

From: ICE-Broadcast
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A Message from Director Sarah R. Saldaña

To all ICE employees

June 12, 2015

Priority Enforcement Program

Last year, President Obama and Secretary Johnson shared their vision for strengthening our country's immigration system through a series of actions that more closely reflect the priorities, values, and character of the United States of America. Our work at ICE is vital to the success of these efforts and to the security of our nation.

A key component of ICE's plans to implement the enforcement priorities set forth by Secretary Johnson is the Priority Enforcement Program, or PEP. Our ability to develop and maintain positive relationships with law enforcement partners is directly related to the clarity and effectiveness of our enforcement and removal priorities. We are dedicated to continue working with those jurisdictions that partner with us today, while bringing back on board those that no longer participate. We can best do this by tailoring PEP to fit the needs of each jurisdiction, ensuring that law enforcement is able to maintain community trust while also going after those here illegally who choose to threaten the peace and stability of our communities.

For those jurisdictions wishing to participate under PEP, ICE will only seek transfer of an individual in state or local law enforcement custody if that individual has a conviction for a specific category of criminal offense, has intentionally participated in criminal gang activities, or poses a threat to national security. PEP does not prevent ICE from seeking the transfer of an alien when ICE has otherwise determined that the alien is an immigration enforcement priority, and the state or local agency agrees to cooperate with the transfer.

In an effort to fully prepare ICE's workforce, we, in concert with the Department, developed informational products and training aids to help assure both understanding and consistency. These materials include a PEP fact sheet <https://insight.ice.dhs.gov/director/opa/news/broadcasts/Documents/pdf/2015/PEP_Brochure.pdf> and the Instruction

<<https://insight.ice.dhs.gov/mgt/opp/Pages/policies/statements/044-01-001.aspx>> implementing the Department's new enforcement priorities and PEP. Our preparation to launch PEP also includes a mandatory training component for all law enforcement officers, special agents and attorneys, through ICE's Virtual University, which must be completed by June 26, 2015.

It is immensely important to properly communicate to the American people not only what PEP is, but also what it is not, and why it is vitally important to the security of our cities, towns and neighborhoods from coast to coast. I am particularly looking to all of our Field Office Directors (FODs) to assist me in getting our message out to law enforcement, advocacy groups and other stakeholders.

I plan to provide additional updates as PEP gets underway. Thank you for your continued work to strengthen and cultivate the partnerships we need to ensure successful implementation and ultimately, a safer and more secure nation.

Sarah R. Saldaña

Director