

Background on Federal Government's Voluntary Work Program at ICE Processing Centers

The federal government sets the performance-based national detention standards which govern the Voluntary Work Program at all ICE Processing Centers, public and private. This program has been in place for decades and became part of the [ICE performance-based standards](#) under President Obama's Administration.

This is a strictly voluntary program, and the program is stipulated in standards set by the federal government. This is not and has never been a program implemented unilaterally by service providers like GEO. Furthermore, the wage rates associated with this federal government program are established under long-established guidelines set by the United States Congress.

The federal government's Performance Based National Detention Standards stipulate that the purpose of the Voluntary Work Program is to, among other objectives, *"[reduce] the negative impact of confinement...through decreased idleness, improved morale and fewer disciplinary incidents."*

As a service provider to the federal government, GEO is required to abide by the performance-based national detention standards as well as all congressionally-established guidelines.

Any allegation that individuals, in ICE Processing Centers, are retaliated against or have to volunteer to work in order to have access to, or pay for, basic hygiene products or food is completely baseless and demonstrably false. Hygiene products are provided to individuals in ICE Processing Centers managed by GEO on demand, upon request, and free of charge, including:

- Tooth paste
- Tooth brushes
- Shampoo
- Bar Soap
- Lotion
- Razors
- Combs
- Hair Ties
- Toilet Paper
- Feminine Products

The ICE Processing Centers GEO manages deliver high quality food services with three daily meals, free of charge, based on menus which address a variety of dietary preferences, allergies, and needs and are reviewed and approved by a registered dietician and ICE in compliance with the federal government's Performance Based National Detention Standards as well as guidelines set by independent accreditation entities.