

Long Beach Humanitarian Family Reunification Efforts FAQ

How long are children normally at this shelter?

On average, most children stay between 7 and 10 days while they go through the reunification phase.

What is the daily routine for the children?

Children have four hours of education each day, access to medical services, showering facilities, meal times, indoor and outdoor recreation, play time, and are constantly under adult supervision. Each child is accompanied as they move throughout the facility for their safety.

How long will this shelter be operating and with how many children?

The contract between the City, the Convention Center operator ASM, and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) outlines a duration not to exceed August 2, 2021. The shelter can accommodate a maximum of 1,000 children.

Is language access provided at the shelter?

Yes, all children have access to either native language staff or translation services, and signage is available in both English and Spanish.

What are the ages of the children?

The Long Beach shelter location is expected to receive groups of boys and girls of various ages up to 17, depending on the changing needs at the border.

Does this shelter follow the Flores Act Settlement?

Yes, this facility follows the provisions in the Flores Act Settlement and other federal rules. All shelters for children follow specific federal guidelines for treatment and care of minors.

Do children have access to medical services at the shelter?

Yes, a fully-staffed medical facility, run by UCLA Health, is operating with doctors, nurses and other medical providers as needed. Children receive routine pediatric exams, childhood vaccinations as needed, and emergency services.

Are the children kept in confinement within the secure site?

No. Children stay in designated groups and are escorted throughout the shelter by youth care workers. There are classroom spaces, meal spaces, restroom and shower spaces, outdoor recreation spaces, indoor recreation spaces, medical spaces, and sleeping spaces. Children move between these spaces according to a set schedule with other members of their group and with professional staff responsible for their care.



What access to legal services do the children have at the shelter?

All children have access to legal services on-site.

Are public tours available?

To ensure transparency, HHS allowed a walkthrough of the shelter for elected officials, media representatives and representatives from local community groups prior to the shelter being populated with children. Since the children have now arrived, for their security and privacy, general public tours will not be allowed. City staff have access to the building as needed to ensure compliance with the contract, and federal staff are responsible for the overall management of the shelter.

How can community members help with this effort?

Please visit longbeach.gov/migrantchildren for information on ways to support the children. HHS, through contractors who specialize in these types of facilities, provides for the immediate needs of the children in the shelter. People can help immediately by donating to the Long Beach Community Foundation's [Migrant Children Support Fund](#), who will coordinate with HHS to provide support to the children.

Is this a City-run shelter?

No, the City of Long Beach's role in this humanitarian effort is to facilitate the use of the space, serve as a coordinator and reference for any additional services the shelter may need from community partners, and provide some direct services as needed that are fully cost reimbursed from the federal government. While the shelter is here, it is under federal jurisdiction and the City does not have the ability to direct operations or services provided.

How long will this last and what is the cost to the City?

This is expected to be a temporary shelter lasting no longer than August 2, 2021. All direct City costs to run this shelter will be reimbursed by the federal government under the agreement, and the federal government is paying for all Convention Center costs to run the shelter as well.

Is the contract between the City and the Convention Center, and the Convention Center and HHS available for review?

Yes, that is a public document and is available for review on the City's longbeach.gov/migrantchildren webpage.