



*The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties supports the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as it secures the nation while preserving individual liberty, fairness, and equality under the law.*



### **President Obama Visits DHS to Deliver Remarks on the FY 2016 Budget**

Earlier this month, President Obama visited DHS headquarters where he spoke on the importance of fully funding the Department for the year ahead. Without an appropriations bill, the Department would be unable to undertake many activities vital to homeland security and public safety.

The President's FY2016 budget proposes \$41.2 billion in discretionary funding, aligned with the Department's five primary missions: to prevent terrorism and enhance security, secure and manage our borders, enforce and administer our immigration laws, safeguard and secure cyberspace, and strengthen national preparedness and resilience.



Secretary Jeh Johnson lauded the President's proposed budget for providing the necessary resources to strengthen efforts to fulfill the Department's wide-ranging missions while also being vigilant in the face of ever-evolving threats and recent world events. Secretary Johnson further urged Congress to fully fund DHS for the rest of the fiscal year.

To reinforce the Department's ability to carry out its mandates, the budget supports Secretary Johnson's challenge to improve DHS' Unity of Effort. This initiative focuses on harmonizing DHS business processes, updating the organizational structure, and re-orienting and bolstering command and control functions. Through strategic review and investments in critical activities and operations DHS will incorporate its agencies into a unified decision-making process that empowers its components to effectively execute their missions. Concurrent with the budget submission, DHS has provided Congress with a blueprint for a new Common Appropriations Structure, which if adopted would standardize financial planning, programming, and budget execution across all DHS agencies.

#### **Inside**

[President Obama Delivers Remarks on FY 2016 Budget](#)

[DHS 2015: Secretary Johnson's Progress Report](#)

[Executive Action on Immigration](#)

[CRCL Monitors Conditions at Family Detention Centers](#)

[E-Verify Employee Rights Video Available in Six More Languages](#)

[CRCL On the Road](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Watch [video](#) and read the [full transcript](#) of President Obama's remarks on the FY2016 budget.

## **DHS 2015: Secretary Johnson's Progress Report**

Secretary Jeh Johnson recently discussed the past, present, and future of the Department in his [DHS 2015: The Secretary's Progress Report](#) address. He gave this presentation at an event in Washington, DC hosted by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and the Aspen Institute Homeland Security Group.



The Secretary's report highlighted several accomplishments and actions that have been taken over the past year, which include: filling a number of senior-level vacancies; committing to greater transparency in data collection and reporting; improving morale among employees; implementing executive action on immigration reform; and improving our responsiveness to Congress. Secretary Johnson also spoke on counterterrorism, cybersecurity, and community engagement efforts—all of which CRCL has a direct role in facilitating and monitoring on behalf of the Department.

Watch [video](#) and read the [full transcript](#) of the Secretary's remarks.

## **Fixing Our Broken Immigration System Through Executive Action**

At the request of President Obama, Secretary Jeh Johnson and Attorney General Eric Holder conducted a rigorous and inclusive review to reform the nation's broken immigration system. This review sought the advice and input from those charged with implementing the policies, as well as the ideas of a broad range of stakeholders and Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle. The resulting [assessment identified ten areas](#) where we, within the confines of the law, could take action to increase border security, focus enforcement resources, and ensure accountability in our immigration system. Of these ten areas CRCL will have a direct role and impact in the following:

- ***Ending Secure Communities and Replacing It with the New Priority Enforcement Program (PEP):*** CRCL has been charged to develop and implement a plan to monitor transfer actions of state and local law enforcement agencies participating in the new program.
- ***Expanding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program and Extending Deferred Action to Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA):*** CRCL will facilitate discussion and receive stakeholder input on these topics at upcoming community engagement roundtables and related activities.

In addition CRCL is involved with several internal working groups and task forces established to implement the border security plan, enforcement priorities memo, and data collection and analysis. CRCL will also provide policy advice and remain prepared to receive and investigate complaints concerning civil rights and civil liberties issues throughout the areas affected by the executive action.

## **CRCL Monitors Conditions at Family Detention Centers**

Over the past few months CRCL has monitored conditions at the family residential centers (in Artesia, New Mexico and Karnes City, Texas) that were established to allow families to remain together while in custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). These facilities were established in response to the influx of adults traveling with children apprehended along the Southwest border. Most recently, CRCL visited the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas where they monitored facility operations and other conditions. At present the facility, opened in November, houses approximately 480 residents and will ultimately accommodate up to 2,400 residents on the approximately 50-acre site. ICE expects the facility to be ready for full capacity within 90 days.

*[continued on next page]*

ICE is operating residential centers for adults with children to maintain family unity while families await the outcome of immigration hearings or return to their home countries. ICE ensures that these residential centers operate in an open environment, which includes medical care, play rooms, social workers, educational services, and access to legal counsel. ICE's Juvenile and Family Residential Management Unit is responsible for monitoring activity at these facilities and ensuring they are in compliance with ICE's Family Residential Standards.

In addition to the centers at Dilley and Karnes, ICE also continues to utilize a long-standing facility in Leesport, Pennsylvania to house adults with children. As part of its work CRCL regularly monitors detention facilities and will continue to work with ICE to monitor civil rights and civil liberties concerns regarding these family residential centers.

### **E-Verify Employee Rights Video Available in Six Additional Languages**

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has partnered with CRCL to update the E-Verify Employee Rights and Responsibilities video with captions in six more languages. The video has been available in English and Spanish since 2010. The languages now available in captions are Chinese (traditional), French, Korean, Russian, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

The video uses a dramatic reenactment to explain the rights of employees when employers use E-Verify and the process for employees to contest a data mismatch, known as a Tentative Nonconfirmation. The multilingual videos can be found on the [E-Verify Foreign Language Resource page](#), the [USCIS Multi-Lingual Resource Center](#), and the [USCIS YouTube page](#).

### **Tips for Effectively Communicating with Protected Populations During Preparedness, Response, and Recovery**

CRCL, in conjunction with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Office of Equal Rights and Office of Disability Integration and Coordination, has revised its [guidance to recipients of DHS financial assistance](#). The guidance, first issued in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy in 2012, reminds recipients of their obligations under federal nondiscrimination laws and describes actions that can help jurisdictions meet those obligations in connection with disaster services.

### **CRCL on the Road, January – February**

#### ***January 21 – Seattle, Washington***

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

#### ***January 28 – Chicago, Illinois***

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

#### ***February 12 – Tampa, Florida***

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

#### ***January 22 – Boston, Massachusetts***

CRCL participated in the BRIDGES roundtable with local federal partners and community leaders.

#### ***January 28 – Detroit, Michigan***

CRCL participated in the BRIDGES roundtable with local federal partners and community leaders.

#### ***February 12 – Toronto, Canada***

CRCL participated in a Public Safety Canada event with the Somali community.

***February 19 – Denver, Colorado***

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

***February 25 – Phoenix, Arizona***

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

***February 24-25 – Columbus, Ohio***

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable and youth roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

**Additional information, and contacting us**

The goal of this periodic newsletter is to inform members of the public about the activities of the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, including: how to file complaints; ongoing and upcoming projects; opportunities to offer comments and feedback; etc. We distribute our newsletters via our stakeholder email list and make them available to community groups for redistribution. Issues of the newsletter can be accessed online at: [www.dhs.gov/crcl-newsletter](http://www.dhs.gov/crcl-newsletter).

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, want to request back issues, or have other comments or questions, please let us know by emailing [crcloutreach@dhs.gov](mailto:crcloutreach@dhs.gov). For more information, including how to make a civil rights or civil liberties complaint about DHS activities, visit: [www.dhs.gov/crcl](http://www.dhs.gov/crcl).

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