

Via email delivery only

December 5, 2024

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

We, a coalition of organizations based and working in New Jersey, are writing to urgently request that your administration not sign any contract related to [Solicitation 70CDCR24R00000012](#) for a contract detention facility in the Newark Area of Responsibility. Instead, you must cancel the Request for Proposals (RFP) before leaving office. This RFP was published long after the enactment of state-level legislation banning detention operations in the state, disregarding New Jersey's longstanding commitment to being a safe and welcoming place for immigrants. As the incoming Trump administration touts its vicious plans for mass deportations, it is incumbent upon the current administration to take steps that will limit and delay its ability to commence them. Terminating negotiations for this new facility is a direct and necessary measure towards that objective.

Expanding detention is a key pillar for escalating deportations. The current administration has begun the process of expanding the system through multiple solicitations just this year, creating a headstart for President Trump to grow the system by more than 7,200 beds. The search for detention space in New Jersey is farthest along in the process, with the [GEO Group reportedly anticipating](#) a reward by end of year to begin operations at [Delaney Hall](#) and other facilities like the [Elizabeth Detention Center](#) and [Albert M. "Bo" Robinson Center](#) revealed to be [actively under consideration](#)—all facilities with long histories of abuse and corruption. Signing this contract would put New Jerseyans and immigrants throughout the region at grave risk. [Research shows](#) that under typical circumstances, an additional 600 detention beds, as requested in the RFP, would increase local immigrants' vulnerability to immigration arrest by approximately four times—a rate that will certainly increase even more significantly in the context of the incoming administration's sweeping enforcement agenda that has explicitly declared intentions to target localities with large immigrant populations like North Jersey.

This is your last opportunity to change course and grant New Jerseyans necessary time to prepare our communities and fortify our resistance to the draconian plans of the next Trump administration. **We implore you not to award any contract for the Newark Area RFP, and to formally cancel the solicitation before the end of your administration.**

Sincerely,

ACLU
Action 21
American Families United
American Friends Service Committee | NJ Immigrant Rights Program
Casa Freehold
Detention Watch Network

El Pueblo Unido of Atlantic City
First Friends of New Jersey & New York
Madison Area Call to Action
Movimiento Cosecha New Jersey
National Day Laborer Organizing Network
New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice
NJ 11th for Change
Northern NJ Sanctuary Coalition
PAL-Awda NY/NJ
Resistencia en acción nj
SWEEP New Jersey
The Mami Chelo Foundation
West Orange for Humanity
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center