



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
INDIAN AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEES:
COUNTERTERRORISM AND INTELLIGENCE
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

April 16, 2026

The Honorable Suzanne Roig Furtés
Secretary
Department of the Family
Edificio Mercantil Plaza 40 Avenida Ponce de León
Hato Rey, Puerto Rico 00917

Dear Secretary Roig Furtés:

On April 9, 2026, the Office of the Comptroller of Puerto Rico identified serious flaws in the Administration for Socioeconomic Development of the Family's (ADSEF) management of Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) funds.¹ These flaws included payments to dead beneficiaries, cases left open after a participant's death, and failures to adjust household composition. According to the Comptroller, this resulted in at least \$150 million in improper payments to 38,618 dead participants over seven years. Since the audit was published, ADSEF has recovered about \$90.3 million of the misused funds and reports that an additional \$38 million are in the recovery process.²

NAP is a lifeline for over 1.2 million Puerto Ricans.³ It is funded through a fixed federal block grant. This means that every dollar improperly disbursed is a dollar that does not reach an eligible family in need. The audit's findings are not mere administrative failures; they directly harm Puerto Rico's most vulnerable residents.

For the past year, we have promoted Puerto Rico's inclusion in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Federal lawmakers have raised concerns over the Government of Puerto Rico's capacity to manage this program,⁴ and we worry that ADSEF's mismanagement

¹ Departamento de la Familia. Administración de Desarrollo Socioeconómico de la Familia. 2026. Informe de Auditoría OC-26-12. <https://iapconsulta.ocpr.gov.pr/OpenDoc.aspx?id=df80388a-611f-4af1-85f8-e9c7199fa6e1&nombre=OC%2026-12>.

² Adriana Díaz Tirado. "Familia ya ha recuperado \$90 millones del PAN por desembolsos a personas fallecidas entre 2017 Y 2024." El Nuevo Día, April 10, 2026. <https://www.elnuevodia.com/noticias/gobierno/notas/familia-ya-ha-recuperado-90-millones-del-pan-por-desembolsos-a-personas-fallecidas-entre-2017-y-2024/>.

³ "Governor Jenniffer González-Colón leads efforts to integrate Puerto Rico into the SNAP program." PRFAA, September 10, 2025. <https://www.prfaa.pr.gov/recent-press-releases/governor-jennifer-gonzalez-colon-leads-efforts-to-integrate-puerto-rico-into-the-snap-program>.

⁴ José A. Delgado. "Official: The transition for Puerto Rico from PAN to SNAP will not be included in the House Farm Bill." El Nuevo Día, March 5, 2026. https://www.elnuevodia.com/english/news/story/official-the-transition-for-puerto-rico-from-pan-to-snap-**-+-will-not-be-included-in-the-house-farm-bill/.

could reinforce their concerns. We need to gather and present the relevant facts to address their concerns and prevent this mismanagement from hurting our efforts to transition from NAP to SNAP.

Please respond to the following questions by April 26:

1. What is the total dollar amount and percentage of yearly NAP assignments lost due to improper payments?
2. How much money from improper payments has ADSEF recovered?
3. What steps is ADSEF taking to recover the remaining amount in improper payments, beyond what has been reported?
4. What measures is ADSEF taking to reduce the amount of improper payments in the future?
5. What steps is ADSEF taking to cooperate with OIG's review, and has ADSEF been contacted by OIG to date?
6. What has ADSEF done to hold accountable its employees responsible for this failure?
7. What has ADSEF done to hold accountable the people who continued to cash NAP benefits on behalf of dead beneficiaries?

I look forward to your response.

Respectfully,



Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress