

Defund the Detention and Deportation Machine

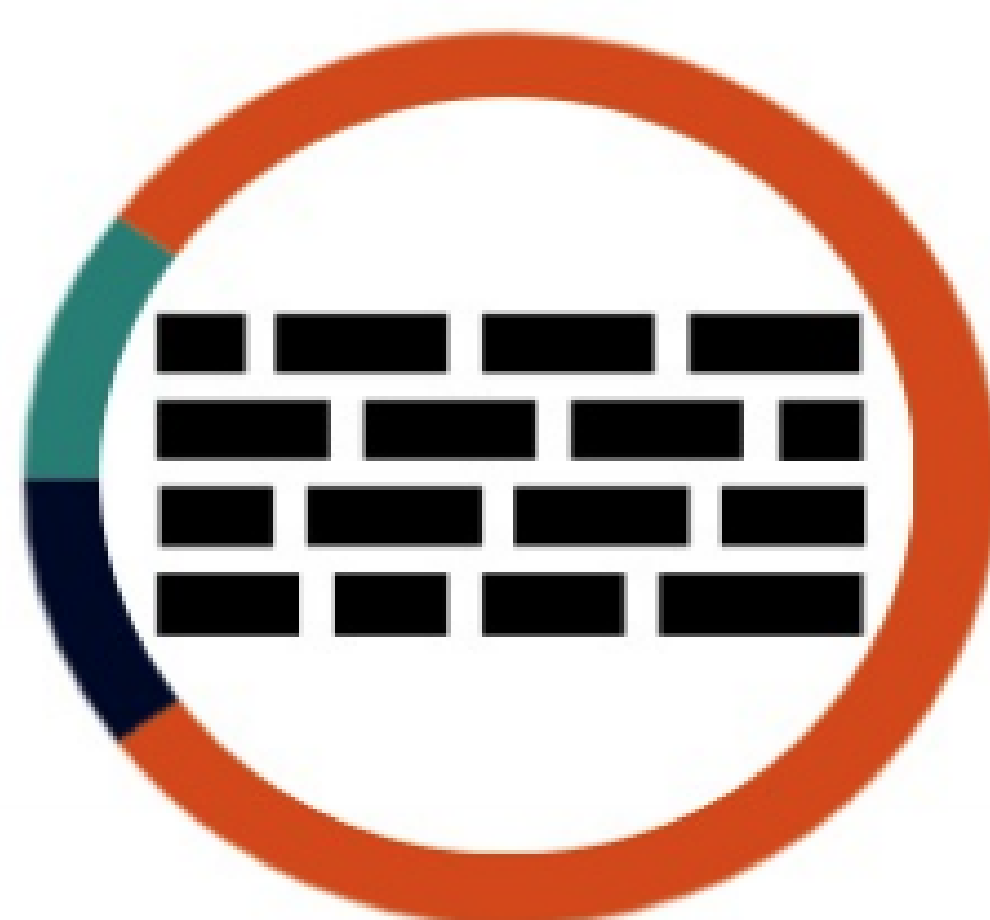
You may be shocked to learn that your taxpayer dollars are being used to pay for the Trump administration's hate-fueled immigration detention and deportation machine. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP), agencies under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), are systematically targeting, jailing and exiling people because of where they come from and what they look like. Despite the fact that ICE and CBP actively hide information from the public, have an ever-increasing death toll, and are plagued by system-wide abuses, the budgets of these agencies continue to grow by the billions with your tax dollars at the expense of immigrant lives. It's time to Defund Hate!



In this past Fiscal Year 2019, funding for ICE and CBP funded:



A massive increase in ICE immigrant detention that reached a historic high of over 55,000 people in detention.



The further militarization of our Southern border, including maintaining 20,000 Border Patrol agents and diverting over \$8 billion for harmful physical and technological border construction.



The execution of the largest workplace raids in at least a decade, separating hundreds of families and loved ones

Congress is supposed to be the final decision-maker when it comes to federal spending. For a long time, even Senators and Representatives who said they support immigrant communities and publicly condemned aggressive immigration enforcement have quietly voted to fund it. Just last summer, Congress approved DHS to receive over \$4 billion in supplemental funding to expand this system of cruel enforcement without the essential guardrails of transparency and accountability.

Stopping the flow of money is critical to stopping Trump's anti-immigrant agenda. Constant growth of ICE and CBP's budget is not inevitable. In December, Congress passed the first appropriations bill since Trump took office that didn't include massive increases for immigration enforcement, keeping funding for Fiscal Year 2020 mostly level to the previous year. The Defund Hate coalition, dedicated to calling for significant cuts in funding for ICE and CBP, while investing in programs that support our collective well-being, has been part of blocking over \$7 billion in immigration enforcement funding. Now is the time to tell your Member of Congress to cut funding for ICE and CBP!



How does this all work?

Every year, the President submits their ideal budget to Congress in early February. Congress is the ultimate decisionmaker about how to spend taxpayer dollars—both in terms of how much money to spend, and how to divide it up. They do this by dividing the total budget among 12 appropriations subcommittees that represent different areas of government spending like Homeland Security, Defense, Financial Services, Health and Education, etc. Each of the subcommittees must decide how to divide the amount they've been given between specific programs like ICE agents, immigration detention, Border Patrol agents, or border militarization. These decisions are put into a bill that must pass out of both the House and Senate and be signed by the President. If that doesn't happen, the government will shut down. Sometimes, Congress may pass a short term spending bill (or continuing resolution) to keep funding levels where they currently are, to avoid a total shutdown.

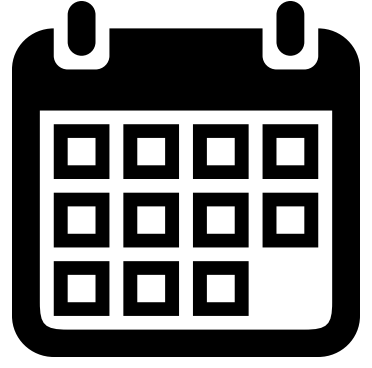
This means we need to do 3 things:



1. In the budget development process: decrease the overall amount of money going to the Department of Homeland Security.
2. In the appropriations process: influence the division of overall DHS funds to decrease funding for detention and removal operations or border militarization, while putting accountability measures in place to make sure the agencies cannot overspend their decreased funding.
3. Change the overall political landscape of constant funding increases for CBP and ICE and enforcement-only responses to migration.

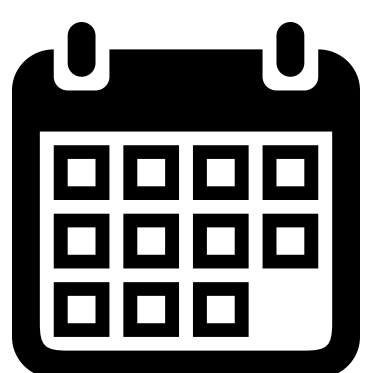
What's the timeline?

President Trump should submit his budget request to Congress in February. By April, Congress should then pass a budget resolution to decide how much money each appropriations subcommittee has to divide up into specific programs. That means we have until mid-April to make calls to limit resources for ICE and CBP by reducing DHS' budget a critical piece of the budget process.



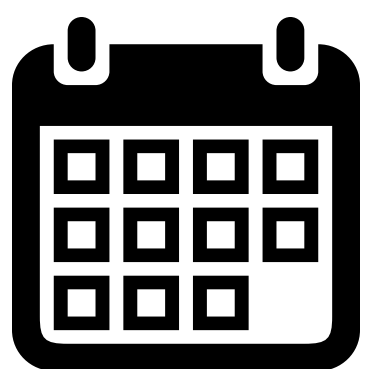
January

- President uses the State of The Union address to outline his priorities for the upcoming year.
- Movement: Tweet #DefundHate priorities during the State of the Union. Hold trainings to educate communities about the #DefundHate Campaign and how the federal funding process works.



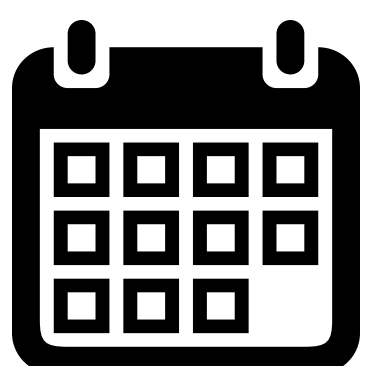
February

- President submits his budget to Congress, theoretically by the first Monday in February
- Movement: Begin setting up meetings with Members of Congress to build a network of champions.



March

- Congress begins budget negotiations to figure out how much money the federal government has to spend and how much government agencies should get.
- Movement: Meet with Members of Congress in-district and in DC and ask them to support cuts to the DHS budget. Connect with other partners in the progressive movement to emphasize what priorities we should be investing funds in.



April

- By the end of April, Congress should pass a budget resolution that will decide how much money DHS will get.
- Movement: Increase pressure on Members of Congress so they understand how funds are used to hurt our communities and demand they support cuts.



Who are the targets?



Members of Congress that have supported cuts in funding before

who will be likely to sign-on early in the year to create a baseline of support;
see list here: <http://bit.ly/DHtargetlist>

Leadership

who are involved in negotiating the final budget deal; see list here:
<http://bit.ly/DHtargetlist>

Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and border Reps
and Senators

who will likely play an outsized role in influencing the negotiations; see list
here: <http://bit.ly/DHtargetlist>

All Members of Congress

wherever you live, make sure that your Representative and Senators support
cuts in funding for the enforcement, detention and deportation machine!

We've seen that powerful organizing and constituent pressure can change the outcome of something that previously seemed inevitable. Even with the White House and Congress controlled by openly anti-immigrant politicians, we can still win.

So how can I take action?

Call your representative:

- Dial 1-844-332-6361 and follow instructions to connect you with [your Member of Congress](#).
- Use this call in Script as a guide, though feel free to include whatever reason for cutting funds is most important to you/your community:

*"Hello, my name is [first and last name] and I'm a constituent of [state/congressional district]. I'm calling as part of the Defund Hate campaign. We're calling on [Member of Congress] to **commit to supporting cuts in the DHS budget**. ICE and CBP, two agencies within DHS, have a long history of abuse, mismanagement of funds, and retaliation against those who speak out against them. Significantly cutting the budget is the only way to reel in their excessive spending and track record of abuses. **We demand that [Member of Congress] take a public stance in support of cuts in the DHS budget.**"*

Request a meeting with your member of Congress:

- Decide who – among your two Senators and Representative – you want to target. Reach out if you need help deciding.
- As soon as possible, request a meeting with your target(s).
- Plan for your meeting and use the accountability scorecards ([House and Senate](#)) to guide your conversation.
- **Focus on the local impacts of the detention and deportation machine** to make the connection between the money and harm done to local communities.

Use social media to amplify your work:

- Use #DefundHate on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
- Follow us on social media at @DetentionWatch and @defundhate_campaign

