

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

March 27, 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 Charles Drew Campus HVAC System Upgrades in Fiscal Year 2027.

The entity to receive funding for this project is New York City Public Schools, 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007.

The funding would be used to fund HVAC system upgrades at the Charles Drew Campus in the Bronx. The campus is home to three public schools serving over 1,000 students: I.S. 219 New Venture School, Frederick Douglass Academy III Secondary School, and Kappa. The aging HVAC infrastructure across the campus no longer functions adequately, compromising air quality, temperature control, and the overall learning environment for students and staff. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because safe, functional school infrastructure is a prerequisite for effective learning. Inadequate ventilation and temperature control have a direct and well-documented impact on student concentration, attendance, and academic performance. This targeted capital investment modernizes critical building systems across a campus serving over 1,000 students in one of the most economically disadvantaged communities in the nation, ensuring a safe and comfortable environment for learning year-round.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by and consistent with the goals of one or more of the following eligible uses of the Community Development Fund (CDF): 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2), 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(4), and 42 U.S.C. 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

