TRAVEL and TRADE are important to the economic health of your state.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Field Operations is the law enforcement entity responsible for managing the Nation’s 328 air, land, and sea ports of entry. CBP’s mission includes border security and anti-terrorism. We also help drive our Nation’s economic engine by facilitating lawful international trade and travel through the enforcement of hundreds of U.S. laws and regulations ranging from agriculture to intellectual property rights. Nearly 225 years ago, the Fifth Act of Congress was passed, establishing the U.S. Customs Service in 1789. Since then, we have played a critical role in collecting revenue for the Nation’s treasury.

CBP: A Good Investment

Adding CBP Officers to ports of entry results in tangible economic benefits. According to a study by the National Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events (CREATE) at the University of Southern California, adding a single CBP Officer equates to annual benefits of:

- $2 million increase in Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- $640,000 saved in opportunity costs
- 33 jobs added to the economy

These findings were based on a study that focused primarily on both passenger and trade operations at land ports. In a subsequent study, CREATE concentrated their analysis on passenger-only operations at airports. In the new study, they found that adding 14 officers to the inspection sites at four major U.S. airports is likely to result in an $11.8 million increase in GDP and generate as many as 81 jobs. The value of wait time saved to existing passengers could be as much as $9 million.
Our Challenges

Expanding Workload and Stakeholder Needs

Mission complexity continues to add to our workload. In response to new threats, we have implemented pre-departure targeting, outbound inspections and additional enforcement operations.

Record increases in passenger and cargo volumes are outpacing our ability to staff our ports of entry sufficiently. Furthermore, new and expanded facilities create more layers of complexity, adding to these challenges.

Requests for increased services by stakeholders place even greater demands on CBP’s resources. Examples include airlines who want additional flights or expanded terminals to accommodate larger aircraft and growing passenger volumes, which provide potentially significant economic benefits.

Our Solutions

Transforming Our Business

Our solutions for addressing these challenges include a number of Business Transformation Initiatives. These initiatives are designed to increase security and efficiency, save money, and enhance the traveler experience. Thanks to innovative new business processes and technologies, our officers can focus less on administrative tasks, and more on CBP’s law enforcement mission. Examples include:

- CBP continues to expand its Global Entry and other Trusted Traveler programs and has incorporated self-service and pedestrian kiosks in multiple environments.
- CBP has automated Form I-94 and has enhanced its I-94 website to allow nonimmigrant travelers to access arrival and departure records maintained by CBP for 5 years from the request date.
- CBP is testing biometric technologies that will help us track when foreign nationals exit the country through U.S. airports. CBP’s Entry/Exit Transformation team’s mission is to enhance the integrity of the immigration system through assurance of traveler identity, enhancing border security while facilitating travel.
- CBP is exploring new mobile technologies to help us be more nimble in our day-to-day operations, enabling us to streamline traveler processing and improve the traveler experience.

Identifying Staffing Needs

Recognizing that our resource needs are not static, CBP’s Workload Staffing Model (WSM) is a dynamic, flexible, analytic tool to help CBP make informed decisions about current and future staffing needs at our ports of entry. The WSM is an independently validated, data-driven model that tells us that the current number of CBP Officers is insufficient.

Alternative Sources of Funding

New laws permit CBP to work proactively with stakeholders and communities to respond to requests for expanded services and improve our facilities through reimbursable service agreements as well as certain types of donations. CBP is also seeking other alternative sources of funding to include inflation-adjusted user fees, agriculture inspection user fees, and public-private partnerships that could serve as mechanisms to fund additional CBP Officers and support expanded facilities.