

November 10, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-233, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Room S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Need for Increase in FY 2023 EFSP Humanitarian Assistance Funding

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader Schumer, and Leader McConnell,

The undersigned 101 organizations, which include thirty-four (34) direct service providers along the U.S.-Mexico border, urge Congress to increase Fiscal Year 2023 funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) to \$200,000,000 to meet the needs of local communities providing critical services for families and individuals encountered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Through a national board, FEMA awards humanitarian assistance funding to faith-based and other nonprofit organizations, states, and municipalities that provide respite and food to migrants released from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or U.S. Customs and Border Protection custody. Many shelters, cities, and counties critically rely on support from EFSP to maintain safe environments so that migrants are not stranded and can reach their final destinations.

We are grateful for the \$150,000,000 Congress appropriated to the program for FY 2022 and its inclusion in the September 30, 2022 Continuing Resolution, but urge you to consider an increase in the appropriation in light of the increased demands faced by service providers.¹ Appropriated funds have already been stretched thin. The EFSP national board recently released an addendum to its FY 2022 Humanitarian Relief Funding Guidance, noting that, "limited funding remain[ed]" and announcing criteria for triaging requests.² Because of this, there is concern that there are insufficient funds remaining to get shelters and localities through to December 16, 2022.

As the expiration of the current continuing resolution approaches, we urge Congress to reaffirm its commitment to border and other communities by providing \$200,000,000 or more for FY23. If Congress does not pass an FY 2023 appropriations bill, we implore Congress to provide additional funding in a successive Continuing Resolution.

¹ Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, Pub. L. No. 117-103, § 543(a)(3), 136 STAT. 49, 343 (2021); Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act, Pub. L. No. 117-43 (2021).

² Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program, Fed. Emergency Mgmt. Agency, Humanitarian Relief Funding Guidance Addendum Fiscal Year 2022, 1 (Sep. 2022), <https://www.efsp.unitedway.org/efsp/website/websiteContents/PDFs/AddendumtotheHumanitarianGuidance.pdf>.

Sincerely,

Advocates for Migration Justice at Seattle University
African Communities Together
Al Otro Lado
Alianza Americas
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
American Immigration Council
American Immigration Lawyers Association
Amnesty International USA
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC
Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP)
Austin Region Justice for Our Neighbors
Bishop Enrique San Pedro Ozanam Center Inc.
Border Organizing Project
Border Servant Corps
Catholic Charities Community Services NY / Immigrant and Refugee Services
Catholic Charities of Southern New Mexico
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies
Central American Resource Center - CARECEN - of California
Church World Service
CLUE-Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Coalition on Human Needs
Colores United
Community Change Action
Comunidad de Apoyo San Diego
Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Dallas Responds
DFW Asylum Seeker Housing (DASH) Network
Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel
El Calvario Immigrant Advocacy Center
Episcopal Diocese of West Texas - Immigration Ministries
Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project, CCLA Inc.
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Fair Immigration Reform Movement Action
Families Belong Together
Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project
Franciscan Action Network
Freedom for Immigrants (FFI)
Freedom Network USA
Friends Committee on National Legislation
FWD.us
Galilee Center, Inc.
Global Response Management
HIAS
Hispanic Federation
Hope Border Institute
Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative
Human Rights First

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Immigrant Defenders Law Center
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project
Immigration Equality Action Fund
Interfaith Welcome Coalition
International Rescue Committee
InterReligious Task Force on Central America and Colombia
Jewish Family Service of San Diego
Justice for Migrant Women
Justice in Motion
Kids in Need of Defense
Kino Border Initiative
Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center
Latin America Working Group (LAWG)
Law Office of Peggy J. Bristol
Legal Action Chicago
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
Migrant Center for Human Rights
Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid Network
MomsRising/MamásConPoder
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Law Center
National Partnership for New Americans
New York Immigration Coalition
Open Immigration Legal Services
Oxfam America
Quixote Center
RAICES
Refugees International
Regional Center for Border Health, Inc.
Rio Grande Valley Welcome Committee
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network
Save the Children
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
South Bronx Mutual Aid, Mutual Aid Collective
Southern California Immigration Project
Southern Border Communities Coalition
STRANGERS NO LONGER (Michigan)
Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative
Tahirih Justice Center
Team Brownsville
Texas Civil Rights Project
The Advocates for Human Rights
The Episcopal Church
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
University of California, San Diego
#WelcomeWithDignity
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center
Witness at the Border
Women's Refugee Commission

Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights