

Responding to federal actions: What can Vermont do?

Over the last year, the federal government has taken actions that undermine the safety and security of all of us. The deaths of protesters and detainees in Minnesota and elsewhere are the most visible and visceral example of this, but any aggressive immigration enforcement, cuts to critical services, arbitrary funding freezes, abrupt grant cancellations, government shutdowns, and investigations based on political retribution are also harming the well-being of Vermonters.

What is already happening and what else is needed in our communities, at the state level, and at the federal level?

Current State Policy

Vermont's [Fair and Impartial Policing Policy](#) passed in 2024, restricts what Vermont police departments can share with federal immigration authorities. While this is one of the strongest policies in the nation some [key gaps remain](#).

Proposed legislation

- [H.742](#) providing legal representation to folks detained by immigration enforcement including \$1 million appropriation for additional staff. Pending in House Judiciary.
- [S.208](#), establishing standards for law enforcement identification which includes an anti-masking measure. No appropriation necessary. Passed Vermont Senate on Feb.12; referred to House Judiciary Committee on Feb.17.
- [S.209](#), prohibiting civil arrest in sensitive locations including public schools, emergency shelters, and hospitals without a warrant. No appropriation necessary. Passed Vermont Senate on Feb.13; referred to House Judiciary Committee on Feb.18.
- For current status on the above bills, see Public Assets' [Immigration Bill Tracker](#)

State Legal Action

- The Vermont Attorney General is party to [dozens of lawsuits](#) contesting the federal government's unlawful actions in the state of Vermont.
- [Vermont Immigration Legal Defense Fund](#) is a statewide effort to raise \$1 million for immigration legal defense.

Federal Level

- [Ongoing negotiations](#) about restrictions on ICE before continued DHS funding can pass—still unclear how those will play out, but the current two-week stopgap ended 2/13/26.



Resources

Front-line organizations

- [Migrant Justice](#)
- [Vermont Asylum Assistance Project](#)

Rapid response / immigration enforcement trackers

- Migrant Justice rapid response line: **802-881-7229** (for emergency calls only: e.g. [active border patrol checkpoint](#); [roadside stop](#); [ICE agents entering a home](#))
- [Statewide ICE tracker](#) managed by Vermont Asylum Assistance Project and Migrant Justice
- Get legal help from Vermont immigration lawyers: <https://www.vaapvt.org/help>

Public Actions, protests

- [50501 Vermont events list](#)
- [Indivisible Vermont](#) has dozens of organizing committees in counties across the state

Know your rights trainings (KYR) and materials and other info sessions

- [Vermont Language Justice Project KYR resources](#) in multiple languages
- ACLU KYR Trainings and Federal Deployment Rapid Response [Training Toolkit](#)

Community resilience and mutual aid

- [Community Resilience Organization Resource Hub](#)
- [Community Resilience Potluck Party toolkit](#)

Policy/legislative advocacy resources

- [ACLU resources](#)
- Public Assets' [slide deck](#) on the impacts of federal actions on Vermonters and the state budget

The information in this resource guide is as of 03/24/26. For the latest please check

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