

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

March 18, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Urban Youth Alliance Bronx Connect Civics Advocacy Program in Fiscal Year 2027.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Urban Youth Alliance Inc, located at 432 E 149th Street, Bronx, NY 10455.

The funding would be used to support the Urban Youth Alliance Bronx Connect Civics Advocacy Program, a structured intervention initiative that equips justice-involved youth in the Bronx with civic leadership skills, mentorship, and reentry support. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because by intervening early and redirecting high-risk youth toward lawful, productive engagement, the program reduces long-term costs associated with reincarceration while delivering measurable public safety improvements in one of New York City's highest-need communities.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) program, section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10152).

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

