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## ICE Launches Hiring Drive with Patriotic Appeal and \$50,000 Signing Incentives

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A nationwide immigration enforcement campaign under President Donald Trump is facing legal challenges and warnings from business and community leaders. Critics argue the plan threatens constitutional rights and could harm key sectors of the U.S. economy.

President Trump signed Executive Order 14159 in January 2025, titled “Protecting the American People Against Invasion.” The order dramatically expands the federal government’s immigration powers by increasing removals, targeting sanctuary jurisdictions, and directing the hiring of thousands of new personnel under U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

ICE has launched a national recruitment campaign offering signing bonuses of up to \$50,000, aiming to recruit 10,000 new agents. The move echoes previous hiring sprees that led to issues with training and oversight. Civil rights groups warn the rapid expansion could again result in operational lapses and abuses.

Legal opposition has emerged quickly. Advocacy groups and immigration attorneys are challenging aspects of the plan, arguing that it exceeds presidential authority and sidesteps due process. One case challenges the administration’s use of the Alien Enemies Act to justify deportations of alleged gang members from Venezuela, despite court orders halting similar actions.

The scale of the effort has also strained detention facilities. ICE is expanding its capacity to detain up to 100,000 individuals, turning to private contractors and opening new facilities in Texas and Florida. A facility in the Everglades is reportedly being used to stage deportation flights.

Local communities are pushing back. In Springfield, Ohio, officials are preparing legal aid for Haitian migrants following the end of Temporary Protected Status, saying the crackdown undermines both social

cohesion and local economies. Elsewhere, undocumented workers have been abruptly dismissed from factories, raising concerns about labor shortages and production slowdowns.

Some economists estimate the plan could lead to the loss of nearly six million jobs over four years, particularly affecting construction, agriculture, and childcare sectors. A projected decline in economic output of up to \$90 billion annually could occur if mass deportations are carried out as planned.

While the Trump administration frames the initiative as a matter of national security, opponents argue it risks serious legal and economic fallout. With lawsuits underway and pressure mounting in key states, the outcome may shape the future of immigration enforcement in the United States.