



MEMORANDUM

Date: March 12, 2025

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshner 
County Administrator

Re: **Letter from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to Pima County**

The attached letter from the Department of Homeland Security was received earlier today by staff in the Grants Management and Innovation Department. It is my understanding that the same letter was sent to (at least) the State of Arizona, Maricopa and Yuma Counties and a Maricopa County-based nonprofit organization.

We will provide an update on this and other federal projects at the Board meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

JKL/dym

Attachment

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Sarah Davis, Senior Advisor, County Administration



FEMA

March 11, 2025

Angela Preciado
Pima County
130 W Congress St
Fl 3
Tucson, AZ 85701

Re: Remedy for Noncompliance Letter, Shelter and Services Program (SSP)

Grant Number: EMW-2023-SP-05067
Period of Performance: March 1, 2023 – September 30, 2025
Award amount: \$12,093,182.00

Grant Number: EMW-2024-SP-05022
Period of Performance: October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2026
Award amount: \$21,827,581.00

Grant Number: EMW-2024-SP-05142
Period of Performance: October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2026
Award amount: \$18,706,639.00

Dear Angela Preciado:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that DHS/FEMA is temporarily withholding payments to your organization for the grant award(s) named above, pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.339(a) and is instituting specific conditions on your award pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.208.

Findings

The Department of Homeland Security has significant concerns that SSP funding is going to entities engaged in or facilitating illegal activities. The Department is concerned that entities receiving payment under this program may be guilty of encouraging or inducing an alien to come to, enter, or reside in the United States in violation of law, 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(iv); transporting or moving illegal aliens, *id.* § 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii); harboring, concealing, or shielding from detection illegal aliens, *id.* § 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii); or applicable conspiracy, aiding or abetting, or attempt liability respecting these statutes.

DHS/FEMA is required to administer its grant awards so as to ensure that federal funding is expended and associated programs are implemented in full accordance with the U.S. Constitution,

applicable federal statutes, and regulations. 2 C.F.R. § 200.300(a). The terms and conditions of the award allow the Department to institute appropriate remedies for noncompliance which include temporarily withholding payments or suspending or terminating the award for a failure to comply with the conditions of the award or applicable federal statutes. See 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.208; 200.340; and 200.339(a).

Remedy Action(s) and Specific Condition(s)

Non-federal entities receiving financial assistance from DHS/FEMA are required to comply with requirements in the terms and conditions of their awards or subawards, including the terms set forth in applicable federal statutes, regulations, Notice of Funding Opportunities, and policies. Throughout the award lifecycle or even after an award has been closed, DHS/FEMA may discover potential or actual noncompliance on the part of a recipient or subrecipient. This potential or actual noncompliance may be discovered through routine monitoring, audits, closeout, or reporting from various sources. In the case of any potential or actual noncompliance, DHS/FEMA may place special conditions on an award per 2 C.F.R. § 200.208 and § 200.339, DHS/FEMA may place a hold on funds until the matter is corrected, or additional information is provided per 2 C.F.R. § 200.339, or it may do both.

Based on the concerns described above, DHS/FEMA will conduct additional monitoring and review of your award(s) as permitted by the terms and conditions of the award(s) to ensure compliance with all terms and conditions of your award(s). During this time, payments under the grant award(s) will be temporarily held. Further, you are not permitted to incur any additional costs under the grant until notified further by DHS/FEMA.

To assist DHS/FEMA in conducting this review, please respond within 30 days with the following information that your organization has not already submitted to DHS/FEMA:

1. All documents regarding the aliens with whom your organization and your subrecipients and contracts interacted with in carrying out the scope of your SSP award, including their names and contact information; and a detailed and descriptive list of specific services provided, and proof of provision of these services; or
2. A written statement that your organization has already submitted all of the information identified in No. 1, above, to DHS/FEMA.

Additionally, to ensure compliance with all applicable federal laws and regulations in the execution of your SSP award, FEMA will be imposing an additional special condition that requires you, and the executive officers of any subrecipient or contractor that receives funding under the award, to sign an affidavit attesting that you and they have not participated in, and have no knowledge or suspicion that anyone in your or their organizations participated in, any crime cognizable under 8 U.S.C. §§ 1324(a)(1)(A)(iv); 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii); or 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii). Additional details regarding this new requirement will be forthcoming shortly. Upon the conclusion of that monitoring, FEMA will notify you of the results and any other remedies for noncompliance or specific conditions, as appropriate.

Opportunity to Appeal

Your organization has the right to appeal this action within 60 days of the date of this letter. The appeal must include the following information:

1. Grant number(s).
2. Recipient name.
3. A written explanation, on your organization's letterhead, explaining why you believe FEMA's decision to temporarily withhold payments to your organization for the grant award(s) named above, pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.339(a), or to prohibit your organization from incurring additional costs under the grant, is not correct.
4. Copies of any documents or statements that support your position that FEMA's decision to temporarily withhold payments to your organization for the grant award(s) named above, pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.339(a) is not correct.

Written appeals should be sent directly to FEMA-SSP@fema.dhs.gov.

The FEMA Grant Programs Directorate is available to respond to any questions you may have. Please send all information and communications regarding this notification to FEMA-SSP@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cameron Hamilton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cameron Hamilton
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the
Administrator