

FY 2019 Emergency Supplemental Budget Request: Southern Border Humanitarian Needs

The Request:

The Administration is seeking an emergency appropriation of **\$4.5 billion** to address the immediate humanitarian crisis. This includes:

- **\$3.3 billion** for humanitarian assistance that will fund an increase in the shelter capacity for unaccompanied migrant children, the feeding and care of those in custody, transportation requirements, safe and efficient processing centers at the border, and other needs.
- **\$1.1 billion** for operations support on the border, which includes personnel expenses, volunteer surge requirements, detention beds, transportation, investigatory resources to counter human smuggling and trafficking, and other needs.
- **\$178 million** for mission support to carry out needed information technology system upgrades and law enforcement pay adjustments to manage the ongoing surge.

The Situation:

Rapid growth in the flow of migrants entering the United States through the Southern border is straining the federal government's resources to their breaking point.

- During the current fiscal year (FY) through March, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has apprehended more than 360,000 migrants illegally crossing the U.S. Southern border, 187,000 more than the same period in FY 2018 and 57,000 more than in all of FY 2017.
- At the current rate, DHS apprehensions will exceed one million by year's end. Over 52% of apprehensions are migrant families—25% more than 2018 and 27% more than 2017—indicating a demographic shift to vulnerable populations, stressing a system that was designed for single adults. The number of unaccompanied alien children (UAC) referred to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) this year is significantly higher than the number of those who entered Federal custody in prior years, and has already increased almost 50% over this same time-period last year.
- In particular, there have been dramatic increases in the number of large-scale groups of family units and UAC seeking entry into the United States from non-contiguous countries, notably El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, and claiming asylum.

This crisis is threatening lives on both sides of the border and is unlike anything we've ever seen. Front-line professionals need additional resources to address this emergency and to continue providing humanitarian protections and care to families and children in United States custody.

The Urgency:

- DHS projects it will exhaust resources well before the end of the fiscal year. Without additional resources, the safety and well-being of law enforcement personnel and migrants are at substantial risk.
- HHS estimates that there is a significant likelihood it will exhaust all of its resources to provide proper support and care for the growing UAC population in June of 2019.
- The Administration and Congress must work together to create permanent solutions for this crisis, including addressing the root causes of this surge, the immigration loopholes. However, immediate action must be taken to address this humanitarian crisis.