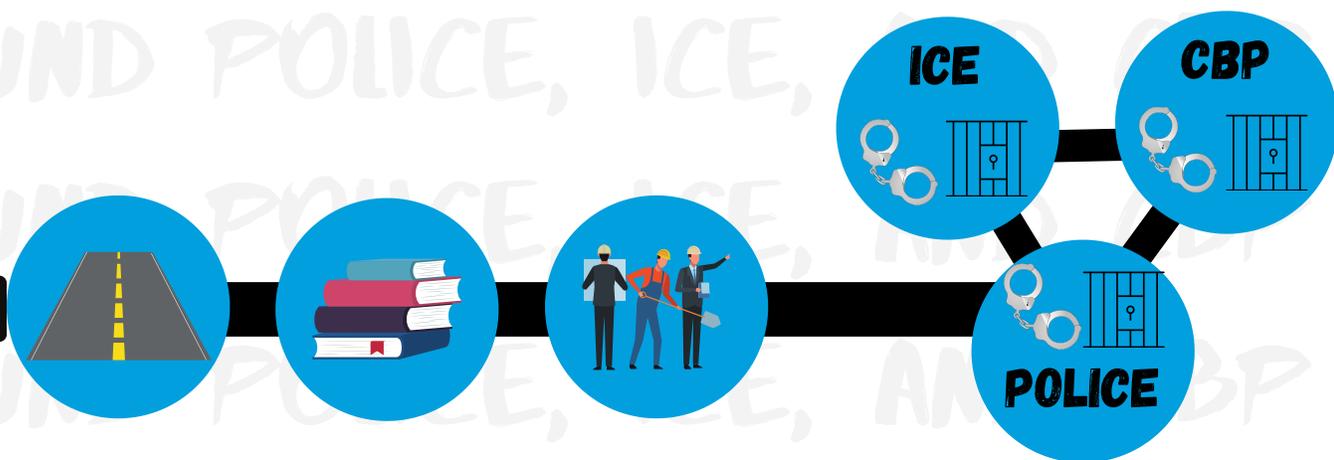


# DEFUND RACIST LAW ENFORCEMENT: POLICE, ICE, AND CBP

**Racism is at the core of the United States' systems of policing, incarceration, and immigration.**

Local and state law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement agencies combine demonizing rhetoric and violent tactics to criminalize Black and brown people in the U.S. These agencies work together as part of a greater law enforcement infrastructure to uphold white supremacy.

Local, state, and federal police, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) have created pipelines between the criminal punishment and immigration enforcement systems that target and take people from streets, schools, and work to youth detention and local jails to prisons and immigrant jails. This web of deadly enforcement advances the unjust laws and policies that marginalize and harm poor communities of color.



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## HOW POLICE, ICE, AND CBP POLICE TOGETHER

Police, ICE, and CBP not only employ similar enforcement tactics – targeting people in their communities through racial and class profiling, tearing them away from loved ones, and putting them behind bars – but they also work together to advance their own missions of oppression. Local law enforcement across the country arrest immigrants for ICE and CBP, and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which houses ICE and CBP, deploys forces to boost local, state, and federal law enforcement activities.

**287(g) agreements** between ICE and local law enforcement allow state and local police officers to act as federal immigration agents. These agreements give police the authority to apprehend community members based on their immigration status and funnel them into the detention and deportation machine.

Programs like “**Secure Communities**” and the “**Criminal Alien Program**” give ICE access to people in jails and prisons through local and state police sharing their information. These information sharing programs supplement a wide variety of databases accessible to local, state, and federal law enforcement that track and share private and sometimes inaccurate information about people to target them and keep them incarcerated.

DHS provides funding to local and state law enforcement, including grants often used to purchase military-grade weapons and surveillance equipment and to expand programs like Operation Stonegarden, which enhances their collaboration with Border Patrol.

## HOW POLICE, ICE, AND CBP INCARCERATE TOGETHER

Police, ICE, and CBP all funnel people into the cages of the prison industrial complex. Police arrest people who end up in local jails and then transfer them to prisons once sentenced, while ICE and CBP operate detention centers or immigration jails for people being processed by our immigration system. They all deprive people of their liberty, dehumanize them in egregious conditions, and perpetuate a culture of violence with sometimes fatal consequences. The same jails and prisons used by local and state law enforcement are also often used by ICE to detain immigrants.

**E** **Intergovernmental agreements (IGAs) and intergovernmental service agreements (IGSAs)** are contracts that allow ICE to use space in local jails for immigration detention. The majority of the 200 facilities used for ICE detention are through IGSAs.

**X** Many ICE detention centers were previously operating as state, local, or federal jails or prisons. As a result of sentencing reforms and the successful efforts of the movement to decarcerate jails and prisons in the criminal punishment system, many facilities have been emptied. This has resulted in a recycling of jails that are now used for immigration detention, the [most notable recent examples being in Louisiana](#).

**A** **ICE detainers** call for police to flag the status of someone in custody before their release and at times even hold them for ICE to arrive and bring them into immigration custody.

**M** Jails and prisons also incarcerate immigrants in criminal legal custody who are charged and/or convicted of federal crimes, including **1325 and 1326 violations**, which criminalize the act of crossing the border without authorization and doing so again after being deported.

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# HOW ANTI-BLACK RACISM FACTORS IN

Because the missions of criminal and immigration law enforcement are rooted in racial oppression, Black people are the most impacted by these systems of policing and incarceration. [Research conducted by the Sentencing Project](#) shows that Black people are more likely to be arrested – 95 percent of police departments across the country arrest Black people at a higher rate than other racial groups. Black people are also more likely to be jailed – 1 in 3 young Black men and 1 in 18 young Black women can expect to face imprisonment in their lifetime as opposed to 1 in 17 young white men and 1 in 111 young white women. These realities translate to the immigration context because contact with the criminal punishment system is a driving factor of deportability. According to [ICE statistics from 2015](#), despite Black immigrants only making up 7.2 percent of the undocumented population, more than 20 percent of immigrants facing deportation after coming into contact with the criminal punishment system are Black. Being more likely to be arrested and jailed by the police means being more likely to be detained and deported.

## THE ALARMING DEATH TOLL AT THE HANDS OF POLICE, ICE, AND CBP

**Police:** According to the [Mapping Police Violence research collaborative](#), police in the U.S. have killed over 1,000 people every year since 2013. The research also shows that Black people are three times more likely to be killed by the police, as well as three times more likely to face threats or the use of physical force by the police.

**ICE:** According to tracking conducted by Detention Watch Network, over 210 people have died in ICE custody since the agency's inception in 2003. A series of three investigations by [Detention Watch Network](#), [National Immigrant Justice Center](#), [American Civil Liberties Union](#), [Human Rights Watch](#), and [Freedom For Immigrants](#) since 2016 exposes that in approximately half of these cases, deaths in custody were attributable to the agency's own medical negligence.

**CBP:** According to [tracking conducted by the Southern Border Communities Coalition](#), over 110 people have died as the result of an encounter with U.S. border agents since January 2010. Many were due to CBP's deficient use of force policies that legal precedence has also permitted, including impunity in cases of an agent shooting a person on the opposite side of the border.

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## **SOLUTION:**

# **DEFUND THE POLICE, DEFUND ICE AND CBP, AND DISSOLVE DHS**

Funding the police is a large part of local budgets. In Los Angeles, for example, LAPD's budget is over \$3 billion, about 54 percent of the city's budget. Meanwhile, federal immigration enforcement receives more funding than all other federal law enforcement agencies combined, averaging about \$25 billion annually for ICE and CBP. Instead of investing in services that support communities like accessible healthcare, critical housing, quality education, and food assistance, tens of billions in taxpayer dollars go to terrorizing, caging, and deporting people every year.

These struggles to liberate and care for each other are aligned in calling for an end to the reliance on a militarized response to inequity. The solution is clear: elected officials must reprioritize by defunding these agencies, dissolving this country's racist law enforcement infrastructure, and decriminalizing communities of color to truly invest in their safety.

## **INVEST IN COMMUNITIES, DEFUND POLICE, ICE, AND CBP**



### **LEARN MORE...**

- [History of Policing](#)
- [History of DHS](#)
- [On "Crimmigration"](#)
- [More on Pipelines: From Criminal Punishment to Deportation](#)
- [Profit Incentives](#)
- [On Reform and Abolition](#)
- [The State of Black Immigrants](#)



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