



BEYOND THE ENFORCEMENT PARADIGM:

A VISION FOR A
TRANSFORMATIVE BUDGET
FOR U.S. IMMIGRATION

INTRODUCTION

THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES, FROM ITS SOUTHERN TO NORTHERN BORDER AND EVERYWHERE IN BETWEEN, IMMIGRANTS AND BORDER COMMUNITIES FACE THE ABUSE OF OUR COUNTRY'S ENFORCEMENT-CENTERED IMMIGRATION SYSTEM.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP)—the federal agencies at the helm of this system's efforts to target, jail and deport immigrants—have separated thousands of loved ones, caused hundreds of deaths, and wreaked destruction at our borders. This trauma lasts forever and leads to long-term destabilization of our communities.

The federal government wastes about \$25 billion annually to pursue this cruel and ineffective agenda. Our government is responsible for ensuring that everyone is treated with dignity and respect, yet almost every year, it has approved massive funding increases for

ICE and CBP to inflict harm on people fleeing violence or seeking a better life, as well as on immigrants who have lived in the U.S. for decades. In just the last five years, CBP's budget has grown by 30% and ICE's budget has grown by 40%. Since the agencies were created in 2003, they've collectively received nearly \$300 billion of our taxpayer dollars to fuel a punitive immigration system that fails to live up to our values and siphons resources away from real community needs.

The Defund Hate Coalition is presenting "Beyond the Enforcement Paradigm" because we believe in a just and compassionate approach to immi-



**“WE BELIEVE IN
A JUST AND
COMPASSIONATE
APPROACH TO
IMMIGRATION.”**

gration, one that welcomes, respects, and honors the human rights and dignity of all immigrants with programs grounded in our communities. We recognize that in order to make this vision a reality, we must defund the old and abuse-ridden systems that perpetuate the cruelties of enforcement and instead invest in services that respond to real need.

This proposal serves to illustrate how to move towards a more just and humane immigration system. It is not intended to be an all-encompassing solution to the array of deficiencies that ail our current immigration system, but a resource to highlight fundamental shifts necessary to eradicating our reliance on law enforcement to respond to migration. This proposal seeks to demonstrate the impact of immigration enforcement funding through the stories and requests of people in our communities. Our recommendations lay out a vision for reprioritizing resources to create a more supportive landscape for the broader reform of our immigration system.

This reprioritization begins with defunding ICE and CBP. These agencies are founded on racist, dehumanizing laws that allow our government to criminalize immigrants, militarize the border region, incarcerate and deport millions of people, and further marginalize and profile people of color. These agencies and the missions they carry out have no place in a just immigration system and therefore have no place in a transformative budget.



THE DIVEST-INVEST APPROACH

THE DEFUND HATE COALITION HAS ADOPTED A DIVEST-INVEST APPROACH—A FRAMEWORK BORROWED FROM ALLIED MOVEMENTS THAT ALSO USE DEFUND TACTICS TO CHIP AWAY AT THE INSTITUTIONS THAT PERPETUATE HARM, INCLUDING MOVEMENTS FOR BLACK LIBERATION, CRIMINAL JUSTICE, CLIMATE JUSTICE, AND ANTI-WAR CAMPAIGNS.

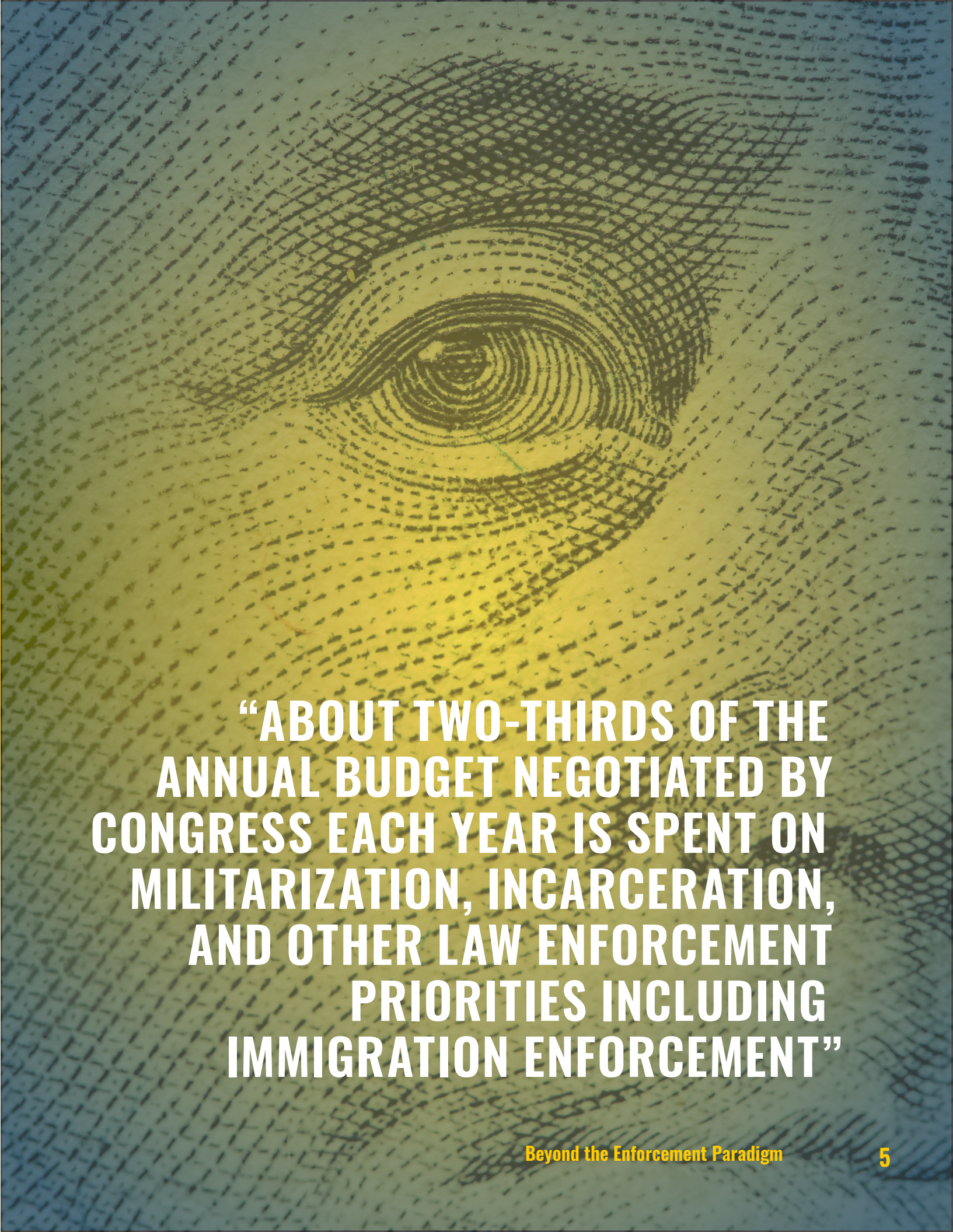
This approach allows us to demonstrate how we can more holistically redefine government systems to also reflect urgent needs within our communities by reallocating the power that comes with resources.

The National Priorities Project estimates that about **two-thirds** of the annual budget negotiated by Congress each year is spent on militarization, incarceration, and other law enforcement priorities including immigration enforcement.

While this proposal focuses on the changes needed to end our existing immigration enforcement machinery and create a reality where a system that welcomes and supports immigrants can exist, it is informed by the tireless advocacy of our allies across the broader progressive movement to decriminalize and demilitarize U.S. resources for the sake of our communities.

We need to reprioritize. Particularly now, at a time when public services are most desperately needed in the face of a global pandemic, the deadly failings of this approach are apparent. Yet, as the country continues to be ravaged by the COVID-19 virus and widespread economic distress, Congress has not changed course and continues to pour billions into immigration enforcement. These critical resources could be better used for the causes championed by our allies in the movements for affordable housing, healthcare, education, and other vital programs that benefit everyone.

It is clear that these struggles to liberate and care for each other are connected. We are thankful for our allies who have crafted and popularized visions for liberation that link the breakdown of violent systems to building up our people, from the #DefundThePolice movement to organizing for a Green New Deal. Divesting from ICE and CBP is part of divesting from the U.S.' militarized budget, from our policing system and prison industrial complex, and from the institutions that most heavily harm Black, brown, indigenous, and poor communities in this country and all over the world. Investing in public services that support everyone's ability to live whole and secure lives is part of repairing this harm and building strength among us all.



“ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET NEGOTIATED BY CONGRESS EACH YEAR IS SPENT ON MILITARIZATION, INCARCERATION, AND OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT PRIORITIES INCLUDING IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT”

SECTION 1

DEFUNDING ICE

THE UNITED STATES OPERATES AN UNPARALLELED IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT MACHINE THAT TARGETS PEOPLE THROUGH RACIAL, RELIGIOUS, AND CLASS PROFILING, TEARS THEM AWAY FROM THEIR LOVED ONES AND COMMUNITIES, AND THROWS THEM IN IMMIGRATION JAIL TO FACE POTENTIAL DEPORTATION.

To begin funneling people into the deportation pipeline, ICE agents carry out broad surveillance, raids, and other harmful enforcement activities throughout the U.S., often in collaboration with other corrupt and racist law enforcement agencies like local police, resulting in mass arrests. These operations fuel the largest immigration detention system in the world—ICE's sprawling network of more than 200 detention facilities. For years, the detention system has expanded exponentially and without accountability, rife with abuse including medical neglect, sexual

abuse, practices that amount to torture and inhumane treatment, scarcity of basic necessities like food, violent retaliation by guards, and death. After languishing indefinitely and unnecessarily in these cages, hundreds of thousands of immigrants are then deported each year.



A TRANSFORMATIVE BUDGET MEANS DIVESTING FROM INTERIOR ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS AND THE IMMIGRATION DETENTION SYSTEM, INCLUDING:

- **ICE'S ENFORCEMENT AND REMOVAL OPERATIONS** - In recent years, ICE has received more than \$4 billion annually to target, detain, and deport immigrants. In 2019, the agency reached historic numbers, detaining over 500,000 immigrants throughout the year and deporting more than half of them. Ripping people from their homes and forcing them to go through proceedings from behind bars is traumatizing and undermines their ability to fight their case. Defunding these operations and the practice of immigration detention is essential to eradicating our harmful enforcement infrastructure.
- **SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMMING** - ICE tries to market its "Intensive Supervision Appearance Program" (ISAP) as an "alternative to detention." However, ISAP and other surveillance programming function as supplemental forms of detention that increase surveillance of immigrant communities through reliance on ankle monitors and other forms of e-surveillance. People subject to these programs report difficulty in obtaining

information on how to have ankle monitors removed, malfunctions with technology causing physical injury, and barriers to accessing community services due to their forced enrollment in electronic surveillance programming. These programs are another tactic for ICE to advance its enforcement mission.

- **ICE AGENTS** - ICE agents are infamous for their cruel practices, from forcing themselves into people's homes without warrants to retaliating against their vocal opponents. For example, in February 2020, ICE agents assaulted and shot an individual in the face for trying to intervene in an arrest. Agents deployed under both ICE's Enforcement and Removal unit and Homeland Security Investigations destabilize communities through brute force and rely on flawed databases to spread the fear of deportation in already overpoliced communities. Funding for enforcement personnel only resources harmful enforcement activity in the country's interior.
- **LAW ENFORCEMENT COLLABORATION AND PROLIFERATION**
 - Programs that aid and advance immigration enforcement do not solely rely on ICE resources. There is a broad array of programs that enable and encourage other law enforcement entities to advance federal immigration enforcement, including agreements that empower state and local police to act as federal immigration agents themselves and that facilitate information sharing with federal agencies for enforcement purposes. Defunding ICE also means defunding its mission throughout the system.

“IN FEBRUARY 2020, ICE AGENTS ASSAULTED AND SHOT AN INDIVIDUAL IN THE FACE FOR TRYING TO INTERVENE IN AN ARREST.”

**“THE U.S.
IMMIGRATION
ENFORCEMENT
SYSTEM IS
FATALLY FLAWED.”**



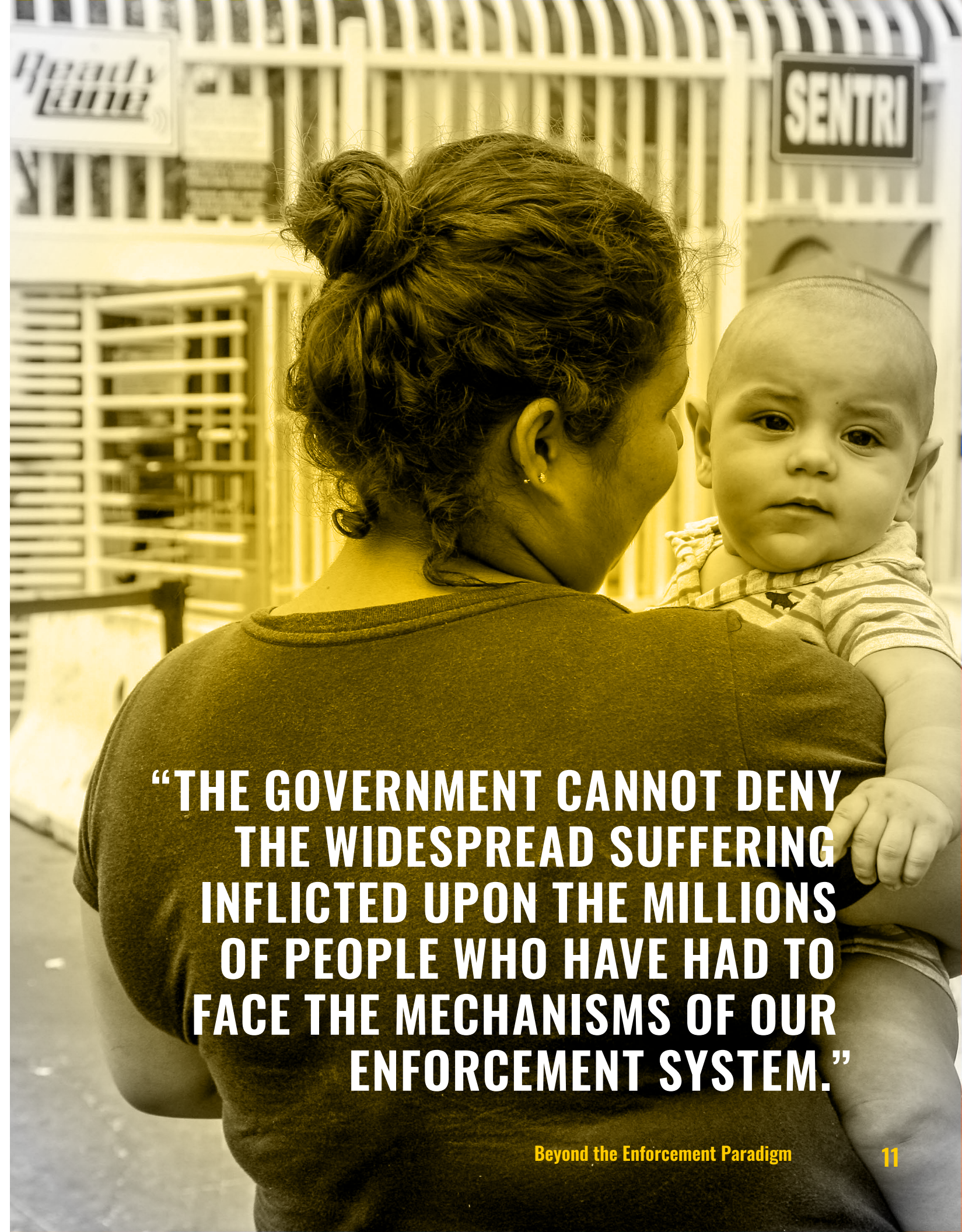
The U.S. immigration enforcement system is fatally flawed. The just solution is to wholly divest from this enforcement-centered approach and instead prioritize resources for community services that provide meaningful support to immigrants as they navigate their proceedings and repair the harms caused by the current system. The government should ensure people who are navigating immigration cases have access to voluntary community-based support services, including social service programs and trauma specialists. These services should be fully de-linked from immigration enforcement with metrics of success that focus on providing people with stability in community, rather than compliance with court check-ins or final orders of removal. The well-documented neglect and abuse at the hands of ICE also necessitates an emphasis on investing in services that promote a holistic approach to wellness for individuals, children, and families following previous contact with the enforcement machine. These care services should be viewed as an investment in whole communities because our communities are stronger when all people have access to resources to build safe and healthy lives.

A TRANSFORMATIVE BUDGET MEANS INVESTING IN COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORT SERVICES, INCLUDING:


- **VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY-BASED RESETTLEMENT SERVICES** - This should include but not be limited to employment services including job training and job search assistance, transitional and long-term housing assistance, full access to medical/mental health services, language and cultural training, and transportation. Services should be easily accessible to all non-citizens, but never mandatory or used as a vehicle to track or surveil individuals.
- **REHABILITATION AND REENTRY SUPPORT** - Non-citizens incarcerated in federal prisons and transitioning from incarceration currently do not have the same access to counseling, job training, and reentry services as people with citizenship. The government must allow access to these services and accessible, community-based reentry support should be available to all individuals after release from criminal custody.
- **JUST TRANSITION FUNDS** - The government should create funds completely de-linked from enforcement agencies that provide grants to communities transitioning away from detention and incarceration economies. Use of these

funds should be guided by formerly incarcerated people, economic development advisors, and elected and community leaders while investing in economic development opportunities not tied to other punitive forms of infrastructure.

- **REDRESS FOR HARM DONE** - The government cannot deny the widespread suffering inflicted upon the millions of people who have had to face the mechanisms of our enforcement system. Reparations, from reunifying separated families to allowing the return of people deported through our unjust system, should be made available as its infrastructure is overturned.



“THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT DENY THE WIDESPREAD SUFFERING INFLECTED UPON THE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE HAD TO FACE THE MECHANISMS OF OUR ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM.”

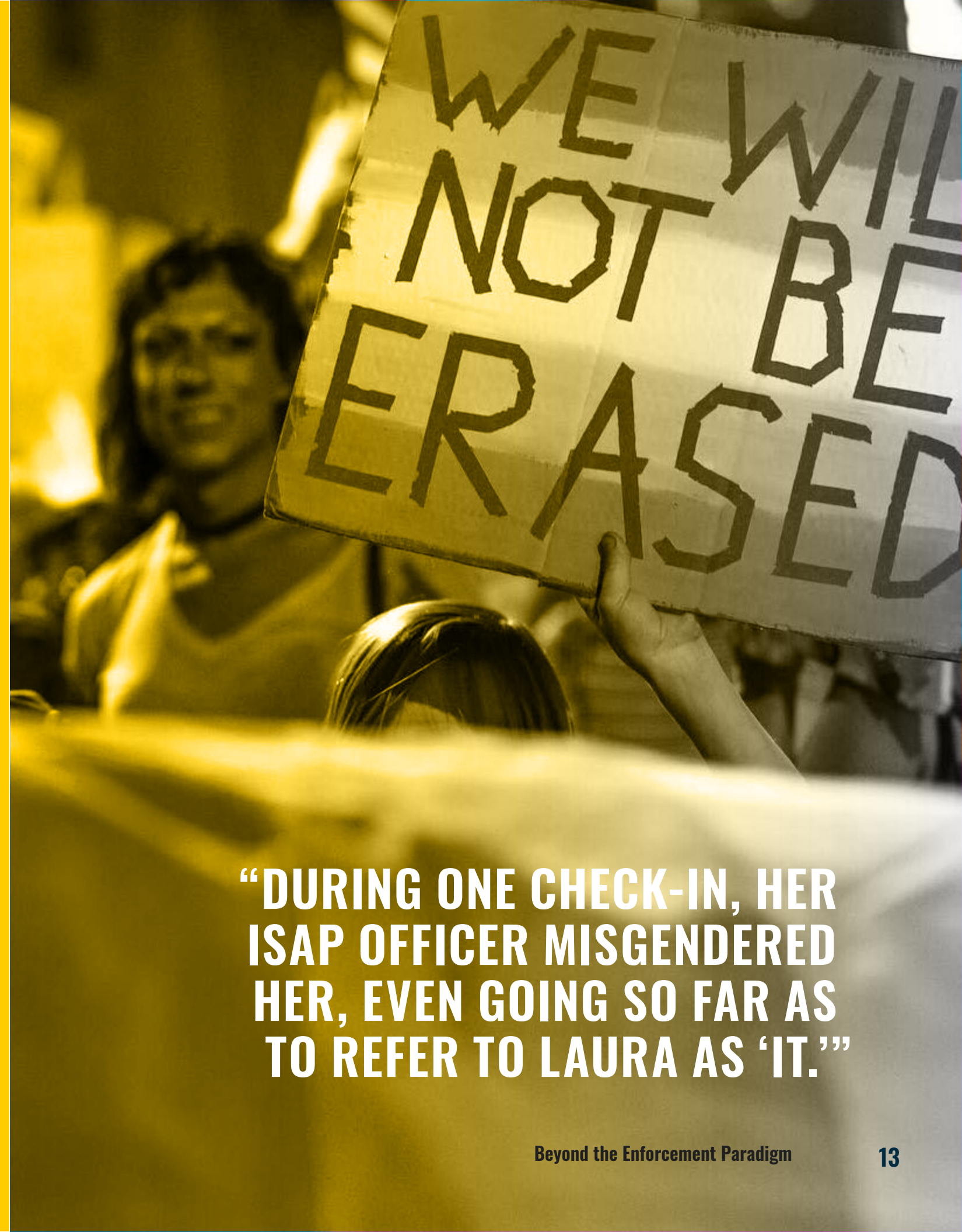


LAURA* HAS BEEN UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE ISAP PROGRAM FOR MORE THAN A YEAR AND A HALF WHILE SHE SEEKS ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES. AT EVERY STEP OF THE WAY, THE ISAP PROGRAM HAS MADE IT HARDER FOR LAURA TO STABILIZE HER LIFE AND HEALTH, DESTABILIZING HER RATHER THAN SUPPORTING HER.

LAURA

Laura is a transgender woman who fled El Salvador after enduring physical and sexual abuse because of her gender identity. In the United States she is striving to find safety, but struggles with housing insecurity and mental health challenges. Overcoming these obstacles is made all the more difficult because of the ankle monitor ICE has required her to wear for the entire year and a half of her case proceedings. Laura has experienced discriminatory treatment because of the ankle monitor. The monitor's batteries frequently malfunction, causing

her great stress. When Laura has asked ICE to consider removing the ankle monitor, she has faced retaliation. During one check-in, her ISAP officer misgendered her, even going so far as to refer to Laura as “it.” ICE has told Laura that she must wear the ankle monitor until the end of her immigration court case, which feels interminable given that her final hearing date has not even been scheduled. Laura is committed to pursuing her asylum claim in the United States, but feels that the ISAP program is setting her up to fail and leave her vulnerable to deportation.



“DURING ONE CHECK-IN, HER ISAP OFFICER MISGENDERED HER, EVEN GOING SO FAR AS TO REFER TO LAURA AS ‘IT.’”

SECTION 2

DEFUNDING CBP

THE U.S. BORDER REGIONS ARE PLACES OF ENCOUNTER, OPPORTUNITY, AND HOPE, HOME TO TENS OF MILLIONS, WITH BI-NATIONAL METROPOLITAN AREAS, TRIBAL NATIONS, AND VAST ACRES OF IRREPLACEABLE PARKLANDS AND WILDLIFE HABITATS.


These regions and the millions who call them home have endured massive, wasteful, and unchecked militarization of border enforcement over the past three decades, including the addition of thousands of Border Patrol agents, a vast network of Border Patrol checkpoints located up to 100 miles into the interior, active-duty troops, the National Guard, invasive surveillance and military technologies, and hundreds of miles of border wall. The Border Patrol's **militarized** over-policing of border communities is deeply rooted in the nation's history of over-policing Black, brown, and Indigenous people.

As the parent agency of the Border Patrol and the country's largest law enforcement agency, CBP has seen its budget skyrocket, despite operating without accountability or transparency and an alarming record of **violence**, corruption, and human rights abuses against migrants and U.S. citizens alike. In 2020, a government investigation revealed that **CBP misspent emergency humanitarian funding** explicitly provided for food and medical care for migrants on dirt bikes and enforcement-related expenditures.



A TRANSFORMATIVE BUDGET MEANS DIVESTING FROM BORDER ENFORCEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING:

- **CBP'S BORDER PATROL** - The Border Patrol is an abusive, unaccountable force that has inflicted terror and suffering on border communities and immigrants alike, particularly against people of color. Units of armed Border Patrol agents profile and harass the region's residents, while contributing to incalculable loss of life for migrants on both sides of the border. Over the past four years, the **Border Patrol's budget has surged by nearly \$1 billion**, entrenching the concentrated militarization of the border region.
- **POLICING INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE INTERIOR** - **Dozens of checkpoints**, roving patrols, and other policing infrastructure employed by CBP grossly interfere with the daily lives of border communities up to 100 miles into the interior and provide agents with vehicles to profile and harass immigrant communities. This sprawling infrastructure must be dismantled in order to restore peace to the borderlands.
- **PHYSICAL AND VIRTUAL BORDER BARRIERS** - The notorious border wall that squandered more than \$10 billion in government funding, fencing,

A woman with long brown hair is holding a large photograph of a young child. The child is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background of the photo shows other people, including a man in a plaid shirt and sunglasses. The entire image has a yellowish tint.

“SINCE 2018, AT LEAST SEVEN CHILDREN HAVE DIED AFTER BEING TAKEN INTO IMMIGRATION CUSTODY AT THE BORDER.”

and other physical barriers constructed along our borders have wreaked devastation on the border’s residents, desecrated Indigenous sacred sites, destroyed ecosystems and contributed to thousands of migrant deaths. However, “virtual” or “smart” wall technology is not a humane or benign alternative. In fact, “smart” wall, surveillance and other technologies risk real harms for the environment, infringe on the privacy rights of border and indigenous communities, and can lead to more deaths as people crossing the border take more dangerous routes to avoid detection.

- **CBP DETENTION** - CBP has its own network of detention centers along our borders. People are not supposed to be detained in CBP custody for more than 72 hours, but many face extended stays without basic necessities often in squalid, inhumane conditions before being transferred to ICE detention or expelled from the country. Since 2018, at least seven children have died after being taken into immigration custody at the border.
- **MILITARIZATION FOOTPRINT** - The build-up of our militarized border does not solely rely on CBP resources. CBP works in conjunction with state and local law enforcement, federal defense agencies like the National Guard, and military technologies to police our border regions. The defunding of CBP needs to be augmented by border demilitarization throughout the system.

Moving forward, resources should be invested in creating rights-respecting systems that welcome all newcomers and support the well-being of those who call the border region home. The government needs to address the sordid, deadly legacy of its 'prevention through deterrence' approach and deeply misguided political strategy that has attempted to offset necessary immigration reforms with further border militarization. This must start with investing in a people-first, rights-respecting border governance model. Border-region residents are directly affected by border governance so their voices must be central in decision-making for the development, implementation, and evaluation of border policies. Further, instead of prioritizing migration control, resources should be committed to protecting access to human and civil rights, including developing borderlands emergency response systems that are fully de-linked from enforcement to help people safely seek protection in the U.S.

**“THE GOVERNMENT
NEEDS TO
ADDRESS THE
SORDID, DEADLY
LEGACY’ OF ITS
‘PREVENTION
THROUGH
DETERRENCE’
APPROACH”**

A TRANSFORMATIVE BUDGET MEANS DIVESTING FROM BORDER ENFORCEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING:

- **REPARATIONS TO IMPACTED LANDS AND COMMUNITIES** - In consultation with impacted communities, the government needs to address the destruction caused by border enforcement infrastructure. This includes dismantling existing border wall structures that cause harm to people, communities, wildlife, and/or the land, as well as restoring the fragile and ecologically sensitive areas that have been negatively impacted by construction. This also means remediating broader environmental and cultural damages through reparations to impacted communities and tribal nations.
- **POLICING INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE INTERIOR** - Rights-respecting Border Management - Our border regions have long been treated as zones of exception for human rights. Instead our border policies and practices should reflect human rights standards while prioritizing access to protections for all, regardless of immigration status. This means facilitating safe and accessible means for people to seek legal protection in the U.S. and ensuring humane, efficient, and timely processes to welcome newcomers and

border residents alike without detention.

- **EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE** - The people who migrate to our borders are undergoing perilous journeys to seek a better life. While ensuring means for people to seek protection are readily available, there should also be systems in place to help people who still find themselves in danger, including rescue operations, humanitarian care in the border region, and support for humanitarian aid groups that respond to missing migrants.



A portrait of a young man with long dark hair and a goatee, wearing a dark blue shirt. The image is overlaid with a yellow and blue paint-splatter effect. The name 'CARLOS' is written in large white letters at the bottom left.

BETWEEN DECEMBER 2018 AND MAY 2019, AT LEAST SEVEN CHILDREN, INCLUDING TODDLERS, ARE KNOWN TO HAVE **DIED WHILE DETAINED IN BORDER PATROL CUSTODY.**

In many cases, the events that led up to their deaths such as a lack of proper medical screening or care and abusive detention conditions, mirror those of adults who have also died in custody over the years. In the case of Carlos Gregorio Hernandez Vasquez, a seriously ill 16-year-old from Guatemala who Border Patrol detained for six days, a ProPublica investigation based on video and documents it obtained found CBP lied about the circumstances of the child's death. Carlos was diagnosed with the flu and a fever of 103 on his sixth day in custody, meaning he likely fell ill while being detained. Rather than take the child to an emergency room, as a nurse suggested, agents placed him with another child in quarantine and then failed to check on him for several hours until that other child discovered his dead body. Like many children CBP ultimately claims are unaccompanied, Carlos had been separated from his adult sister by Border Patrol agents.

CARLOS

**“RESOURCES SHOULD
BE INVESTED
IN CREATING
*RIGHTS-RESPECTING
SYSTEMS.*”**

SECTION 3

DEFUNDING PUNITIVE ENFORCEMENT POLICIES

IN ADDITION TO DEFUNDING ICE AND CBP, ENDING OUR ENFORCEMENT-CENTERED RESPONSE TO MIGRATION MUST INCLUDE DEFUNDING MANY OF THE POLICIES THAT THESE AGENCIES CARRY OUT. CHANGES TO CASE LAW, RULES, AND REGULATIONS OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS HAVE SHAPED A SYSTEM WHERE SEEKING ASYLUM OR OTHER KINDS OF IMMIGRATION RELIEF HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT.

The formalization of “metering” practices, or turning people away at our borders after a certain number, and the implementation of programs that restrict people’s access to legal protections have left migrants in incredibly vulnerable situations that lead to re-traumatization.

The formalization of “metering” practices, or turning people away at our borders after a certain number, and the implementation of programs that restrict people’s access to legal protections have left migrants in incredibly vulnerable situations that lead to re-traumatization. Meanwhile, instead of receiving support, those who make it into the U.S. are often forced to confront policies that have criminalized the act of migration itself and results in the mass incarceration of immigrants and people seeking asylum.

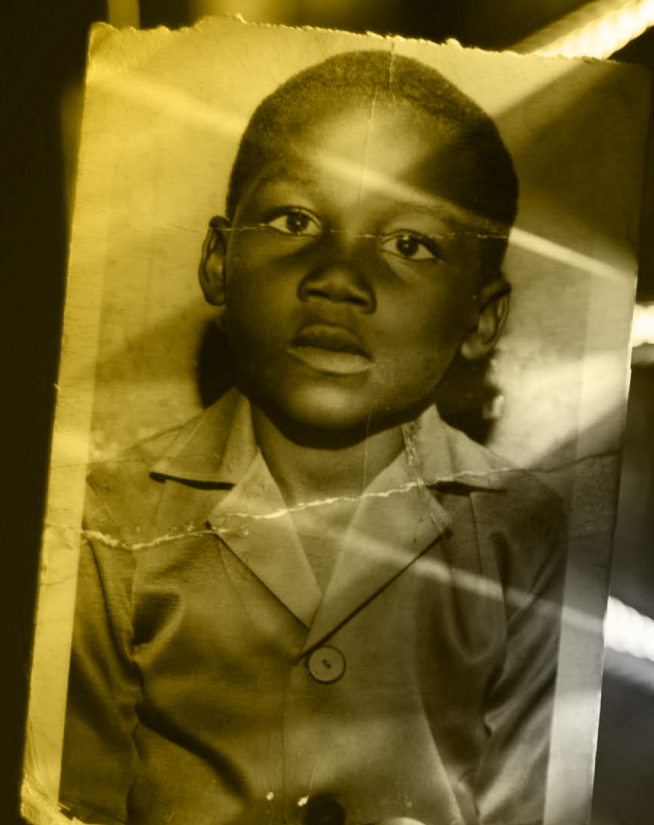


A TRANSFORMATIVE BUDGET MEANS DIVESTING FROM POLICIES THAT DRIVE ENFORCEMENT AND RESTRICT ACCESS, INCLUDING:

- **ANTI-ASYLUM POLICIES** - There is a long list of programs and policies that restrict access to asylum and have left people stranded in their search for protection. For instance, the “Remain in Mexico” program, which requires migrants to go through the U.S. asylum process while staying on Mexico’s side of the Southern border, resulted in dangerous camps where people are exposed daily to kidnappings, sexual assault, and torture. These kinds of policies undermine international asylum law and allow agents at our borders to enforce policies intended to curtail migration.
- **MIGRANT PROSECUTIONS** - Almost a century ago, immigration laws written and promoted by white supremacist lawmakers **criminalized** the act of crossing the border without authorization and crossing again after being deported. These are federal crimes, known as Sections 1325 and 1326 violations, that result in systemic rights violations, dehumanizing treatment, and the mass incarceration of immigrants. The government has discretion to not prosecute migrants for these violations—in fact, it didn’t for decades.

Today, they make up the bulk of all federal criminal prosecutions. Defunding these prosecutions is a pivotal step towards decriminalizing migration and ending a massive waste of government resources.

- **REMOVALS WITHOUT DUE PROCESS** - Multiple systems have been put in place allowing immigration enforcement agencies to deport immigrants without giving them a fair chance to prove their case through proceedings. These fast-track deportation programs allow even low-level immigration officers and border agents to deport migrants without due process. Not only does this violate the rights of those ordered for deportation, but implementation of the recent Title 42 expulsion program, for example, which uses the COVID-19 pandemic as a basis for immediate removal, has largely targeted Black migrants—demonstrating again the **racist underpinnings** of the immigration enforcement system.



“IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECENT TITLE 42 EXPULSION PROGRAM, FOR EXAMPLE, WHICH USES THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AS A BASIS FOR IMMEDIATE REMOVAL, HAS LARGELY TARGETED BLACK MIGRANTS.”

Instead of preserving policies that bolster and broaden the grounds for enforcement against migrants, the government should use its resources to ease access to our immigration system. There are already many obstacles that can make navigating one's immigration case next to impossible, from the financial burden to language barriers. While fundamental legislative change needs to take place to create a truly fair and accessible immigration system, existing resources can contribute to increasing accessibility for people without the adequate resources to support themselves through their proceedings. Finally, rolling back our enforcement-focused policies should also mean that people who were judged based on these unjust policies be given another chance with the support they need.



A TRANSFORMATIVE BUDGET MEANS INVESTING IN INCREASING ACCESS TO THE IMMIGRATION SYSTEM, INCLUDING:

- **A TRAUMA-INFORMED ASYLUM SYSTEM** - The U.S. asylum system fails to give people seeking protection a fair shot at making their claim. It subjects them to cruel conditions that only amplify the traumatic experiences to which they have been already subject. In the worst cases, this has resulted in people being returned to places where they have been harmed or killed. The asylum system should reflect an [open reception-centered model](#), invested in the capacity of asylum officers trained on cultural humility, cross-cultural communication, and trauma-informed interviewing practices.
- **UNIVERSAL LEGAL REPRESENTATION** - Immigrants with legal representation are far more likely to obtain positive determinations on their cases than immigrants without legal representation. [Research](#) demonstrates that detained immigrants with legal representation were twice as likely as people in detention without legal representation to obtain positive relief, while immigrants with legal representation who were never detained were nearly five times as likely to obtain relief.

**“COST, LANGUAGE,
FINANCIAL
INSECURITY, ETC.
SHOULD NEVER
OBSTRUCT A
PERSON’S ABILITY
TO NAVIGATE THEIR
IMMIGRATION
CASE.”**

The government should ensure that all migrants in removal proceedings without exception have access to highly trained, culturally competent counsel at no cost.

- **REMOVING BARRIERS TO ACCESS** - Cost, language, financial insecurity, etc. should never obstruct a person’s ability to navigate their immigration case. Removing the burden of cost of applications and investing in the appropriately trained personnel to offer voluntary services like child-care specialists, mental health professionals, or language interpreters for indigenous and sign languages helps build access and increase the capacity of affirmative asylum and immigration system.
- **REDETERMINATIONS** - The government should reopen previous cases for anyone given removal orders based on these policies intended to jail and deport as many people as possible and provide them with the services to effectively fight their case as requested, including aid for those facing additional trauma due to our enforcement machinery.



YOVIN ESTRADA VILLANUEVA FLED TO THE UNITED STATES FROM HONDURAS AFTER HE WITNESSED A FELLOW MOTO-TAXI DRIVER GET KILLED.

After the killing, Villanueva began receiving threats — a common occurrence for witnesses of gang crimes regardless of whether they go to the police. He sold his moto-taxi to pay a smuggler and left in early 2018 without telling most of his friends. At the United States border he was put into expedited removal, a fast-track deportation process that allows asylum seekers to apply for asylum only if they pass a credible fear interview with an asylum officer. Despite the threats to Yovin's life, an asylum officer denied his credible fear interview. He was deported two months after arriving in the US. He was gunned down just over a year later by the same people he fled.

YOVIN

**“THE GOVERNMENT
SHOULD USE ITS
RESOURCES TO
EASE ACCESS TO
OUR IMMIGRATION
SYSTEM”**

WASTING IN REAL COMMUNITY NEEDS

**WHILE OUR RECOMMENDATIONS
FOCUS ON DISMANTLING
THE FEDERAL IMMIGRATION
ENFORCEMENT REGIME AND
BUILDING UP RESOURCES FOR A
MORE JUST APPROACH, THE DEFUND
HATE COALITION RECOGNIZES THAT
OUR COMMUNITIES HAVE A BROAD
SET OF NEEDS.**

Our tax dollars at the local, state and national levels prioritize the expansion of immigrant incarceration and the policing of working-class people, leaving our real needs to live a whole and secure life under-resourced. In response, communities across the country are fighting for divestment from these profit-centered initiatives and instead calling for the investment of resources into public services that create safe and healthy communities.

In 2020, regions with local immigrant detention centers in the Rio Grande Valley, Texas, Chaparral, New Mexico, and Etowah, Georgia


conducted a community needs assessment to inform the reimagining of their communities. Organizations in each region surveyed 30 to 40 people living in their county as part of an initial effort to examine their assets and determine necessities for services development. The three regions identified the need for investment in the following areas:

- **AFFORDABLE HOUSING** - An affordable home is a necessity for families experiencing poverty. A home improves people's quality of life and provides individuals the opportunity to have financial stability, be healthy, and have security. Ninety-four percent of people surveyed identified this as a needed investment.
- **COMMUNITY CARE CLINICS** - Community care clinics provide comprehensive care to underserved and vulnerable people living in rural and urban regions. An investment in community care clinics would increase health care access for everyone and improve the overall wellness of communities. Ninety-five percent of people surveyed identified this as a needed investment.
- **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS** - Low-income communities are often the target of polluters who repeatedly disregard the health of families. People seek investment in our ecosystems that give everyone access to clean water, air, and an environment free of toxic chemicals. Ninety-seven percent of people surveyed identified this as a needed investment.

- **JOB OPPORTUNITIES** - The root problem of joblessness is too varied to address with a single solution. What is clear is that an investment in funds in a multi-pronged approach would create employment prospects. People need good quality jobs that ensure workers are treated with dignity, paid living wages, receive benefits, and include workplace protections. Ninety-seven percent of people surveyed identified this as a needed investment.



These results from the Rio Grande Valley, Chaparral, and Etowah are a snapshot of the needs of people living in the United States. The reality is that cities and counties experience a diverse set of challenges in their communities. Local, state, and national elected officials should heed their constituents' call and invest in the needs identified by their residents. It is their responsibility to ensure that our tax dollars at every level of government are invested in the wellbeing of all people in our communities by divesting from harmful institutions like the immigration detention system and directing resources to essential community services.



“IT IS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT OUR TAX DOLLARS AT EVERY LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT ARE INVESTED IN THE WELLBEING OF ALL PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITIES BY DIVESTING FROM HARMFUL INSTITUTIONS.”

CONCLUSION

FOR TOO LONG, OUR GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED OBSCENE FUNDING LEVELS FOR ICE AND CBP TO EXPAND OUR CRUEL AND DYSFUNCTIONAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM.

Often our communities are told that budget work has to be based entirely on the numbers and logic that have brought us to this system where we value high-dollar government agencies mass surveilling and incarcerating our loved ones over the dignity and respect each person deserves. We are told that we need to follow tit-for-tat thinking and tune out the actual needs of our people. But the question is not about being “realistic” or working within the existing framework. The resources are clearly there—what is needed is the will to shape reality for transformative justice to grow.

The Defund Hate Coalition unites people across the country to demand that Congress drastically cut funding for ICE and CBP each year and instead invest tax dollars in vital programs that benefit all of us.

This proposal is our foundational vision for this work, demonstrating more holistically the overarching goals of these tactics. The federal budget should be a moral document that reflects our values as a country. It's time to stop writing a blank check to agencies that waste taxpayer dollars and undermine our values. We must work towards an immigration system where every person is treated with dignity and respect and government resources are invested into the collective health and well-being of everyone. We must begin passing transformative budgets that defund hate.



ABOUT DEFUND HATE

**THE DEFUND HATE CAMPAIGN
IS LED BY A COALITION OF
ORGANIZATIONS THAT REPRESENT
DIRECTLY IMPACTED IMMIGRANT
COMMUNITIES, FAITH LEADERS,
AND CIVIL AND IMMIGRANT
RIGHTS ADVOCATES.**

We are committed to divestment from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP), agencies that tear apart loved ones and harm our communities. Instead, we want our tax dollars used to strengthen our families and communities. The coalition unites communities across the country to demand that Congress cut funding for ICE and CBP and instead invest our tax dollars in health care, education and other vital programs that benefit all of us.

APPENDIX: BUDGET RESOURCES FROM THE MOVEMENT

1. POOR PEOPLE'S MORAL BUDGET: EVERYBODY HAS THE RIGHT TO LIVE

Poor People's Campaign, Institute for Policy Studies, Repairers of the Breach, and Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice .

"In April 2018, the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival released a Moral Agenda and Declaration of Fundamental Rights. The demands contained within that document present a comprehensive response to the systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism, and war economy plaguing our country today. For the 140 million people who are poor, or one emergency away from being poor, we know these demands are necessary. This Poor People's Moral Budget asks, given the resources of our society, whether these demands are also possible. Our answer is a resounding yes."

2. ABOLISHING THE WAR ON TERROR, BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF CARE: A GRASSROOTS POLICY AGENDA

Justice for Muslims Collective, HEART Women and Girls, Vigilant Love, the Partnership to End Gendered Islamophobia, Project South, the Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans, and the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights

"This agenda is a labor of love, a product of lived expertise, and a model for community care. As grassroots groups who have been on the frontlines of defending our communities and fighting state repression, we firmly believe a critical intervention is necessary that calls for the abolition of the War on Terror, rather than focusing on neoliberal reforms. As the Biden Administration, alongside a new Congress sets the course for the next four years, we are calling for abolishing the War on Terror and reinvesting resources into structures of community care."

3. **THE MILITARIZED BUDGET**
National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies

“The United States is the single biggest military spender in the world. This report takes note of that fact, and ties U.S. military spending – which is primarily focused on current and potential conflicts abroad – to its analog here at home: spending on veterans of foreign wars, incarceration, immigration enforcement, and the war on drugs.”

4. **THE BREATHE ACT**
Electoral Justice Project of the Movement for Black Lives

“This visionary bill divests our taxpayer dollars from brutal and discriminatory policing and invests in a new vision of public safety—a vision that answers the call to defund the police and allows all communities to finally BREATHE free. We are rising up against all the ways that the criminal-legal system has harmed and failed to protect Black communities. The current moment requires a solution that fundamentally shifts how we envision community-care and invest in our society. History is clear that we cannot achieve genuine safety and liberation until we abandon police, prisons, and all punishment paradigms.”

5. **THE RED DEAL: INDIGENOUS ACTION TO SAVE OUR EARTH**
The Red Nation

“The Red Nation (TRN) invites allied movements, comrades, and relatives to implement the Red Deal, a movement-oriented document for climate justice and grassroots reform and revolution. This is not a region- or nation-specific platform, but one that encompasses the entirety of Indigenous America, including our non-Indigenous comrades and relatives who live here. This is a platform so that our planet may live. We cannot expect politicians to do what only mass movements can do.”

**DEFUND
HATE**