



No 287(g)s in Any Form

Call to Action	Municipalities and police departments must stop all voluntary cooperation with ICE and DHS, end existing 287(g)s and do not sign any new agreements in any form.
Situation	<p>Section 287(g) to the <u>Immigration and Nationality Act</u> authorizes ICE to give state and local law enforcement officers the authority to carry out certain immigration enforcement duties. Essentially, 287(g) agreements turn state and local police into arms of ICE, and divert the time and attention of local officers towards enforcing federal immigration law.</p> <p>A 287(g) agreement is entirely voluntary – local law enforcement have no obligation to participate in the program or enforce immigration law. By signing an agreement, a law enforcement agency is effectively declaring its support for a cruel federal immigration enforcement regime. By allowing state and local law enforcement to collude with ICE, these agreements sow distrust in communities, and rip families apart.</p> <p>While neighboring areas have adopted these agreements, Berks County has not, although some local police departments (such as Muhlenberg Township) have expressed willingness to provide "logistical support" to federal immigration authorities during operations. Other municipalities and law enforcement agencies in Berks are likely to do the same unless blocked by public pressure.</p>
Background	<p>Across the country, 287(g) agreements have fueled racial profiling, civil rights violations and costly lawsuits that fall on the backs of taxpayers. Deputizing local police as ICE agents undermines real public safety and erodes trust between the community and police. Underreporting of crime is more common in communities where there are local collaborations with ICE. 287 turns local police into ICE enforcement agents who receive little training and are incentivized to use racial profiling tactics against mostly Black and brown families.</p>
What you can do	<p>Contact the mayor, township supervisor or chair of your local borough council and find out how they are interacting with ICE. Do they have or plan to have any formal or informal arrangements to cooperate or support ICE within their jurisdiction.</p> <p>Tell them you are opposed to such cooperation and plan to do whatever you can to stop it. Be sure to explain why you do not want this in your area.</p> <p>Bring your friends to the meeting, take notes, and report back to BOW with what you learn.</p>
Messages	<p>Local police are not required to help ICE, and their limited resources should be spent on local safety, not federal immigration enforcement. Don't be tempted to work with ICE for the promise of money and equipment. We don't want the blood money, and nothing will pay for the trauma to the families and lasting damage to community relations. True public safety means working together to build stronger, safer neighborhoods, not weaponizing local police to carry out ICE's harmful agenda.</p>