

THE CHALLENGE: THE NEED FOR PROCESS AND TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) complex, resource-constrained environment requires enhanced capabilities to ensure the efficient enforcement of U.S. Immigration Laws, and the streamlined administration of the U.S. Immigration System.

DESIGNING A PROGRAM TO MEET THIS CHALLENGE

The DHS Science and Technology Directorate's Immigration Services Program will support DHS in enhancing their ability to streamline immigration custody, case processing, and removal operations, prevent immigration fraud, and improve mission data management, analysis, visualization and sharing across the homeland security enterprise.

PROGRAM IMPACT

This program will enable the implementation of key administration goals and priorities including Executive Order (E.O.) 14159, Protecting the American People Against Invasion, and E.O. 14165, Securing Our Borders. Specifically, Immigration Services is focusing on the following areas:

- Efficient and effective domestic and international transportation of illegal aliens
- Efficient intake, management, and transfer of property and valuables for detainees
- Assessing custody-related contracting efficiencies using automation in conjunction with human oversight
- Estimating and forecasting U.S. migration flows and factors
- Improving the resiliency and efficiency of detention facilities and operations
- Enhancing risk-based custody decisions
- Enhancing methods for efficient case processing
- Improving DHS-wide information collection and sharing

PROGRAM MILESTONES

- In collaboration with the S&T Silicon Valley Innovation Program, Immigration Services developed a digital authentication and verifier for United States Citizenship



and Immigration Services (USCIS) and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP)

- Delivered a methodology for USCIS to measure internal and external operational metrics
- Provided USCIS decision-makers information to invest and improve USCIS workflows and digital architecture

Planned activities for this program include:

- Development of a novel methodology for understanding factors affecting U.S. migration flows
- Engagement with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) on an urgent need to address inefficiencies of transportation of illegal aliens
- Engagement in a DHS Small Business Innovation Research activity that aims to establish and maintain digital trust in video being captured by a camera in a laptop, desktop, or mobile device while connected with video conferencing applications
- Provide ICE and CBP automation methods that enable: 1) more efficient intake, management, and transfer of property and valuables; and 2) assess custody-related contracting efficiencies using automation and data-analysis techniques in conjunction with human oversight

PERFORMERS/PARTNERS

- Industry partners
- Federally Funded Research and Development Centers
- University and non-profit partners