

Exhibit 2



CENTER FOR IMMIGRATION STUDIES

DOS FOIA REQUEST

VIA FOIA PORTAL

October 18, 2023

Re: Level of funding dedicated to “Safe Mobility Offices” (CIS#0071)

Dear Freedom of Information Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552, the Center for Immigration Studies (“the Center”), hereby requests the following records to be provided in electronic form to foia@cis.org:

All records sufficient to show:

- 1) All State Department funding dedicated to implementing and operating “Safe Mobility Offices”¹ and/or “Regional Processing Centers”², including reprogramed monies from the current and past fiscal years, and any other State Department financing; and**
- 2) The number of contractors, foreign employees, and State Department full and part time employees, who are working to support the implementation and/or operations of “Safe Mobility Offices” and/or “Regional Processing Centers”.**

The timeframe for this request January 1, 2023 through the date of the search.

If any responsive record or portion thereof is claimed to be exempt from production under the provisions of FOIA, please provide sufficient identifying information with respect to each allegedly exempt record, or portion thereof, to allow the Center to assess the propriety of the claimed exemption. *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F. 2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973). In addition, any portion of a responsive record that can be reasonably segregated must be provided, after redaction of any exempt material. 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b). The Center will accept a “rolling production” of documents if necessary to facilitate the production of responsive records.

For the purpose of this request, the term “record” shall mean: 1) any written, printed, or typed material of any kind, including without limitation all correspondence memoranda, notes, messages, letters, cards, facsimiles, papers, forms, telephone messages, diaries, schedules, books, reports, calendars, chronological data, minutes, charts, lists, ledgers, invoices, worksheets,

¹ See <https://www.state.gov/u-s-colombia-joint-commitment-to-address-the-hemispheric-challenge-of-irregular-migration/>; see also <https://www.state.gov/secretary-antony-j-blinken-at-the-resettlement-diplomacy-network-ministerial/> regarding “the Safe Mobility initiative.”

² See <https://www.state.gov/u-s-government-announces-sweeping-new-actions-to-manage-regional-migration/>.

receipts, returns, computer printouts, printed matter, prospectuses, statements, checks, statistics, surveys, affidavits, contracts, agreements, transcripts, magazine or newspaper articles, or press releases; 2) any electronically, magnetically, or mechanically stored material of any kind, including without limitation all electronic mail, email, text messages, or chats; 3) any audio, aural, visual, or video records, recordings, or representations of any kind; 4) any graphic materials and data compilations from which information can be obtained; and 5) any materials using other means of preserving thought or expression.

The Center also hereby requests a waiver of any and all fees and charges pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §§ 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(II) and (a)(4)(A)(iii). First, the Center is entitled to a waiver of search fees under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(II) because under FOIA it qualifies as a member of the news media. *See National Security Archive v. Department of Defense*, 880 F. 2d 1381, 1387 (D.C. Cir. 1989) (“A representative of the news media is, in essence, a person or entity that gathers information of potential interest to a segment of the public, uses its editorial skills to turn the raw materials into a distinct work, and distributes that work to an audience.”). The Center is a research institution whose mission is to provide immigration policymakers, the academic community, news media, and concerned citizens with reliable information about the social, economic, environmental, security, and fiscal consequences of legal and illegal immigration into the United States.³ In service of this mission, the Center regularly obtains information about the operations and activities of government through FOIA and other means, uses its editorial skills and expertise of immigration policy to turn the information into distinct works, and widely disseminates the information through a variety of media platforms for free.⁴ The Center intends to do likewise with the records it receives through this request.

Secondly, the Center is entitled to a complete waiver of both search and duplication fees pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). Under this provision, records “shall be furnished without any charge or at a charge reduced” if “the disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.” *Id.* The Center is a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit, educational and research organization, and, by definition, it has no commercial purpose. The Center exists to educate the public about the operations and activities of the government concerning the issue of immigration. Once the Center obtains the requested records, it intends to analyze and widely disseminate the results of its expert analysis utilizing a variety of media platforms for free.⁵ It also will make the records available to other members of the media or researchers upon request. The disclosure of the requested records will shed light on the operations or activities of the government as it pertains to the federal government’s responsibility to execute and regulate immigration laws and policy. Furthermore, the Center’s proven ability to disseminate its expert analysis of disclosed records will contribute significantly to the public’s understanding of how the federal government’s particular operations or activities regarding immigration policy and enforcement directly effects U.S. economic and security

³ See <https://cis.org/Center-For-Immigration-Studies-Background>.

⁴ See <https://cis.org/Publications>; see also <https://cis.org/Podcasts/Parsing-Immigration-Policy>; <https://www.facebook.com/CenterforImmigrationStudies/>; https://twitter.com/CIS_org; <https://www.youtube.com/@CenterforImmigrationStudies>.

⁵ *Id.*

interests, the environment, and the potential strain on public and private institutions and their resources.

Finally, access to the requested records should be granted within twenty (20) business days from the date of your receipt of this letter, otherwise the Center is further entitled to a complete waiver of search and duplication fees. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(viii). Furthermore, the agency's failure to respond in a timely manner shall be viewed as a denial of this request, and the Center may immediately take further administrative or judicial action.

If you would like to discuss the request or any issues raised in this letter, please feel free to contact me at 202-466-8185 ext. 126 or foia@cis.org. For all other formal correspondence regarding this request, please email foia@cis.org. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Colin M. Farnsworth, Esq.
Chief FOIA Counsel
Center for Immigration Studies