

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 25, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
H-305 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Southwest Atlanta Startup Accelerator & Entrepreneurship Center in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Atlanta, Georgia, located at 55 Trinity Avenue SW, Atlanta, GA 30303. The project will be located at 2605 Campbellton Rd SW, 30311.

The funding would be used to establish the Southwest Atlanta Startup Accelerator & Entrepreneurship Center to create a permanent hub for small business development. The Center will be located in an identified commercial building on Campbellton Road that is ready for acquisition, providing visible evidence of reinvestment while serving entrepreneurs from all six NRI neighborhoods. Project components include the following: Startup Accelerator: Two 8-week cohorts in Year 1 serving 40 entrepreneurs total. Participants receive business planning training, mentorship, connections to legal and accounting services, and eligibility for startup grants. The curriculum includes training on AI-powered business tools, preparing entrepreneurs to leverage technology for marketing, operations, and customer engagement. The accelerator serves entrepreneurs from the idea stage through early revenue, with no industry restrictions—enabling residents to pursue opportunities across sectors, including healthcare services, professional services, food businesses, and technology.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because this accelerator will contribute to small business growth and economic development in Southwest Atlanta. Further, it represents an efficient use of taxpayer resources for the following reasons:

- **Leveraged Investment:** The \$200,000 CDFI loan loss reserve is projected to leverage \$1M+ in private lending—a 5:1 ratio. Combined with startup grants that capitalize new businesses generating ongoing economic activity, federal dollars catalyze sustained private investment.
- **Existing Infrastructure:** Medici Road and four neighborhood partner organizations are already operational with established community relationships. Federal funds support programming rather than building organizational capacity from scratch.
- **Alignment with City Investment:** The City of Atlanta has committed significant resources to the Neighborhood Reinvestment Initiative and designated these six neighborhoods as priorities. Federal investment complements and amplifies local commitment rather than substituting for it.
- **Permanent Asset:** Building acquisition creates a permanent community asset that will serve entrepreneurs beyond the initial funding period, unlike purely programmatic investments that end when funding ends. Future business owners will contribute tax dollars back to the community, which will support local stakeholders.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(4).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Miller", is written over a solid horizontal black line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small flourish at the end.