Position Statement on Increasing Access to Healthcare for Non-Detained Asylum Seekers

Living in the United States

Approved by the ACP Board of Regents on April 25, 2022

1. ACP supports efforts to provide medical care, including primary care, treatment for chronic diseases, vaccinations, and medications, to non-detained asylum seekers, as well as financial support for community health centers, safety-net hospitals, and other settings that serve a disproportionate number of immigrants.

2. ACP recommends that asylum seekers receive health screenings, medical care, and vaccinations upon applying for asylum in the United States. Care for asylum seekers should be trauma-informed, linguistically and culturally appropriate. Translation services should be made available.

3. Immigration officials should be required to return seized prescribed medications and medical equipment to asylum seekers upon release from detention. Medical records of non-detained asylum seekers should be made available to physicians and other health care professionals.

4. ACP supports research into the medical needs of non-detained asylum seekers living in the United States as well as their current access to medical care, the health effects of detention versus non-detention for asylum seekers, and alternatives to detention that connect asylum seekers to health care, legal, and other services.