

Immigration Enforcement Budget FY2022: What is it, and How does it impact us?



On March 11th, Congress passed a \$1.5 trillion omnibus spending package for the Fiscal Year 2022. This bill provides funds for various government entities, including the Department of Homeland Security, and has now been signed into law by President Biden.

Why is this budget so important?

The budget is composed of 12 individual bills, which creates an “omnibus” or package budget. Congress has been negotiating the budget for FY22 for quite some time as it is essential for our non-defense and defense operations to continue. This bill contains \$730 billion for non-defense purposes and \$782 billion in defense spending. It also includes an additional \$13.6 billion in aid for Ukraine, amongst other things.

How does this impact our members?

The Biden Administration campaigned on a promise of a reduction of enforcement and a progressive immigration reform. This budget is a complete contradiction to those promises, as it skyrockets the budget for the Department of Homeland Security and creates further avenues for surveillance and detention of immigrant communities.

What are the topline?

- ICE’s funding has been increased by \$284.7 million (total funding of \$8.3 billion)
- Trump-era detention capacity rates of 34,000 people were maintained, which is a significant increase compared to the current number of 28,500 people.
- Funding for an “Alternatives to Detention” program was also increased, this is a harmful program that also expands on community surveillance.
- Customs and Border Protection (CBP) funding levels saw a minimal decrease, and this budget allows DHS to use any remaining funds at their discretion, which only furthers their reach in border communities.
- Unnecessary and invasive border surveillance continues to be at the forefront of the administration, by investing and increasing the budget for new technology.

What happens now?

While we advocated ardently for a just immigration system, none of our demands were included. Congress has increased the funding for ICE and Customs and Border Patrol which are the main culprits behind the militarization, mass surveillance, violence, detention, and deportation of vulnerable communities across the country.

In order for this administration to move in the right direction, we need a new community centered approach to immigration, that does not include policies that criminalize black and brown people. We are looking to FY2023 as the last opportunity for congress to step up and fulfill their promises.

Contact Make the Road New York to join our fight against senseless enforcement and to seek a just immigration system!

If you or a loved one are the target of an ICE raid, you can call MRNY at 718-565-8500 immediately for assistance.