

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

April 28, 2025

Mr. Cameron Hamilton
Senior Official Performing the Duties of
the Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20004

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
300 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20024

RE: FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program

Dear Mr. Hamilton and Secretary Noem:

We write to express our deep concern over the decision to “review” previously-obligated funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP). Not only does this “review” apply to current Fiscal Year 2025 funds, but it also applies to money promised to food pantries and homeless shelters over the past several years. FEMA must make good on these financial commitments at once.

EFSP plays a critical role in combatting hunger and homelessness in our country, working to lift children and families out of desperate circumstances. We demand that you take immediate action to ensure that full funding for EFSP, as appropriated by Congress, resumes without further disruption.

EFSP provides funding to local governments and nonprofit organizations that supply food, shelter, rental and utility assistance, and other essential resources to individuals and families who are “experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, hunger and/or homelessness.”¹ Since its founding in 1983, EFSP has supported over 14,000 local organizations in over 2,500 counties and cities across the country.² The EFSP National Board, which oversees the disbursement of funds in line with the intent of Congress, ensures that priority is given to communities and organizations most in need of support.³

Although EFSP receives comparatively little federal funding – \$117 million in FY2024⁴ – the program provides critical support to local organizations, filling gaps to respond to urgent needs or where other sources of funding fall short. If the review of EFSP funding continues long-term,

¹ Federal Emergency Management Agency. “Emergency Food and Shelter Program.” FEMA, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, <https://www.fema.gov/grants/emergency-food-and-shelter-program>. Accessed 3 Apr. 2025.

² Emergency Food and Shelter Program. “About the Emergency Food and Shelter Program.” United Way, <https://www.efsp.unitedway.org/efsp/website/websiteContents/index.cfm?template=about.cfm>. Accessed 3 Apr. 2025.

³ Congressional Research Service. “The Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP).” Congress.gov, Library of Congress, <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IF12026>. Accessed 3 Apr. 2025.

⁴ U.S. House Committee on Appropriations, Democrats. FY24 Summary of Appropriations Provisions. U.S. House of Representatives, https://democrats-appropriations.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-appropriations.house.gov/files/FY24%20Summary%20of%20Appropriations%20Provisions_0.pdf. Accessed 3 Apr. 2025.

over 8,000 local organizations across the country that provide life-saving services to the most vulnerable could be forced to make difficult cuts, turn people away, or close entirely.

During a time when our country is experiencing a cost-of-living crisis and record high homelessness⁵, the administration's freeze of EFSP funds will have devastating impacts on millions of people across rural, urban, and suburban communities. Children and families – who experienced the largest increase in homelessness between 2023 and 2024 – would likely be the most impacted.⁶

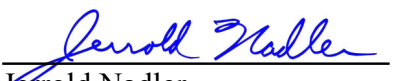
To ensure that EFSP can continue to provide life-saving support to individuals, children, families, and communities nationwide, EFSP must resume disbursement of funds immediately. In addition, we request answers to the following questions:

- 1) Under what authority are FY20-FY24 EFSP funds being reviewed? When will that review be completed?
- 2) Under what authority can FEMA withhold previously appropriated and obligated funds?
- 3) We understand you are reviewing this program, which feeds and houses the most vulnerable, for “waste, fraud, and abuse”. We are also to understand that you are yet to provide any congressional inquirers a substantive example of such “waste, fraud, and abuse”. Are you able to provide any examples at this time?
- 4) If EFSP has been terminated, which official signed the termination order and how does the administration plan to support homeless and food insecure individuals and families?

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress

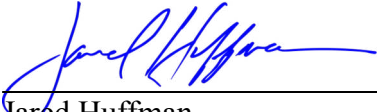
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress

⁵ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The 2024 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress: Part 1. HUD User, <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2024-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>. Accessed 3 Apr. 2025.

⁶ Ibid.



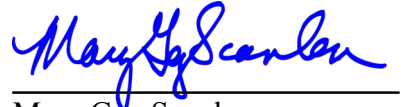
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



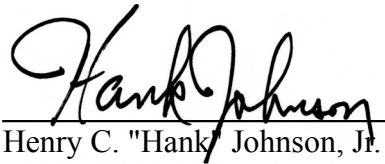
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Cleo Fields
Member of Congress



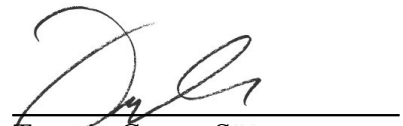
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



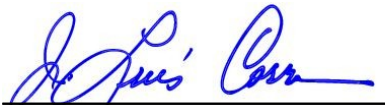
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



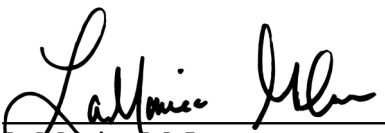
Froy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



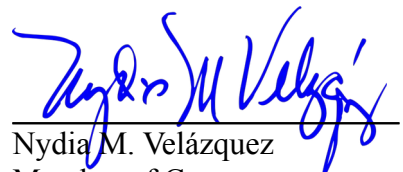
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



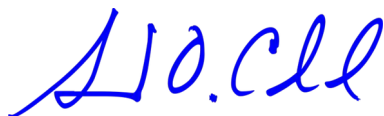
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



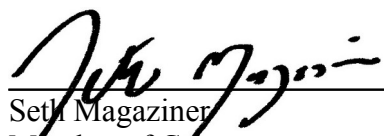
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



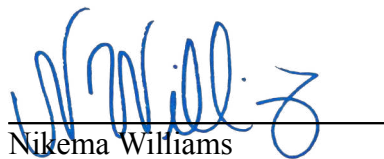
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



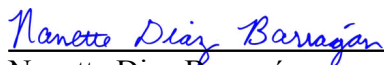
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



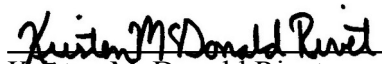
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



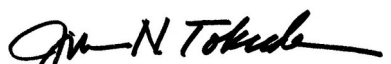
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



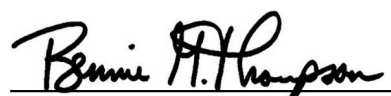
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress

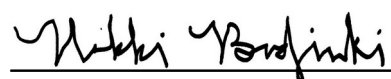


Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress

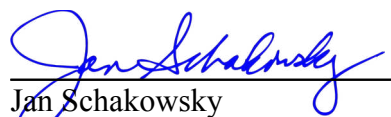

Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress


Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress


Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

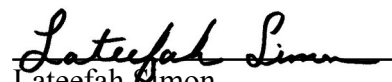

Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress

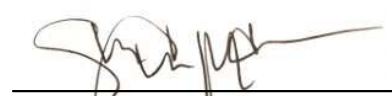

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress


Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress


Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress

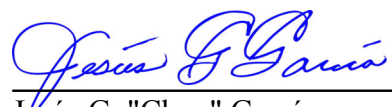

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress


Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress

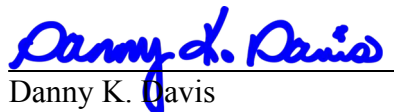

Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress


Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress


Ed Case
Member of Congress


Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress


Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress