

Detention Funding

This year, the American taxpayers will spend over \$2 billion to detain 34,000 immigrants *per day*—an arbitrary, congressionally-set figure not based on demonstrated need. By law, some individuals must be detained. But thousands of others do not. ICE has all the tools it needs to safely release thousands of individuals it chooses to hold in detention. We are asking Congress to:

Support ICE's budget request to reduce funding of detention beds from 34,000 to 32,800 daily detention beds (a \$53.4 million decrease in immigration detention funding in its fiscal year (FY) 2013 budget).

- While some immigrants need to be detained because they pose a public safety risk, many immigrants do not need to be jailed.
- A recent report based on a snapshot of immigration detention reveals that 40 percent of individuals held in detention on October 3, 2011 had no criminal history.
- Immigration detention is an area where spending restraint is urgently needed. From FY 2000 – 2010, the number of immigrants detained has grown from 167,000 to over 363,000.
- At a cost of \$122 per day per individual, immigration detention is costly to U.S. taxpayers and should be used only when necessary. For others, ICE has a spectrum of supervision options, ranging from bond to ankle bracelets. These are the same tools used by local and state authorities to supervise individuals in their custody.

Support ICE's budget request of \$111.59 million for increased alternatives to detention funding and include report language that directs \$15 million of the proposed increase for non-governmental organizations to use in implementing programs.

- NGOs are best suited to build trust with the immigrant participants, identify the needs of individuals, address those needs with available resources, and build resilience in the individuals to face the range of potential outcomes in their legal cases.
- Compared to for-profit models, non-profit organizations are mission-driven and generate more community resources because of their ability to attract volunteers and donations of goods and services.