

# ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION

## WHY DOES ICE USE ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION?

Alternatives to detention (ATDs) are meant to be used instead of sending migrants to dangerous detention centers. Use of ATDs *should* bring down the number of people in detention. In reality, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) keeps a lot of people in detention centers and uses ATDs to watch and control as many migrants as they can. ICE is afraid that if they don't watch migrants closely, they will not come to court and will simply live in the U.S. without having their immigration case heard by a judge, and ICE will not be able to deport those it wants to.

ICE says ATDs are better for migrants, but they still cause a lot of pain and difficulties in the lives of migrants. Growing the ATD program, as President Biden wants to, will only grow the level of hardship for immigrants. BAJI and other immigrant rights organizations are working towards a future where migrants are given the resources they need to successfully start their lives in the U.S. and work with immigration courts, instead of watched and controlled with the threat of deportation.

## ABOUT THE ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION

ICE may use several of these at the same time to track and control one person.

### Parole/release on own recognizance

- Parole is permission to be in the country for a short period of time. ICE usually requires a sponsor – someone in the U.S. the person knows who is willing to let them live with them and support them.
- This is discretionary, and often not granted.
- May be difficult to find a sponsor.

### Bond

- Bond is money a person pays to be released with the promise that they will return for their future immigration court appearances.
- Bond amounts are often much higher for Black immigrants than other immigrant populations.

### Home visits and check-ins at ICE offices

- ICE may show up at your home, or you may have to go to an ICE office every so often so they can check that you are still where you say you are and following all of their rules.
- Often hard to fit in a work schedule.
- May be difficult to arrange travel or childcare.

### Telephonic monitoring

- Voice recognition software will tell ICE if it is really you calling. You must call at the time they tell you to.
- The voice recognition technology is unreliable, with a higher chance of failure for nonwhite people.
- Might feel like someone is always listening in on your private conversations.

### SmartLINK smartphone app

- You must take a picture of yourself and send it through the app. The app uses facial recognition to tell ICE if it's really you.
- Makes you feel like you are always being watched, which is scary and uncomfortable.
- App doesn't always work, which is very stressful.

### Electronic ankle bracelet

- The ankle bracelet uses GPS to monitor your location. It will tell you where you can and can't go and tells ICE where to find you at all times.
- Often loud, can cause aches and pains, even electric shocks.
- Hard to hide; people may think you are a criminal.
- Must be constantly charged and don't always work which is distressing.

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