



HEARTLAND ALLIANCE

SANCTUARY CITY

Sanctuary Cities have been threatened with losing federal funding if they do not comply with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

DEFINITION

The designation “sanctuary city” does not have a precise legal definition. It is a broad term used for any city or county (or state) that has policies or practices in place to limit involvement in federal immigration enforcement actions. Such policies can be formal laws or informal practices. Limiting involvement can be for financial or legal reasons, and can protect undocumented immigrants from being detained or deported.

HOW MANY JURISDICTIONS HAVE “SANCTUARY” POLICIES OR PRACTICES?



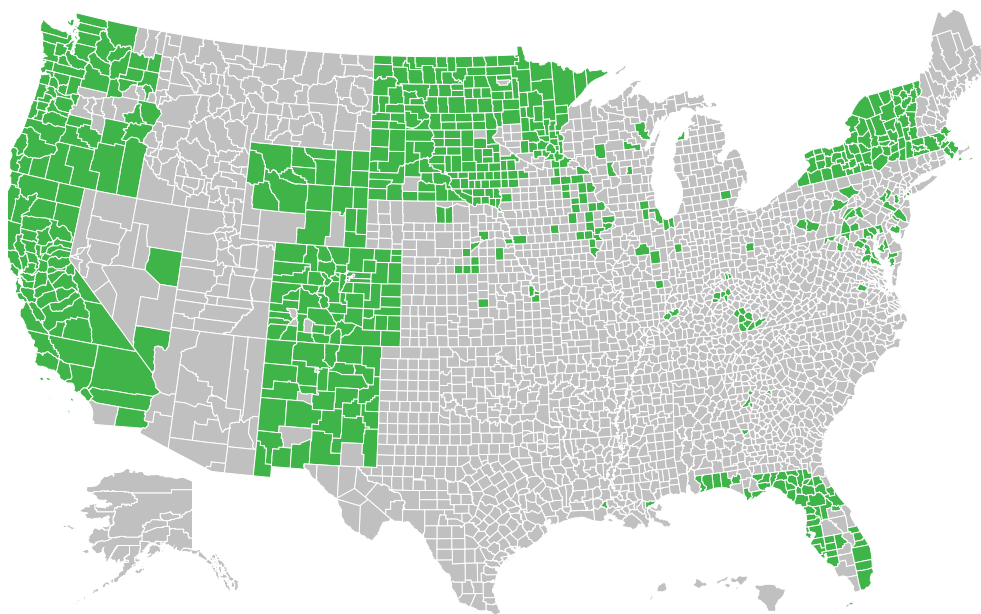
39 Cities
(including Chicago, NY, Boston, and Los Angeles)



364 Counties



5 States
(California, Oregon, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Vermont)

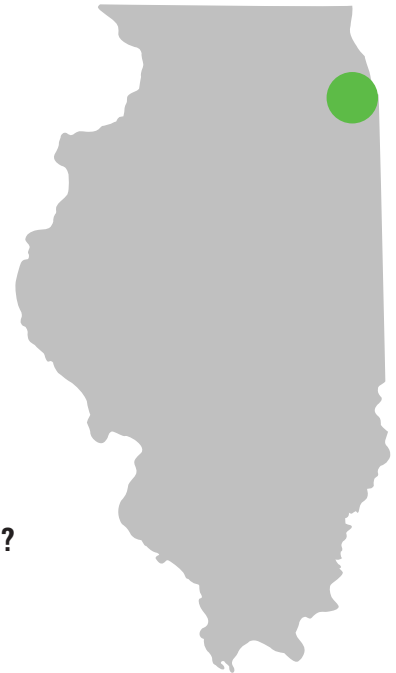


Compiling a list of sanctuary cities is challenging. In some places, officials have publicly declared their city to be a sanctuary, but the city may not have actual laws or policies in place. Neighboring counties—or cities within the same county—may have different policies.

WHAT POLICIES OR PRACTICES DISTINGUISH A SANCTUARY?

Some sanctuary cities decline to use city or state tax dollars to enforce federal immigration laws. Many prohibit local officials from asking people about their immigration status. For example, in Los Angeles, the police are not allowed to stop people solely to establish their immigration status as it could cause racial profiling. Other cities do not base the allocation of city services on citizenship and do not ask about, or investigate, citizenship status. Some undocumented citizens can obtain driver's licenses.

Chicago has a "Welcoming City Ordinance," a collection of laws that make it clear that Chicago will not help investigate the citizenship status of individuals unless mandated by law or a court, will not discriminate by issuing city services depending on citizenship, and will not cooperate with immigration detention requests.



HOW DOES THIS IMPACT IMMIGRANT DETAINMENT OR DEPORTATION?

Federal officials rely on local police to help enforce federal immigration laws, but the law does not require local authorities to comply.

This unfolds when someone is arrested for something unrelated to citizenship and booked into a county jail. Fingerprints are sent to the FBI, who then shares the inmate's information with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). If ICE finds that the inmate is undocumented, they submit a request to the county jail to detain the person. ICE typically asks local jails to hold people an extra 48 hours after they would otherwise have been released so that ICE can get a warrant to begin deportation proceedings. The Department of Homeland Security has said that because keeping someone in jail without a warrant violates the 4th Amendment, complying with these requests is voluntary. In cases where people are detained, and a warrant is obtained, the person could stay in county jail while he/she undergoes deportation proceedings.

WHAT ROLE DOES FEDERAL MONEY PLAY?

Trump's executive order asked the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security to withhold "federal funds, except as mandated by law" from sanctuary cities. Homeland Security funds could include money allocated to cities for counterterrorism efforts.

Chicago and Cook County could lose \$3.2 million in Justice Department grants (including some crime-fighting grants) if federal money is denied to sanctuary cities.

ABOUT HEARTLAND ALLIANCE

We believe that everyone in society benefits when people who experience disparities in safety, health, housing, education, economic opportunity, and justice are able to exit poverty, heal from trauma, and achieve stability; secure their rights; and shape policies that respond to their needs.

Building on decades of experience, Heartland Alliance's goal is to meet the unique needs of immigrants as they establish new lives in the U.S. This includes helping them secure their rights and providing services to meet their immediate needs, and to promote long-term self-sufficiency.

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SOURCES: Immigrant Legal Resource Center, NYTimes 2/6/17, CNN.com, washingtonpost.com, chicagocode.org/2-173-042/