

**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 New York Public Library West Farms Branch Roof Replacement in fiscal year 2024.

The entity to receive funding for this project The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox, and Tilden Foundations, located at 2085 Honeywell Avenue, Bronx, NY 10460.

The funding would be used for a comprehensive roof replacement project at the West Farms branch. The roof at this branch is currently past its useful life and patching has been required to address leaks and saturated areas. Leaks can cause programming areas to close to the public, and risks damaging collections, technology, and other Library assets. In order to ensure energy efficiency, comfort of patrons and staff, and preservation of the integrity of the building, the Library seeks to conduct a comprehensive roof replacement at this branch, which will resolve these issues and provide enhancements for flashing, ductwork, and drainage. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the library serves approximately 60,000 patrons a year, hosting over 1,200 programs with over 11,000 attendees in fiscal year 2019 prior to Covid programming changes, and 542 programs with over 4,000 participants in fiscal year 2022 as programming began to return to a more comprehensive scale. The West Farms library is located on Honeywell Avenue, with PS 067 Mohegan School and MS 129 Academy for Independent Learning and Leadership nearby. The branch serves a community with a median income of \$25,798 and a poverty rate of approximately 38% based on 2020 ACS 5-year tract data.

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