

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 7, 2025

The Honorable Kika Scott
Acting Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
5900 Capital Gateway Drive
Camp Springs, MD 20746

Dear Acting Director Scott,

We write to express our deep concern regarding the recent freeze of funding to grantees under the Citizenship and Assimilation (C&A) Grant Program, and to request further information about your actions. Since 2009, this program has been instrumental in supporting eligible lawful permanent residents on their path to U.S. citizenship. By funding organizations that provide assistance with the U.S. citizenship application process, English language instruction, and civics education, the program has significantly increased community capacity to help aspiring citizens gain the knowledge and resources necessary to navigate the naturalization process successfully.

On February 4, 2025, USCIS began notifying grant recipients that their funding would be frozen, citing a January 28, 2025, memorandum from Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem. The notification further stated that payments were unavailable, with no timeline from USCIS for when the freeze would be lifted. This abrupt action, along with uncertainty about when it will be resolved, has caused widespread instability for organizations that rely on these grants to continue to provide their services. There has been no indication, evidence or even outright allegation that grantees have failed to meet their commitments or contractual obligations in good faith — raising serious concerns over the justification for disrupting their ability to provide crucial services. Without immediate action, this freeze will cause irrevocable harm on organizations whose work significantly enhances the economic and civic life of the many communities they serve.

Additionally, the services funded by this program help applicants submit correctly completed forms, reducing errors and delays, and preventing unnecessary burdens on USCIS staff. By equipping eligible applicants with the tools to navigate the naturalization process more effectively, the C&A Grant Program improves efficiency within the system, saving USCIS valuable time and resources otherwise spent resolving errors, issuing requests for evidence, or reprocessing applications. Cutting funding for this program will only increase administrative inefficiencies and add to existing case backlogs.

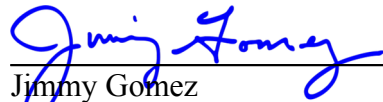
Given the serious implications of this decision, we request an immediate response from USCIS to the following questions:


- 1. What authority does USCIS claim to suspend congressionally appropriated funds that have already been legally disbursed under contractual agreements?**
- 2. What is the specific rationale behind the grant freeze, and what factors influenced this decision?**
- 3. What is the anticipated timeline for reinstating funding to affected grantees?**
- 4. What steps is DHS taking to mitigate the impact on organizations with a reliance interest in timely payment of grants, and on affected communities?**
- 5. What steps is DHS taking to prevent similar disruptions to already disbursed funds in the future?**


In the absence of authority or constructive purpose for this action, USCIS must swiftly reinstate funding for this critical program and provide transparency regarding the decision-making process. We look forward to your prompt response.


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

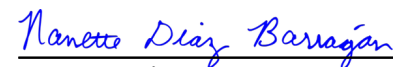
Sincerely,

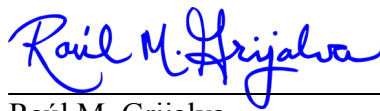

Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

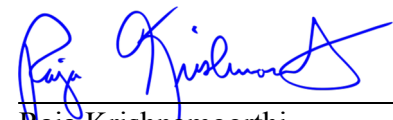

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

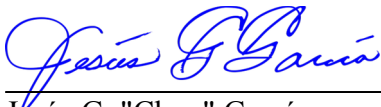

Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress


Dan Goldman
Member of Congress


Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress


Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

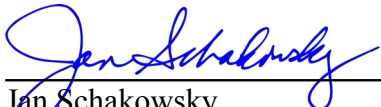

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



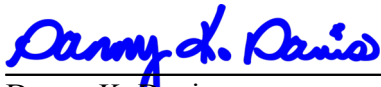
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



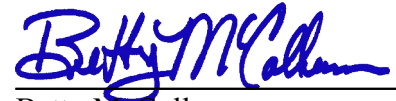
André Carson
Member of Congress



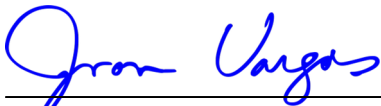
Ed Case
Member of Congress



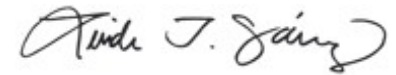
Danny K. Davis
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Betty McCollum
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Juan Vargas
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Linda T. Sánchez
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



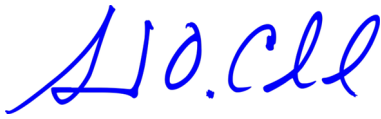
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



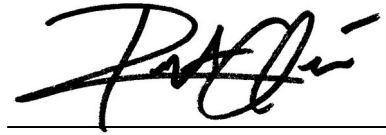
James P. McGovern
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Luz M. Rivas
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Salud Carbajal
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Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
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J. Luis Correa
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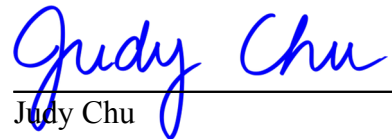
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



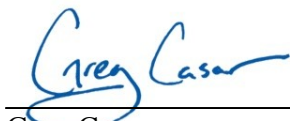
JM Tokuda
Member of Congress



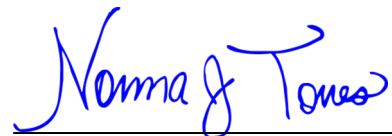
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



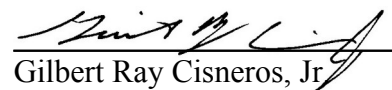
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



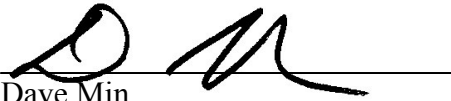
Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress




Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress