



AMERICAN GATEWAYS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

May 2023

From the Desk of Edna Yang, Co-Executive Director

May 7, 1843, marks the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States and May 10, 1869, or Golden Spike Day, recognizes the completion of the first transcontinental railroad in the U.S., built primarily by Chinese immigrant labor. Because of these significant historical dates, the month of May celebrates Asian American and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month.

While we celebrate the many contributions that Asian Pacific Islanders have made in building this country we also remember the racism, hatred, and hardship that Asian immigrants and Asian Americans endured and still endure in our country.

Immigrants built our country and yet, as a nation, we continue to struggle with immigration - with the end of the Title 42 immigration policy program and questions about what to do with the immigrants who come seeking safety and a better life here in the US.

As we survey the early impacts of last week's end of Title 42, we remain deeply concerned about what all this means for those seeking asylum..

[Title 42](#) was a bad program, doing nothing to secure public health and instead expelling vulnerable migrants to Mexico as they attempted to enter the country to seek protection under our laws.

The Administration proposed a new policy for asylum seekers, but this proposed new plan limits access to asylum and is deeply flawed. We have joined other groups to [sue to block it](#).

So what does this all mean for Central Texas?

Here at American Gateways we are seeing how our current system makes it nearly impossible for people to seek help and find the information they need without guidance. Immigration detention and lack of basic information and infrastructure to support immigrants fleeing harm and the communities receiving them make it difficult for our justice system to work the way it should.

American Gateways' staff is working tirelessly to do our part to counter this broken system. We are at the Immigration Courts, at detention centers, and in the community providing accurate information, guidance, and legal representation.



Assistance in filing for asylum



American Gateways' Staff Attorney Laura and her client after a court hearing

We know firsthand that it's critical that we make federal policies better align with the needs of people fleeing harm and working to make a better life for themselves and their new communities.

Your support matters more than ever now. We need your help to do our critical work and ensure that the fundamental rights of immigrants seeking safety and hope are protected. You can support our work through a donation [here](#).

Want to know more about our work?

We invite you, or anyone you know to our Virtual Immigrant Justice 101 events, which take place quarterly. Our next event will be on June 9, 2023. You can register [here](#).

Join us to celebrate Immigrant Heritage Month!

We invite you to this fun, informal, family-friendly gathering to celebrate our clients, volunteers, and supporters on Friday, June 23rd. There will be food, drinks, and music. We hope to see you all there! Please RSVP [here](#)



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