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Congress of the United States
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December 18, 2025

David Richardson
Senior Official Performing the Duties of FEMA Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
PO Box 10055
Hyattsville, MD 20782-8055

Dear Mr. Richardson,

I am writing to inquire about the status of Emergency Food and Shelter Program (ESFP) grant funding for awarded entities in my district, particularly First Step Domestic & Sexual Violence Services. As you know, the ESFP supports the work of local service providers to provide shelter, food, and supportive services to community members in need of such support. First Step provides comprehensive services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence and is a critical provider for constituents in my district and across Michigan.

Services permitted under the ESFP grant can make a significant difference for survivors and their families. Organizations like First Step rely on this funding to keep their doors open and provide essential services that support survivors' journey to safety and healing, and in many cases are lifesaving. In a crisis, even a simple meal goes a long way.

First Step was expecting \$42,000 of \$1.4 million in EFSP Phase 42 funding for Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and Detroit, MI. This funding would allow them to purchase food for the shelter, and they have yet to receive it, and were told the funding was frozen. My staff has been going back and forth with Congressional Affairs since August, and has unfortunately heard each time, as recently as December 16, 2025, that there are no updates on Phase 42 allocations.

This lapse in funding is deeply concerning, and grant recipients deserve clarity and action on the funding they depend on. Without these funds, First Step will be limited in their ability to carry out the full range of programs they provide to support survivors and their families. I urge you to take measures to ensure that ESFP grant funding is released and provide clarity to grantees on the timeline of receiving this expected funding.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress