

## MIGRANT BUS ARRIVALS IN GLEN ELLYN

Frequently Asked Questions – Updated 2/13/2024

**1. Is the Village of Glen Ellyn monitoring activity related to migrant bus arrivals in Glen Ellyn and surrounding communities?**

Yes. The Village and Police Department are monitoring these bus arrivals to stay informed about the situation. We are also communicating with surrounding municipalities, public safety agencies, the DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (OHSEM), and the Illinois Department of Human Services.

**2. Have there been migrant bus arrivals within Glen Ellyn?**

Yes, to date there have been 12 migrant bus arrivals to the Glen Ellyn train station, although two buses did not drop off passengers and instead drove off to another location. Glen Ellyn police officers have been present to ensure the safety and security of all passengers and residents. All but a handful of the bus passengers boarded trains to Chicago, with the remaining few passengers being picked up by friends or family.

**3. How many migrant buses have arrived in the area, and where do they drop off passengers?**

To date, more than 75 migrant buses have dropped off passengers at local Metra stations in DuPage County. In each case, a “representative” facilitates the purchase of train tickets for passengers to travel to their intended destination, which is the City of Chicago. With the assistance of DuPage OHSEM, contact is made with Metra and City of Chicago to coordinate for passenger safety.

**4. Is the City of Chicago still accepting asylum seekers?**

Yes. The City of Chicago is coordinating with County and State emergency management officials to accept passengers at Chicago's designated "landing zone," the only designated location in the State of Illinois for asylum seekers.

## **5. How can residents help or donate?**

Residents interested in supporting asylum seekers by donating food, clothing, or small household items are encouraged to visit the City of Chicago's website at <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/texas-new-arrivals/home/donations.html>.

Food and clothing donations should not be taken to the train station as we have been advised that the bus passengers should not be taking on additional belongings and that their needs will be met when they reach the "landing station" in Chicago.

## **6. Is the Village of Glen Ellyn planning any further action regulating migrant bus arrivals?**

The Village has no plans at this time to enact any restrictions on the ability of migrants and their families to pass through the Village. Our primary concern is for the health and safety of our residents and anyone, including migrants and their families, who visit our community. The Village will continue working closely with public safety staff and social service organizations to provide support.

## **7. Where can I obtain more information on this matter?**

For more information or any updates, please check the Village website. Information is also available on Chicago's landing zone and shelter site for asylum-seekers.

## **8. Did the Village apply for funding to support migrants?**

On January 16, 2024, the State announced \$11 million in grant funding through the Supporting Municipalities for Asylum Seeker Services (SMASS) program. This funding was intended for municipalities providing eligible services to asylum-seekers already living in their communities, or those having prepared plans to provide those services in the near future. These services include shelter and transitional housing, food, wraparound services, legal assistance, and health and wellness. The deadline to submit a Request for Information, including detailed information such as proposed services, estimated number of asylum seekers to be supported, and other specifics was January 31, 2024. The Village determined that it is not technically eligible and did not apply for any state grant funds. While the Village has been a destination for immigrant families in the past, the Village has not actively funded those efforts.