



JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF WASHTENAW COUNTY

Dear Friend of JFS,

We are writing regarding several recent proposed changes to government funding and services imperiling JFS's work in the community, right here, right now. Today OMB announced an immediate suspension of the payment of all current federal grants and loans, including those made to nonprofit organizations like ours. This suspension impacts many vital programs and services JFS provides, including but not limited to resettlement, employment, mental health services for vulnerable youth, housing support for older adults, transportation, Meals on Wheels, food pantry and more. **Over 80% of our funding can be traced back to the federal government, and this disruption is severe.**

The above suspension is set to take effect today at 5 p.m., rendering us unable to receive necessary resources not only to continue our work moving forward, but also delaying receipt of payment for services already rendered. For example, our December invoices were to be processed this week and it could be weeks, or even months, before payments resume, if they resume at all. Though we have just learned the order has been temporarily blocked, until Monday, Feb 3, our funding remains in flux.

Today's news from OMB comes on the heels of Friday January 24th's executive order **halting funding for both new arrivals and refugees already in the U.S. As a result, 226 recently resettled refugees, currently under our care, are facing an unimaginable crisis.** Families who arrived as recently as early January are now left in limbo, abandoned by the system. We've been left without the funds to complete their initial resettlement—a critical government defined and (previously) supported 90-day period. Without funding for post-resettlement services, we cannot even meet their most basic needs, such as securing food and housing.

As you know, JFS has long been a lifeline for those displaced by violence, war, and hardship. From Afghanistan to Ukraine, Haiti to Venezuela, we've stood with individuals and families, providing resettlement, legal services, and support to help them rebuild their lives. Our ability to continue this vital work has been jeopardized. Furthermore, our multi-service agency's impact is not limited to refugees and recent suspensions of federal funding will impact ALL of our vulnerable clients including American-born children, older adults and everyone in between.

[The time to act is now.](#)

At JFS, we made a promise to care for refugee families we have welcomed, and, with your help, we will not break that promise. Your generous donation will allow us to provide the essential support they desperately need: food, housing, legal aid, and language services. **Your support will also help us weather funding suspensions impacting food distribution, mental health and transportation services for our vulnerable neighbors, particularly children and older adults.**

[We need to raise \\$550,000 immediately to bridge the refugee services funding gap and to sustain uninterrupted safety net services for a variety of community members.](#)

[DONATE HERE](#)

Thank you for standing with us and for your unwavering commitment to those in need.

With gratitude,

Anya Abramzon
CEO

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County