

Executive Summary

The President's Fiscal 2001 Immigration Budget

2/07/00

Strengthening the Nation's Immigration System

The Fiscal Year 2001 budget request for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) totals \$4.8 billion, an 11-percent increase over FY 2000. With this budget, the Administration will have increased INS funding by 219 percent since FY 1993. The FY 2001 budget includes \$523.2 million in new initiatives. The budget will add a total of 1,305 new positions, allowing INS to grow to 33,122 positions by the end of FY 2001.

The FY 2001 budget supports the immigration goals and strategies that the Administration and the agency have pursued effectively over the past several years. These include improving customer service, facilitating legal immigration while deterring illegal immigration, and removing criminal and other illegal aliens from the United States.

The budget allows INS to build on its successful efforts to bring integrity and safety to the borders and improve the quality of life in border communities. It also enhances the agency's ability to remove those who are living and working in the country illegally.

In addition to strengthening enforcement, the FY 2001 budget intensifies INS' focus on service. For the first time, the budget calls for a fund to address ongoing infrastructure needs that are not currently covered by application fees. This Capital Investment Account would be used solely to fund immigration services and benefits.

Key initiatives in the FY 2001 budget include:

- Creating an Immigration Services Capital Investment Account (ISCIA) to be used to fund infrastructure improvements, systems upgrades, and to address immigration benefit backlogs. This marks the first time INS would have a dedicated fund, separate from the Examinations Fee Account (which is funded solely through application fees) that draws on other funding sources to pay for key service-related initiatives. INS is anticipating \$127.3 million in the ISCIA, funded from \$34.8 million in direct appropriations and the balance from portions of two proposed new fees, a Premium Service Fee for businesses and fees from the re-authorization of a permanent 245(i) adjustment-of-status program.
- Proposing a voluntary Premium Service Fee of \$1,000 for business-related applications, which will provide businesses with guaranteed processing within 15 days. Fees received above the cost of the guaranteed processing time for the applications and deterring benefit fraud will be deposited in the ISCIA to support service-related infrastructure improvements, benefiting all INS customers.
- Strengthening the multi-year border enforcement effort by providing a \$52 million increase to the Border Patrol. This will fund 430 additional Border Patrol Agents, increasing staff to more than double the FY 1993 level.

- Providing \$69.8 million to support pay reform and position upgrades for Border Patrol Agents and Immigration Inspectors, which will help recruit and retain these mission-critical personnel in a tight labor market.
- Continuing to expand critical technology efforts by deploying Remote Video Surveillance Systems along the borders to monitor illegal activity from remote sites.
- Focusing on facilitating legal immigration while deterring illegal immigration, by funding an additional 115 land border Immigration Inspectors and 154 airport Immigration Inspectors.
- Strengthening efforts to identify and remove criminal aliens by increasing and improving detention bed space. The budget requests \$78.9 million to fund a daily average of 1,000 new state and local detention bed spaces. INS will also expand its ability to enter information into the National Crime Information Center database, allowing nationwide computerized identification and apprehension of previously deported criminals.
- Responding to INS’ growing infrastructure requirements by providing \$77 million for the construction of Border Patrol and detention facilities.
- Ensuring the professionalism of the workforce by dedicating \$10.1 million to improve personnel management and accountability and to increase support staff.

Summary of Immigration Budget Enhancements

(\$ in millions)

	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Positions</u>
BORDER MANAGEMENT		
Border Enforcement - Border Patrol Agents	\$52.0	430
Border Facilitation - Inspectors (Air and Land)	22.4	269
Border Patrol Pay Reform	40.9	-
Inspections Pay Upgrades	28.9	-
Border Enforcement - Technology	<u>20.0</u>	<u>-</u>
SUBTOTAL	\$164.2	699
DETENTION AND REMOVAL		
State and Local Detention Bed Space	\$78.9	109
Detention Standards	8.6	80
Juvenile Detention Bed Space	8.5	11
National Transportation System	15.5	0
National Crime Information Center	<u>8.0</u>	<u>50</u>
SUBTOTAL	\$119.5	250
INSTITUTIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE		
Border Patrol Construction Projects	\$47.0	-
Detention Construction Projects	24.8	-
Border Infrastructure	3.3	-
Repair and Alterations	<u>2.0</u>	<u>21</u>
SUBTOTAL	\$77.1	21

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IMMIGRATION SERVICES

Improving Services and Preventing Benefit Fraud	\$25.0	195
Immigration Services Capital Investment Account	<u>127.3</u>	<u>—</u>
SUBTOTAL	\$152.3	195

PROFESSIONALISM AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Financial and Debt Management Services	\$3.3	60
Administrative Center Staffing	2.0	30
Legal Proceedings Base Shortfall	<u>4.8</u>	<u>50</u>
SUBTOTAL	10.1	140

TOTAL INCREASE REQUESTED	\$523.2	1,305
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