

1 **2023 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **NYSAC Board of Directors**
3 **Resolution #2**

4
5 **Resolution Urging the Federal Government and State of New York to**
6 **Provide Immediate Assistance to Local Governments to Address the**
7 **Migrant Crisis**

8 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) recognizes that the
9 issue of immigration falls under the primary jurisdiction of the federal government,
10 which is responsible for crafting and implementing immigration policies that govern the
11 entry and residency of individuals into the United States; and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, addressing immigration-related issues requires comprehensive federal
14 solutions that consider the complexities of immigration, border security, and the rights
15 and well-being of individuals and families; and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, the ongoing global migrant crisis has led to an increased number of
18 migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers arriving in New York State, and particularly in
19 New York City, presenting unprecedented challenges for local governments; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, New York State's counties are already grappling with significant capacity
22 problems, including a homelessness and affordability crisis that affects communities
23 across the state; and

24
25 **WHEREAS**, the influx of migrants into New York State has the potential to further
26 exacerbate the existing homelessness crisis, placing additional stress on already
27 overburdened local governments, many of which already house migrants from countries
28 around the world; and

29
30 **WHEREAS**, since the spring of 2022, over 100,000 migrants have arrived in New York
31 State, and thousands more arrive each week; and

32
33 **WHEREAS**, counties and municipalities across the state have faced significant
34 challenges in providing essential services, shelter, and support to migrants due to
35 increased numbers, strained resources, and a lack of infrastructure; and

36
37 **WHEREAS**, NYSAC recognizes that the current situation is unsustainable and requires
38 cooperation between the federal, state, and local governments to effectively address the
39 consequences of migration on New York State's communities; and

40
41 **WHEREAS**, on May 9, 2023, Governor Hochul issued an Executive Order recognizing
42 that “the arrival of increased numbers of migrants seeking shelter in the City and State
43 of New York is expected to exacerbate an already large-scale humanitarian crisis and
44 create a disaster emergency to which local governments are unable to adequately
45 respond, creating a threat to health and safety, which could result in the loss of life or
46 property”; and

1
2 **WHEREAS**, the City of New York, in particular, has provided substantial humanitarian
3 assistance, shelter, and care to the arriving migrants; and

4
5 **WHEREAS**, the cost of housing and services the City has provided was approximately
6 \$40 million (adjusted for inflation) in 1981 and has now ballooned to \$4 billion per year,
7 an unsustainable amount for New York City to manage without heavily impacting the
8 delivery of other essential services; and

9
10 **WHEREAS**, the State of New York has tried to alleviate some of the overflow of
11 migrant services by making State-owned properties available to house migrants,
12 deploying the National Guard, and committing \$1.5 billion in financial assistance; and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, this aid, while appreciated, falls woefully short of the \$12 billion cost that
15 New York City projects will be necessary to support arriving asylum seekers and
16 migrants absent additional state and federal support; and

17
18 **WHEREAS**, immigration and asylee policies are federal responsibilities, and local
19 governments cannot be expected to shoulder the costs of the migrant crisis without any
20 capacity or responsibility to manage the nation's borders; and

21
22 **WHEREAS**, additional financial and logistical support from both the federal
23 government and State of New York are critical to ensure the City of New York and other
24 local governments can respond to the migrant crisis in a sustainable, compassionate,
25 and dignified manner.

26
27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
28 Counties (NYSAC) demands the State of New York and the federal government provide
29 immediate financial, logistical, and resource assistance to counties and municipalities,
30 specifically New York City, to assist in responding to the migrant crisis; and

31
32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the federal government expedite work
33 authorizations to enable asylum seekers and migrants to resettle in communities more
34 quickly and reduce the need for future shelter and financial assistance; and

35
36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties
37 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

38
39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
40 President Joseph Biden, Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York Congressional
41 Delegation, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed necessary and
42 proper.