

RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Post Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the Office of Public Records in 144 Hart Building. This form is a public disclosure. The form and all attachments will be made publicly available.

Date/Time Stamp

Certification: *In compliance with the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel, Senate Rule 35, and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, I certify that I accepted the following gift of privately sponsored travel:*

Private Sponsor(s):

Alianza Americas

Travel Dates:

Monday, September 22 to Friday, September 27, 2025

Name of accompanying family member (if any):**Relationship to Traveler:****Total Expenses**

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
\$1,060.00	\$763.00	\$340.00	

I also certify that attached to this form are all required documents for post travel disclosure, including:

- The final Employee Pre-Travel Authorization (Form RE-1)
- The final Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form with all attachments
- The final invitation
- The final approved itinerary

Finally, I certify that all trip information reflected in the attachments above accurately reflects the travel that I accepted. If there were any changes to the trip after I received approval from the Committee, the changes are described in ATTACHMENT 1.

11/5/25

Date

Stacey Berdejo

Printed Name of Traveler



Signature of Traveler

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the Employee Pre-Travel Authorization form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

11/5/25

Date



Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA, CHAIRMAN
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, DELAWARE, VICE CHAIRMAN

JAMES E. RISCH, IDAHO
DEB FISCHER, NEBRASKA

BRIAN SCHATZ, HAWAII
JEANNE SHAHEEN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

SHANNON HAMILTON KOPPLER, CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR
WILLIAM B. CABLE, CHIEF CLERK

HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 220
SECOND AND CONSTITUTION AVENUE, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6425

TELEPHONE: (202) 224-2981
FACSIMILE: (202) 224-7416

United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

September 18, 2025

Stacey Berdejo
Office of Senator Tammy Duckworth
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ms. Berdejo:

This responds to your recent correspondence requesting approval from the Select Committee on Ethics (the Committee) to accept an invitation you received to travel on an educational trip to El Paso, Texas, and Mexico City, Mexico, on September 22–27, 2025, sponsored by Alianza Americas. Provided that you adhere to the guidance set forth below, it appears that it is permissible for you to accept necessary expenses from Alianza Americas in connection with this trip.

Background

Based on your communication with the Committee, the background in this matter is as follows.¹ You are employed as the Chicago Director in the Office of Senator Tammy Duckworth. Alianza Americas invited you to travel on an educational trip to El Paso, Texas, and Mexico City, Mexico, on September 22–27, 2025. Alianza Americas certified to the Committee that it will pay the necessary expenses² related to the travel and that it is neither a lobbyist, lobbying firm, agent of a foreign principal, or otherwise acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government. Alianza Americas has also certified that it does not retain or employ a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal and that no registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal will accompany you at any point throughout your trip.³

Discussion

Privately sponsored travel includes any gift of travel and travel-related expenses for travel outside the Senate duty station, including transportation, lodging, food and refreshments, and conference fees and materials, whether paid for directly, reimbursed, or provided directly, from a private individual or entity, in connection with a Member's, officer's, or employee's

¹ If this letter does not correctly recite the facts, contact the Committee immediately.

² The term "necessary expenses" has a specific definition. *See Select Committee on Ethics Regulations and Guidelines for Privately Sponsored Travel* at 10-13.

³ The term "any point throughout your trip" has a specific definition. *See Select Committee on Ethics Regulations and Guidelines for Privately Sponsored Travel* at 15.

official Senate duties. Incorporating reforms from the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007 (HLOGA), Pub. L. 110-81 (2007), Senate Rule 35.2 permits Members, officers, and employees to accept privately sponsored travel only with the prior written approval of the Committee.

The Committee's approval process is governed by the *Regulations and Guidelines for Privately Sponsored Travel (Travel Regulations)*. The *Travel Regulations* contain detailed requirements regarding who may sponsor travel; time limits for trips; and the type and amount of expenses that can be reimbursed.

Entities that do not retain or employ a lobbyist or foreign agent and all non-profit organizations designated as tax-exempt organizations under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, regardless of whether they retain or employ a lobbyist or foreign agent, may sponsor foreign trips for up to seven days. The seven-day limitation means seven 24-hour periods, calculated from the time of arrival in the trip location to the time of departure from the trip location. For such trips, neither lobbyists nor foreign agents may accompany a Senate invitee at any point throughout the trip, other than in a *de minimis* way.⁴ This means that neither lobbyists nor foreign agents may accompany Senate invitees at any point to and from the event, at the event itself, or at the location being visited.⁵

The Committee has determined that § 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that are classified as private foundations, as opposed to public charities, may not pay for transportation from the United States to a foreign country.⁶ However, Alianza Americas represented to the Committee that it is a § 501(c)(3) public charity, as opposed to a private foundation, pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code.⁷

Under Senate Rule 35, Senate staff must receive advance authorization signed by the Member or officer under whose direct supervision the individual works in order to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary expenses related to fact-finding travel. Further, such authorization and expenses must be disclosed to the Secretary of the Senate by filing the completed *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* and the *Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses* (Form RE-1 and Form RE-2), along with a copy of the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form*, and all relevant attachments (e.g., the private sponsor's invitation and itinerary) **within 30 days of the conclusion of Privately Sponsored Travel.**

⁴ The term "*de minimis*" has a specific definition. See *Select Committee on Ethics Regulations and Guidelines for Privately Sponsored Travel* at 6-8.

⁵ See *Select Committee on Ethics Regulations and Guidelines for Privately Sponsored Travel* at 6-10.

⁶ See 26 U.S.C. § 4941 et seq. Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code broadly defines non-profit, charitable, tax-exempt organizations. These § 501(c)(3) organizations are then further defined or designated as "public charities" and "private foundations."

⁷ 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3).

Consistent with these standards and Committee precedent, and Alianza Americas's factual representations, it appears that it is permissible for you to accept necessary expenses from Alianza Americas in connection with this trip, provided that the actual travel and travel-related expenses conform to the information and materials you provided, and the travel and all required documents are disclosed to the Secretary of the Senate (Office of Public Records).

Please be advised that the United States Constitution prohibits the acceptance of any gift, including a meal, from a foreign government without the consent of Congress. In the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), Congress consented to the acceptance by federal government officials of: (1) gifts of minimal value and (2) travel or the expenses for travel taking place entirely outside the United States, from a foreign government (which includes those acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government).⁸ The Senate has defined minimal value as \$100 or less. Further, pursuant to FGDA, there are certain reporting and procedural requirements that are imposed upon Members, officers, and employees who accept gifts from a foreign government. Please review the Committee's "Dear Colleague" letter of January 11, 2019, setting forth the items to be included in filing that report.

Finally, Senate Rule 34 requires a reporting individual,⁹ on their financial disclosure report, to make an annual disclosure of the receipt of payments or reimbursements under Senate Rule 35 from a private sponsor for officially-related travel expenses where, in the aggregate, travel expenses exceed \$480 from that sponsor during a calendar year. However, if a Member, officer, or employee properly reports the receipt of necessary expenses for such travel to the Secretary of the Senate within 30 days of the travel, as discussed above, the travel expenses need not be disclosed a second time on their financial disclosure report.

I hope you find this information helpful. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Committee.

Sincerely,



Shannon Hamilton Kopplin
Chief Counsel and Staff Director

Enclosure: Employee Privately Sponsored Travel Checklist

⁸ 5 U.S.C. § 7342.

⁹ A reporting individual is someone whose salary equals or exceeds 120% of the basic rate of pay for GS-15 (\$150,160 for CY 2025) or is a political fund designee and is required to file financial disclosure reports.

Trip schedule of activities:

Trip dates: Monday, September 22, 2025 - Saturday, September 27, 2025

**Monday, Sep.
22:**

7:00 AM - 8:40 AM: Chicago to Denver

10:05 AM – 11:55 AM: Denver to El Paso

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM: Travel to Hotel Indigo in El Paso, 325 N. Kansas St. El Paso, TX

1:00 PM to 2:00 PM: Lunch (TBD)

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM: Visit to Annunciation House, 815 Myrtle Ave., El Paso, TX. Speakers: TBD

- Annunciation House in El Paso is a faith-based nonprofit that has provided shelter, food, and support to migrants, refugees, and the homeless along the U.S.–Mexico border for more than 40 years. It serves as a key humanitarian response center, welcoming people in crisis with dignity and compassion. We will discuss the humanitarian challenges and lessons from providing direct shelter and support to migrants. We will also discuss the changing US immigration on border communities and migrant well-being.

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM travel to Las Americas 1500 E. Yandell Dr., El Paso, TX

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM Meeting with Las Americas

- Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center in El Paso is a nonprofit law firm that has provided free and low-cost legal services to immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers for over 30 years. It focuses on defending the rights of vulnerable migrants through direct representation, advocacy, and education. We will discuss challenges and trends in asylum and immigration cases at the border and the role of legal advocacy.

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM travel to Hope Border Institute

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM Meeting with Hope Border Institute

- The Hope Border Institute (HOPE) in El Paso is a grassroots Catholic social justice organization that works at the U.S.–Mexico border to bring together research, advocacy, and action on issues impacting migrants and border communities. It bridges faith, policy, and community organizing to advance human dignity and structural change. We will continue learning about the challenges border communities face, and how changes to US border policy, asylum programs, and other immigration changes have impacted border towns.

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM Travel to hotel Indigo for dinner and rest time

**Tuesday,
Sep. 23:**

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM: Breakfast

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM: Field observation- Cross by foot into Juarez City to observe the reception process of deported persons. Once in Ciudad Juárez, the delegation will observe the reception process for deported migrants at the border crossing.

10:30 AM – 1:30 PM Visit to Center for Integral Attention to Migrants (Centro de Atención Integral para Migrantes - CAIM). CAIM is a government-run facility that provides temporary shelter, humanitarian aid, and services to migrants and asylum seekers at the border. It coordinates housing, food, medical care, and support to help manage large migration flows in the region.

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM Group lunch and break

3:30 PM – 5:30 PM Meeting with Derechos Humanos Integrales en Acción (DHIA) in Ciudad Juárez is a civil society organization dedicated to defending and promoting human rights, with a focus on migrants, women, and marginalized communities. It provides legal assistance, accompaniment, and advocacy to protect people from abuses, particularly in the context of migration and border enforcement.

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM Group dinner and travel to airport

7:00 PM – 10:00 PM Flight to Mexico City

**Wednesday,
Sep. 24:**

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM: Group breakfast

9:00 AM- 10:00 AM Travel to meeting

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM Visit to migrant shelter CAFEMIN, Florencio Constantino 251, Vallejo, Gustavo A. Madero, 07870 Ciudad de Mexico. CAFEMIN is network of migrant and refugee shelters in Mexico run by Sister Magdalena. We will visit the shelter to learn more about migrants traveling in Mexico, Mexico's immigration policy, and how U.S. policy has impacted migrants and refugees in Mexico. Here we will hear from shelter staff about the realities migrant children, women, and families are facing. How migration patterns have changed, and the relationship between Mexican authorities and shelters.

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM Travel to next meeting

12:30 PM – 2:30 PM Meeting with Otros Dream en Acción

- Location: Tonalá, 194-int C. Roma Nte, Cuauhtémoc, 06700 Ciudad de Mexico

Otros Dream en Acción (ODA) is a nonprofit organization providing support to people forced to return or who have been deported from the U.S. ODA advocates for the rights of deported and returned persons and Mexico and creates resources to help welcome this population and advocate for better state support. We hear from persons who have been deported or forced to return. ODA will share what resources currently exist, and what people at risk of deportation or forced return in the US need to know to prepare.

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Lunch meeting with Elba Coria Márquez

Elba Coria Marquez is Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) Director of Advocacy in Mexico. She is a lawyer and human rights defender. We will meet with Elba to discuss KIND's work to promote best interest determinations and legal assistance and defense of children and adolescents in Mexico.

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Break and travel to next meeting

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM Meeting with Doctors without Borders

- Location: Fernando Montes de Oca 56, Colonia Condesa, Cuauhtémoc, 06140 Ciudad de México

Doctors without Borders provides medical and psychological care to vulnerable groups, including migrants, refugees, survivors of violence, and communities affected by humanitarian crises. Their teams operate along migration routes, at the northern and southern borders, and in marginalized urban areas to ensure access to health and dignity where systems fall short. We will hear from some of their staff about the challenges faced by migrants and the innovative responses being developed across sectors.

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM Group Dinner

**Thursday,
Sep. 25:**

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM Breakfast and travel to meeting

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM Visit to Alaíde Foppa Legal Clinic for Refugees

- Location: Alaíde Foppa (Prolongación Paseo de la Reforma #880, Colonia Lomas de Santa Fe C.P.01219, Álvaro Obregón, Ciudad de México) Puerta 6

The Legal Clinic for Refugees in Mexico City provides free legal advice, representation, and support to asylum seekers and refugees navigating Mexico's complex immigration and asylum system. It focuses on ensuring access to justice, protecting human rights, and guiding individuals through the legal processes needed to secure protection. We will learn about the legal immigration system in Mexico and how this impacts deported or returned persons.

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM Travel to next meeting

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM Discussion with Claudia Masferrer on deported and returned persons.

Claudia Masferrer is a Mexican sociologist and demographer specializing in migration studies. She serves as an Associate Professor at the Centre for Demographic, Urban, and Environmental Studies (CEDUA) at El Colegio de México (Colmex), where she also coordinates the Migration, Inequality, and Public Policy seminar. Her research focuses on internal and international migration, immigrant integration, family dynamics, and the role of policy in mediating these processes.

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM Lunch meeting with Luciana Gandini, PhD. Coordinator of the University Seminar on internal Displacement, Migration, Exile, and Repatriation (SUDIMER), UNAM.

Dr. Luciana Gandini is a Senior Researcher at the Institute of Legal Research (IIJ) at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), specializing in the sociology of law. She serves as the Coordinator of the University Seminar on Internal Displacement, Migration, Exile, and Repatriation (SUDIMER), a multidisciplinary platform that promotes research and dialogue on human mobility issues. Dr. Gandini's expertise encompasses migration and refugee policies in Latin America, labor and socio-legal integration of migrants, and the dynamics of forced migration, including the Venezuelan exodus and Central American caravans. We will learn about Central American persons living in exile in Mexico.

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM break

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM Discussion on exiled Central American migrants with Casa Centroamérica

Casa Centroamerica is a civil society organization supportin Central American migrants that have arrived or have been exiled from Central America.

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM Group Dinner. We will have a debrief and reflection exercise to discuss things we learned and ways it can

**Friday,
Sep. 26:**

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Sin Fronteras IAP, Carlos Dolci 96, Alfonso XIII, Álvaro Obregón, 01460 Ciudad de México

Sin Fronteras IAP is a civil society organization based in Mexico City that provides legal, social, and humanitarian support to migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. They focus on protecting human rights, promoting integration, and advocating for policies that ensure the safety and dignity of displaced populations.

11:30 PM – 12:30 PM Racismo MX (Plaza Necaxa 18, interior 1C. Colonia Cuauhtemoc.

Racismo MX is a Mexico City–based organization dedicated to combating racism and promoting racial equity in Mexico. They work through research, education, advocacy, and public campaigns to raise awareness and address structural discrimination.

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM Meeting with Salvadoran journalist **Bryan Avelar**. Bryan Avelar is a Salvadoran journalist now living in exile in Mexico City known for his in-depth reporting on violence, migration, and organized crime across Central America. He has contributed to major outlets such as *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *El País*, and *VICE*, and has received multiple accolades, including the Ortega y Gasset Award for Best Reporting in 2024 for his investigative work on the Moskitia region in Honduras. We will continue learning about Central American migration in Mexico and root causes of exile and migraiton from these countries.

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM Closing group lunch to debrief the week. We will have Andrea Villasenor from Hispanics in Philanthropy join us to share her closing reflections and recommendations with the group on ways the information and education they received can inform their work in the U.S.

After 5:00 PM participants will have the afternoon free to explore Mexico City on their own and have dinner on their own as well with a per diem.

**Saturday,
Sep. 27:**

Return to Chicago.

8:00 AM Breakfast on your own with per diem

10:00 AM Travel to airport and lunch at airport on per diem

2:00 PM Flight from Mexico City to Chicago

7:10 PM Arrive in Chicago

Stacey Beredejo, Regional Director, Senator Tammy Duckworth's Office

No other Congressional staff or members of Congress will participate on this trip.

RE-1 Employee Pre-Travel Authorization

Date/Time Stamp

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics in SH-220**. Incomplete and late travel submissions will not be considered or approved.

Name of Traveler:

Stacey Berdejo

Employing Office/Committee:

Office of Senator Tammy Duckworth

Private Sponsor(s):

Alianza Americas

Destination(s):El Paso, USA
Mexico City, Mexico**Travel Dates:****Monday, September 22 to Friday, September 27, 2025****NOTE:** If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you must notify the Committee.**Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties.**

Mexican nationals are the largest population of foreign born individuals in Chicago. The most casework we get in the Chicago office, is Immigration casework. This educational trip with leaders working on border, deportation, and reception issues will help better inform staff of the deportation process and root causes of migration from Mexico.

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip?**Name and Relationship to Traveler:**☐

(signify "yes" by checking box)

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Date 9/3/25

Signature of Employee

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

(President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms,
Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain)

Senator Duckworth**Stacey Berdejo**I _____ hereby authorize _____
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

(Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate.

☒

(signify "yes" by checking box)

Date 9/3/25

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer



Invitation to Educational Trip to Mexico: Exploring inclusion programs and the impact of deportations

Dear Ms. Stacey Berdejo,

On behalf of Alianza Americas, we are pleased to invite you to participate in a fellowship to Mexico taking place from **Monday, September 22 to Friday, September 27, 2025.**

Families are being separated, children are living in fear, and nonprofit organizations are being threatened for protecting our communities' rights. This moment calls for important information and education that recognizes the consequences of mass deportations on the lives of immigrants and the local communities and economies they are rooted in.

Understanding what happens after deportation is critical to inform the advocacy efforts local city, state, and federal leaders can do to support families in Illinois. Local elected officials, civic and faith leaders, and philanthropic institutions are crucial to fighting for the unity and rights of immigrant families.

This educational trip aims to:

1. Examine the root causes driving migration from Latin America.
2. Learn from Mexico's experiences in managing large-scale displacement and how the government is working to receive and support deported immigrants.
3. Explore the implications of increased U.S. deportations on migrants and mixed-status families in Illinois.

Participants will engage with civil society leaders, academics, local officials, and, where possible, migrants themselves to deepen understanding for policies that support displaced populations. This will provide you a first hand look into the devastating implications of mass deportations and ways the Illinois can continue working to make our state the most welcoming.

Please confirm your interest at your earliest convenience. Details will follow upon confirmation, and we expect to secure funding to cover all trip-related expenses.

We hope you can join us for this critical learning opportunity.

Sincerely,

Dulce Guzmán, Executive Director
Alianza Americas

RE-1 Employee Pre-Travel Authorization

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics in SH-220**. Incomplete and late travel submissions will not be considered or approved.

Date/Time Stamp

Name of Traveler:

Stacey Berdejo

Employing Office/Committee:

Office of Senator Tammy Duckworth

Private Sponsor(s):

Alianza Americas

Destination(s):

El Paso, USA

Mexico City, Mexico

Travel Dates:**Monday, September 22 to Friday, September 27, 2025****NOTE:** If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you must notify the Committee.**Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties.**

Mexican nationals are the largest population of foreign born individuals in Chicago. The most casework we get in the Chicago office, is Immigration casework. This educational trip with leaders working on border, deportation, and reception issues will help better inform staff of the deportation process and root causes of migration from Mexico.

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip?**Name and Relationship to Traveler:**☐

(signify "yes" by checking box)

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Date 9/3/25

Signature of Employee

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

(President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms,
Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain)

Senator Duckworth

hereby authorize

Stacey Berdejo

(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

(Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate.

☒

(signify "yes" by checking box)

Date 9/3/25

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer



Invitation to Educational Trip to Mexico: Exploring inclusion programs and the impact of deportations

Dear Ms. Stacey Berdejo,

On behalf of Alianza Americas, we are pleased to invite you to participate in a fellowship to Mexico taking place from **Monday, September 22 to Friday, September 27, 2025.**

Families are being separated, children are living in fear, and nonprofit organizations are being threatened for protecting our communities' rights. This moment calls for important information and education that recognizes the consequences of mass deportations on the lives of immigrants and the local communities and economies they are rooted in.

Understanding what happens after deportation is critical to inform the advocacy efforts local city, state, and federal leaders can do to support families in Illinois. Local elected officials, civic and faith leaders, and philanthropic institutions are crucial to fighting for the unity and rights of immigrant families.

This educational trip aims to:

1. Examine the root causes driving migration from Latin America.
2. Learn from Mexico's experiences in managing large-scale displacement and how the government is working to receive and support deported immigrants.
3. Explore the implications of increased U.S. deportations on migrants and mixed-status families in Illinois.

Participants will engage with civil society leaders, academics, local officials, and, where possible, migrants themselves to deepen understanding for policies that support displaced populations. This will provide you a first hand look into the devastating implications of mass deportations and ways the Illinois can continue working to make our state the most welcoming.

Please confirm your interest at your earliest convenience. Details will follow upon confirmation, and we expect to secure funding to cover all trip-related expenses.

We hope you can join us for this critical learning opportunity.

Sincerely,

Dulce Guzmán, Executive Director
Alianza Americas

Alianza Americas: Educational Trip to Mexico: Exploring inclusion programs and the impact of deportations

STACEY BERDEJO

Title:

None

Employing Office/Committee:

DUCKWORTH, TAMMY

Duty Station:

CHICAGO,IL

Destination(s):

El Paso, Texas, USA

Mexico City, Mexico

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:

Mexican nationals are the largest population of foreign-born individuals in Chicago. The most casework we get in the Chicago office, is Immigration casework. This educational trip with leaders working on border, deportation, and reception issues will help better inform staff of the deportation process and root causes of migration from Mexico.

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Not Entered

Name and Relationship to Traveler:

None

Organization Information

Organization Name

Alianza Americas

Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?

Yes

No

§501(c)(3) Organization Type

Public Charity

Address

111 W. Jackson St. Suite 17

Address 2 (Optional)

None

City, State Zip

Chicago, Illinois 60604 United States

Phone Number

2244807094

Organization URL

History of Congressional Travel

Alianza Americas has not sponsored congressional travel.

Educational Activities

Alianza Americas conducts webinars and informational speaking tours to educate on the root causes of migration and issues impacting immigrants of Latin American origin. Additionally, we create informational sheets and graphics to support our educational activities.

Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

Lobbyist Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist and do not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyist.*

Foreign Agent Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and do not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.*

Foreign Government Involvement

Foreign Agent Registration Status:

☐ I certify that the sponsor is not a foreign government.

☐ I certify that the sponsor is not an entity that is owned or operated by a foreign government.

☐ I certify that the sponsor does not receive funding from a foreign government.

Comments

None Entered

Signature Page

The signature page is below.

Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

The delegation is an educational trip that begins with a visit to El Paso, Texas to observe the deportation process and continues in Mexico City where we will meet organizations and shelters supporting the reception process of deported and returned persons. The trip will provide a first-hand educational look into the impact of deportation and how Mexico has managed mass displacement of persons arriving to Mexico.

Explain how the purpose of the trip relates to your organization's mission.

This trip helps our mission of creating a more equitable and sustainable way of life for migrants across the Americas by informing a group of decision-makers and leaders on the impact of immigration enforcement policies and how people are being received was deported to Mexico.

Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

Yes No

Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

1. Walder Foundation

With or Without Regard for Congressional Participation

The trip is arranged or organized without regard to congressional participation.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Involvement in Planning, Organizing, Requesting or Arranging

The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal, other than de minimis involvement.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Financing

The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.

No funds or in-kind contributions were earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Accompaniment

Complete if all sponsors are §501(c)(3) organizations

The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip

The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Complete if any of the sponsors is not a §501(c)(3) organizations.

The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip

The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Certification of No Recreational Activity and No Alcohol

Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for recreational activities.

Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for alcohol, except as permitted by the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel.

Invitees

Members and staff from the House of Representatives **will not** receive invitations.

The list of invitees is below.

Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:
09/22/2025 @ 08:00 AM

Trip End Date/Time:
09/27/2025 @ 08:10 PM

Will the traveler be accompanied by a family member for whom the sponsor will pay travel expenses?

Yes No

Itinerary

The itinerary is below.

Transportation (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$1,060.00 | Accompanying Family Member: \$0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	\$810.00
Note This covers the following trips at economy level: Chicago to El Paso, Texas, Ciudad Juarez to Mexico City, and Mexico City to Chicago.		
Ground Transportation	Coach	\$250.00
Note The \$250 will cover \$170 cost per person for a basic rental shuttle bus that will help us transport our group between meetings. The remaining will help cover travel costs to and from the airport.		

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$763.00)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
09/22/2025	09/23/2025	Hotel Indigo	El Paso	Texas	United States	1	\$163.00	Yes
Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason This was the best basic standard hotel we could find that kept us in close proximaty to the various meetings we will be staying at and that would allow our entire group to stay together at the same hotel.								
09/23/2025	09/27/2025	Nido Parque Hipodromo	Mexico City	None	Mexico	4	\$150.00	No

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$340.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
09/22/2025	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$65.00	El Paso	Texas	United States	No

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
09/23/2025	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$60.00	Mexico City	None	Mexico	No
09/24/2025	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$60.00	Mexico City	None	Mexico	No
09/25/2025	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$60.00	Mexico City	None	Mexico	No
09/26/2025	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$60.00	Mexico City	None	Mexico	No
09/27/2025	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35.00	Mexico City	None	Mexico	No

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$0.00)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
There are no miscellaneous expenses.		

Additional Attachments

Document Name
There are no additional attachments.

Stacey Beredejo, Regional Director, Senator Tammy Duckworth's Office

No other Congressional staff or members of Congress will participate on this trip.

Trip schedule of activities:

Trip dates: Monday, September 22, 2025 - Saturday, September 27, 2025

**Monday, Sep.
22:**

7:00 AM - 8:40 AM: Chicago to Denver

10:05 AM – 11:55 AM: Denver to El Paso

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM: Travel to Hotel Indigo in El Paso, 325 N. Kansas St. El Paso, TX

1:00 PM to 2:00 PM: Lunch (TBD)

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM: Visit to Annunciation House, 815 Myrtle Ave., El Paso, TX. Speakers: TBD

- Annunciation House in El Paso is a faith-based nonprofit that has provided shelter, food, and support to migrants, refugees, and the homeless along the U.S.–Mexico border for more than 40 years. It serves as a key humanitarian response center, welcoming people in crisis with dignity and compassion. We will discuss the humanitarian challenges and lessons from providing direct shelter and support to migrants. We will also discuss the changing US immigration on border communities and migrant well-being.

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM travel to Las Americas 1500 E. Yandell Dr., El Paso, TX

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM Meeting with Las Americas

- Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center in El Paso is a nonprofit law firm that has provided free and low-cost legal services to immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers for over 30 years. It focuses on defending the rights of vulnerable migrants through direct representation, advocacy, and education. We will discuss challenges and trends in asylum and immigration cases at the border and the role of legal advocacy.

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM travel to Hope Border Institute

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM Meeting with Hope Border Institute

- The Hope Border Institute (HOPE) in El Paso is a grassroots Catholic social justice organization that works at the U.S.–Mexico border to bring together research, advocacy, and action on issues impacting migrants and border communities. It bridges faith, policy, and community organizing to advance human dignity and structural change. We will continue learning about the challenges border communities face, and how changes to US border policy, asylum programs, and other immigration changes have impacted border towns.

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM Travel to hotel Indigo for dinner and rest time

**Tuesday,
Sep. 23:**

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM: Breakfast

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM: Field observation- Cross by foot into Juarez City to observe the reception process of deported persons. Once in Ciudad Juárez, the delegation will observe the reception process for deported migrants at the border crossing.

10:30 AM – 1:30 PM Visit to Center for Integral Attention to Migrants (Centro de Atención Integral para Migrantes - CAIM). CAIM is a government-run facility that provides temporary shelter, humanitarian aid, and services to migrants and asylum seekers at the border. It coordinates housing, food, medical care, and support to help manage large migration flows in the region.

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM Group lunch and break

3:30 PM – 5:30 PM Meeting with Derechos Humanos Integrales en Accion Derechos Humanos Integrales en Acción (DHIA) in Ciudad Juárez is a civil society organization dedicated to defending and promoting human rights, with a focus on migrants, women, and marginalized communities. It provides legal assistance, accompaniment, and advocacy to protect people from abuses, particularly in the context of migration and border enforcement.

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM Group dinner and travel to airport

7:00 PM – 10:00 PM Flight to Mexico City

**Wednesday,
Sep. 24:**

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM: Group breakfast

9:00 AM- 10:00 AM Travel to meeting

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM Visit to migrant shelter CAFEMIN, Florencio Constantino 251, Vallejo, Gustavo A. Madero, 07870 Ciudad de Mexico. CAFEMIN is network of migrant and refugee shelters in Mexico run my Sister Magdalena. We will visit the shelter to learn more about migrants traveling in Mexico, Mexico's immigration policy, and how U.S. policy has impacted migrants and refugees in Mexico. Here we will hear from shelter staff about the realities migrant children, women, and families are facing. How migration patterns have changed, and the relationship between Mexican authorities and shelters.

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM Travel to next meeting

12:30 PM – 2:30 PM Meeting with Otros Dream en Accion

- Location: Tonalá, 194-int C. Roma Nte, Cuauhtémoc, 06700 Ciudad de Mexico

Otros Dream en Accion (ODA) is a nonprofit organization providing support to people forced to return or who have been deported from the U.S. ODA advocates for the rights of deported and returned persons and Mexico and creates resources to help welcome this population and advocate for better state support. We hear from persons who have been deported or forced to return. ODA will share what resources currently exist, and what people at risk of deportation or forced return in the US need to know to prepare.

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Lunch meeting with Elba Coria Márquez

Elba Coria Marquez is Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) Director of Advocacy in Mexico. She is a lawyer and human rights defender. We will meet with Elba to discuss KIND's work to promote best interest determinations and legal assistance and defense of children and adolescents in Mexico.

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Break and travel to next meeting

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM Meeting with Doctors without Borders

- Location: Fernando Montes de Oca 56, Colonia Condesa, Cuauhtémoc, 06140 Ciudad de México

Doctors without Borders provides medical and psychological care to vulnerable groups, including migrants, refugees, survivors of violence, and communities affected by humanitarian crises. Their teams operate along migration routes, at the northern and southern borders, and in marginalized urban areas to ensure access to health and dignity where systems fall short. We will hear from some of their staff about the challenges faced by migrants and the innovative responses being developed across sectors.

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM Group Dinner

**Thursday,
Sep. 25:**

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM Breakfast and travel to meeting

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM Visit to Alaíde Foppa Legal Clinic for Refugees

- Location: Alaíde Foppa (Prolongación Paseo de la Reforma #880, Colonia Lomas de Santa Fe C.P.01219, Álvaro Obregón, Ciudad de México) Puerta 6

The Legal Clinic for Refugees in Mexico City provides free legal advice, representation, and support to asylum seekers and refugees navigating Mexico's complex immigration and asylum system. It focuses on ensuring access to justice, protecting human rights, and guiding individuals through the legal processes needed to secure protection. We will learn about the legal immigration system in Mexico and how this impacts deported or returned persons.

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM Travel to next meeting

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM Discussion with Claudia Masferrer on deported and returned persons.

Claudia Masferrer is a Mexican sociologist and demographer specializing in migration studies. She serves as an Associate Professor at the Centre for Demographic, Urban, and Environmental Studies (CEDUA) at El Colegio de México (Colmex), where she also coordinates the Migration, Inequality, and Public Policy seminar. Her research focuses on internal and international migration, immigrant integration, family dynamics, and the role of policy in mediating these processes.

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM Lunch meeting with Luciana Gandini, PhD. Coordinator of the University Seminar on internal Displacement, Migration, Exile, and Repatriation (SUDIMER), UNAM.

Dr. Luciana Gandini is a Senior Researcher at the Institute of Legal Research (IIJ) at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), specializing in the sociology of law. She serves as the Coordinator of the University Seminar on Internal Displacement, Migration, Exile, and Repatriation (SUDIMER), a multidisciplinary platform that promotes research and dialogue on human mobility issues. Dr. Gandini's expertise encompasses migration and refugee policies in Latin America, labor and socio-legal integration of migrants, and the dynamics of forced migration, including the Venezuelan exodus and Central American caravans. We will learn about Central American persons living in exile in Mexico.

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM break

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM Discussion on exiled Central American migrants with Casa Centroamérica

Casa Centroamerica is a civil society organization supportin Central American migrants that have arrived or have been exiled from Central America.

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM Group Dinner. We will have a debrief and reflection exercise to discuss things we learned and ways it can

**Friday,
Sep. 26:**

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Sin Fronteras IAP, Carlos Dolci 96, Alfonso XIII, Álvaro Obregón, 01460 Ciudad de México

Sin Fronteras IAP is a civil society organization based in Mexico City that provides legal, social, and humanitarian support to migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. They focus on protecting human rights, promoting integration, and advocating for policies that ensure the safety and dignity of displaced populations.

11:30 PM – 12:30 PM Racismo MX (Plaza Necaxa 18, interior 1C. Colonia Cuauhtemoc.

Racismo MX is a Mexico City–based organization dedicated to combating racism and promoting racial equity in Mexico. They work through research, education, advocacy, and public campaigns to raise awareness and address structural discrimination.

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM Meeting with Salvadoran journalist **Bryan Avelar**. Bryan Avelar is a Salvadoran journalist now living in exile in Mexico City known for his in-depth reporting on violence, migration, and organized crime across Central America. He has contributed to major outlets such as *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *El País*, and *VICE*, and has received multiple accolades, including the Ortega y Gasset Award for Best Reporting in 2024 for his investigative work on the Moskitia region in Honduras. We will continue learning about Central American migration in Mexico and root causes of exile and migraiton from these countries.

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM Closing group lunch to debrief the week. We will have Andrea Villasenor from Hispanics in Philanthropy join us to share her closing reflections and recommendations with the group on ways the information and education they received can inform their work in the U.S.

After 5:00 PM participants will have the afternoon free to explore Mexico City on their own and have dinner on their own as well with a per diem.

**Saturday,
Sep. 27:**

Return to Chicago.

8:00 AM Breakfast on your own with per diem

10:00 AM Travel to airport and lunch at airport on per diem

2:00 PM Flight from Mexico City to Chicago

7:10 PM Arrive in Chicago