



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

February 5, 2007

Fact Sheet

President's FY 2008 Budget Request for USCIS Focuses on Building an Immigration Service for the 21st Century

President Bush has requested a \$2.6 billion budget for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in Fiscal Year 2008, the agency announced today. Approximately \$2.54 billion of the agency's budget, or 99 percent, will be funded through fees and includes resources necessary to improve service delivery, ensure the security and integrity of the immigration system, and modernize business infrastructure.

USCIS' largest fee funding source, the Immigration Examinations Fee Account (IEFA), includes fees collected from immigration benefit applications and petitions. This budget anticipates an increase in revenue from the agency's proposed new fee structure announced in the Feb. 1, 2007 edition of the [Federal Register](#).

USCIS' proposed fee structure will ensure appropriate funding to meet customer service needs, national security requirements and modernize an outdated business infrastructure. The structure is built around a foundation of **Strategic Pillars**, each designed to ensure that a secure and efficient immigration system is maintained and enhanced. Those pillars are *Improving Service Delivery*; *Enhancing the Security and Integrity of the Immigration System*; and *Modernizing Business Infrastructure*.

Applicants and petitioners will see substantially improved service under this fee structure, with average processing times projected to be reduced as much as 20 percent by FY 2009 from the current average processing time of six months. This effort is bolstered by the agency's transformation from its current paper-based data systems into digital processing resources and expanded on-line services.

The proposed fee structure will also provide USCIS with the resources to secure the integrity of the U.S. immigration system to improve fraud prevention and detection efforts, and to introduce new national security enhancements to create a fair and equitable immigration system that ensures public safety.

The Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program is proposed to be fully fee-funded at \$21.6 million. SAVE, financed in FY 2007 through appropriated funds, aids eligibility workers in more than 200 agencies that determine non-citizen applicant's immigration status. Another \$139 million from premium processing revenues in the IEFA account will be dedicated to continuing modernization of USCIS business operations.

The President's FY 2008 budget also requests a total of \$30 million in discretionary funding to continue expanding the agency's Employment Eligibility Verification (EEV) Program. Previously known as Basic Pilot, EEV is a voluntary program providing employers an electronic system to verify employment eligibility of all newly hired employees.

Budget at a Glance

- Immigration Examinations Fee Account (\$2.495 billion and 10,229 federal employees)
- Fraud Prevention and Detection Account (\$31 million and 230 federal employees)
- Salaries and Expenses Account (\$30 million and 255 federal employees)

- H1-B Nonimmigrant Petitioner Account (\$13 million)

Approximately 16,000 USCIS professionals (federal and contractor) process between six and eight million applications and petitions each year. The agency processes roughly 90,000 asylum applicants, interviews about 70,000 refugee applicants, while naturalizing another half million new citizens. On a daily basis, USCIS employees process more than 135,000 national security background checks, issue 7,000 permanent resident cards, and captures more than 8,000 sets of fingerprints at 130 Application Support Centers.

– USCIS –

On March 1, 2003, U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services became one of three legacy INS components to join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. USCIS is charged with fundamentally transforming and improving the delivery of immigration and citizenship services, while enhancing the integrity of our nation's security.