

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3215

March 28, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for BOEDC Community Business Development Event Space Construction in fiscal year 2024.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Bronx Economic Development Corporation, located at 851 Grand Concourse #123, Bronx, NY 10451.

The funding would be used to develop a community business development event space for the 15th Congressional District. Core components include preparation of construction, repaving the land, replacing the fencing, electrical utility work, accessibility/beautification upgrades and adding a new entrance way of an abandoned lot. The project is in a Qualified Census Tract and will create an event space for the community to engage in economic development initiatives. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the South Bronx is critically underdeveloped. Challenges in the past two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic have worsened the funding environment for potential development projects. The Bronx currently also has the highest unemployment rate in New York City. A space for economic development organizations to meet and work on business development and capital access in the Bronx is necessary. This project will create a space for community organizations to come together and work on economic development initiatives.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program: 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and/or 5305(a)(5).

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

Sincerely,



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress