

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2025

The Honorable Andrew Gradison
Acting Assistant Secretary
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary Gradison,

We are writing to raise urgent concerns regarding the ongoing funding freeze experienced by the Texas Office of Refugees (TXOR). Texas is the only state in the country unable to access obligated Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) funds. We demand ORR funding be immediately released to TXOR. If this funding is not unfrozen, TXOR may be forced to close its office by March 15th.

In January, the Department of Health & Human Services suspended funding to state agencies that grant funds for refugee services across the country. The funding suspension was later reversed, and all state agencies except TXOR were able to access frozen ORR funds. ORR has obligated funding for TXOR but has not released funds to TXOR or provided an explanation to TXOR for why funding remains frozen.

This funding freeze threatens 29 nonprofits across the state of Texas. Twenty-four out of 29 impacted nonprofits have already had to furlough or lay off staff due to instability from the administration. Nearly 1000 nonprofit workers have lost their jobs, and thousands of refugees in Texas have lost access to services and support. If funding is not restored immediately, hundreds of thousands of refugees across the state could be permanently left without crucial medical services, basic shelter, and legal support.

We urge you to immediately release ORR Congressionally appropriated and agency obligated funds to TXOR and request that you provide responses to the following questions:

1. What factors are contributing to the delay in dispersing ORR funds to TXOR? What steps will be taken to ensure such delays will not occur in the future?
2. How many programs were impacted by this delay, and what were the immediate consequences on operations and services for children and families?

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



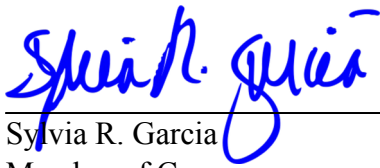
Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



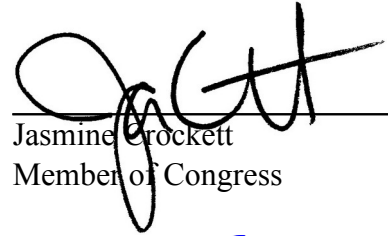
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



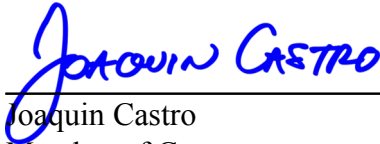
Al Green
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy Jr.