

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2026

Assistant Secretary Alex J. Adams
Administration for Children and Families
330 C Street, S.W.
Switzer Building
Washington, DC 20201

Director Angie Salazar
Office of Refugee Resettlement
330 C Street, S.W.
Switzer Building
Washington, DC 20201

Re: Request for Reconsideration – Application No. ZU26008795

Dear Assistant Secretary Adams and Director Salazar,

We strongly urge the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to reconsider its decision not to fund Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami's Residential Services for Unaccompanied Children program.

South Florida has always been the frontline of humanitarian migration in our hemisphere. From Operation Pedro Pan, which brought over 14,000 Cuban children to the United States, to repeated migration waves from Cuba and Haiti, history shows that when crisis hits the region, it arrives in Miami first. Catholic Charities' Children's Village/Boys Town was built from that legacy and remains one of the longest-operating and most experienced programs in the country.

Today, the risks are not hypothetical, they are immediate and escalating. Cuba is facing its most severe crisis in decades, with widespread blackouts, food and fuel shortages, economic collapse, and growing civil unrest. These conditions historically trigger sudden migration surges, often including unaccompanied minors.

At the same time, Haiti continues to descend into instability, with escalating gang violence, breakdown of government authority, and a worsening humanitarian crisis that is forcing families to flee. The combination of these crises creates a high likelihood of a near-term influx into South Florida.

Reducing capacity in the very region most likely to receive these arrivals is not cost-effective, it is a strategic mistake.

Catholic Charities provides what cannot be quickly replaced: trained staff, proven infrastructure, and decades of expertise. Their program also offers on-site K-12 education, counseling, access to legal services, life skills training, medical care, and religious services, all of which help each minor navigate an incredibly difficult and vulnerable moment in their lives.

Losing this capacity now will only make future response efforts more costly, slower, and less effective.

We urge ORR to reconsider and ensure we are prepared, not scrambling, when the next crisis arrives.

Sincerely,



María Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



Carlos A. Gimenez
Member of Congress