

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 NYCHA Morrisania Air Rights Sensory Playground and Sensory Garden in fiscal year 2024.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Fund for Public Housing, Inc., located at 3200 Park Ave, Bronx, NY 10451.

The funding would be used to reclaim a blighted play area at the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Morrisania Air Rights (MAR) development and transform it into a vibrant, welcoming, and accessible playground-for-all that will include state of the art sensory play equipment to serve the needs of NYCHA youth with autism and other developmental disabilities. Funding would also be used to improve and activate inactive open space, removing antiquated play equipment, and replace the space with a sensory garden and sitting area for NYCHA's youngest and oldest residents. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the playground and garden will serve a much larger community than just NYCHA's Morrisania Air Rights, offering an opportunity for families with children and older adults with autism and disabilities to engage and enjoy play space. The project would serve four NYCHA communities, MAR, Jackson, East 152nd Street-Courtlandt Avenue, Melrose and Jackson Houses, comprising nearly 5,000 residents in NY-15.

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