

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

May 18, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chris Murphy
Chairman
Senate Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Shelby, Chairman Murphy, and Ranking Member Capito,

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2023 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, we respectfully ask you to continue to fund the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) at sufficient levels to ensure local nonprofit, faith-based and governmental entities will continue to have the important capacity to provide essential services to those in economic crisis.

Congress established the EFSP after the 1982 Recession with the aim to assist state and local governmental and public institutions improve their responses to food insecurity and homelessness brought on by economic crises. EFSP funds are used for a wide array of services, such as mass shelter and food programming, food distribution through food pantries and food banks, and other tools to maintain stable living conditions such as eviction prevention, utility assistance, and transition assistance.

Recently, EFSP has also been directed with assisting communities in recovering from the economic impacts and aftershocks of the COVID-19 pandemic and providing crucial support to local, nonprofit, faith-based, and governmental groups providing important humanitarian assistance to surging migrant populations at the southwestern border. Due to these community challenges, EFSP has expanded to include greater hygiene and medical services such as health screenings, COVID-19 testing, and personal protective equipment, as well as transportation support.

EFSP is administered by FEMA and partners with leading national charitable organizations, such as the American Red Cross, Catholic Charities USA, The Jewish Federations of North America, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, The Salvation Army, and United Way Worldwide. EFSP prioritizes the neediest areas across the country by aiming to respond quickly to vulnerable groups, build out its capacity through public-private sector collaboration, and incorporating local decision-making and accountable reporting. Its nationwide network has supported more than 14,000 public and nonprofit service providers in 2,500 counties and cities across the country.

As the nation continues to navigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, food, shelter, rental assistance, and other critical needs will continue to overload the charitable sector and local governments, especially true for southwestern border communities managing the flow of migrants. In order to ensure our most vulnerable are given the basic necessities to live, we respectfully request that you continue to provide sufficient funding to FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program funding for Fiscal Year 2023.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator