

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Chris Murphy
Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Katie Britt
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Dear Chair Murray, Vice Chair Collins, Chair Murphy, and Ranking Member Britt:

As you develop the FY 2025 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, we urge you to provide not less than \$3 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Shelter and Services Program (SSP) for humanitarian assistance funding, which supports state, local, and nonprofit service providers who are assisting the federal government with providing critical services for asylum seekers.

We also ask that you include language directing the Department to ensure that funding for the SSP program is not limited to entities that previously applied for either SSP funding or funding under its predecessor, the FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter-Humanitarian (EFSP-H) Program. Third, we ask that you include report language directing FEMA to publicly release its allocation methodology and to work closely with SSP recipients to ensure that funding for the program is received in a timely manner.

In light of federal capacity constraints, the federal government relies on local nonprofit and governmental social service organizations, as well as states and localities, to provide shelter, food, transportation, and support services to asylum seekers arriving at our southern border. Communities and organizations are on the frontlines of assisting migrants, and resources are being stretched thin as these entities perform federal government functions. This funding remains vitally important as more cities in the United States receive asylum seekers and other vulnerable migrants.

Given that the federal government has asked states, localities, and nonprofits to perform an essential governmental function, Congress must reaffirm its commitment to these states, localities, and nonprofits by providing significant funding for SSP and by working to ensure that funds are allocated and disbursed to recipients in a transparent and timely manner.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to engaging with you to reaffirm this commitment.

Sincerely,



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



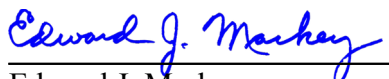
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Laphonza Butler
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



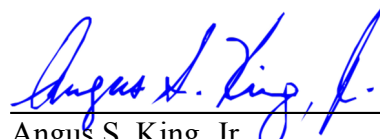
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



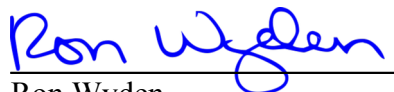
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



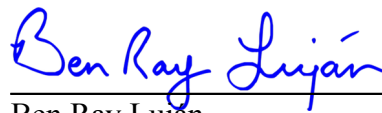
Peter Welch
United States Senator




Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



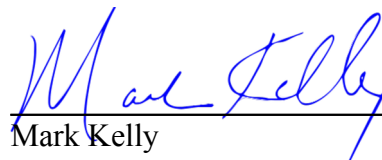
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator