

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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May 24, 2023

Angela F. Williams
President and CEO
United Way Worldwide
Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program
701 North Fairfax Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-2064

Dear Ms. Williams:

The Committee on the Judiciary is conducting oversight of the Administration's enforcement of federal immigration law. As a direct result of actions taken by the Biden Administration, the United States is experiencing the worst border crisis in our nation's history. Since President Biden took office, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials have encountered over five million illegal immigrants along the southwest border.¹ Nearly two million of those illegal immigrants have been released into the U.S. pursuant to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) policy.²

A major cause of this crisis is the incentive created by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) using DHS grant funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). United Way Worldwide is the designated charity to execute funding decisions made by the National Board for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP).³ While Americans suffer the consequences of chaos at the southwest border caused by the Biden Administration, the United Way and dozens of local charities and governments are receiving of millions of taxpayer dollars to provide free food, lodging, and transportation for illegal aliens to be released

¹ U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Southwest Land Border Encounters (last accessed May 16, 2023), <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>.

² *Texas v. Biden*, Case No: 2:21-cv-00067-Z (N.D. Texas) (Brief For America First Legal Foundation As Amicus Curiae In Support of Respondents, Defendants' Monthly Report For Mar. 2022, Defendants' Monthly Report For April 2022, Defendants' Monthly Report For May 2022, Defendants' Monthly Report For June 2022); MPP Reimplementation Report, July 2022, MPP Reimplementation Report, Aug. 2022, MPP Reimplementation Report, Sept. 2022, MPP Reimplementation Report Oct. 2022, MPP Reimplementation Report Nov. 2022, MPP Reimplementation Report, Dec. 2022, MPP Reimplementation Report, Jan. 2023, MPP Reimplementation Report, Feb. 2023, provided to Committee Staff by U.S. Dep't. of Homeland Security.

³ Emergency Food and Shelter Program, Members (last visited May 16, 2023), <https://www.efsp.unitedway.org/efsp/website/websiteContents/members.cfm>.

anywhere they want in the United States.⁴ According to FEMA guidance, federal funding can even be awarded without any documentation or receipts.⁵ Amid this crisis, there is also an increased risk of fraud, misuse, and abuse of funds because, due to current policies, FEMA is unable to ensure that humanitarian relief funds are not being wasted.⁶

As the Committee conducts oversight of the Biden Administration's enforcement of federal immigration laws and federal grants awarded to organizations that provide immigrants with government funded food, shelter, and transportation, we respectfully request that you provide the following documents or information for the awardees under the Emergency Food and Shelter Program for individuals encountered at the southwest border for the time period of January 20, 2021, to May 11, 2023:

1. The total dollar amount in grants and contracts organizations has received (separated by funding source) from federal, state, and local government agencies.
2. A list of affiliates and grant subrecipients receiving funding through EFSP including the amount of funding each affiliate or subrecipient has received from your organization.
3. A list of affiliates that are providing assistance to foreign nationals outside the United States who are traveling to the United States without authorization allowing them to be admitted, and the dollar amounts each affiliate or subrecipient has received from your organization to provide such assistance.
4. All immigration-related information, including, but not limited to, pamphlets, guides, and prerecorded presentations, provided to immigrants encountered at the southwest border being served by your organization, regardless of whether that information was produced or created by your organization.
5. Copies of all grant applications for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program to include grant applications that were not approved for funding.
6. All evaluation criteria that the National Board used to determine grant award funding decisions.
7. All communications between any employee or contractor of the United Way and any employee or contractor of FEMA, DHS, the Executive Office of the President, or any

⁴ U.S. Dep't of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Food and Shelter Program (last visited May 9, 2023), <https://www.fema.gov/grants/emergency-food-and-shelter-program>.

⁵ Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program, Application and Funding Guidance (last accessed May 9, 2023), <https://www.efsp.unitedway.org/efsp/website/websiteContents/PDFs/Fiscal%20Year%202023%20Humanitarian%20Relief%20Funding%20Guidance.pdf>.

⁶ U.S. Dep't of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, FEMA Should Increase Oversight to Prevent Misuse of Humanitarian Relief Funds (Mar. 28, 2023), <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2023-03/OIG-23-20-Mar23.pdf>.

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- other federal agency or department referring or relating to federal immigration law or policy.
8. The total number of airline transportation tickets purchased or subsidized, directly or indirectly, by your organization for immigrants encountered at the southwest border as well as the cost of those tickets, for transporting such immigrants into the interior of the United States.
 9. All policies and procedures developed and implemented by your organization to ensure that federal grant dollars are and were not used to serve immigrants who had no record of an encounter with DHS.
 10. The number of immigrants who received services from your organization who had no record of an encounter with DHS.


Please produce all documents and information as soon as possible but no later than June 7, 2023.

The Judiciary Committee is authorized to conduct oversight of the Department of Homeland Security pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives.⁷ If you have any questions about this request, please contact Committee staff at (202)-225-6906. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.


Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Chairman



Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Chairman
Subcommittee on Immigration
Integrity, Security, and Enforcement

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Ranking Member
The Honorable Pramila Jayapal, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Immigration
Integrity, Security, and Enforcement

⁷ Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, R. X (2023).