

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1304**

May 9, 2023

The Honorable Deanne Criswell  
Administrator of FEMA  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20472

Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
301 7th Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Administrator Criswell and Secretary Mayorkas:

As Members of Congress representing the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois, we write to express our profound disappointment in the recent Emergency Funding Shelter Program (EFSP) disbursement. Given the significant role government entities and organizations in Chicago and Illinois have played in welcoming migrants, it is critical to secure equitable funding to meet the rising need. We fully support the City of Chicago's most recent funding request, and we urge the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to fully fund it. We also request funding through the Shelter and Services Program (SSP).

As a delegation, we urge you to provide expedited and substantive reimbursement of the \$20.5M remaining in FEMA's EFSP. While the City of Chicago appreciates the \$5.5 million received through EFSP in 2022, which it has supplemented with significant state and local funding, this amount is utterly insufficient to support the more than \$75 million already spent from the beginning of this mission in August 2022 through April 2023. Migrants continue to arrive in Chicago and an additional surge is expected with the end to Title 42 on May 11, 2023. Since August 2022, Chicago has sheltered and provided services for nearly 8,000 migrants arriving into the city as part of Texas Governor Abbott's Operation Lone Star. As one of the target states providing transitional services to recent arrivals, it is only equitable to ensure that Chicago and the state of Illinois are prioritized when the last round of \$20.5M in federal funding is allocated.

With that, we also respectfully request maximal flexibility from FEMA for administrative expenditures including staffing and other eligible shelter expenses beyond 30 days. Due to current regulations, countless migrant families are left without options and unable to receive help beyond that period. These changes would enable community organizations and government entities to provide necessary resources and support.

Lastly, we recognize SSP is critical to meet our current and future needs as a city and state, especially with this recent surge. As we wait to receive application guidance for this program, we strongly urge DHS to expedite opening this program to help provide basic resources for recent arrivals. We also kindly ask that interior cities and states providing transitional migrants services be included as priority areas for potential SSP funding.

Illinois prides itself on being a Welcoming State for immigrants and mobilizing the resources necessary is a shared responsibility across federal, state, and local governments. We look forward to your response and again urge your assistance to ensure adequate federal funding to support and complement the efforts provided by Chicago and Illinois. Thank you for your consideration of these urgent requests.

Sincerely,



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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



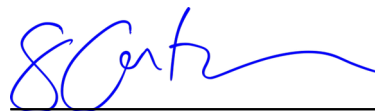
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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



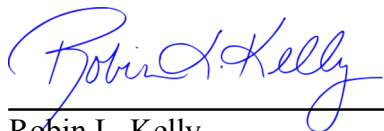
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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



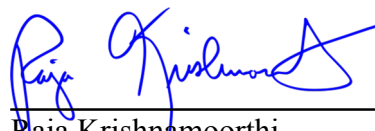
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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



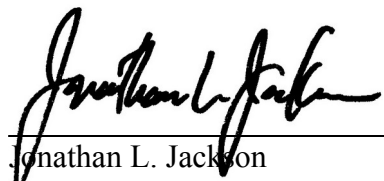
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Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



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Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress