

ISAE: From Enforcement to Investment

01**Enroll**

Low-risk people are enrolled where they are, not arrested.

02**Verify**

1:1 face check-ins against their own photo; court tracking.

03**Integrate**

A Provisional Integration ID opens the tax and labor system.

04**Measure**

Public metrics on compliance, court attendance, and cost.

"You are not under arrest; you are under enrollment."

Spending is up. Targeting is off.

ICE has more money than ever, yet most of the people it holds have no criminal conviction.

Multi-year ICE funding appropriated in July 2025, including \$45B for detention capacity.

\$74.85B



Of the 65,765 people in ICE detention on July 11, 2026, 46,436 had no criminal conviction.

70.6%

Sources: CRS R48704 (Pub. L. 119-21, Sept. 2025); TRAC Immigration Quick Facts (data as of July 11, 2026).

From dragnet to field enrollment

ISAE does not abolish enforcement; it re-sequences it. A trained case worker or community partner enrolls the person where they are, with a phone photo and no office visit. Detention and removal stay for people who are dangerous, a flight risk, or under an enforceable final order.

TODAY: THE DRAGNET

Removal-first spending treats settled, low-risk people like high-risk cases.

Arrest first

Low-risk cases use beds and officer time



ISAE: FIELD ENROLLMENT

At home, church or clinic. A temporary digital ID is texted until the card arrives.

Enroll first

No office visit. No arrests at enrollment.



Removal is costly. Integration pays.

Each removal costs more than the last. Supervision costs a fraction of a detention bed, and people who can work legally pay more in taxes.

Sources: ICE via CNN Money (2017); DHS (May 2025); ICE FY2025 CJ; ITEP (2024).

Cost per
removal
\$17,121
DHS, 2025



Up from an ICE average
of \$10,854 per removal
in FY2016.

Taxes paid,
2022
\$96.7B
ITEP estimate



Supervision (ISAP IV ATD)
cost \$4.11 per person per
day in FY2023.

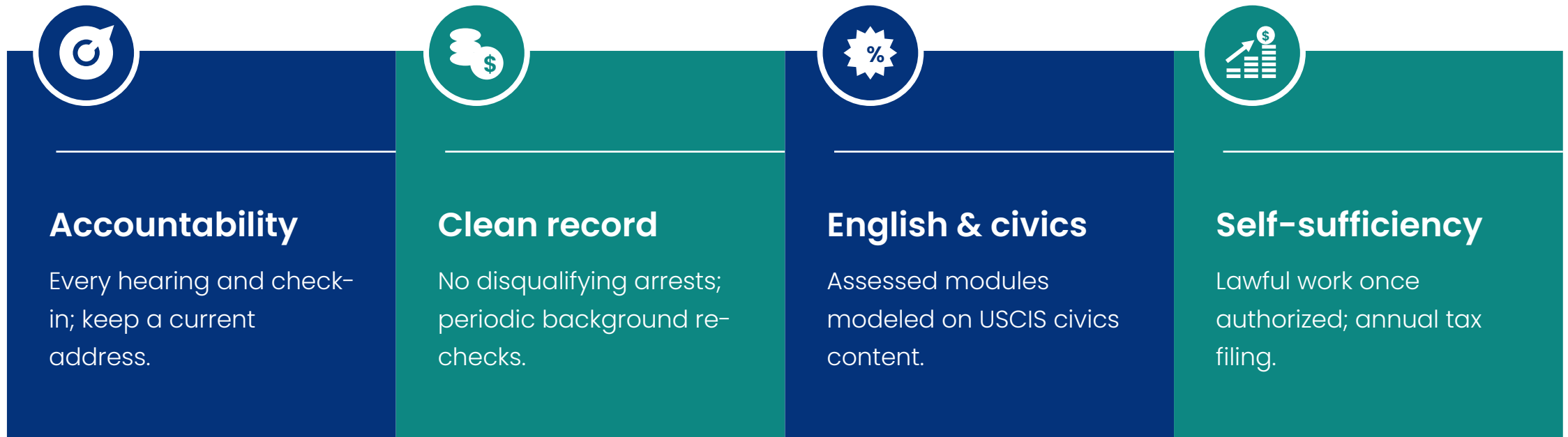
Detention bed /
day
\$187.48
FY2023 actual



Work permits would add
about \$40.2B a year in
taxes (ITEP).

The Green Path: five years of earned trust

Milestones unlock fewer check-ins, a lower supervision tier, and longer renewal periods. The Green Path itself does not confer permanent residence or citizenship.



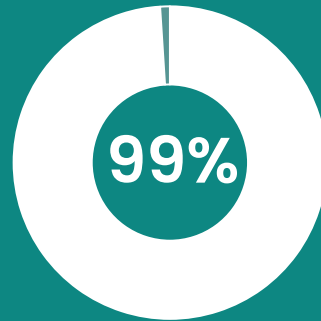


Case management

Case managers worked with vulnerable families in five regions. ICE reported 100% court attendance, and 2% (23 of 954) absconded.

99% check-in compliance in ICE's 2016-17 Family Case Management Program.

Check-ins met



ICE-reported, FCMP, as of March 2017 (DHS OIG).

Case management is what makes it work

FCMP served vulnerable families and ended in June 2017, so it is not a general population. Today's ATD at scale reported a 12.8% absconder rate in FY2023. ISAE must fund case managers, not just an app.

Sources: DHS OIG-18-22 (2017); CRS R45804 (2019); ICE FY2025 CJ.

Green**Eligible: field enrollment**

No disqualifying record, not subject to mandatory detention, identity verified.

**Yellow****Needs review**

Minor history or incomplete data. Missing or conflicting data defaults here.

**Red****Standard enforcement**

Mandatory-detention category or serious public-safety concern. No green option.

**Officer****A human decides**

A named officer records every decision and the reason for any override.



Triage advises. Officers decide.

The rules are published and deterministic, with no hidden risk score. Mandatory-detention rules are hard stops, and departures from a recommendation are audited in both directions.



Court reminders

Hearing and check-in dates by app, text or voice call.



English lessons

Green Path modules completed in the app.



Check-ins

Scheduled check-ins without an office visit.



Translate helper

Typed text translated and read aloud; speech input later.

The app carries the routine work

Routine contacts move into the app, so officer time goes to the highest-risk cases. No smartphone is needed to start: SMS and voice calls work too. Caseload per tier is measured in the pilot, not assumed.

Caseload cap

40

In ATD today

183,181

Language access is a launch requirement

A person cannot be held to a notice they cannot understand. The Translate / Traducir helper translates typed text and reads it aloud now; speech input comes later. It never replaces a certified interpreter for court, police, legal papers or medical consent, and one tap requests a free human interpreter.

Tier 1: launch 7 languages	Tier 2 6 languages	Tier 3 7 languages
English, Spanish, Mixteco, Zapoteco, Triqui, K'iche', Mam Indigenous languages: human-recorded audio and community interpreters. No machine text.	Haitian Creole, Brazilian Portuguese, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Tagalog Full written app and audio; machine translation only after a quality test.	Hindi, Punjabi, Gujarati, French, Arabic, Russian, Ukrainian Written notices and phone interpretation first; full app as site demand shows.

Mixteco, Zapoteco and Triqui are families of varieties, so recordings and interpreters are matched to the person's home region. Tiers are reviewed every 6 months from pilot intake data. Source: ISAE Product Spec v0.4, sec. 6.10–6.11.

Face matching

1:1

Check-ins match only your own photo.

Location

Check-in

Captured only at scheduled check-ins. No continuous tracking.

Data firewall

Warrant

Warrant or court order plus counsel approval.

Privacy built in, not bolted on

One 1:N face check runs at enrollment, against criminal databases only. It is an investigative lead, never grounds for action on its own. Any doubt means a fingerprint follow-up later, in the field; there are no arrests at enrollment, and the temporary ID stays active meanwhile. Fingerprints stay optional until rugged field readers exist.

Sources: ISAE White Paper sec. 4, 7; Product Spec v0.4 (FE-04-FE-08, FV-01, sec. 12.2); DHS/ICE/PIA-062.

What the law allows today

Posture: start case by case inside current authority.
Status questions, and any successor agency, belong to Congress.



Possible now

01

Enforcement priorities

Room confirmed by U.S. v. Texas (2023).

02

Release with conditions

INA 236(a) bond or conditional parole.

03

Parole, deferred action

Case by case, with work-permit eligibility.



Needs Congress

01

New status

Status or citizenship path needs a law.

02

Registry update

INA 249 stops at entry before 1972.

03

Dignity Act

H.R. 4393: renewable 7-year status.

Replacing ICE is a job for Congress

ICE was created by statute (Homeland Security Act § 442), and the DHS Secretary cannot abolish it. The long-term aim is ISAE as its successor, but only after a pilot shows results and Congress legislates.

What the successor would keep

- ✓ A smaller serious-crime unit inside ISAE, with its own leadership and budget
- ✓ Transfer of ICE staff with pay protection and paid retraining
- ✓ GAO evaluation at year 3 and a sunset clause at year 5

~22,000

A workforce to bring along

ICE grew from about 10,000 to 22,000 staff in 2025; unions have opposed discretion before.

\$45B

Detention money locked in

Available largely through FY2029; redirecting it needs Congress.

22

A hard precedent

Merging 22 agencies put DHS on GAO's High-Risk List in 2003.

38%

Polarized politics

Gallup, June 2025: 38% back deporting all; 78% back an earned path.

A 12-month pilot, then scale only on evidence

Benchmarks are pre-registered against a comparison group, and expansion happens only if they are met. Quarterly metrics include court appearance, absconding, cost per day, enrollment uptake, the 1:N lead rate, fingerprint follow-up outcomes and interpreter wait times.

Stop conditions: the pilot pauses for review after a confirmed firewall violation, an unfixed biometric breach, a data breach, a significant drop in public safety, or a court ruling that removes its legal basis.

3–5

ICE field offices in the pilot

0–12

Months: pilot phase

12–36

Months: scale only if benchmarks are met

Quarterly

Public reporting of core metrics

Fund and authorize the ISAE pilot

DHS can start within existing authority. Congress can judge ISAE on published evidence before it scales, and before any decision on a successor agency.

The ask

- ✓ Authorize 3–5 pilot field offices
- ✓ Fund case managers, interpreters and legal aid
- ✓ Adopt the privacy firewall
- ✓ Publish core metrics every quarter

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