Contigo
IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

DETENTION CENTERS IN NEW MEXICO

Navigating Local Resource Allocation and Federal Immigration Enforcement

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Courts, Corrections, and Justice Committee
November 6, 2026

ABOUT US

Contigo Immigrant Justice (formerly the Santa Fe Dreamers Project) upholds the dignity and rights of immigrants to pursue their goals and dreams by offering high-quality legal services and representation. We partner with the immigrant community and supporters to transform the immigration system through advocacy and education.

We boldly envision a future where dignity, justice, and equity are the foundations of a transformed immigration experience.

DATA ON CURRENT AND PAST DETAINEES IN NEW MEXICO

At Contigo, we host a weekly Legal Orientation Program (LOP) at the Torrance County Detention Facility (TCDF). Our direct work there has revealed to us the following data:

- Since June 2026, we have met with approximately 424 **individuals detained at TCDF.**
- Of those 424 individuals, 287 of them remain at TCDF, and at least **41 have been local to New Mexico**. They were originally living throughout the state, including Albuquerque, Carlsbad, Hobbs, Lovington, Roswell, Los Lunas, Belen, and Santa Fe.
- And, of these 41, at least 26 individuals had contact with law enforcement agencies, including probation.

FOUR SUBSTANTIATED ACCOUNTS

- Alejandro* was arrested by local police and was released from jail with an ankle monitor. He was allegedly called by the company because the monitor had lost signal. He was instructed to leave his apartment where he encountered immigration enforcement waiting for him and he was subsequently detained.

- Gabriel* was arrested by local police for a DUI and while he was detained by the law enforcement agency, federal immigration officials picked him up and transferred him into federal custody.

- Francisco* went to his regularly scheduled check-in with his probation officer, and approximately a month later, he was detained by federal immigration officials.

- Manuel* was detained after having an automobile accident where he was arrested. When he was released from local custody, he was subsequently detained by federal immigration officials outside of the local jail.

*names have been changed to protect identities

NATIONAL DATA AND CURRENT TRENDS

As of July 11, 2026, Syracuse University reported that out of 65, 765 individuals detained at the time of their report, 46,436 (approximately 70.6%) have no criminal convictions.

On September 23, 2026, the American Immigration Council reported the “electronic ‘disappearing’” of individuals in ICE custody who have final orders of removal.

This policy has not been confirmed by ICE nor has it given any reason for the change, but this policy makes locating individuals with final removal orders, some of whom are legally protected from being removed, practically impossible.

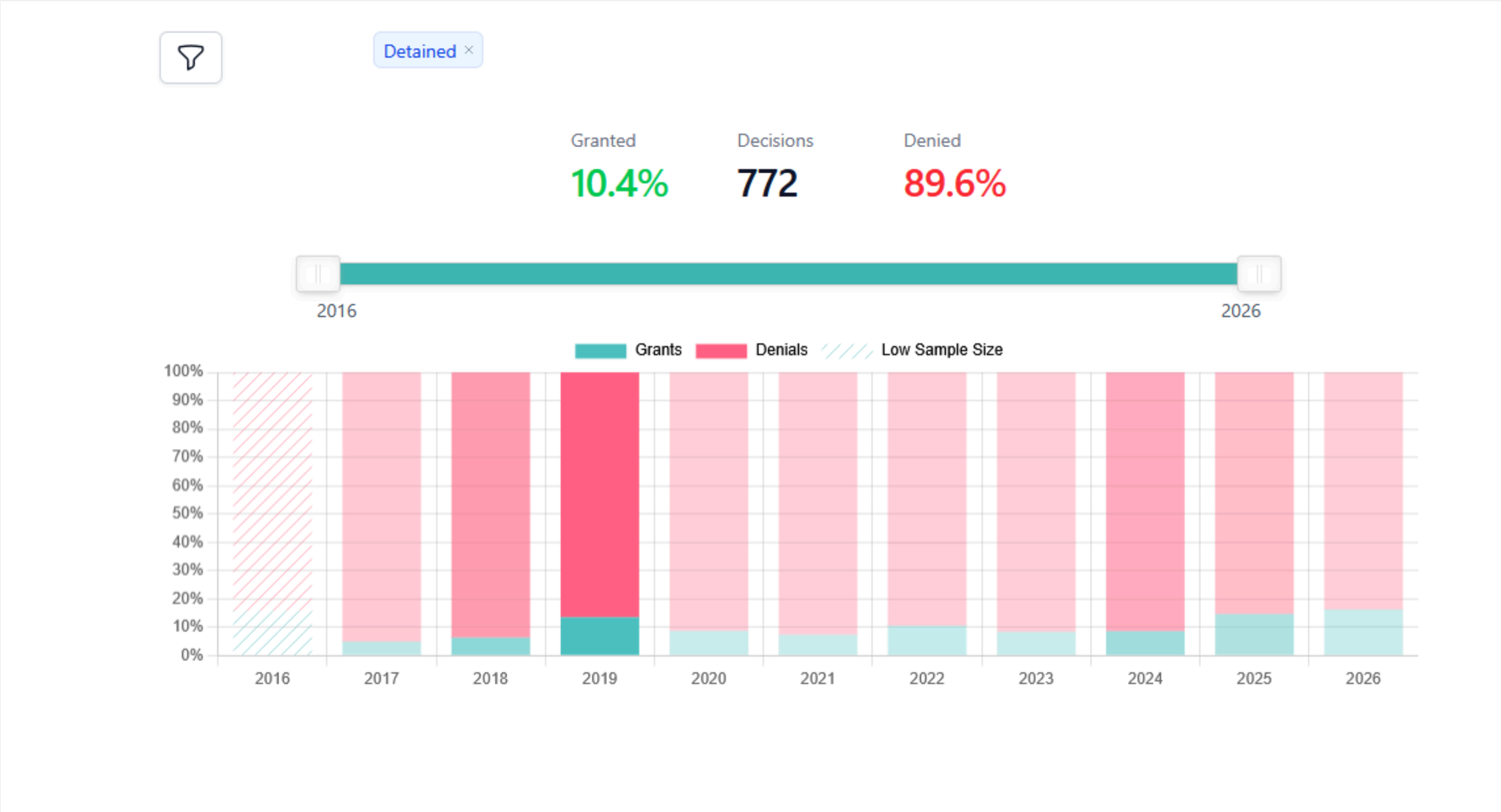
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On September 23, 2026, the American Immigration Council reported the “electronic ‘disappearing’” of individuals in ICE custody who have final orders of removal. This is done by removing these individuals from the Online Detainee Locator System, one of the only tools available for loved ones, advocates, and attorneys to find individuals.

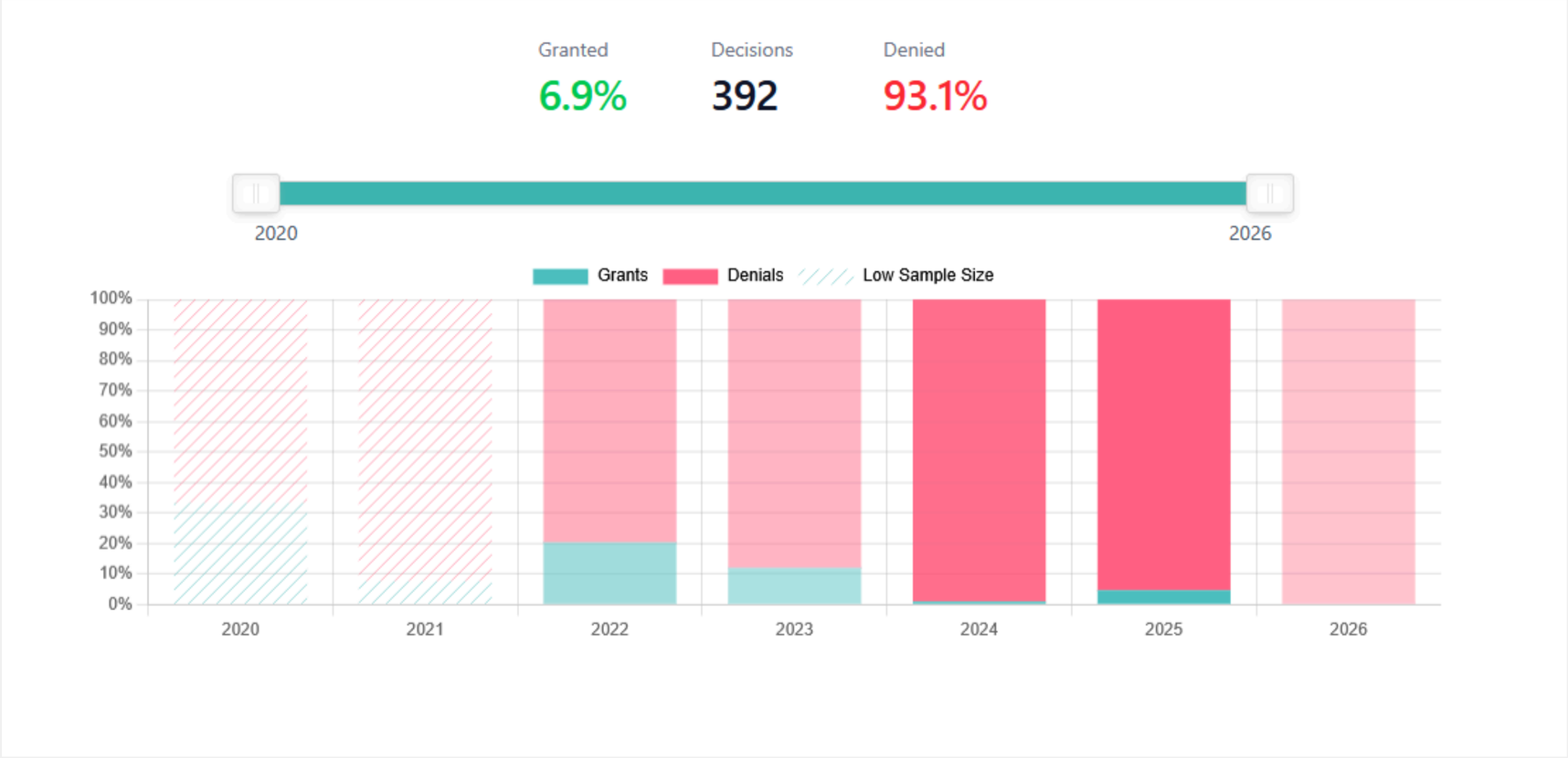
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LOCAL DATA AND TRENDS



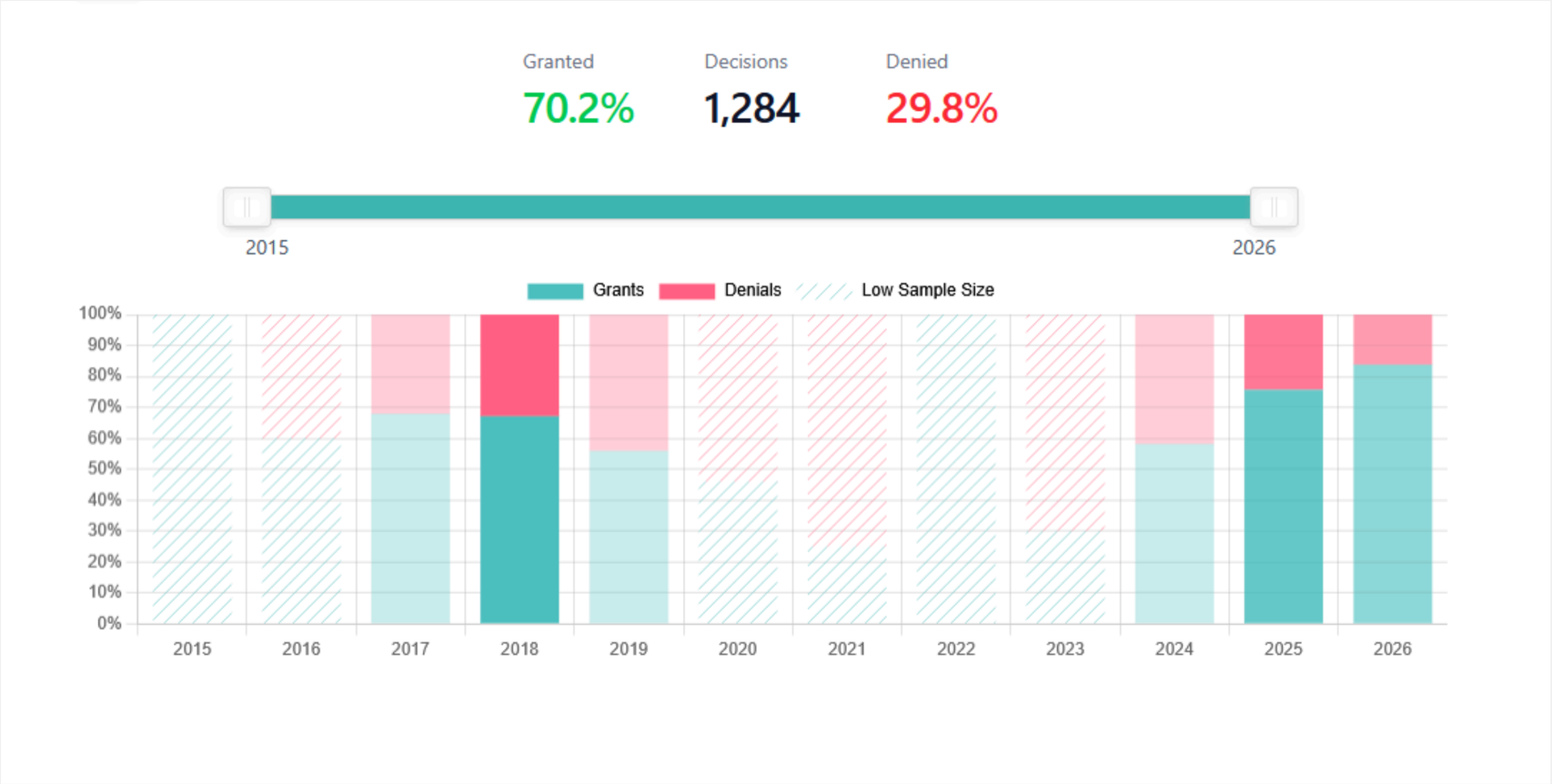
Data from bklg.org ; specific data on asylum case grants for detained individuals for the Otero Immigration Court

LOCAL DATA AND TRENDS



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Data from bklg.org ; specific data on voluntary departure grants for detained individuals for the Otero Immigration Court

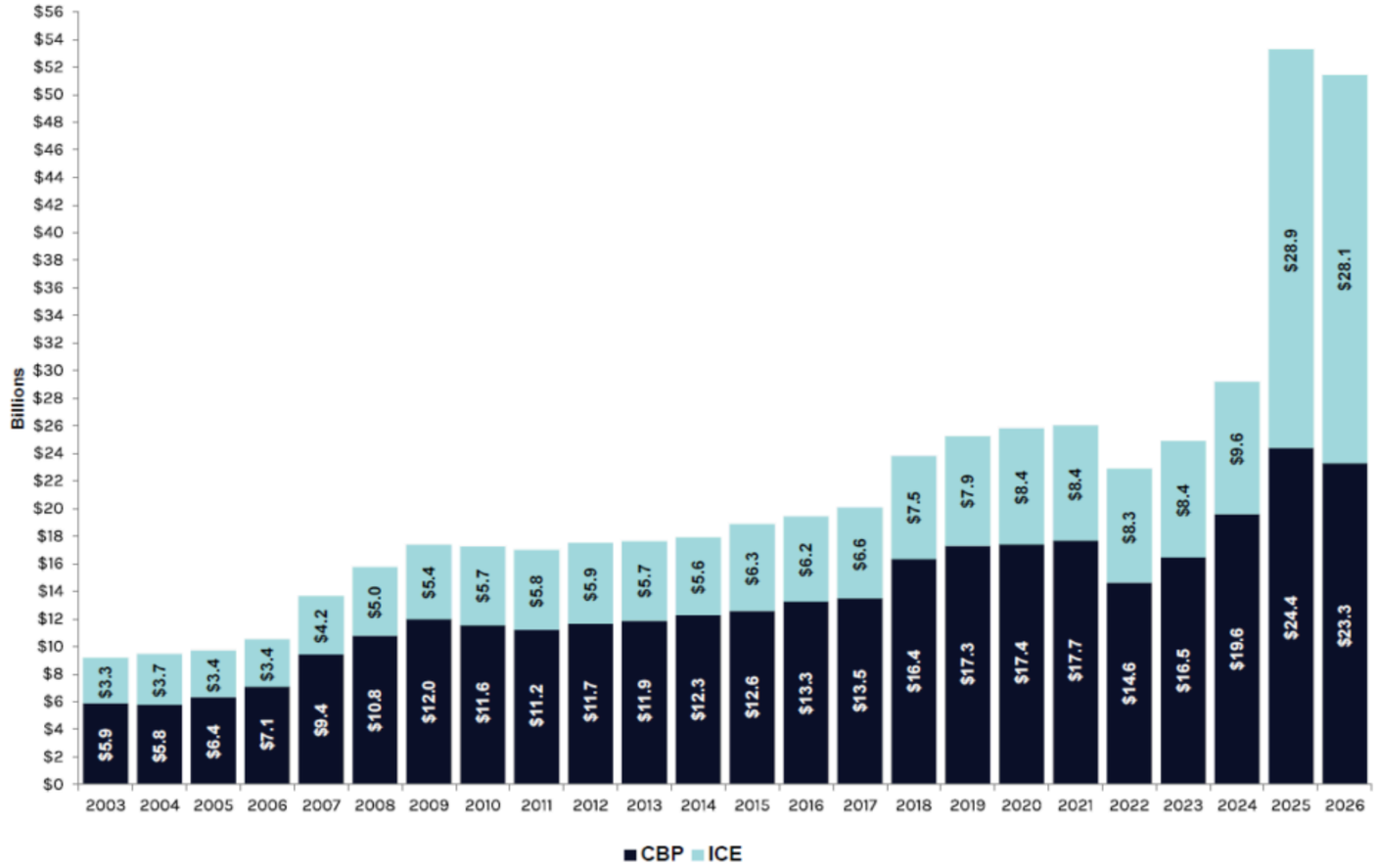
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FEDERAL RESOURCE ALLOCATION

FIGURE 2: CBP & ICE ANNUAL BUDGETS, FY 2003-2026, INCLUDING ANNUALIZED BUDGET RECONCILIATION FUNDING*



Source: Congressional budgets, gross budget authority as provided in Conference Reports, FY 2003-2026.

* Includes discretionary appropriations and fee-funded programs

Source: American Immigration Council