

Detained Women and Children Refugees at the Border Are Costing Taxpayers Too Much Money

In the summer of 2014, gang violence and increased homicide rates throughout Central America caused an increase in refugees seeking asylum at the border of the United States and Mexico.¹ In response, DHS and ICE began detaining families in camps, with limited access to counsel and often with very high bonds. They are now held for months at a time and **our taxpayers are paying thousands for their food and shelter**. The private companies making the profit are GEO and Corrections Corporation of America.²

3 facilities for refugee women and children and the amount we spend on them:

Artesia New Mexico – Temporary Facility

- Opened June 2014. Operations have since closed.
- Beds: 700³
- **Cost of housing 1 person per day: \$266.**⁴
- Reports of suicide, inadequate medical care,⁵ sexual abuse of minors.⁶

Karnes County Residential Center – Karnes, Texas

- Modified July 31, 2014 to house women and children
- Beds: 532⁷
- **Cost of housing 1 person per day: \$140.**⁸
- Women are currently on hunger strike until living conditions improve.⁹

South Texas Family Residential Center – Dilley, Texas

- Opened December 2014¹⁰
- Beds: 2,400
- Private Contract awarded to Corrections Corporation of America: \$290 Million.¹¹
- Cost of housing 1 person per day: \$296.¹²
- **Cost to house 1 person for 1 year: \$108,000.**¹³

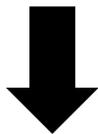
Immigration spends \$108,000 a year to keep one child in detention.



ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION ARE SUCCESSFUL AND CHEAP

Save taxpayer money! We need to shift to alternatives to detention (ATD), like electronic monitoring.

- **Save \$1.44 Billion per year** by eliminating ICE detention for non-violent non-criminals.¹⁴ Alternatives cost between **70 cents to \$17 dollars a day**.¹⁵
- “A study funded by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, of more than 500 detainees between 1997 and 2000, found that **93 percent will appear in court when placed in a monitoring program**. The **savings of such a program for the 2,400 detainees at Dilley would be about \$250 million per year**”.¹⁶



It would cost only \$6,205 per person a year to use an alternative to detention, like electronic monitoring.

¹ <http://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-border-unaccompanied-children>

² <https://www.cca.com/press-releases/cca-expands-existing-intergovernmental-service-agreement-to-manage-the-south-texas-family-residential-center-in-dilley-texas>

³ http://www.elpasotimes.com/latestnews/ci_26038396/mayor-artesia-nm-center-may-keep-immigrants-year

⁴ <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/report-266-a-day-to-house-each-illegal-117-more-than-a-hotel-room/article/2553940>

⁵ <http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/immigration-border-crisis/flood-immigrant-families-border-revives-dormant-detention-program-n164461>

⁶ Taylor Wofford, *The Operators of America's Largest Immigrant Detention Center Have A History of Inmate Abuse*, NEWSWEEK (Dec. 20, 2014), available at <http://www.newsweek.com/operators-americas-largest-immigrant-detention-center-have-history-inmate-293632>.

⁷ <http://www.ice.gov/factsheets/karnes-county-residential-center>

⁸ <http://houston.cbslocal.com/2014/08/01/immigrant-detention-center-has-hair-salon-for-women/>

⁹ <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/06/magazine/a-federal-judge-and-a-hunger-strike-take-on-the-governments-immigrant-detention-facilities.html>

¹⁰ <http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/ices-new-family-detention-center-dilley-texas-open-december>

¹¹ CCA, *CCA Expands Existing Intergovernmental Service Agreement to Manage the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas*, (Sept. 24, 2014), available at <https://www.cca.com/press-releases/cca-expands-existing-intergovernmental-service-agreement-to-manage-the-south-texas-family-residential-center-in-dilley-texas>.

¹² <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/dec/15/feds-inaugurate-new-texas-family-detention-center/>

¹³ <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/08/magazine/the-shame-of-americas-family-detention-camps.html>

¹⁴ <http://immigrationforum.org/blog/themathofimmigrationdetention/>

¹⁵ See *Id.*

¹⁶ See *Id.* At Footnote 13