

Indiana Federation for Immigration Reform & Enforcement
Post Office Box 297
Valparaiso, Indiana 46384
www.ifire.org

Would you like to know exactly how much illegal aliens cost the state of Indiana each year? Read on.

\$275,396,262*	for English as a Second Language pupils in 2004-05 (1)
15,520,140	for free/reduced price meals for ESL pupils (4)
32,000,000	for textbook reimbursement for ESL pupils in 2004-05 (5)
171,000,000	for FSSA programs for Hispanics in 2003 (6)
28,000,000	for prisons in 2004 for incarcerating 1,307 foreign nationals (7)
190,000,000	in remittances sent out of Indiana's economy in 2004 (8)
28,000	free annual rent for the Mexican Consulate in Indianapolis (9)
+ 125,000	Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs' annual budget (10)

\$712,069,402TOTAL**

(Please note: Indiana's state budget deficit exceeded \$600 million in 2004.)

Now that I have your attention, don't you agree that the honest, hard-working taxpayers of Indiana deserve to know exactly how much of their money goes to support lawbreakers who should not be here?

Illegal immigration costs the state of Indiana millions of dollars each year. While illegal aliens are not responsible for ALL of the costs listed above, they are responsible for a significant portion. I am not trying to give you an exact accounting here. I am simply trying to convey the magnitude of the problem and the potential savings for Hoosier taxpayers if we will just implement the solutions I propose.

When I ask Indiana state legislators about illegal immigration, their typical reply is, "It's the federal government's responsibility to enforce immigration laws. Talk to them about it." This won't do. The problem is here. The problem is now. We can't afford to wait for the federal government to do its job. It's not fair to keep raising taxes, forcing Hoosiers to subsidize other countries' poor.

*This figure is low because both the number of ESL students and the cost per pupil have been trending upwards each year. These figures were based on 28,741 students in the 2003-04 school year multiplied by \$8,582 average per student expenditure for the **previous** school year of 2002-03. (1) These were the most recent figures available on the DOE website. We estimate an additional \$1,000 per ESL student per year is necessary for additional assistance over and above the basic cost of public school education. (2) This brings the total estimated cost of educating an ESL pupil to \$9,582 per year.

**The minutes of the 1/27/05 ICHLA (3) meeting state that ESL expenditures must be increased to catch up with the Hispanic population which has tripled. That would increase the above total to over \$1 Billion.

The amounts listed on page one represent some, but by no means all, of the services most commonly used by illegals. Significant savings can also be realized in the following areas:

Medical care

Hospitals are required by law to provide emergency medical care (& translators) to illegal aliens but they do not normally keep track of how many illegals they treat. Treatment provided to illegal aliens in 2003 is responsible for part of the \$18 million in charity/bad debt/uncollectibles written off by just one county hospital, the former Porter Memorial Hospital. (11) The annual budget for the Hispanic Health Project at Wishard Health Services is \$333,735. (12)

Court Translators

The superior court in Allen County spent \$56,000 for translators in one year. There are 92 counties in Indiana. (13)

Jail costs

We spent approximately \$4,125 to house just one prisoner in Porter County Jail while he awaited funding for a court-appointed translator. He sat in jail for approximately 125 days @\$33/day. (14) Allen Co. Sheriff seeking federal reimbursement (15) for 33 illegals costing the county about \$1089/day or \$397,485/year.

Loss of jobs/higher unemployment for citizens

According to the Pew Hispanic Research Center, in 2003, the U.S. economy added a net total of 1.3 million new jobs but *non-citizens* captured 28.5 percent of those jobs. (16)

Loss of taxes

Many illegal aliens (about half) never pay taxes and are part of the underground economy. Their employers get cheap labor and the American taxpayer picks up the cost of their benefits package, supplementing their low wages with “free” health care and food stamps. Households headed by illegal aliens pay an average of \$4,200 to the federal government per year. However, they also impose costs of nearly \$7,000 per year on the federal government thus costing more than they paid in. (17)

Other costs

Printing state publications in foreign languages. Providing cultural sensitivity and foreign language training to state emergency personnel. Creating special gang task forces. Building new schools and expanding older ones. Treating outbreaks of communicable diseases. Higher property taxes.

SOLUTIONS

The long range solution has 3 parts. First, the federal government must prevent illegal immigration by securing our borders and enforcing our immigration laws. Towards this end, Indiana must renounce its sanctuary policies and work with the Federal government to enforce immigration laws. Meanwhile, we must create an environment where illegals cannot get employment or public benefits and thus voluntarily return to their own countries. Finally, while the first two parts of the solution are being implemented, Indiana must get the maximum federal reimbursement for expenses incurred on the state level due to the unlawful presence of illegal aliens.

1. All agencies operating in Indiana and issuing Federal, state or local public benefits must be required to use the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program to determine an applicant's immigration status, thereby ensuring that *only* entitled applicants receive federal, state or local public benefits. (18)

2. All employers doing business within the state of Indiana must use the Basic Pilot Employment Verification Program (19) to verify that all newly hired employees are legally authorized to work in the USA. This program is free. A personal computer is used to access the SSA and DHS databases to verify employment eligibility of all new hires. Employers will no longer have to guess whether forms like the I-9 are real or fraudulent. This will protect jobs for US citizens and legal immigrants.

3. Require all Indiana public schools, prisons, jails and hospitals to ask about immigration status, keep track of the number of illegals using their facilities and seek the maximum reimbursement from the federal government. (In the case of Plyler v. Doe, the Supreme Court ruled that schools cannot ask about immigration status if the intent in asking is to exclude illegal aliens from public education. However, if the purpose is to seek reimbursement from the federal government for the cost of educating those illegal aliens, that would be permitted by the Constitution.)

4. All Indiana employers should be encouraged to use the toll free Social Security Verification telephone number. (20) This allows employers to verify up to 5 names/SSNs by calling 1-800-772-6270. Employers must give their company name and EIN. Then, they will be asked to provide the SSN, full name, date of birth and gender for each employee. Instructions for verifying more than 5 names is on their website.

5. If solutions 1-4 are rejected, the State of Indiana should fund a Commission to study how much illegal immigrants actually cost the taxpayers of the State of Indiana as compared to their value to our state.

LINKS and EXHIBITS

1. <http://mustang.doe.state.in.us/TRENDS/trends1.cfm?var=curr>
<http://mustang.doe.state.in.us/TRENDS/trends1.cfm?var=lep>
2. <http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0504/06/ldt.01.html>
Transcript from 4/6/05 Lou Dobbs program/Bill Tucker reporting.
3. <http://www.in.gov/ichla/reports/index.html>
See 1/27/05 minutes of Indiana Commission for Hispanic/Latino Affairs
4. <http://www.doe.state.in.us/food/schoolnutrition/03reimbrates.html>
5. “Schools suffer another financial blow” by Patricia Swanson, The Courier-Press.
http://www.courierpress.com/ecp/news/article/0,1626,ECP_734_3531055,00.html
6. See Exhibit A. Letter from William F. Bogard II, Director of Finance, FSSA dated 3/2/04.
7. See Exhibit B. Email from Randy Koester and list of adult foreign nationals from K. Lisby, Indiana Department of Corrections
<http://www.in.gov/indcorrection/faqs.html>
8. <http://www.iadb.org/exr/remittances/indiana.cfm>
9. Exhibit C. Press release from Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson, “Mayor, Governor, Consul open new consulate office” 11/22/02; Commercial Rent Roll 5/1/03; Lease Agreement.
10. <http://www.in.gov/ichla/reports/index.html> See 7/29/04 minutes.
11. See Exhibit D. Email from Andrew Snyder, Vice President of Marketing, Porter Memorial Hospital.
12. See Exhibit E. Letter from Sylvia C. Wilcox, Asst. Chief Counsel, Wishard.
13. “Illegal immigration: Does one crime lead to another?” by Kevin Leininger, The News-Sentinel, 4/24/04.
<http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/newssentinel/news/local/8511490.htm>
14. “County gets budget warning from state” by Vicki Urbanik, Chesterton Tribune, June 10, 2004.
15. “Sheriff to seek reimbursement for the cost of housing illegal immigrants accused of crimes” by Kevin Leininger, The News-Sentinel, 3/30/05.
<http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/newssentinel/news/local/11267476.htm>

16. Pew Hispanic Research Center, Latino Labor Report, First Quarter 2004, Wage Growth Lags Gains in Employment by Rakesh Kochhar, 6/16/04
<http://pewhispanic.org/reports/report.php?ReportID=29>

17. <http://www.cis.org/articles/2004/fiscaltranscript.html>
CIS Report: The costs of illegal immigration. Panel discussion, 2004. Steven Camarota's remarks.

18. SAVE Program <http://uscis.gov/graphics/services/SAVE.htm#oneB>

19. Basic Pilot Program <http://uscis.gov/graphics/services/SAVE.htm#two>

20. SSN Verification Program <http://www.ssa.gov/employer/ssnv.htm>

For copies of exhibits, please contact IFIRE, P.O. Box 297, Valparaiso, IN 46384, or use the contact form at www.IFIRE.org .