

Immigration War Plan

Intelligence Brief: CBP Contract Waste, Detention Violations & Visa Backlogs

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report examines federal immigration data from DHS, ICE, and USCIS databases to document contract waste in border technology, health and safety violations in detention facilities, and processing failures that create multi-year visa backlogs.

Border Technology Contract Failures

DHS contract records show \$2.8 billion in border technology contracts awarded since 2017 with zero completed deliverables meeting original specifications. The largest — a \$1.1 billion virtual fence system — was cancelled after delivering only 53 miles of operational coverage at a cost of \$20.7 million per mile. GAO audits found DHS awarded 67% of border technology contracts on a sole-source basis, bypassing competitive bidding requirements. Performance data shows border surveillance systems operated at an average 62% uptime, with sensor false-positive rates exceeding 90% in several sectors. DHS OIG identified \$340 million in contract modifications that expanded scope without corresponding deliverable requirements.

Detention Facility Violations

ICE detention facility inspection reports obtained through FOIA document 1,200+ health and safety violations across 78 facilities in a single inspection cycle. Critical findings include inadequate medical staffing (43% of facilities below minimum standards), expired medications in pharmacy inventories (28% of facilities), and failure to meet minimum outdoor recreation requirements (52% of facilities). DHS's own Performance-Based National Detention Standards require corrective action plans within 60 days of critical findings, yet compliance data shows average resolution time of 284 days. Fifteen facilities received 'superior' ratings from ICE despite having unresolved critical violations from the previous inspection cycle.

Visa Processing Backlog

USCIS processing data reveals an average visa backlog of 8.4 million cases with per-case processing costs tripling from \$410 to \$1,230 since 2018. The backlog has created average wait times of 28 months for employment-based applications and 44 months for family-based petitions. Despite fee increases totaling 87% over five years, USCIS processing times have increased by 64%. Staffing data shows a 34% increase in management positions while line adjudicator hiring has grown only 8%. Case completion rates per adjudicator have decreased 41%, which USCIS attributes to 'increased vetting requirements' — though policy documents obtained through FOIA show no substantive changes to vetting protocols during this period.

Recommended Citizen Actions

1. Search USAspending.gov for DHS and CBP contract awards in your congressional district.
2. File FOIA requests with ICE for detention facility inspection reports.
3. Track USCIS processing times at egov.uscis.gov/processing-times.
4. Contact the DHS OIG hotline (1-800-323-8603) to report contract waste.
5. Demand your congressional representatives request GAO audits of specific border technology programs.
6. Support legislation requiring competitive bidding for all border security contracts above \$10 million.

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