

Congress of the United States

September 3, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Linda E. McMahon
U.S. Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave SW
Washington, DC 20202

The Honorable Russell Vought
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th St NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear President Trump, Secretary McMahon, and Director Vought:

We write to urge you to release TRIO grant award notifications immediately.

TRIO supports the postsecondary access, retention, and completion for low-income, first-generation students from all backgrounds. TRIO programs are located on campuses across our country, in every state, and in rural, suburban, and urban communities. Its individualized counselling, advising, and other supportive services are critical to the success of low-income, first-generation higher education students. These programs help approximately 870,000 students prepare for, enter, and graduate from college each year. Congress annually appropriates funding for TRIO on a bipartisan basis, and the FY25 Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025, which President Trump signed into law, appropriated \$1.191 billion for TRIO programs.

The data proves that TRIO works. Since its inception in 1964, TRIO has produced over 6 million college graduates. This, in turn, leads to higher rates of college completion, employment, and compensation for TRIO graduates, a boon to local economies as program participants are transformed into taxpayers who help their communities thrive. Students in Upward Bound, for example, are more than twice as likely to earn a bachelor's degree by age 24 than other students from some of the United States' poorest households.¹ Similarly, Veterans Upward Bound participants are 42% more likely than their peers to earn a bachelor's degree within six years.² We must do what we can to support our low-income, first-generation, veteran, and disabled students, which means supporting federal TRIO programs and the students who benefit from them.

Yet on August 26, instead of sending TRIO Programs their Grant Award Notifications (GANs), Upward Bound, Veteran Upward Bound, Talent Search, and Educational Opportunity Center

¹ https://coenet.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/TRIO_Fast-Facts-Research-Brief_v6.pdf.

² *Id.*

programs received a letter indicating that “September start dates will have their current budget period end dates extended through September 30, 2025.” The letter further explained: “This will allow your project to remain open and continue operations with available program funds through this date while the Department of Education finalizes the issuance of this year’s NCC awards.”

A “No Cost Extension” is not helpful to programs that start their funding year on September 1 because many programs do not have funding to do their work during the month of September. These TRIO Programs were previously advised by the Department to “spend down” their money by August 31, which is the end of their funding year. In addition, because of the grant cancellations in other programs, many institutions will not provide other funding to their TRIO programs in the absence of those award notices for 2025-2026 out of fear that their TRIO programs will ultimately see their federal grants cancelled.

We are concerned that TRIO programs nationwide will experience an unnecessary and increased burden if they do not receive notification immediately. The delayed delivery of notifications for the June 1 Upward Bound and Student Support Services programs, for example, has already increased strain on program administrators and, more importantly, students. By delaying notification of these grant awards and funding amounts, programs have already been forced to make difficult decisions, including laying off staff or scaling back services. This has a direct impact on the timeliness and quality of TRIO services, and it may result in students losing access to the help they need to succeed in college.

We are deeply concerned that a further delay in award notifications will result in irreversible damage to our students, families, and communities, as many rely on the vital programs and services provided by TRIO programs.

Therefore, we respectfully urge you to send all TRIO grant award notifications immediately.

Sincerely,



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States



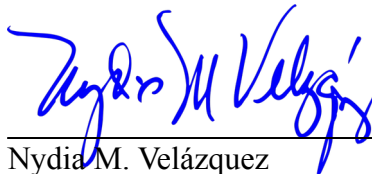
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



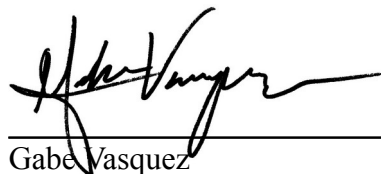
Nydia M. Velázquez
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Lloyd Doggett
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Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



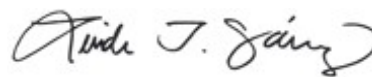
Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
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Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



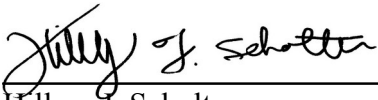
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John Garamendi
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Dwight Evans
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Hillary J. Scholten
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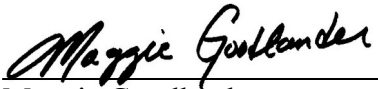
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Teresa Leger Fernandez
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Eric Sorensen
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Maggie Goodlander
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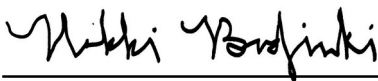
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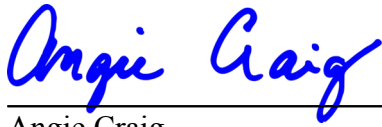


Julie Johnson
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Grace Meng
Member of Congress

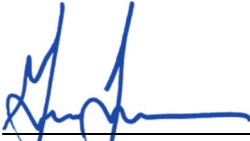
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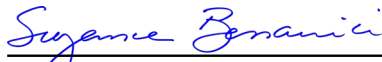
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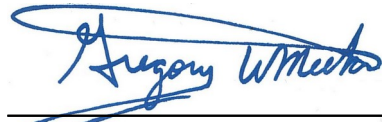
Greg Landsman
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Suzanne Bonamici
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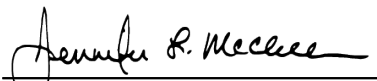
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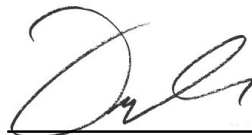
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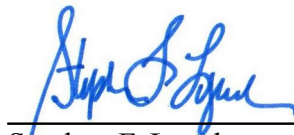
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



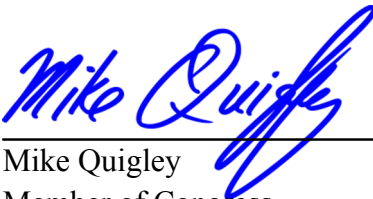
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Rashida Tlaib
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Mike Quigley
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Lateefah Simon
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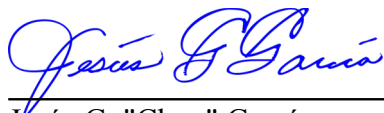


Val Hoyle
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Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress

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Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
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