



One Hundred Nineteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2025

The Honorable Brandon Johnson
Mayor
City of Chicago
121 N. LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Mayor Johnson:

The Committee on Homeland Security (Committee) is conducting oversight of the Department of Homeland Security's (Department) Shelter and Services Program (SSP), which grants financial support to non-federal entities that provide sheltering and related activities to noncitizen migrants following their release from the Department.¹

On February 11, 2025, Cameron Hamilton, the Senior Official Performing the Duties of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator, filed a brief in opposition to a challenge to an Office of Management and Budget directive² that pauses certain federal funding,³ in which he stated that FEMA temporarily paused funding for SSP "based on significant concerns that the funding is going to entities engaged in or facilitating illegal activities."⁴ Based on Mr. Hamilton's assertions, the Committee is concerned that funds awarded, obligated, and distributed through the SSP were approved under the Biden-Harris administration without proper oversight of the recipients and their programs.

Congress authorized \$650 million for the SSP program in fiscal year (FY) 2024 through the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024.⁵ FEMA allocated and distributed

¹ *Shelter and Services Program*, FED. EMERGENCY MGMT. AGENCY, <https://www.fema.gov/grants/shelter-services-program> (last visited Mar. 4, 2025).

² Memorandum M-25-13 from Matthew J. Vaeth, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget (Jan. 27, 2025), *available at* M-25-13 Temporary Pause to Review Agency Grant Loan and Other Financial Assistance Programs | DocumentCloud.

³ *New York v. Trump*, 1:25-cv-00039-JJM-PAS 2 (D.R.I. 2025).

⁴ Declaration of Cameron Hamilton, Senior Off. Performing the Duties of the Adm'r, Fed. Emergency Mgmt. Agency, *New York v. Trump*, 1:25-cv-00039-JJM-PAS 2 (D.R.I. 2025).

⁵ Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, H.R. 2882, 118th Cong. 598 (2024).

\$13,441,881.46 to the City of Chicago for FY2024 through its SSP-Allocated (SSP-A) program⁶ and \$12,288,565 to the City of Chicago for FY2024 through its SSP-Competitive (SSP-C) program.⁷ The Committee seeks a full accounting of funds awarded to Chicago for the FY2024 SSP to ensure its compliance with federal law.

To aid the Committee with its oversight of the SSP, please provide the following documents and information as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 9, 2025:

1. All documents and communications between any employee, contractor, or volunteer of the City of Chicago and any employee or contractor of the Department of Homeland Security, including but not limited to, e-mail, memoranda, text messages, and messages on any phone application, referring or relating to the Shelter and Services Program, from October 1, 2023 to January 19, 2025;
2. A copy of all applications submitted to the Department of Homeland Security by the City of Chicago for SSP-A and SSP-C awards;
3. A copy of all justification documents submitted to the Department of Homeland Security during the grant process, including but not limited to, Performance Progress Reports and payment requests;
4. A document sufficient to show any subapplicants that received subawards from the City of Chicago for SSP-A and SSP-C awards; and
5. All documents and communications between any employee, contractor or volunteer of the City of Chicago and any employee, contractor, or volunteer of any SSP-A or SSP-C subapplicants that received subawards from the City of Chicago for SSP-A or SSP-C awards, including but not limited to, e-mail, memoranda, text messages, and messages on any phone application, referring or relating to the Shelter and Services Program, from October 1, 2023 to the present.

An attachment contains instructions for responding to this request. Please contact the Committee on Homeland Security Majority staff at (202) 226-8417 with any questions about this request.

Per Rule X of the U.S House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security is the principal committee of jurisdiction for overall homeland security policy, and has special oversight functions of “all Government activities relating to homeland security, including the interaction of all departments and agencies with the Department of Homeland Security.”

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

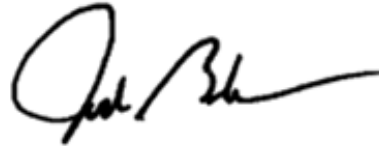
⁶ *Shelter and Services Program – Allocated FY24 Awards*, FED. EMERGENCY MGMT. AGENCY, <https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/shelter-services-program/fy24-awards/ssp-a> (last visited Mar. 19, 2025).

⁷ *Shelter and Services Program – Competitive FY24 Awards*, FED. EMERGENCY MGMT. AGENCY, <https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/shelter-services-program/fy24-awards/ssp-c> (last visited Mar. 19, 2025).

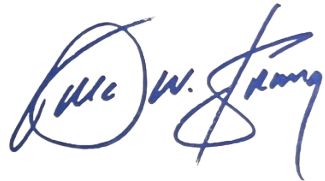
Sincerely,



MARK E. GREEN, M.D.
Chairman



JOSH BRECHEEN
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight,
Investigations, and Accountability



DALE W. STRONG
Chairman
Subcommittee on Emergency Management
and Technology

Encl.

cc: The Honorable Bennie Thompson, Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Shri Thanedar, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations,
and Accountability

The Honorable Tim Kennedy, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Emergency Management
and Technology

The Honorable Kristi Noem, Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Mr. Cameron Hamilton, Senior Official Performing the Duties of FEMA Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency