



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bethany Will Continue to Offer Recreational and Educational Activities For Unaccompanied Minors

Grand Rapids, Michigan, 6/7/19 — Dona Abbott, the Vice President for Refugee and Immigrant Services at Bethany Christian Services, made the following statement in response to reports that the Office of Refugee Resettlement's Unaccompanied Children Program is faced with a budget shortage and currently "operating in a deficiency apportionment" and, as a result, "all costs budgeted for recreational or educational activities, including personnel associated with these activities, are unallowable costs for the draw downs."

"Bethany Christian Services will not eliminate or cancel any of our recreational or educational activities for unaccompanied minors in our care. We will maintain our compliance with state licensing regulations and provide vulnerable children with access to the kind of care all kids need.

These services are a child's basic right and vitally important to the health and development of these children. We urge Congress to address this funding shortfall and protect children from further harm."

Bethany will privately fund the ability to offer recreational educational activities for unaccompanied minors. You can lend your support to the care of unaccompanied minors by visiting [Bethany.org/Donate](https://bethany.org/Donate).

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