

**Extreme Vetting Initiative
STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES (SOO)**

I. Purpose

The purpose of this effort is to obtain contractor services to establish an overarching vetting contract that automates, centralizes and streamlines the current manual vetting process while simultaneously making determinations via automation if the data retrieved is actionable.

II. Scope or Mission

The scope of this requirement aims to implement the President's various Executive Orders (EOs) that address American immigration and border protection security and interests. These include EOs such as "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States" which aim to strengthen our immigration system with the goal of preventing terrorists or any other party looking to defraud the immigration system from entering the United States. The President's goal is to increase public safety thru the suspension of entry to foreign visitors from certain nations while ordering uniform screening standards and stricter criteria and guidelines for admission for all immigration benefits.

ICE must develop processes that determine and evaluate an applicant's probability of becoming a positively contributing member of society as well as their ability to contribute to national interests in order to meet the EOs outlined by the President. ICE must also develop a mechanism/methodology that allows them to assess whether an applicant intends to commit criminal or terrorist acts after entering the United States. Given that ICE performs the majority of alien vetting activities within DHS they must evaluate and transform their current vetting programs in an expedited fashion to meet the mandates outlined by the President's EOs.

III. Period and Place of Performance

1525 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22209, some additional travel may be necessary at times.

IV. Background

The current processes utilized for screening, vetting and for lead generation are fragmented across mission areas and are both time-consuming and manually labor-intensive due to complexities in the current U.S immigration system. This has caused several issues to arise in the current immigration system that pose a potential threat to national security. There are large volumes of cases received and the manual nature of the processes used to review these cases continues to cause case backlogs while they are awaiting review. This leads backlogged cases to become untimely and late in delivery to field agents which inhibits actionable information or outcomes. Furthermore, the current screening and vetting processes focused on identifying overstays are not geared to

conduct in-depth analysis or to permit the development of richer case files that would provide high-value derogatory information to further investigations or support any prosecution by ICE or US attorneys in immigration or federal courts. This can lead to backlogged individuals missing a screening which could allow them to commit a malicious act before they are identified or apprehended.

Additionally, the current system allows ICE to vet and screen nonimmigrants on both the front and back end of the immigration lifecycle. However, ICE does not perform any regular, periodic or continuous review or vetting of nonimmigrants against screening criteria once they have entered the US. While certain programs perform reviews once certain criteria are met there is no existing process that systematically reviews nonimmigrants once their risk profile has changed. Persons who are on immigrant visas or who have filed for or received immigration benefits (i.e. Green Card, asylum or refugee status) do not receive continuous vetting outside of the benefits adjudication process performed by US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The lack of a continuous vetting process creates significant risk in ICE's ability to identify emerging risks, such as radicalization, that may occur after an individual arrives in the United States.

Moreover, there are many immigrant and nonimmigrant classes with long periods of validity tied to their benefit or visa class which results in significant time periods passing between vetting reviews. This increases potential risk while further inhibiting ICE's ability to identify emerging risks in an actionable timeframe.

The gaps in the current vetting model along with existing limitations in the vetting process create a compelling case for ICE to take action to develop and implement a continuous vetting strategy, framework and process.

V. Performance Objectives

ICE must develop and implement a continuous vetting strategy, framework and processes that:

1. Centralize screening and vetting processes to mitigate case backlog and provide law enforcement and field agents with timely, actionable information;
2. Allow ICE to develop richer case files that provide more value-added information to further investigations or support prosecution in immigration or federal courts;
3. Allow ICE to perform regular, periodic and/or continuous review and vetting of nonimmigrants after they enter the United States once their risk profile has changed and;

Attachment 1

4. Automate at no loss of data quality or veracity any manually-intensive vetting and screening processes that inhibit ICE from properly and thoroughly vetting individuals in a timely fashion.