
ESG Funding

From Welsh, Rosemary <Rosemary.Welsh@Mercy.Net>

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To Edgar R. Campos <ercampos@ci.laredo.tx.us>

Cc Arambula, Maria <Maria.Arambula@casademisericordia.org>; Martinez, Karen <Karen.Martinez@casademisericordia.org>; Uribe, Nelly <Nelly.Uribe@casademisericordia.org>; Welsh, Rosemary <Rosemary.Welsh@Mercy.Net>

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Mr. Campos: Edgar:

Casa de Misericordia (Casa) has received HUD funding through the City of Laredo Emergency Solutions (ESG) grant to support emergency shelter operations. Casa has used this funding to support the emergency shelter's maintenance, utility bills, cleaning and office supplies, and food for shelter clients. ESG funding has allowed the shelter program to continue providing this essential service for the City of Laredo. In Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026), Casa provided emergency shelter services to 243 adults and 353 children.

As a recipient of federal funding through the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) and Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Casa de Misericordia (Casa) is required to protect the confidentiality of victims and survivors seeking services from the program and is prohibited from disclosing any personally identifying information about survivors without informed, written, and time-limited consent. These statutes prohibit sharing personally identifying information with other government databases or partner agencies except under narrowly defined exceptions related to imminent harm. Based on this, SAVES participation by victim service providers would conflict with federal law.

In addition, Chapter 93 of the Texas Family Code creates a privilege between a victim and an advocate prohibiting disclosures of most information of a victim under Texas law. Because of this, compliance with SAVES Act would directly conflict with Texas law governing victim-advocate confidentiality.

Finally, as a recipient of federal funding, domestic violence service providers are bound by non-discrimination protections. Victim-service providers are explicitly prohibited from conditioning access to services. Requiring proof of documentation could deter survivors from seeking help in need of immediate safety.

Based on this, Casa de Misericordia cannot accept this funding at this time.

Thank you:

Sister Rosemary Welsh
Executive Director
Cascade Misericordia

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