



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

November 4, 2015

The Honorable Lupe Valdez
Sheriff
Dallas County
133 North Riverfront, LB-31
Dallas, TX 75207-4313

Dear Sheriff Valdez:

Most Texas sheriffs fully comply with U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement's (ICE) program to detain criminal immigrants. It has come to my attention that at least one Sheriff has announced a plan to independently review ICE notification and detainer requests on a case-by-case basis rather than fully participate in ICE's criminal immigrant detainer program.

I agree with many sheriffs who have been critical of ICE's recent decision to weaken the standard for issuing detainer requests. Given this weakened standard, it is particularly imperative that Texas sheriffs fully participate with ICE's detainer program so that every single federal detainer request for a criminal immigrant is honored. More broadly, it is vitally important that sheriffs lead by example and enforce the rule of law.

To ensure that imperative is met, I am establishing new standards for sheriff's departments that seek grants from my office's Criminal Justice Division (CJD). Beginning now, all CJD grant awards will require that sheriff's departments fully honor ICE's detention requests for criminal immigrants. Any applicant that cannot certify that their office will honor all ICE detainees for criminal immigrants will be ineligible for CJD funding. Further, any applicant that certifies full compliance with ICE detainer requests but subsequently fails to honor an ICE detainer will be subject to claw-back provisions and must refund the full amount of their CJD grant award.

For example, the types of grants that will be subject to this new standard include, but are not limited to, the grants listed in the enclosure.

As governor, I simply will not allow CJD grant funding administered by this office to support law enforcement agencies that refuse to cooperate with a federal law enforcement program that is intended to keep dangerous criminals off Texas streets.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor

Enclosure

Attachment "A"

1. State Criminal Justice Planning Fund
2. County Essential Services
3. Drug Courts
4. Crime Stoppers Assistance Fund
5. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevent Act (JJDP)
6. Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG)
7. Coverdell Forensic Sciences
8. Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT)
9. Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)
10. Body-Worn Camera Program