

DHS offers \$3,000 to undocumented immigrants who self-deport by 2026

The offer is through Customs and Border Protection's CBP Home app, which officials say tens of thousands of undocumented immigrants have used to deport themselves.

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USA TODAY

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WASHINGTON – The Department of Homeland Security is tripling its payments to undocumented immigrants who deport themselves for the holidays to \$3,000 per person.

Under President Donald Trump's stricter immigration enforcement, the department has been offering \$1,000 and free travel to persuade people without legal authority who remain in the United States to leave.

The advantage to the government is avoiding the average cost of \$17,121 to arrest, detain and remove immigrants, officials have said.

DHS Secretary Kristi Noem said U.S. taxpayers are "generously" tripling the exit bonus through Dec. 31.

"Illegal aliens should take advantage of this gift and self-deport because if they don't, we will find them, we will arrest them, and they will never return," Noem said in a statement.

Those who are deported are barred from ever returning. But by leaving voluntarily, undocumented immigrants could potentially return to the United States eventually through legal channels.

The department invites undocumented immigrants to use Customs and Border Protection's CBP Home app to process their self-deportations.

An estimated **1.9 million undocumented immigrants have left the country** this year, according to DHS officials, although the figure is difficult to corroborate because of people leaving voluntarily. Tens of thousands have used the CBP Home app, officials said.

The right-leaning Center for Immigration Studies estimated a **decline of 2.2 million foreign-born people** during the first six months of the year, based on projections in the Current Population Survey of the U.S. Census. The figure represents the largest drop in one year in decades.