

A NEW ERA OF RESPONSIBILITY: RENEWING AMERICA'S PROMISE

President Obama's Fiscal 2010 Budget

A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS, A NATION OF LAWS

The President's 2010 budget seeks to usher in a new era of responsibility – an era in which we not only do what we must to save and create new jobs and lift our economy out of recession, but in which we also lay a new foundation for long-term growth and prosperity. To do this, the Nation must address some of the deep, systemic problems that have been ignored for too long by making critical investments in: education so that every child can compete in the global economy, health care reform so that we can control costs while boosting coverage and quality, and renewable sources of energy so that we can reduce our dependence on foreign oil and become the world leader in the new clean energy economy.

At the same time, we also must restore fiscal discipline, making sure that we invest in what works and do not waste taxpayer dollars on programs that do not work or are duplicative. Taken together – education, health care, clean energy, and fiscal discipline – are the pillars upon which we can build a new foundation for our economy, a foundation that brings opportunity and growth to all Americans for decades to come. To secure our borders, enforce our laws, and reaffirm our heritage as a nation of immigrants, the budget provides nearly \$27 billion for border and transportation security activities, an 8 percent increase over 2009.

The majority of this funding (\$24.6 billion, or 92 percent of the 2010 request) is within the budget for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), largely for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and the U.S Coast Guard. This represents a \$1.8 billion (8 percent) increase compared to 2009. Other DHS bureaus and other federal departments, such as the Departments of State and Justice, also play a significant role. Specifically, the budget will:

Establish a new Immigrant Integration program. To help legal immigrants integrate into American life, the budget allocates \$10 million to establish a new Immigrant Integration program in the Office of Citizenship at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). USCIS will develop an online welcome program for immigrants; provide grants to community-based organizations for citizenship preparation programs; facilitate English language learning through improved web resources; build volunteer capacity by developing a training certification framework for volunteers as well as promoting volunteerism and partnerships; and promote citizenship with integration messages at the workplace, among federal agencies, and the general public. Through this program, the federal government will improve coordination of federal resources aimed at integration and promote partnerships at national, state, and local levels.

Support recent legal immigrants. It is important that recent legal immigrants are supported as they make their way into American life. The budget provides \$75 million for English literacy and civics educational programs, an increase of 10 percent over 2009. Additionally, the budget invests \$730 million in Language Acquisition State Grants, a grant program designed to improve the education of limited English proficient (LEP) immigrant children and young people by helping them learn English and provide enhanced instructional opportunities. The budget also

includes more than \$850 million through the Departments of State and Health and Human Services to help new refugees resettle and integrate into America, an increase of 17 percent over 2009.

Expand efforts to stop the illegal traffic of criminals, weapons, and drugs. The President's budget provides a nearly 18 percent increase over last year's funding for the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Southwest Border initiative, following through on the President's commitment to provide more funding, technology, and manpower to secure the Southwest border and help Mexico battle the drug cartels. This \$2 billion will support the efforts of border states and Mexico to combat violence, stop the flow of illegal weapons and drug trafficking, bring dangerous criminals to justice, share critical information, and provide technical assistance and training to our law enforcement partners on both sides of the border.

Strengthen border security. The budget doubles Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funding to combat southbound firearms and currency smuggling at and between the ports of entry along the Southwest border. By providing \$46.8 million, DHS will be able to add 44 Border Patrol agents and 65 Customs and Border Protection officers. Funding will also expand the License Plate Reader (LPR) program to help control outbound traffic at the border.

Improve border investigations and intelligence. The budget introduces \$70 million in new funding to hire 349 Special Agents, Intelligence Analysts, and Criminal Investigators at DHS to improve cooperative efforts with the Mexican government and establish a Border Violence Intelligence Cell.

Modernize systems and operations. The budget includes \$74 million to improve the system of detaining and removing illegal immigrants and to modernize the systems for ICE law enforcement. These funds will support improvements including increased data capacity, better information-sharing, and the development of a Detainee Location Tracking Module.

Increase efforts to root out criminal aliens. By increasing funding for the DHS Secure Communities program by 30 percent to nearly \$200 million, the budget supports the hiring of 80 new enforcement personnel who will identify suspected criminal aliens, determine subjects' alien status, prioritize Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) actions against the highest threat criminal aliens, and assist in the removal of apprehended criminal aliens.

Secure air and seaports. The President's budget provides a 12 percent increase (\$834 million) for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) for a total of \$7.5 billion. Within this amount, \$985 million – a \$441 million increase – will support the acquisition of new x-ray and imaging technology to aid in the detection of concealed weapons, solid and liquid explosive material, and other prohibited items at our airports. To secure our seaports, the budget provides \$250 million in grant funding to deploy new technologies and additional security personnel. The budget also invests \$1.9 billion – a \$137 million increase – in the Coast Guard's Port Waterways & Coastal Security programs to identify and intercept threats as far from U.S. shores as practicable through layered, multi-agency security operations.

Reform immigration fees and modernize processing. The budget proposes \$206 million to end the practice of paying for refugee, asylee, and military naturalization applications through increased surcharges on other immigration benefits. This first step toward reforming and improving the transparency of immigration fees will ensure that applicants for immigration benefits are only charged for the costs related to processing their application. The budget designates \$139 million of fee revenue to develop a more efficient and secure system to deliver immigration benefits and services. This includes near-term projects to improve and automate paper-based process and update antiquated technology.

Strengthen the overloaded immigration court system. The President's budget will expand the capacity of immigration courts by providing 28 new immigration judge teams, supporting case processing systems, and funding the legal orientation program. The budget requests \$298 million, an increase of \$30 million or 11 percent over the 2009 enacted level, for the Executive Office for Immigration Review at DOJ.

Strengthen E-Verify. The budget requests \$112 million for E-Verify, a program to support employers' efforts to curb employment of illegal immigrants. This funding will support development of a monitoring and compliance office to oversee use of the system, improve training and outreach, and protect employees. Additional technical improvements are planned that will build upon recent data accuracy and integrity enhancements.