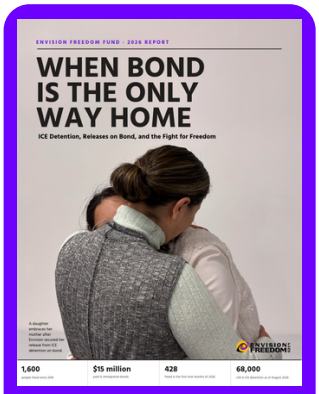
October 19, 2026

WHEN BOND IS THE ONLY WAY HOME: A SUMMARY



Read the Full Report at envisionfreedom.org/2026-bond-report/

ICE detention is expanding. Getting people out has never been more important. The U.S. immigration detention system has grown at an unprecedented pace. Since January 2025, the number of people in ICE detention has increased by 73%, and as of August 2026, more than 68,000 people in cages at ICE's hands. And this is only the beginning— Congress has committed more than $222 billion in additional funding for immigration enforcement, including $45 billion specifically for detention. That's enough to expand daily detention capacity from roughly 70,000 to 135,000 people. Contracts are flowing to private prison companies, growing their profits in the business of ICE detention and across the programs they run to electronically track and surveil hundreds of thousands of immigrants.

$222 billion
in additional funding for immigration enforcement

68,000+
in ICE detention as of August 2026

54,000
strapped with GPS-tracked ankle monitors

$4.6 billion
in 2025 revenue for ICE contractors CoreCivic and GEO Group

Book-ins to detention from ICE arrests are up 6x

Deportations from detention are up 2.7x

The size of the population in ICE detention is up 73%

Releases dropped from 39% of detention book-outs to 5%

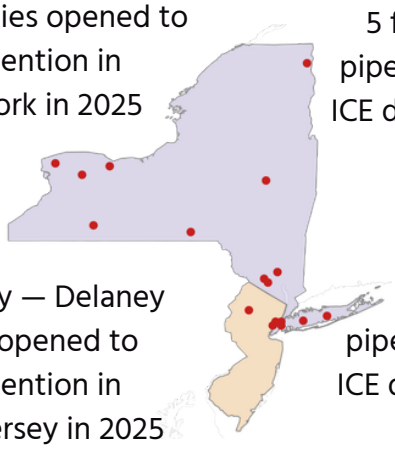
The administration is finding new ways to restrict access to bond. And with rising bond prices, the difference between freedom and deportation still comes down to the amount of money in someone's pocket.

Two developments are converging at once for our neighbors: detention is expanding in New York and New Jersey, and a legal battle is playing out in immigration courts and federal courts over the right to release on bond. At Envision, this meant an inconsistent flow of bond requests throughout 2025, despite the steady rise in ICE detention. Then in 2026, litigation from advocates and habeas corpus claims restored bond hearings for tens of thousands of people in detention. Coupled with judges setting even more unaffordable amounts for those bonds, requests for support began flooding in to Envision at record levels.

In 2024, ICE detained people in 3 facilities in New York and 1 facility in New Jersey. Since then...

7 facilities opened to ICE detention in New York in 2025

5 facilities are in the pipeline for expanded ICE detention capacity in New York



1 facility — Delaney Hall — opened to ICE detention in New Jersey in 2025

1 facility is in the pipeline for expanded ICE detention capacity in New Jersey

And ICE has transferred over 32,800 people from New York and New Jersey to facilities across the country.

1,050
requests for bond support we're on pace for in 2026, up from 128 in 2024

$14,200
the average amount of bond support requested in 2026, up from $6,200 in 2024

428
bonds posted by Envision in the first nine months of 2026

9x
bonds paid in 2026 compared to 2024

1,600
people freed since Envision started paying bonds in 2018

$15 million
paid by Envision for bonds since 2018

Posting bond brings communities back together. Since 2018, Envision Freedom Fund has helped free 1,600 people from ICE detention, providing more than $15 million in immigration bond support. The need has accelerated dramatically. In the first nine months of 2026 alone, Envision paid 428 bonds totaling $4.8 million— 2.5 times as many as in all of 2025.

"My dad is still here only because of the support we received."

— NK, whose father Envision bonded out in July 2026 after more than two months in detention

The fight to end detention begins with release. Freedom is power, and every person freed is another voice in the movement to end detention altogether. Together with our released community members and coalition partners, we plan rallies and lobby days to fight for the freedom of those still detained and we provide tangible support through commissary deposits and letters of support.

— 1.9 million days —

That's how many days that Envision's community members have spent out on bond because we were able to pay.

Those are days spent with children and loved ones. Days at work and in school. Days caring for family, getting healthcare, building a legal defense, and rebuilding life outside of a detention cell.

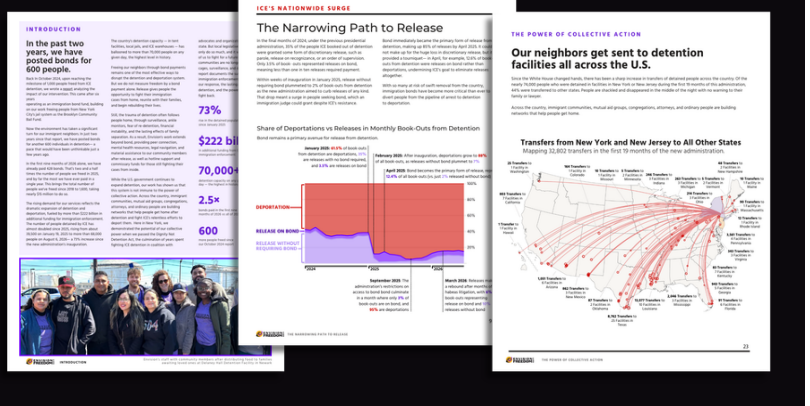
Freedom means supporting folks beyond release. Coming home is the first step to rebuilding life outside of detention. After we help our neighbors get back safely, we provide financial support, legal resources, peer connection, and spaces for processing such a traumatic experience.

"Finally we did it!"

— R, on the passage of New York's Dignity Not Detention Act in 2026. R fought for the bill for years alongside our staff after Envision paid his bond in 2019.

Read the Full Report

For in depth coverage of the fight for releases under the new administration, go to: envisionfreedom.org/2026-bond-report/



Donate to Envision Freedom Fund

Every dollar goes to bringing a neighbor home: www.envisionfreedom.org/donate