

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 22, 2025

The Honorable Linda McMahon
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary McMahon:

We write to urge the Department of Education to immediately release TRIO Upward Bound grants to current grant recipients.

We are extremely concerned that Upward Bound programs have yet to receive funding due for the coming program year. This delay is especially alarming for programs with start dates of June 1, which are facing the very real possibility of needing to cancel programming for students and lay off staff, if funding does not arrive in time.

Given that current recipients of Upward Bound grants were already successfully awarded their five-year grants from the Department of Education in 2022, Upward Bound programs should have the assurance that they will receive this funding for the fourth year of their grants. This delay in grant distribution, as well as a lack of information or guidance from the agency, is causing extreme uncertainty for Upward Bound programs across the country.

For nearly 60 years, Upward Bound programs have given generations of students the support they need to help succeed in higher education and beyond. Providing a range of services from academic support to mentoring and counseling opportunities, these programs have demonstrated a strong track record of student success. The current delay in funding distribution is creating an unnecessary and existential crisis for these critical programs and the students they serve.

We urge you to immediately provide Upward Bound programs with the federal funding they've been promised.

We appreciate your urgent attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator