

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 Word of Life Community Center in fiscal year 2024.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Word of Life International Inc., located at 830 Union Ave, Bronx, NY 10459.

The funding would be used to purchase a new building at 447 Jackson Ave, Bronx, NY, aimed to serve as a community center. Word of Life International (WOL) currently supports the community by providing food assistance through its weekly pantry distributions, workforce development and job placement, as well as other needed social services. WOL is seeking to purchase a bigger space to accommodate the growing demand for services. Its current space has outdated refrigeration systems which significantly constrains the food assistance program. The new building would allow WOL to increase its scope of services to the community. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because WOL serves a population of low-income Bronx residents. Currently about 20,000 household members benefit from the food pantry and meal program each month.

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

