



April 7, 2026

The Honorable Katie Britt, Chair  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mark Amodei, Chair  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chris Murphy  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Henry Cuellar  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Honorable Members of Congress:

I am writing on behalf of Catholic Charities USA to request funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) programs and operations, which are essential for supporting vulnerable populations, including disaster-affected communities, individuals experiencing financial hardship, survivors of human trafficking, and others who depend on this assistance. DHS plays a vital role in providing essential support, resources, and expertise to these communities. The agency needs full funding to continue its important mission.

CCUSA represents a network of 169 independent Catholic Charities agencies that are working to reduce poverty and serve vulnerable communities in 50 states and five U.S. territories. For decades, the agencies have collaborated with the government at all levels to respond to various challenges in communities. Operating at over 3,500 service locations nationwide, Catholic Charities served over 16 million people, and we are steadfast in our dedication to carrying out these ministries. We are deeply grateful for the government's continued collaboration and support in this work.

#### **Disaster Preparedness and Recovery**

As the frequency and severity of natural disasters and other emergencies continue to rise, the resulting effects on communities nationwide have become increasingly devastating. Our joint efforts with federal, state, and local authorities have enabled us to provide crucial assistance to affected communities, including food, emergency shelter, comprehensive case management, financial assistance, and much more, reaching approximately 500,000 people through 70 disasters per year. Increased funding for FEMA to enhance its capabilities and ensure the availability of essential resources for disaster mitigation and response is not just essential – it is dire.

#### **United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)**

The immigration process has faced significant challenges over the years, including a substantial case backlog, staffing shortages, and various operational issues. These factors have contributed to extended wait times for individuals and families seeking immigration benefits. As a result, applicants often find

themselves in a state of uncertainty regarding their immigration status, which can complicate their ability to support themselves due to the connection between legal work status. In many cases, the prolonged wait times have led to family separation and prolonged detention. Timely processing of immigration benefit requests is crucial, as it enables individuals to receive a decision in their case and make informed plans for their future. Funding to hire and train immigration case officers would provide the agency with the resources needed to address some of these challenges.

#### **Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)**

We firmly advocate for increased funding for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program to ensure that localities across the country can effectively respond to people in their communities experiencing financial difficulties and unable to afford housing, food, or utilities. According to the National Energy Assistance Directors Association (NEADA), “the average monthly residential electricity bill increased from about \$121 in 2021 to roughly \$156 in 2025, a rise of nearly 29 percent.” Several Catholic Charities agencies across the country report an average of 100% or more increase in requests for food assistance, emergency shelter, utility payments, or other urgent needs from the community. Private donations alone fall significantly short of meeting the urgent needs our communities face, especially as unemployment rises and inflation continues to soar. It is imperative for Congress to fund this program, as it supports a 40-year partnership between the government and community service organizations that effectively address these critical local needs.

#### **Nonprofit Security Grant Program**

Catholic Charities is committed to carrying out its ministries in fulfillment of the gospel mandate while ensuring the safety of the people it serves, as well as its staff and volunteers. In response to the heightened threat of violence and harassment faced by Catholic Charities member agencies and other organizations engaged in faith-driven ministries, we request flat funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program to enable these organizations to strengthen security measures at various service locations.

In closing, we express our deep gratitude for your invaluable service to our country. We look forward to our continued collaboration to better meet the pressing needs of vulnerable neighbors.

Sincerely,



Kerry Alys Robinson  
CEO, Catholic Charities USA