



Family Immigration Principles

The following principles and policies should be embodied in comprehensive immigration reform legislation:

- **Backlog reduction:** Existing family backlogs must be systematically and quickly reviewed, resolved and processed to reinforce the incentive to immigrate legally.
- **Family preference categories must be retained at adequate levels:** Sufficient future visas must be allocated to allow family members to unite within a reasonable period of time. Failure to address this problem will lead to renewed backlogs which once again will lead to illegal immigration and visa overstays.
- **Allocation of unused visas:** Annual unused and unclaimed family-based and employment-based visas should be recaptured, and a mechanism provided to ensure that future unused visas are not wasted.
- **Assure family unity for lawful permanent resident spouses and minor children:** Reclassify spouses and minor children of lawful permanent residents as immediate relatives to ensure that these individuals are reunited as quickly as possible.
- **Humanitarian consideration for families:** Increase the flexibility in federal immigration laws to address hardships that would be caused by removing a parent, son or daughter who is either a U.S. citizen or green card holder. Authorize discretion to waive bars to admission for individuals who qualify for a family-based or employment-based visa petition or if denying their admission to the United States would cause hardship to their U.S. citizen or lawful green card holder spouse, son or daughter. Provide due relief for surviving spouses, stepchildren of U.S. citizens and children of certain Filipino World War II veterans.
- **Point-based systems:** Family immigration migrants are often highly disadvantaged by any sort of point system. The Family Coalition recommends that point systems not be utilized in order to determine eligibility for visas.

