Nationalities of Arrivals



\* Represents 93.4% of all arrivals at the Migrant Resource Center from July 2022 to February 2024.

# Earlier Migrant Responses



2016



## Community Led Response

- Limited communication on 500 arrivals from federal Detention Facilities
- Mennonite Church emergency shelter
- Lack of adequate:
  - Resources, staffing & Overnight shelter space
- COSA provided support
- Agreement with ICE Regional Office

2019



## City Resource Center (St. Mary's Street)

- March 2019 - Nov. 2019
- City operated
- City staff from all Departments supported operations
- Coordinated with community partners for services & volunteers
- Overnight shelter - Travis Park Church
- 100-300 daily arrivals – 32,000 served

2021/2022



## Pre-MRC San Pedro

- Decentralized model with border drop-offs at Airport and Greyhound
- City, Catholic Charities, and IWC providing: hotel, case mgmt., travel navigation
- Significant increases in daily arrivals
- Up to 500 spent the night at airport any given night
- Migrants sleeping in Travis Park waiting for bus departures

# Current Migrant Operations

## Migrant Resource Center/Centro de Bienvenida



- Opened July 7
  - Streamline City of San Antonio and partner agency efforts
  - Provide a single point of entry for service
  - Minimize disruption and congestion at the San Antonio International Airport and downtown
- Transitioned operations to Catholic Charities Oct. 1, 2022
- Over 280,222 served at MRC through Feb. 2024



# Current Migrant Operations

## Airport Transfer Center



- Opened ATC in anticipation of the end of Title 42
- Provides waiting area for asylum seekers with flights for onward travel through SA International Airport
- Relieved airport overcrowding
- Multi-Department operation (Human Services, Aviation, Fire, Police)



# Partners

## Catholic Charities

- Daily MRC/CDB operations
- Food (coordinated with San Antonio Food Bank)
- Commodities and clothing
- Case management
- Navigation
- Private Security

## City of San Antonio

- Coordination with Federal Agencies, border non-profits & other providers
- Shelter manager at MRC
- Building Maintenance
- Local Transportation
- Solid Waste clean-up around MRC area
- SAPD Presence at MRC entrance

## Other Local Partners

- San Antonio Food Bank
- Interfaith Welcome Coalition
- United Way of San Antonio & Bexar County
- Corazon Ministries and Travis Park Church
- Episcopal Diocese of West Texas

# Federal Funds Allocated to San Antonio Area for Migrant Response



| Period/Grant  | San Antonio Community | COSA                |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Board Program (EFSP)</b> |                       |                     |
| 2021 (Jan to Dec)   | \$4,360,940           | \$1,135,114         |
| 2022 (Jan to Dec)   | \$27,888,103          | \$10,775,159        |
| 2023 (Jan to April)   | \$58,398,741          | \$8,801,327         |
| <b>FEMA Shelter and Services Program (SSP)</b>              |                       |                     |
| March 2023 to Sept. 2025                                    | \$30,558,077          | \$14,901,248        |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$121,205,861</b>  | <b>\$35,612,848</b> |

- City received 30.4% of federal funding allocated to the community since Jan. 2021
- FEMA directly funded Catholic Charities, Food Bank, United Way, IWC, Corazon, Episcopal Diocese

# COSA Cost & Federal Reimbursement



| Period            | Actual Costs        | Reimbursement                   |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2021 (Jan to Dec) | \$1,140,712         | \$1,135,114                     |
| 2022 (Jan to Dec) | 10,779,323          | 10,775,158                      |
| 2023 (Jan to Dec) | 12,682,653          | 12,682,653                      |
| January 2024      | 483,913             | 483,913                         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>\$25,086,601</b> | <b>\$25,086,601<sup>1</sup></b> |

1) Note: Amount reflects \$20.7 million of reimbursements received, and \$4.36 million of federal funds allocated to COSA not yet received.

- **City’s Delegate Agency contracts funded with General Fund have not been directed to provide services at MRC**

# Operational Challenges



- Funding uncertainty for City of San Antonio and partners beyond current allocations
  - Of \$14.9M allocated to the City, \$10.5 million remains
  - At current spending rate, City's funding will be exhausted by Sept. 2024
  - Catholic Charities will exhaust funding by Dec. 2024
- Unpredictability in anticipated number of arrivals
- FEMA Shelter and Services Program rules:
  - Reduced funding allowed for onward travel tickets & hotels
  - SSP assistance to migrants restricted to up to 45 days from the day they enter the United States
- Limited ability to assist migrants with onward travel may lead to increased number choosing to remain in San Antonio that do not have sponsors or the ability to work

# Request to Federal Authorities

- Communication with Department of Homeland Security and Congressional Delegation requesting additional \$57.5 million to continue humanitarian assistance to migrants through December 2024
  - \$54.5 million for Catholic Charities for travel tickets, case management, and private security
  - \$3 million for City of San Antonio for MRC lease, janitorial services, police overtime, and local transportation
- Changes to federal grant rules
  - Allowing Catholic Charities to purchase travel tickets and rent hotel nights for migrants with special needs or needing temporary medical care
  - Allowing the City to continue to transport individuals to the airport and local bus stations at less than 75% capacity of vehicles

# Funding Contingencies



1. Reducing MRC & ATC operations costs
2. Canceling and reallocating ARPA funding for programs & projects
3. Funding from FEMA Reserve
4. City's Operating Budget General Fund

# Public Safety and Quality of Life around MRC



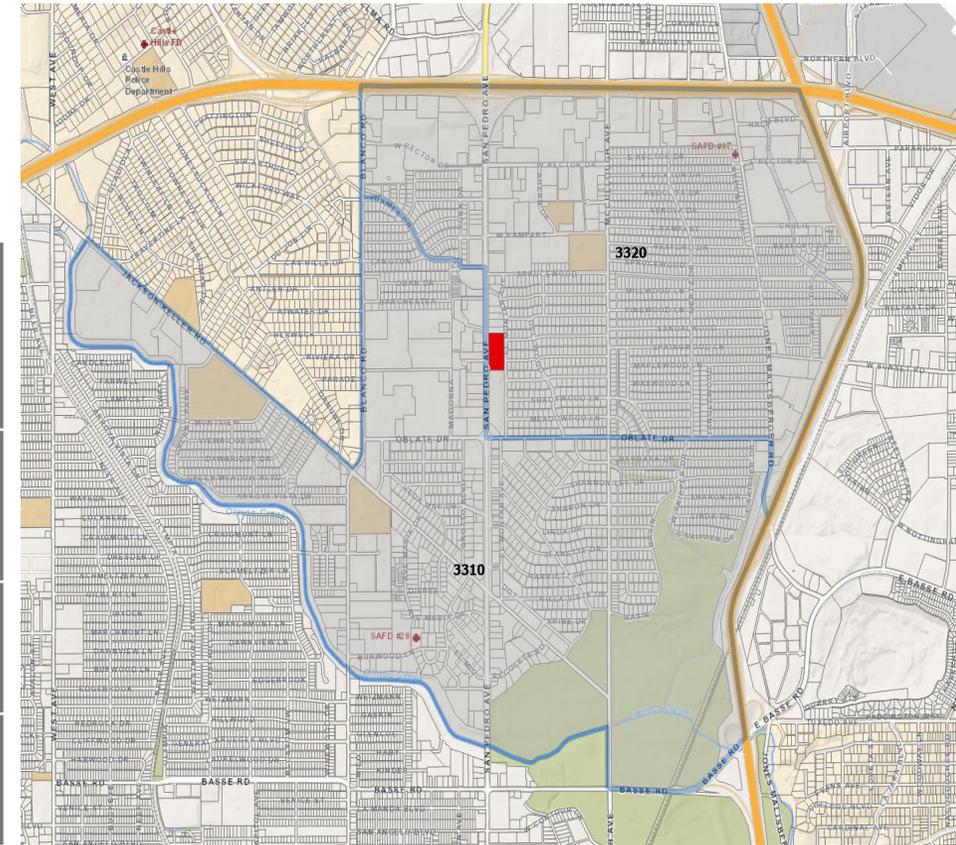
- Since opening the MRC, SAPD has maintained presence at center and visibility at the retail center and surrounding neighborhoods
- No major incidents at MRC
- Six arrests at the MRC with half of arrestees being San Antonio residents (i.e., public intoxication, trespass, narcotics)



# Public Safety and Quality of Life around MRC



- Crime around immediate area surrounding the MRC is consistent with City-wide trends
- Area encompasses 2 patrol districts



| Category                       | 2023 Crime City Wide (# Offenses) | % Change from 2022 | 2023 Crime Around MRC (# of Offenses) | % Change from 2022 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Against People (Violent Crime) | 33,636                            | -9.60%             | 502                                   | -8.23%             |
| Against Property               | 12,338                            | 6.60%              | 3,086                                 | 3.31%              |
| Against Society                | 113,260                           | -2.20%             | 301                                   | 1.35%              |

# Public Safety and Quality of Life around MRC



- As a result of a resident concern late last year, SAPD has conducted investigations in the surrounding area:
  - Arrests – 42
  - Detainers – 34 requested and 15 issued





**Thank You**