

IMMIGRATION EXAMINATIONS FEE

(Dollars in thousands)

Permanent Indefinite Special Fund

	Perm. Pos. 1/	FTE	Amount
1999 actuals.....	5,168	5,895	\$639,042
2000 appropriation 2/.....	5,547	6,120	708,500
Proposed reprogramming 3/.....	...	...	45,700
2000 appropriation	5,547	6,120	754,200
Increases (See p. 113).....	304	341	25,676
2001 base.....	5,851	6,461	779,876
Program changes (detailed below).....	195	98	27,441
2001 estimate (Examinations Fee programs).....	6,046	6,559	807,317
Amount to be provided to the Immigration Services Capital Investment Account.....	...	...	92,500
Total, 2001 estimate.....	6,046	6,559	899,817

1/ Permanent positions reflect positions funded from program revenues, and are not included in the Department's positions total.

2/ This exhibit combines the Immigration Examinations Fee account and the Immigration Legalization account.

3/ INS is preparing a reprogramming notification for FY 2000. The reprogramming proposal will fund additional program requirements, and is supported by increased receipts from applicants during the 4th Quarter, FY 1999.

Comparison by activity and program	2000 Appropriation			2001 Base			2001 Estimate			Increase/Decrease		
	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount
1. Enforcement:												
Inspections.....	398	349	\$22,215	398	349	\$23,479	398	349	\$25,920	...	...	\$2,441
Investigations.....	93	82	11,175	93	82	11,849	147	109	19,349	54	27	7,500
Intelligence.....	14	12	1,395	14	12	1,474	14	12	1,474	...	...	...
Subtotal.....	505	443	34,785	505	443	36,802	559	470	46,743	54	27	9,941
2. Citizenship Benefits:												
Adjudications and Naturalization	3,136	3,908	407,605	3,236	4,062	421,362	3,377	4,133	438,862	141	71	17,500
International Affairs	749	658	92,273	749	658	96,764	749	658	96,764	...	...	...
Subtotal.....	3,885	4,566	499,878	3,985	4,720	518,126	4,126	4,791	535,626	141	71	17,500
3. Immigration Support:												
Training.....	25	22	2,177	25	22	2,289	25	22	2,289	...	...	...
Data & Communications Systems.....	72	66	100,160	72	66	100,861	72	66	100,861	...	...	...
Information & Records Management	857	856	94,061	1,061	1,043	97,058	1,061	1,043	97,058	...	...	...
Legal Proceedings.....	72	62	8,363	72	62	8,802	72	62	8,802
Subtotal.....	1,026	1,006	204,761	1,230	1,193	209,010	1,230	1,193	209,010

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Comparison by activity and program	2000 Appropriation Anticipated			2001 Base			2001 Estimate			Increase/Decrease		
	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount
4. Program Direction:												
Management & Administration.....	131	105	\$14,776	131	105	\$15,938	131	105	\$15,938	...	...	...
Total, Examination Fee Programs	5,547	6,120	754,200	5,851	6,461	779,876	6,046	6,559	807,317	195	98	\$27,441
Provided to Immig. Serv. Cap. Invest. Account	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	92,500	...	...	92,500
Total	5,547	6,120	754,200	5,851	6,461	779,876	6,046	6,559	899,817	195	98	119,941

INS proposes to establish an Immigration Services Capital Investment Account (ISCIA) to address other immigration benefit backlogs and fund service infrastructure, system upgrades. Establishing the ISCIA will provide a mechanism for tracking investment spending in immigration services. The proposed request of \$127,300,000 will be capitalized from the Premium Processing Fee (\$55,000,000), reauthorization of a permanent 245(i) adjustment of status program (\$37,500,000), and direct appropriation (\$34,800,000). See page 135 for additional information about the ISCIA.

Program Changes

	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount
Premium Processing Fee.....	195	98	\$25,000

INS is proposing to establish a fee for "Premium Service" that would be implemented in FY 2001. This fee would be voluntary for business-related applications and would not impact family based applications. Premium service will provide businesses with a consistently high level of customer service and improved processing. Highlights of the improved service include: guaranteed processing within 15 days for business cases, fax capability for resolution of evidentiary issues and access to an ombudsman to quickly rectify processing errors. Additional services may be provided based upon customer needs. The proposed fee for this service is \$1,000. This new fee will provide businesses with an option besides the regular processing of business cases, which currently requires 60 days to over one year, depending upon the form type and the servicing office. In FY 2001, the premium processing fee will generate approximately \$80,000,000. Of this amount, \$25,000,000 will be used for adjudication processing and fraud investigations. The remaining \$55,000,000 will be put into the Immigration Services Capital Investment account.

1. Adjudications and Naturalization

The INS requests **141 positions, 71 workyears, and \$17,500,000** to provide Premium Service in the processing of business-related applications. Premium Service will provide businesses with a consistently high level of customer service and improved processing. This service is being offered to enable INS to meet the needs of the business community which is often severely impacted by processing delays. INS is currently unable to meet the demand for expeditious service to the business community without adversely impacting other document processing.

2. Anti-fraud

The INS requests **54 positions, 27 workyears, and \$7,500,000** to investigate marriage fraud cases and fraud in business-related visa petitions, I-90s, and re-entry permits. Currently, INS agents focus their resources on investigating large scale benefits fraud conspiracy cases. The investigation of lower level "one-on-one" fraud cases, where conspiracy is not immediately apparent, is performed by the adjudications staff. With the large backlogs of N-400, I-485, and other applications, the INS adjudications staff has little time to focus on fraud identification and investigations. These additional resources will be dedicated to identifying benefits fraud by taking the following 3 steps: 1) conducting local and other agency checks of applicants; 2) conducting immediate secondary referral after primary interview when fraud is suspected; and 3) conducting field inquiries to gather necessary information, including the status of marital cohabitation, viability of claimed business operations, and verification of identity of applicants.

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Program Changes

	<u>Perm Pos.</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Pay Reform for Inspectors.....	\$2,441
<p>INS is requesting \$2,441,000 to upgrade the journeyman level of Immigration Inspectors from a GS-9 to a GS-11. The role of the Immigration Inspector has evolved from primarily facilitating legal alien traffic, to one with an increased emphasis on the detection, identification, and apprehension of those seeking to enter the U.S. illegally. These requested resources will provide for more successful recruitment and retention of Immigration Inspectors and will alleviate the problem of losing experienced inspectors due to the current GS-9 journeyman level.</p>			
Total Program Changes, Immigration Examinations Fee.....	195	98	27,441