

MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER'S

# SITUATIONAL UPDATE

## MIGRANT SUPPORT

Thursday, September 8, 2022



# Background

Migrants, from a range of nations, **surrender to U.S. immigration officials** at the southern border.



Once migrants are **cleared** through a federal immigration inspection, they are **released on humanitarian parole** status with a date to appear in immigration court.



After being released to community organizations, some migrants are **being offered a free ride to Washington, DC**, paid for by State of Texas and the State of Arizona.

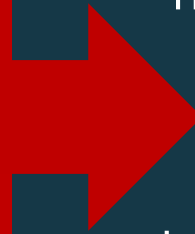


Some people take the free ride because their destination is along the way, some because it gets them closer to their final destination, and some because they have nowhere else to go while they await their court date.

**Our experience thus far is that the vast majority of people move onward.**

# Background

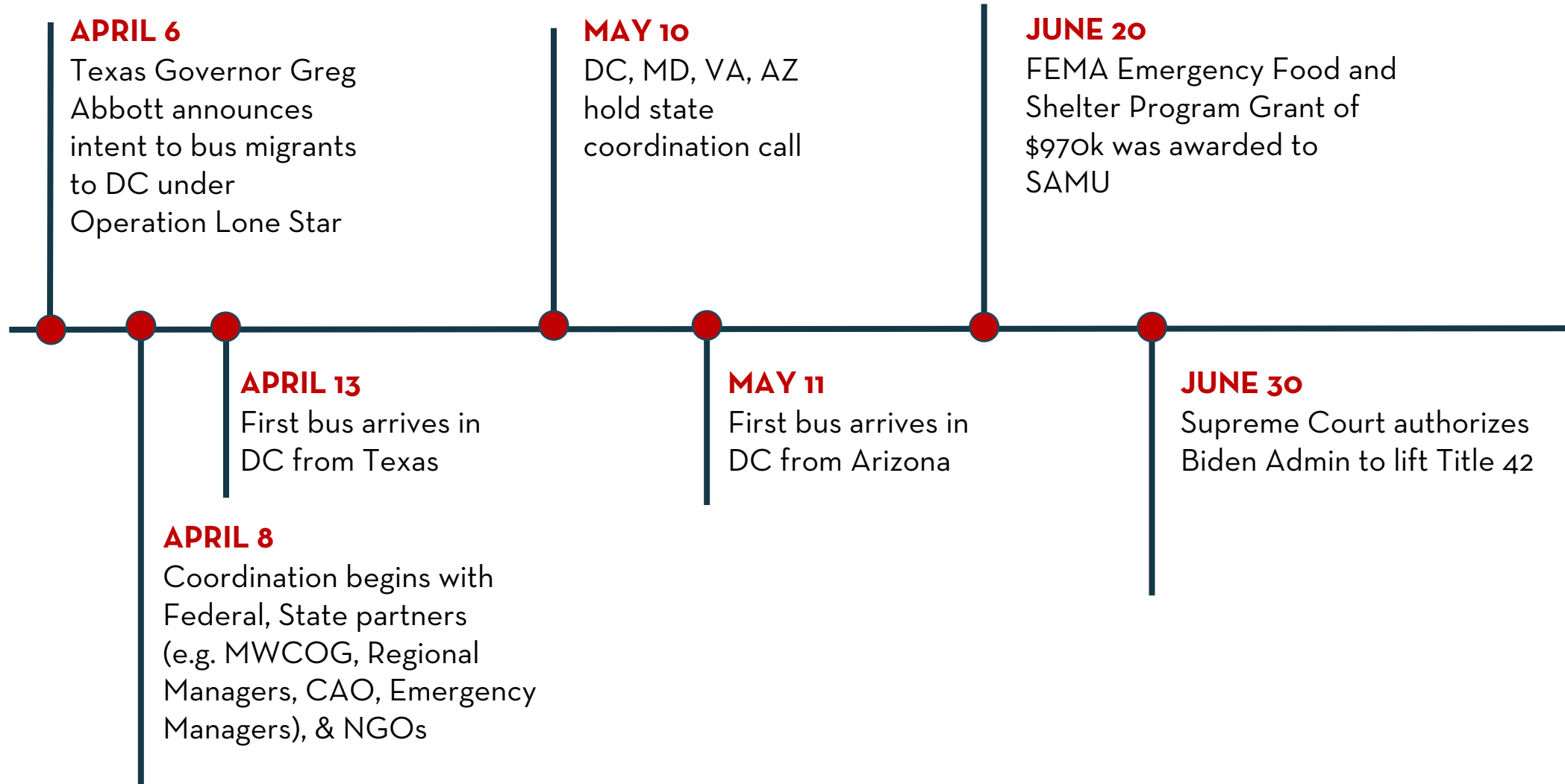
**HOW MANY PEOPLE  
HAVE COME TO DC?**



Texas and Arizona  
have reported to the media that approximately  
**9,400 people**  
have been bused to Washington, DC since April.

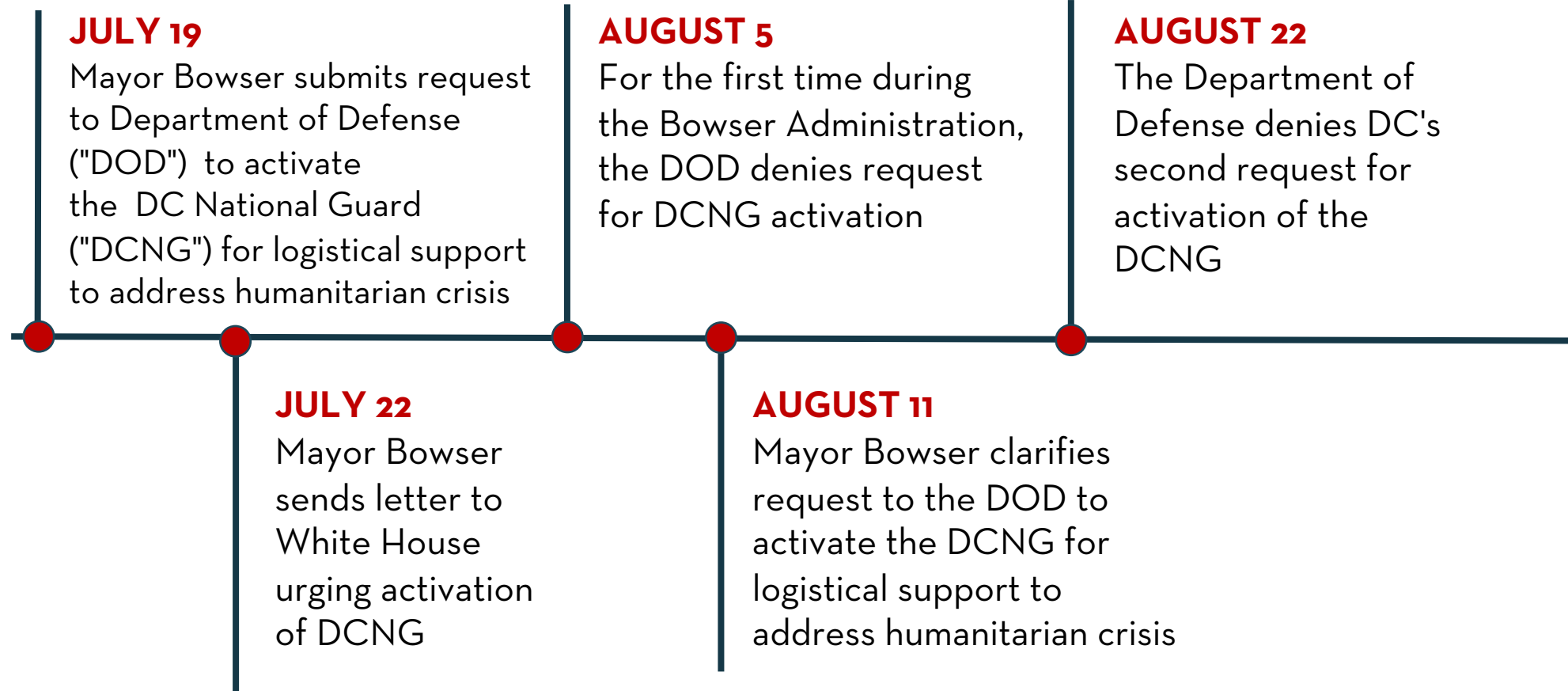
**Most people move on to a final  
destination outside of Washington, DC.**

# April-June Timeline



September 8, 2022

# July-August Timeline



**SAMU has been the lead entity** and took the lead on applying for FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program Grant. Other NGOs such as Catholic Charities and CARECEN have stepped up to support SAMU's efforts.

# Next Steps

**Texas and Arizona have both pledged to continue—and even expand—the busing operations indefinitely.**

**The District is putting in place a framework that will allow us to:**

- Meet all buses. And, given that most people move on, **facilitate onward travel**.
- Triage the needs of people arriving in DC as we attend to their basic needs.
- Set up a system, distinct from the homeless services system, that is tailored to the needs of migrants and ensures our response to this humanitarian crisis is consistent and well-coordinated.





- We are proud of the progress we have made in building a homeless services system that better targets and meets the needs of residents experiencing homelessness and we remain committed to making homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring.
- **The District's homeless services system is not set up to support the unique needs of migrants and our community-based homeless service providers are not staffed to support the needs of migrants.**
- **A new system is needed** so that our homeless services system can continue to function in support of DC residents and so that we can properly respond to the ongoing humanitarian crisis and provide a humane assistance to migrants.



# New: Office of Migrant Services

## **The Office of Migrant Services**

will provide support with reception, respite, meals, temporary accommodations, urgent medical needs, transportation, connection to resettlement services, translation services, and other needs as they are determined.

**The District is allocating an initial \$10 million to stand up the new office and support organizations working in the field, and we will seek reimbursement from the federal government.**

# Declaration of Public Emergency

- Establishes a Migrant Services Office within the Department of Human Services (DHS) and directs the Director of DHS to provide temporary services and supports to migrants arriving from the southern border states.
- Authorizes the City Administrator and Chief Financial Officer to set aside and spend funds to respond to the emergency.
- Authorizes the Chief Procurement Officer to enter into emergency procurements outside the Procurement Practices Reform Act to respond to the emergency.
- Authorizes the City Administrator and agency directors to establish new programs and expand or modify existing programs in response to the emergency.

The Mayor will also send emergency legislation to the Council that codifies new migrant services provision.

# Federal Support

**In addition to Congress passing comprehensive immigration reform, the federal government can support cities and states by:**

- Providing space in Union Station for a welcome center
  - Supporting digital tools and cross jurisdictional data collection/sharing
  - Increasing federal law enforcement efforts around human trafficking and victim assistance
- Reducing the barriers and timeframe for migrants seeking asylum to receive a work permit
  - Providing more flexibility for the FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)
  - Reimbursing additional costs such as schooling, uniforms, ongoing non-urgent healthcare, etc.
  - Directing federal assistance to migrant families (individual assistance)
  - Directing federal fiscal aid to impacted cities/states supporting this humanitarian crisis