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News Release

ICE UNVEILS NEW ALTERNATIVE TO DETENTION *Pilot project to be introduced in eight cities*

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) today announced a new pilot program providing a less restrictive alternative to detention. The Intensive Supervision Appearance Program (ISAP) will be introduced on June 21, 2004, at eight ICE locations across the United States. The cities where this new program will be introduced are Baltimore; Philadelphia; Miami; St. Paul; Denver; Kansas City; San Francisco; and Portland, Oregon.

“ISAP is an alternative to detention that further enables ICE to prioritize detaining criminals and other public safety and security risks,” said Acting Director of Detention and Removal Operations Victor Cerda. “ISAP aims to promote integrity in the immigration system by helping to ensure compliance with court appearances and orders, and will likely relieve pressure on detention space in pilot cities by providing this alternative to aliens who might otherwise be detained.”

ICE’s Office of Detention and Removal Operations (DRO) manages ISAP in partnership with Behavioral Interventions, Inc. (BI) of Boulder, Colorado. ISAP, one of several alternatives to detention pilot projects currently being tested, is a supervision program in which case specialists are assigned to a limited caseload of participants and are responsible for monitoring those participants in the community by using tools such as electronic monitoring (bracelets), home visits, work visits and reporting by telephone. Case specialists will also assist participants in obtaining pro-bono counsel for their hearings and help them to receive other types of assistance to which they may be entitled.

In order to be eligible for participation in ISAP, an alien must be an adult with a confirmed identity who does not pose a threat to the community or national security. Additionally, ISAP will be available only to aliens who are not subject to mandatory detention; who are pending immigration court proceedings or are awaiting removal from the United States; and who will be residing within the managed area. ISAP is a voluntary program; all participants must agree to participate and comply with the conditions of their release. Aliens who violate the conditions of their release may face detention or increased supervisory restrictions. ICE will evaluate the program at the end of the pilot and based on the results determine any possibilities for future implementation.

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U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security, responsible for the enforcement of border, economic, infrastructure and transportation security laws. ICE seeks to prevent acts of terrorism by targeting the people, money and materials that support terror and criminal networks.