

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0303

September 15, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

The Honorable Tala Hooban
Acting Director
Office of Head Start
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy and Acting Director Hooban:

I am writing to urge the prompt approval and release of federal funding to Urban Strategies Early Head Start in Phoenix, Arizona. Their grant number is 09HP000491. Early Head Start programs provide affordable childcare, critical early childhood education, health and nutrition services, and family support to low-income infants, toddlers, and their families.

This funding, scheduled for disbursement on September 1, 2025, has been delayed. Because of this delay, our local program is facing an immediate funding shortfall that jeopardizes its ability to serve 48 children and their families. Without these resources, working parents could lose access to childcare, risking their employment or their ability to continue their education.

This shortfall also threatens essential services including early learning, health screenings, nutrition programs, and family engagement activities, as well as the jobs of more than 25 dedicated staff members.

Early Head Start is one of our most effective investments in children and working families. I respectfully request that HHS expedite the release of these funds so this program can continue uninterrupted. My office stands ready to provide any additional information needed to support swift approval.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this urgent matter and for your continued leadership in supporting America's children and families.

Sincerely,



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress