

SNAPSHOT

Background

In January 2023, the Biden administration launched a new program that allows certain nationals from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela to enter and stay in the United States on a temporary basis. News reports indicate that between January and May, more than 1.5 million people applied for this program, which is known as the [Processes for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans](#), or P4CHNV. More than 100,000 individuals have arrived in the US.

The Biden administration presented P4CHNV as a tool to decrease the rising number of nationals from these four countries arriving irregularly at the US southern border by providing a pathway for individuals to avoid the dangerous journey north. At the same time, it expanded the use of Title 42 to expel these nationals who were seeking safety at the US-Mexico border to Mexico without the opportunity to request asylum. Following the end of Title 42 on May 11, 2023, the administration justified the implementation of a new ["asylum ban"](#) rule by the creation of new migration pathways, including P4CHNV.

In a new [policy brief](#), we describe the barriers that nationals from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela face in accessing P4CHNV and make recommendations on how to improve access. Our findings and recommendations are based on recent monitoring trips to Mexico where staff spoke with local shelter providers and dozens of women and families. This snapshot summarizes the policy brief.

Nationals of the four countries who have US-based financial sponsors, valid passports, and the means to fly to the United States are granted temporary status for two years and can apply for work authorization. Individuals in this process lack permanent legal protections, although they can apply for asylum or adjustment of status.

While the Women's Refugee Commission (WRC) welcomes parole programs such as P4CHNV as part of a comprehensive regional migration and protection strategy, they must complement but not come at the expense of access to asylum at the US-Mexico border.

Recommendations

- The US Department of State should work with international organizations and local nonprofit service providers to improve targeted dissemination of information about P4CHNV and provide support in the application process.
- The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) should raise the monthly cap on advanced travel authorizations, which is currently set at 30,000 a month; approve a greater number of advanced travel authorizations per month to ensure that 30,000 individuals arrive in the US monthly as part of P4CHNV; and allocate a percentage of slots to vulnerable individuals who are referred by international organizations and local NGO partners.

- The Department of State and DHS should work to provide vulnerable individuals with alternative travel documents or the US government should eliminate the passport requirement altogether for P4CHNV.
- The Biden administration should work with the initiative [Welcome.US](#) to increase the number of US-based sponsors registered via [Welcome Connect](#), a platform that connects potential beneficiaries with sponsors.

Conclusion

As the Biden administration expands its regional approach toward migration and protection and creates new pathways to migration, P4CHNV offers valuable lessons on what is needed to create accessible and meaningful pathways. Crucially, any regional pathway must supplement—but not replace—access to asylum at the US-Mexico border.

Read the [policy brief](#).

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Women's Refugee Commission

The Women's Refugee Commission (WRC) improves the lives and protects the rights of women, children, and youth who have been displaced by conflict and crisis. We research their needs, identify solutions, and advocate for programs and policies to strengthen their resilience and drive change in humanitarian practice. Since our founding in 1989, we have been a leading expert on the needs of refugee women, children, and youth and the policies that can protect and empower them. womensrefugeecommission.org.

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