

ISAE: Enrollment Instead of Arrest

A short summary of a proposal by Alfred Holzheu · For community conversation · October 2026

Please read this first. ISAE is an idea, not a government program. It is Alfred Holzheu's personal proposal. **Nothing described here exists today.** No one should sign up for anything, share personal information, or change any plans because of this paper. If anyone offers "ISAE enrollment," it is not real.

1. What is ISAE?

ISAE stands for **Immigration Support and Enforcement**. It is a proposal to change how the United States treats people who are already living here without legal status and who are not a danger to anyone. Instead of being arrested and detained, they would be offered **enrollment** in a supervised program. They would keep living and working in their community, keep every court date, and build a record of good standing over time. Arrest and detention would still apply to people who commit serious crimes or are a real danger.

"You are not under arrest. You are under enrollment."

2. Why a change is needed

- **Families here are being hurt.** In one week this October (Oct. 5–11), a local nonprofit counted **75 people detained in Santa Barbara County**, 55 of them in Santa Maria. These are unofficial counts reported by the press; no official numbers were available.¹ Local papers have also reported a parent detained in the Allan Hancock College parking lot (ICE says it has no record of this),² a Westside bakery that closed for two mornings after videos of agents circulated,³ and a Guadalupe woman, a U.S. citizen, who stopped going to church after agents demanded her ID outside it.¹
- **Fear reaches everyone.** In a 2025 survey, about half of South Coast businesses said enforcement had affected them directly, and more than half saw fear and anxiety among their workers.⁴
- **Most people detained are not criminals.** As of July 2026, about **7 in 10** people held by ICE had no criminal conviction.⁵
- **The current approach is expensive.** A detention bed cost about **\$187 a day**, while supervision in the community cost about **\$4 a day**.⁶

Alfred has also seen this harm with his own eyes in Santa Barbara County. That is his personal experience, not data, but it is a big part of why he wrote this proposal.

3. How it would work for a family (if it is ever created)

- **We come to you.** Trusted case workers or community partners would enroll people where they already are: at home, at work, or at a community place they choose. No trip to a government office.
- **No arrests at enrollment.** Enrollment would never be used as a moment to arrest anyone.
- **A temporary ID by text message.** People would receive a temporary digital ID and their next steps by text or WhatsApp, in their own language. No smartphone app is needed to start.
- **A careful identity check.** At enrollment there would be a one-time check against criminal records. A possible match would only be a lead to look into, never proof. If there is any doubt, fingerprints would be taken at a later appointment, and nothing bad would happen to the person while it is checked.
- **The Green Path.** A five-year path, in the family's language, with simple lessons (such as English and civics) and clear goals: keep court dates, keep a clean record, and file taxes. Each step earns rewards, such as fewer check-ins and longer renewal periods for any permits granted.

- **Reminders.** Text reminders for every court date and appointment, plus help connecting with legal services.
- **Simple check-ins.** Later check-ins would only confirm the person is who they say they are, by comparing with their own photo. No constant location tracking.
- **A privacy firewall.** The information would be used only for the person's own case and services, never to look for their relatives or neighbors. Using it for anything else would require a judge's warrant, and independent watchdogs would publish regular reports.

4. The honest reality

- **Nothing exists yet.** ISAE is a proposal on paper. There is no program, app, or office.
- **It would need a test first.** The first step would be a small pilot under current law, to see whether it actually works and whether families trust it.
- **Then Congress.** Only Congress can create legal status or replace ICE. ISAE on its own could not give anyone papers, a green card, or citizenship.
- **It is difficult and controversial.** Many people would oppose it, for political reasons and out of worries about fraud, safety, lawsuits, and cost. After recent raids, many families may not trust any government program at all, and that concern is fair.
- **Nobody should act on this today.** Anyone with questions about their own situation should talk to a trusted immigration legal service provider.

5. We want your input

You know these families and what they are living through. Alfred would be grateful for your honest opinion, including if you think this would not work:

1. **Trust.** Would the families you serve trust a program like this? What would make them say no?
2. **Partners.** Who should the community partners be? Which churches, organizations, or people do families already trust?
3. **Coming forward.** What would make people feel safe enough to come forward and enroll?
4. **Fears.** What fears would have to be answered first? For example, about their information, their family members, or being tricked.
5. **A pilot.** Would you be willing to help shape a future pilot, for example by joining a small conversation with other community voices?

Thank you. Please share your thoughts with Alfred Holzheu directly. Every answer, including criticism, will help improve the proposal.

Sources

- ¹ S. Zappelli and M. Chavez, San Luis Obispo Tribune, Oct. 13, 2026 (counts from 805 UndocuFund, unofficial). sanluisobispo.com/news/local/article317562167.html
- ² J. Dindia, Noozhawk, Oct. 5, 2026 (college's account; ICE disputes it). noozhawk.com/ice-detains-parent-of-student-on-allan-hancock-college-campus
- ³ Santa Barbara Independent, Oct. 9, 2026. independent.com/2026/10/09/ice-activity-ramps-up-on-central-coast-as-election-approaches
- ⁴ R. P. Cruz, Santa Barbara Independent, Aug. 5, 2025 (early results of a South Coast Chamber survey, 174 businesses). independent.com/2025/08/05/survey-results-show-half-of-south-coast-businesses-report-immigration-impact
- ⁵ TRAC Immigration, Quick Facts, data as of July 11, 2026 (70.6% of 65,765 detained had no criminal conviction). tracereports.org/immigration/quickfacts
- ⁶ U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, FY2025 Congressional Budget Justification (FY2023 costs: \$187.48 per adult bed per day; \$4.11 per participant per day in the ISAP IV Alternatives to Detention program).