

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 24, 2026

The Honorable Todd Blanche
Acting Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Blanche:

As the Department of Justice marks one year since the termination of Office of Justice Programs (OJP) grants on April 22, 2025, we write to request an update on the status of these awards and the appeals that have followed. More than 365 OJP grants, originally valued at approximately \$820 million, were cancelled one year ago, disrupting critical public safety and justice programs across the country and leaving grantees without clarity on their funding or future.¹

These grants funded a wide range of crucial public safety and justice initiatives, including national, state, and community-based programs supporting violence reduction, law enforcement efforts, victim services, child protection, and other core justice functions. Terminated awards included 59 grants from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), totaling approximately \$72 million to support victims and survivors of crime. While seven of these victim service grants were reportedly restored by the Administration, the majority of OVC grantees were forced to shut down or significantly scale back essential life-saving programs, including those providing basic needs for victims and survivors in rural and underserved communities.²

All terminated OJP grantees were advised of their right to appeal within 30 calendar days of receiving notice of termination, and approximately 225 organizations submitted written appeals to the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs in May 2025.³ Nearly eleven months later, the majority of these grantees have not received any response. Recent reporting indicates that the Department is facing a backlog of approximately 170 grant appeals, with only 35 grants restored and 17 denied as of December 2025.

While awaiting decisions, grantees remain unable to close out their awards or draw down funds to reimburse costs incurred prior to termination. This ongoing funding freeze has created significant financial hardship, particularly for small nonprofits, many of which have been forced to lay off staff and eliminate critical public safety programs as they wait for decisions on their appeals and reimbursement for approved activities. As these unresolved grants and appeals continue to create uncertainty and strain for grantees and the communities they serve, we respectfully request an update on the status of all terminated OJP grants, including the status of all pending appeals.⁴

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, and we look forward to your response.

¹ Solomon, A. & Pearl, B. (2025, May). DOJ Funding Update: A Deeper Look at the Cuts. Council on Criminal Justice. Council on Criminal Justice. (online at <https://counciloncj.org/doj-funding-update-a-deeper-look-at-the-cuts/>).

² Ndumele, N. & Nidiry, R. (2025, November 7). Justice Department Slashes Essential Services for Crime Victims. Brennan Center for Justice. (online at <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/justice-department-slashes-essential-services-crime-victims>).

³ Lynch, S.N. & Eisler, P. (2025, December 19). US Justice Department slow to respond to appeals after April wave of grant cuts. Reuters. (online at <https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/us-justice-department-slow-respond-appeals-after-april-wave-grant-cuts-2025-12-19/>).

⁴ Anderson, M. (2025, November 10). Public safety groups face an uncertain future months after federal grant cuts. National Public Radio. (online at <https://www.npr.org/2025/11/10/nx-s1-5552704/doj-crime-prevention-public-safety-grant-cuts>).

Sincerely,



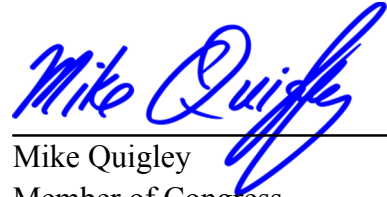
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



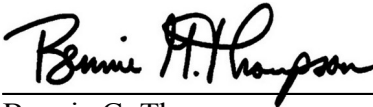
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



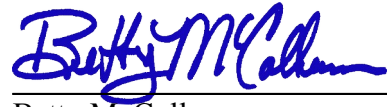
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager Dove
Member of Congress



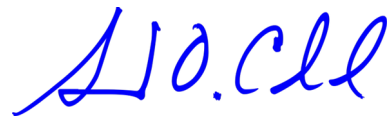
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



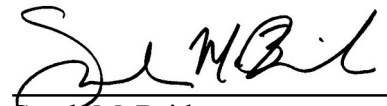
Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



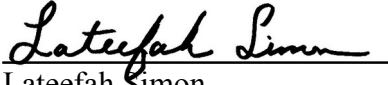
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



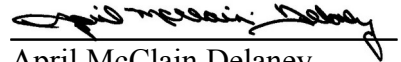
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



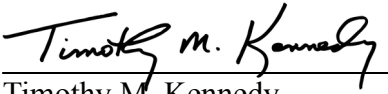
April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



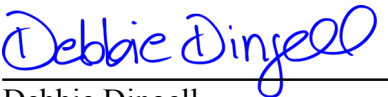
Dwight Evans
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