

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Deanne Criswell, Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Administrator Criswell:

We appreciate the Federal Emergency Management Agency announcing the application deadline for the first round of fiscal year 2024 (FY24) Shelter and Services Program (SSP) funding and urge you to expeditiously release the funds as quickly as possible. We understand funding for SSP under four FY24 continuing resolutions (CRs) was available on a pro rata basis, but no allocation was made during the CR period.

Utilizing SSP funding, which provides direct assistance through grants, border and interior communities across the nation have been afforded a critical lifeline as they care for asylum seekers, many of whom are families with children. Because approval of the final FY24 spending package was significantly delayed, the last FY23 SSP award was allocated in September of last year. Since then, impacted communities have faced difficult budget decisions to cover the unmet need.

We appreciate President Biden's request of \$1.4 billion in SSP funds for FY24 through his annual Budget Request and as part of a supplemental appropriations package he requested in October 2023. However, the actual financial need for border communities and interior cities is much greater. In fact, a bipartisan group of mayors in the United States Conference of Mayors sent a letter to Congress indicating "considerably more funding than this" is necessary, while a smaller group of mayors have stated the true need is approximately \$5 billion. Accordingly, we will work with our Congressional colleagues to secure additional SSP funding both as part of the FY24 supplemental and in the FY25 appropriations process.

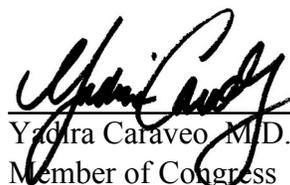
Additionally, we ask the administration to broaden the eligibility criteria for SSP funding to allow new applicants to be eligible for future SSP funding disbursements. This expansion in the allocation process will allow new non-profit agencies and religious organizations in cities serving migrants to access the necessary resources to support these arriving individuals and help with the increased demand for care.

We urge your prompt assistance to ensure timely release of federal funding to augment the efforts provided by states, cities, and nonprofits across the country. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Ysaira Caraveo, M.D.
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



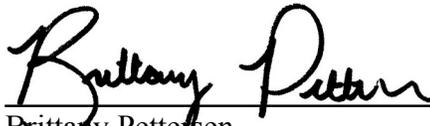
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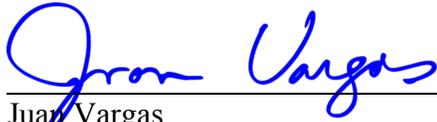
Delia C. Ramirez
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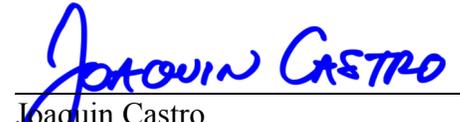
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Member of Congress



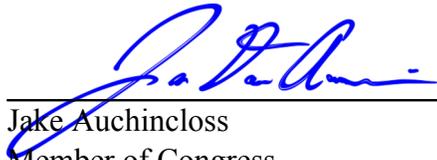
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Juan Vargas
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Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



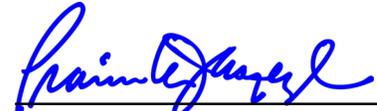
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Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

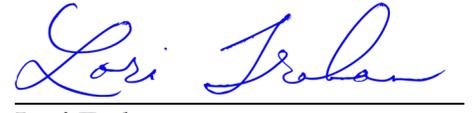


Mike Levin
Member of Congress

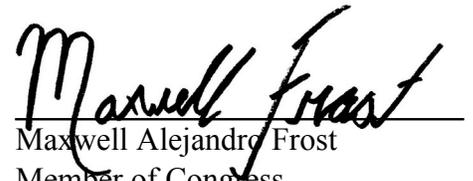


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