Office of the Attorney General of the State of Illinois
Way Forward Act Annual Compliance Report
2025 Summary Statistics
Civil Rights Bureau of the Illinois Attorney General's Office[1]

November 23, 2026

This is the fourth annual Way Forward Act Compliance Report by the Illinois Attorney General's Office ("OAG"). This report summarizes the information received from state and local law enforcement agencies on their compliance with the Illinois TRUST and VOICES Acts for the 2025 calendar year.[2] Accompanying this report is a set of detailed data appendices (in Excel format) that contain each agency's 2025 self-reported compliance data. Information from these appendices may be downloaded from OAG's Law Enforcement and Immigration webpage: https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/Safer-Communities/Resources-for-Law-Enforcement/Law-Enforcement-And-Immigration/.

Please note that this summary report does not purport to make any investigative findings or legal determinations regarding specific TRUST or VOICES Acts violations by any state or local law enforcement agency.

As detailed in this year's report, highlights include:

- **Highest rate of reporting to date:** Just under 850 out of approximately 950 active Illinois law enforcement agencies met the reporting requirement for 2025, including 99 out of 102 county sheriff's departments.[3] This rate of 88.6% is higher than the reporting rate in 2024,[4] when 85.8% of law enforcement agencies submitted data.

- **Most U- and T- visa certification requests granted:** Across the state, 183 agencies reported receiving a combined total of 6,160 U- and T- visa certification requests for 2025, a 12% increase from the 5,484 requests reported in 2024.[5] Agencies granted 81.9% of these requests in 2025, down from 84.7% in 2024.[6]

[1] This report was prepared by Civil Rights Bureau Chief Laurie Elkin, Assistant Attorneys General Alexandra Reed, Angelys Torres McBride, and Shamoyita DasGupta and Law Clerk Ananya Shah, with data analysis support from Data Analyst/Statistician Franklin Joseph. This analysis reflects the information received and processed by OAG as of July 1, 2026, and may be subject to correction or change.
[2] Each reporting law enforcement agency is responsible for certifying the accuracy of its own data upon submission to OAG. OAG has not independently verified the self-reported data contained in this summary report.
[3] Nine county State's Attorneys also submitted reports.
[4] *See* 2024 Way Forward Act Compliance Report at 2.
[5] *See* 2024 Way Forward Act Compliance Report at 2, 5.
[6] *See* 2024 Way Forward Act Compliance Report at 2, 6.

- **No action on most immigration detainers, civil immigration warrants, and other civil immigration enforcement-related requests:** Illinois agencies reported receiving significantly more immigration detainers and civil immigration warrants[7] in 2025 as compared to 2024.[8] They also received almost double the number of civil immigration enforcement-related requests from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ("DHS").[9] Consistent with the TRUST Act, the vast majority of agencies that reported receiving civil immigration detainers or warrants or other civil immigration enforcement-related requests from DHS confirmed that they took no action in response. The TRUST Act generally prohibits state and local law enforcement agencies from transferring individuals into federal immigration agents' custody unless presented with a federal criminal warrant or otherwise required by federal law.[10]

I. Background

Law enforcement has long recognized that a strong relationship with the community encourages individuals who have been victims of or witnesses to a crime to cooperate with the police. Building trust is particularly crucial in immigrant communities where residents may be reluctant to engage with their local police department if they are fearful that such contact could result in deportation for themselves, their family, or their neighbors.[11] This is true of not only people who may be concerned about their own immigration status, but also U.S. citizens who may be worried about their parents, children, or other family members who immigrated to the United States.

With this goal in mind, Illinois law enforcement agencies are subject to two important state laws designed to build trust with immigrant communities:

- The Illinois TRUST Act ("TRUST Act") helps bolster community trust and cooperation by affirming that law enforcement agencies in Illinois are largely prohibited from participating in non-criminal immigration enforcement. *See* 5 ILCS 805/1 *et seq*.

- The Voices of Immigrant Communities Empowering Survivors Act ("VOICES Act") sets forth specific procedures that Illinois law enforcement officers must follow to support

[7] An "immigration detainer" is "a request to a State or local law enforcement agency to provide notice of release or maintain custody of an individual based on an alleged violation of a civil immigration law," and "civil immigration warrant" means "any document that is not approved or ordered by a judge that can form the basis for an individual's arrest or detention for a civil immigration enforcement purpose." 5 ILCS 805/10. The term "civil immigration warrant" does not include any criminal warrant. *Id.*

[8] 2,084 total detainers or warrants were reported by 58 agencies statewide for 2025. By contrast, for 2024, 1,125 total detainers or warrants were reported by 33 agencies. *See* 2024 Way Forward Act Compliance Report at 7.

[9] For 2025, 58 agencies reported receiving a total of 896 requests from DHS or related agencies (such as ICE). In 2024, 36 reporting agencies received a total of 452 requests from DHS or a related agency. *See* 2024 Way Forward Act Compliance Report at 8.

[10] *See* 5 ILCS 805/15(a), (h)(3).

[11] *See* Min Xie & Eric P. Baumer, *Neighborhood Immigrant Concentration and Violent Crime Reporting to the Police: A Multilevel Analysis of Data from the National Crime Victimization Survey*, 57 CRIMINOLOGY 249–52, 254–55 (2019) (observing lower rates of violence reporting in newer immigrant communities "consistent with theoretical arguments that emphasize" barriers faced by residents of immigrant neighborhoods in seeking police help).

immigrants victimized by certain types of criminal activity or human trafficking who help law enforcement investigate or prosecute that criminal activity and are seeking U- or T-visa certification. *See* 5 ILCS 825/1 *et seq.*

In 2021, the Illinois General Assembly expanded the protections and obligations in both the TRUST Act and the VOICES Act through a new law, the Way Forward Act. Among other things, the Way Forward Act tasks OAG with investigating possible violations of and enforcing compliance with both the TRUST Act and the VOICES Act. To promote compliance, the Way Forward Act also requires each law enforcement agency in Illinois to provide an annual report to OAG containing information related to compliance with the TRUST Act and the VOICES Act.

The information collected by OAG under the Way Forward Act falls into three categories: (1) requests from federal immigration authorities regarding civil enforcement, (2) immigration detainers and civil immigration warrants, and (3) requests for certification forms for U- and T-visas. Requests from federal immigration authorities include any request from DHS, including requests from ICE, related to participation, support, or assistance in any immigration agent's civil enforcement operation.[12]

Each law enforcement agency must collect all required reporting information on a calendar year basis (January 1 through December 31 of each year), and report that information to OAG by the following March 1. Compliance with the Act's reporting requirements is mandatory, and failing to submit a report or submitting an incomplete report is a violation of state law.[13] OAG has statutory authority to conduct investigations and seek legal remedies for violations of the Way Forward Act.[14]

II. Compliance Reporting for 2025 and Data Analysis

In the fourth reporting year since the passage of the Way Forward Act, the Civil Rights Bureau's efforts helped maintain the high level of compliance in statewide law enforcement Way Forward Act reporting. In 2025, 843 of approximately 952 active Illinois law enforcement agencies submitted an annual compliance report, including 99 of the 102 county sheriff's departments.[15] This amounts to an 88.6% reporting rate for 2025 (compared to an 85.8% reporting rate for 2024).[16]

Approximately 480, or 56.5%, of agencies that reported 2025 data did so by the March 1, 2026 deadline, compared to about 78% of reporting agencies that met the deadline for 2024.[17] A list of non-reporting entities for the 2025 calendar year is provided at the end of this report.

[12] For additional information on reporting requirements, visit OAG's Law Enforcement and Immigration webpage at https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/Safer-Communities/Resources-for-Law-Enforcement/Law-Enforcement-And-Immigration/.
[13] 5 ILCS 805/25, 5 ILCS 825/20.
[14] 5 ILCS 805/30, 5 ILCS 825/30.
[15] As previously noted, nine county State's Attorneys also submitted reports.
[16] *See* 2024 Way Forward Act Compliance Report at 4.
[17] *See* 2024 Way Forward Act Compliance Report at 4.

Each reporting law enforcement agency is responsible for certifying the accuracy of its own data upon submission to OAG. Below are some summary statistics based on OAG's analysis of the 2025 data provided by reporting agencies.

A. U- & T-Visa Certification Requests

Federal law affords immigrant survivors of violent crimes and human trafficking the opportunity to apply for temporary humanitarian immigration relief—in the form of a U or T visa—if, among other requirements, they cooperate with reasonable requests for assistance from law enforcement in investigating or prosecuting those crimes.[18] To establish eligibility for a U or T visa, an immigrant crime victim generally must obtain a certification from the law enforcement agency that investigated or prosecuted the crime that describes their level of helpfulness to law enforcement. The certification request process offers an important opportunity for law enforcement agencies to build trust with local immigrant communities and reinforce the importance of reporting and assisting in the investigation and prosecution of criminal activity. The timely and lawful completion of U- and T-visa certification requests therefore serves an important public safety function.

In 2025, 183 agencies in Illinois reported receiving at least one request to complete a U- or T-visa certification form for an immigrant crime victim. This number is a slight increase from the 168 agencies that reported receiving at least one such request in 2024.[19] The cumulative number of reported certification requests has nearly doubled since 2023, going from 3,229 total requests in 2023 to 5,484 requests in 2024, to 6,160 requests in 2025.[20] This may be due—at least in part—to continued improved recordkeeping and reporting procedures, as well as an actual increase in certification requests. The Chicago Police Department ("CPD"), which continues to receive the majority of certification requests for the state, reported receiving 4,166 requests in 2025, as compared to 3,670 in 2024.[21]

At the state level, the VOICES Act specifies the procedures that law enforcement and all other certifying agencies in Illinois must follow upon receiving a request for completion of a U- or T-visa certification form.[22] Under most circumstances, the VOICES Act requires certifying agencies to complete a U- or T-visa certification form for a victim of qualifying criminal activity[23] within 90 business days of receiving the certification request.[24] A certifying agency may deny a certification request only if it determines that the requester was not a victim of qualifying criminal activity or that the qualifying criminal activity was not "detected, investigated, or prosecuted" by the agency.[25]

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[18] *See* 8 U.S.C. §§ 1101(a)(15)(T)–(U).
[19] *See* 2024 Way Forward Act Compliance Report at 4.
[20] *See* 2023 Way Forward Act Compliance Report at 4–5; 2024 Way Forward Act Compliance Report at 5.
[21] *See* 2024 Way Forward Act Compliance Report at 5
[22] *See* 5 ILCS 825/1–825/30.
[23] "'Qualifying criminal activity' means any activity, regardless of the stage of detection, investigation, or prosecution, designated in Section 1101(a)(15)(U)(iii) of Title 8 of the United States Code, any implementing federal regulations, supplementary information, guidance, and instructions." 5 ILCS 825/5.
[24] 5 ILCS 825/10(d).
[25] 5 ILCS 825/10(b).

In 2025, Illinois law enforcement agencies reported responding to 6,083 of the 6,160 certification requests—a 98.8% response rate. This is consistent with 2024's 99.0% response rate. The vast majority of these responses were timely (completed within the 90-business-day deadline); the overall overdue percentage was 1.7% across all reporting agencies, an improvement from the 2.9% overall overdue percentage in 2024.[26]

As in prior reporting years, agencies in Illinois reported granting most certification requests. Specifically, agencies reported granting 81.9% of the requests they received in 2025, consistent with the 84.7% approval rate in 2024 and the 87% approval rate in 2023. The approval rate continues to remain significantly higher than the 64% approval rate in 2022.[27]

CPD, which received more than 67% of the total number of certification requests reported for 2025, reported granting 82.6% of its certification requests in 2025, a slightly lower percentage than in 2024 (86.9%), but higher than in 2022, when it granted fewer than half of such requests.[28] OAG concluded an investigation into CPD's compliance with the VOICES Act in February 2026. OAG analyzed CPD certification request data for the period from August 2021 through December 2024 and found the following three types of certification- and reporting-related VOICES Act violations: (1) failure to record information necessary to report on compliance with the Act; (2) untimely responses to U-visa certification requests; and (3) improper denials of U-visa certification requests for reasons not permitted under the Act (specifically, denials based on crime victims' alleged lack of helpfulness to law enforcement). During the course of OAG's investigation, CPD took a number of concrete steps to improve compliance with the Act, and it has made additional commitments aimed at ensuring future compliance in response to OAG's findings.[29]

Table 1

2025 U- and T-Visa Certification Requests Reported to OAG	Requests reported as received	Requests reported as granted	Approval rate
All reporting agencies	6,160	4,983	81.9%
Chicago PD	4,166	3,441	82.6%
All reporting agencies, other than Chicago PD	1,994	1,542	77.3%

In addition to concluding the investigation into CPD's VOICES Act compliance, over the past year, OAG's Civil Rights Bureau has provided training and other technical assistance to help Illinois law enforcement agencies ensure their responses to U- and T-visa certification requests are timely and otherwise compliant with the Act; this includes training designed to help agencies

[26] *See* 2024 Way Forward Act Compliance Report at 6.
[27] *See* 2024 Way Forward Act Compliance Report at 2; 2023 Way Forward Act Compliance Report at 4; 2022 Way Forward Act Compliance Report at 3.
[28] *See* 2024 Way Forward Act Compliance Report at 4–6.
[29] OAG's February 10, 2026 CPD VOICES Act Investigation Findings Letter and the Chicago Police Department's June 30, 2026 Response to VOICES Act Findings Letter are available on OAG's Law Enforcement and Immigration webpage at https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/Safer-Communities/Resources-for-Law-Enforcement/Law-Enforcement-And-Immigration/.

understand the limited circumstances under which a certification request may be denied under the Act.

Overall, most law enforcement agencies in Illinois have demonstrated a commitment to compliance with the requirements of the VOICES Act and a recognition of the value U- and T-visa certifications provide with respect to public safety and community trust. OAG's Civil Rights Bureau will continue providing technical assistance to law enforcement agencies and investigating and addressing issues with VOICES Act compliance as they arise.

B. Immigration Detainers and Civil Immigration Warrants

The TRUST Act prohibits local and state law enforcement agencies in Illinois from complying with immigration detainers or civil immigration warrants.[30] It is a violation of state law for law enforcement agents to detain someone, or extend a detention, solely on the basis of an immigration detainer or civil immigration warrant—doing so also could expose agencies to civil liability.[31] The Act further prohibits law enforcement agencies from transferring any person into an immigration agent's custody unless presented with a federal criminal warrant or otherwise required by federal law.[32]

In 2025, 58 agencies reported receiving a total of 2,084 immigration detainers and civil immigration warrants, which is a significant increase from the 33 agencies that reported receiving a total of 1,125 detainers and warrants in 2024.[33] Of those 58 agencies, eight reported transferring individuals into ICE, U.S. Marshals, FBI, or U.S. Customs and Border Protection custody following receipt of a civil immigration detainer or warrant on 15 separate instances in 2025 (down from 24 such reported transfers in 2024).[34]

Reported receipt of a detainer or warrant does not mean that the agency ultimately complied with it. Additionally, although the reported transfer of an individual into the custody of federal immigration agents after receipt of an immigration detainer or warrant may represent a violation of the TRUST Act, OAG would require more information (including, for example, whether the

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[30] 5 ILCS 805/15. In some states, state or local law enforcement agencies may enter into formal agreements with the federal government to assist with civil immigration enforcement, including by detaining people who have allegedly violated federal civil immigration law. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1103(a)(10)–(11). Illinois law, however, prohibits law enforcement agencies and officials from entering into "any contract . . . or any other agreement to house or detain individuals for federal civil immigration violations." 5 ILCS 805/15(g)(1); *see also McHenry Cnty. v. Raoul*, 574 F. Supp. 3d 571, 582 (N.D. Ill. 2021), *aff'd sub nom.*, *McHenry Cnty. v. Raoul*, 44 F.4th 581 (7th Cir. 2022) ("The State . . . has decided its political subdivisions . . . can no longer enter Section 1103(a)(11)(B) agreements and must terminate any existing such agreements. This is a valid exercise of the State's sovereign authority . . . .").

[31] *See* 5 ILCS 805/15(a) (stating that law enforcement "shall not detain or continue to detain any individual solely on the basis of any immigration detainer or civil immigration warrant or otherwise comply with an immigration detainer or civil immigration warrant"); 5 ILCS 805 15(b) (stating that law enforcement "shall not stop, arrest, search, detain, or continue to detain a person solely based on an individual's citizenship or immigration status."); *see also Galarza v. Szalczyk*, 745 F.3d 634, 645 (3rd Cir. 2014) (holding that civil ICE detainers are only requests—not requirements—and that state and local law enforcement may be sued under the Fourth Amendment); *Villars v. Kubiatowski*, 45 F. Supp. 3d 791, 801–03 (N.D. Ill. 2014) (denying motions to dismiss and finding that plaintiff had stated a claim where law enforcement officers held plaintiff post-bond on civil ICE detainer).

[32] 5 ILCS 815(h)(3).

[33] *See* 2024 Way Forward Act Compliance Report at 7.

[34] *See* 2024 Way Forward Act Compliance Report at 8.

individual was also the subject of a federal criminal warrant) to determine whether a violation took place in any given instance.[35]

C. Requests from Federal Immigration Authorities

Under the TRUST Act, state and local law enforcement typically may provide assistance with an immigration agent's enforcement operations only if presented with a federal criminal warrant or otherwise required by federal law.[36] The Act also generally prohibits sharing information with federal immigration agents, with limited exceptions.[37]

In 2025, 58 agencies reported receiving a request from federal immigration authorities related to participation, support, or assistance in a civil enforcement operation. Out of 896 reported requests, Illinois law enforcement agencies reported approving only 32 requests (3.6%). This is a decrease from 2024, when Illinois law enforcement agencies reported approving 5.8% of a total of 452 requests.[38]

Many approved requests appear to have been requests for information under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"). The TRUST Act does not prevent local law enforcement from providing public records with appropriate redactions as required by FOIA in response to a FOIA request from a federal immigration agent, in the same way that local law enforcement must respond to FOIA requests from any other requester.

III. Conclusion

Compliance with the TRUST and VOICES Acts is more important than ever. Over the past year and a half, Illinois—and the Chicago area in particular—has seen how even perceived collaboration with federal immigration agents can negatively impact community trust in local police.[39] Together, the TRUST and VOICES Acts aim to keep Illinois law enforcement agencies focused on fighting crime in Illinois and to encourage *all* crime victims and witnesses, regardless of immigration status, to help law enforcement do just that.

The Annual Way Forward Act reports serve as an important compliance and accountability tool. More detailed data from individual agencies' 2025 self-reports can be found in the

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[35] *See* 5 ILCS 805/15(a), (h)(3).
[36] 5 ILCS 805/15(h).
[37] 5 ILCS 805/15(h)(6)-(7). Nothing in the TRUST Act prohibits a law enforcement officer from voluntarily sharing citizenship or immigration status information, if known. 5 ILCS 805/5 (discussing "information regarding the citizenship or immigration status of any individual under Sections 1373 and 1644 of Title 8 of the United States Code"). Additionally, providing public information or public records in response to a federal immigration agent's request does not generally conflict with the TRUST Act and may be required by other applicable laws such as the Illinois FOIA statute. *See, e.g.*, 5 ILCS 140/2.15 (governing public release of arrest reports and criminal history information under Illinois FOIA).
[38] 2024 Way Forward Act Compliance Report at 8.
[39] *See, e.g.*, Jermont Terry, "Police oversight commission hears from Chicagoans frustrated with CPD's interactions with ICE," *CBS Chicago* (Jan. 8, 2026), https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/community-commission-public-safety-accountability-meeting-cpd-ice/; Sam Charles, "Operation Midway Blitz linked to dip in 911 calls, especially in Little Village," *Chicago Tribune* (Nov. 3, 2025), https://www.chicagotribune.com/2025/11/03/911-calls-midway-blitz-little-village/.

appendices. If you have information suggesting that an agency's self-report is incomplete or inaccurate, please contact OAG's Civil Rights Bureau by emailing civilrights@ilag.gov.

The Civil Rights Bureau encourages law enforcement agencies and members of the public to continue to reach out with questions, concerns, or additional information regarding TRUST Act and VOICES Act compliance. The Civil Rights Bureau cannot provide law enforcement agencies or officials with legal advice but does maintain resources and staff to provide technical assistance.

The Civil Rights Bureau's webpage, including information on filing a complaint about a TRUST Act or VOICES Act issue, can be found at: https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/Rights-of-the-People/civil-rights/. You may also contact the Civil Rights Bureau directly by emailing civilrights@ilag.gov.

Additional information for law enforcement agencies can be found at the below link: https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/Safer-Communities/Resources-for-Law-Enforcement/Law-Enforcement-And-Immigration/.

IV. Non-Reporting[40] Agencies for 2025

Non-Reporting County Sheriff's Offices for 2025

1. Alexander County Sheriff's Office
2. Carroll County Sheriff's Office
3. Clinton County Sheriff's Office

Non-Reporting Municipal Police Departments for 2025

1. Abingdon
2. Albany
3. Aroma Park
4. Ashkum
5. Atlanta
6. Bath
7. Bayview Gardens
8. Berkeley
9. Black Hawk College
10. Brocton
11. Brooklyn
12. Buda
13. Bushnell
14. Cairo
15. Capitol Airport
16. Centreville
17. Chapin
18. Cherry
19. Chesterfield
20. Christopher
21. Creal Springs
22. Dallas City
23. Delavan
24. Dixmoor
25. Dongola
26. East Saint Louis
27. Elizabeth
28. Elkville
29. Enfield
30. Ewing
31. Fillmore
32. Forest View
33. Freeburg
34. Freeman Spur
35. German Valley
36. Grant Park
37. Greenup
38. Hamilton
39. Hanover
40. Hazel Crest
41. Hillsdale
42. Hurst
43. Irving
44. Irvington
45. Jerome
46. Johnston City
47. Jonesboro
48. Junction City
49. Kilbourne
50. Kinmundy
51. La Harpe
52. Lakewood
53. Leaf River
54. Leland Grove
55. Lenzburg
56. Liberty
57. Lostant
58. Ludlow
59. Marine
60. Momence
61. Nashville
62. Niantic
63. Norris City
64. Oquawka
65. Pekin Park
66. Peoria Heights
67. Percy
68. Pittsburg
69. Plymouth
70. Prairie Du Rocher
71. Robbins
72. Rosiclare
73. Saint Francisville
74. Shannon
75. Shawneetown
76. Sheffield
77. South Chicago Heights
78. Spaulding
79. Stewardson
80. Stickney
81. Stonington
82. Stronghurst
83. Summerfield
84. Taylor Springs
85. Thomasboro
86. Viola
87. Virginia
88. Wamac
89. Washington Park
90. Waterloo
91. Westchester
92. White Hall
93. Williamsfield
94. Williamson
95. Willisville
96. Winslow
97. Witt
98. Woodland
99. Xenia

[40] In addition to including agencies that made no report to OAG for 2025, this list of "non-reporting" agencies also includes agencies that failed to submit a corrected 2025 report after being notified by OAG that their initial submission was incomplete or otherwise could not be accepted. This list is up to date as of November 17, 2026.

V. List of Data Appendices for 2025

Appendix A: U- and T-visa certification request data for each agency that reported receiving at least one request in 2025

Appendix B: Civil immigration detainer and warrant data for each agency that reported receiving at least one detainer or warrant in 2025

Appendix C: Data on requests from federal immigration authorities for each agency that reported receiving at least one such request in 2025

Appendix D: Data on each agency's reported receipt/non-receipt of U- or T-visa certification requests, civil immigration detainers or warrants, and requests from federal immigration authorities in 2025