



Welcome the stranger.  
Protect the refugee.

## NOTICE OF STOP WORK ORDER

January 28, 2025

Dr. Sandra E. Braham, President & Chief Executive Officer  
Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services  
14041 Icot Boulevard,  
Clearwater, Florida 33760

**Subject: Stop Work Order for All Activities and Expenditures on Subaward RPFY2504, ERMAFY2504, RPFY2515 & ERMAFY2515**

Dear HIAS partner,

As you know, the subject subaward agreements signed between your organization and HIAS are funded through cooperative agreements with the U.S. Government. We deeply appreciate your organization's partnership and support in the implementation of our work together.

We are writing to inform you that, unfortunately, effective January 24, 2025, the U.S. government has notified HIAS that all programmatic and financial activities related to the cooperative agreements that fund the subject subaward with your organization are suspended immediately and until further notice. The U.S. Government is conducting a review of all programs funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, to determine the next steps regarding the continuation, modification, or termination of all active cooperative agreements.

Pursuant to this guidance, this letter serves as formal notification that your organization must immediately stop all activities funded under the subject subaward agreements, and may not incur or charge any new costs related to said agreements after January 24, 2025. All programmatic and financial activities under these agreements must be paused until further notice, and your organization must cancel as many outstanding financial and contractual obligations related to this agreement as possible. No activities can be implemented, and no funds can be spent pursuant to these agreements until HIAS explicitly authorizes implementing activities and incurring expenses in writing.

Although we are obliged to send this notification to all subrecipient partner organizations receiving funding through the applicable cooperative agreements, HIAS also recognizes and respects that refugee resettlement organizations have ethical and potential legal obligations to the authorized refugee clients that they serve through agreements such as these, including but not limited to Reception and Placement services for the first 90 days after arrival. Although HIAS expects to invoice and advocate for the U.S. Government to recognize and fulfill financial and programmatic obligations to provide appropriate services to these arrived refugee clients, HIAS cannot predict or guarantee that the U.S. Government will accept these recommendations or reimburse expenses related to those services. Therefore, unfortunately, any organizations that choose to continue to provide services to clients currently being served under the subject subaward agreements must do so at their own risk.

Please note that, as the pass-through entity, HIAS's ability to fulfill its obligations under the agreement with your organization is entirely dependent on HIAS receiving the relevant funding from the U.S. government funder. In the absence



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of adequate funding, HIAS may not be able to fulfill all funding obligations pursuant to this agreement. Given the significant uncertainty regarding how the U.S. government will proceed with funding and continuation of the applicable cooperative agreement, please be advised that HIAS can make no representation, warranty, or guarantee to your organization of its ability to provide specific funding under the current subaward agreement with HIAS.

We very much regret these extraordinary measures and the need to implement this immediate suspension of activities and expenditures. No doubt your organization will have follow-up questions regarding the implementation of this notification, as HIAS does as well. As this situation continues to develop and HIAS receives further guidance from the funding agency, we will continue to communicate with your organization with additional formal guidance as conditions permit. Please note that no verbal or written guidance from HIAS may supersede the guidance contained in this letter unless expressly authorized in writing by Guillermo Birmingham, HIAS' Interim Chief Financial Officer, or David Weiss, HIAS' Interim Chief Executive Officer. We appreciate your patience, partnership and understanding during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

*Guillermo Birmingham*

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Guillermo Birmingham

Interim Chief Financial Officer, HIAS