

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$450,000 in funding for Arivva: Certified Clinical/Clerical Medical Assistance Training Program in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is Pierce Center for Arts & Technology, located at 402 Garfield Street South, Tacoma WA 98444. The funding would be used to set up a Certified Clinical/Clerical Medical Assistance Training Program. I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

This is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because, while they are using both State and Federal funds to get up and running, Pierce Center for Arts & Technology will rely primarily on investments from the private sector, philanthropic organizations, and individuals to operate year to year. This initial use of taxpayer dollars will generate tremendous dividends from the training and placement of unemployed, underemployed, and transitioning BIPOC young adults into living wage, tax-paying jobs. Along with the supports of wraparound services, the students will become contributing citizens by no longer relying on taxpayer supported public assistance that will not only enhance the community, but because of the workforce development they received, be able to "pay it forward" to others.

Sincerely,



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress

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Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$500,000 in funding for the Lacey Veterans Service Hub in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Lacey, located at 420 College Street SE Lacey, WA 98503.

Lacey Veterans Service Hub (LVSH) provides a single-entry point service hub for area veterans seeking employment, education, housing, health and nutrition services by working with more than 70 partners and providers. The City's recent investment addressed physical space constraints the facility experienced with the expansion and addition of service providers, however, additional enhancements are needed to ensure disabled veterans experience fewer barriers to accessing the facility and to improve the LVSH ability to connect veterans with services. Funding would allow the City to install an elevator in the LVSH to ensure disabled veterans are able to access the building. The physical layout of the building today requires the use of stairs to access the hub. Additionally, funding would allow the City to develop and deploy technology in the LVSH to more efficiently connect veterans and providers, and service more individuals to meet the overwhelming need. Today, staff and volunteers at the LVSH have to manually intake veterans to determine what services they are eligible for which is time intensive. Additionally, it only allows for intake of one individual at a time which must be done in-person. Funding will allow the LVSH to purchase tablet computers and associated compliant software systems to automate this process and increase efficiencies for staff, service providers, and volunteers, as well as increase ease of service accessibility for veteran applicants that will be able to fill out the form online or in-person.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

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Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$3,900,000 in funding for the City of Tacoma: Pedestrian Accessibility Project in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Tacoma's Public Works Department, located at 747 Market St. Room 520, Tacoma WA 98402. The funding would be used to design and construct pedestrian ramps on street curbs in the City of Tacoma. I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

This is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it removes critical barriers to accessibility. Per Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, state and local governments such as the City of Tacoma are federally mandated to prioritize the removal of barriers to accessibility within the City's public rights-of-way. Without curb ramps, many people with disabilities are unable to access sidewalks that lead to bus stops, hospitals, medical offices, social service agencies, places of employment and other municipal buildings. Without access to transportation and services, people with disabilities are unable to live in a community. A lack of access can inadvertently shape the makeup and equity of a community by welcoming some people while denying access to others.

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Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$500,000 in funding for the Homestead Park Redevelopment in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of University Place, located at 3609 Market Place West, University Place, WA 98466.

With the rezone of the City's downtown as a regionally designated Urban Center under the State's Growth Management Act, the City has seen significant new mixed-used, transit-oriented development. Homestead Park is at the center of this development. The park is heavily vegetated and, as a result, suffers from a lack of visibility. The City seeks to address safety concerns raised by the community at large, and of particular concern to residents in nearby apartment buildings. The proposed improvements also will address the need for a more inviting and usable community gathering location in the center of the City's most dense neighborhood.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

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Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$2,000,000 in funding for the Pocket Gopher Conservation Land Purchase in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Yelm, located at 106 2nd St SE, Yelm, WA 98597.

This project is for purchasing sufficient contiguous lands within the proposed permit area with suitable soils to provide protected habitat for the Pocket Gophers. The properties would be maintained as a habitat conservation preserve to provide mitigation for developments within the City that impact Pocket Gophers. Sustainable and smart growth requires an urban option for housing and the provision of goods and services. A city resident has a significantly lower carbon footprint than a suburban or rural resident. In the long term, encouraging urbanization is the best way to lower the cost of providing services to our citizens and to lessen the impact on the environment by discouraging sprawl.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

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Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$2.8 million in funding for the Nisqually Housing Development Road in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is Nisqually Indian Tribe, located at 820 She-Nah-Num Drive S.E. Olympia, WA 98513.

The Nisqually Indian Tribe has developed a long-term plan for sustainable community housing development focusing on completion of infrastructure improvements within a 40-acre parcel of tribal trust land specifically dedicated for housing purposes. The new housing site is centrally located on the Nisqually Reservation, and is adjacent to the Tribe's new Health Clinic, Elder's Center, and Public Works facilities. The site will provide space for future development of up to 100 new housing units, including single family and multi-family units, as well as critically needed Elder housing, for low and moderate-income tribal families. The Tribe has worked with tribal architect Womer and Associates in completing a site plan and cost for the infrastructure work. This work includes water, wastewater, power and communications extensions throughout the site, as well as the actual road engineering and construction. Housing will be developed on the site over the next 3-5 year through a combination of tribal hard dollars, HUD funds, HUD 184 loan guarantee financing, as well as other state and federal housing program sources.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

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Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$3 million in funding for the Spanaway Transit Center and Bus Rapid Transit Station Completion (at Pacific Avenue/SR 7 BRT route's southern terminus) in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is Pierce Transit (Pierce County Transportation Benefit Area Corporation), located at 3701 96th St. SW Lakewood, WA 98499.

The Spanaway Transit Center will serve a low-income and high-minority area. According to the latest US Census data, 11.3% of Spanaway, Washington, residents are considered to be living in poverty (compared to 9.4% for Pierce County) and 12.1% reported having a disability. The data also show that 18.1% of residents do not speak English as their primary language at home.¹ In addition, many residents of south Pierce County rely on transit for their sole source of personal transportation. Demographic data from the Remix transit planning software program for the Route 1 show 11.7% of residents have no motor vehicle at home. The minority population along the route is also high; over one-third (35.6%). Pierce Transit believes that Spanaway has been due for a proper transit center facility with passenger parking for many years now, not only for its transit-dependent population, but to enhance the ridership experience and promote transit usage throughout the 14.4-mile Pacific Avenue/SR 7 corridor, once the agency's inaugural BRT line is open for revenue service in late 2024. With travel times reduced by one-third once BRT 1 opens for revenue service in 2024, the Spanaway Transit Center will support the route by providing better access to amenities and jobs to some of Pierce County's most economically vulnerable residents. Once this project is complete, equity populations will see greatly improved access to work through frequent and reliable service, plus shorter travel times. The expanded transit center will better serve the 13,900 residents within a 5-minute drive and 4,800 residents within a 15-minute walk from the transit center. Of those households, roughly 14% are living below the poverty level and nearly 60% consist of diverse ethnic and racial compositions. US Census data also reveal a high number of minorities (62%) live within a five-minute drive of the planned transit center. There is a need for this facility based on Puget Sound Regional Council's 2040 growth projections which estimate a 35% increase in employment and a 23% increase in population in the Spanaway area. In addition, there is a lack of designated parking (162 stalls) within a 15-minute drive, meaning area residents will need to drive 20 minutes or more just to park a car to catch a bus or other high capacity transit mode. This time and distance disincentivizes the use of public transportation. Pierce Transit's service area in Pierce County, Washington, includes 12 federally recognized Opportunity Zones, which are Census Tracts

¹ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/spanawaycdpwashington>

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identified as Low-Income Communities. Six of those Opportunity Zones are served directly with by the BRT route originating from the Spanaway Transit Center. Four more Opportunity Zones can be easily reached via one transfer to or from another Pierce Transit local bus route. Essential jobs make up about 69% of total employment in the Pierce Transit service area. The design of Pierce Transit's Stream BRT network aligns with the pattern of essential jobs, meaning transit dependent residents will have access to faster, more frequent and easily accessible stations and routes. Ridership during COVID-19 revealed that boardings are critical in Spanaway, the Lakewood area, and in downtown Tacoma.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marilyn Strickland', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marilyn Strickland
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Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$500,000 in funding for the Shelton Young Adult Transitional Housing in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is Shelton Youth Connection, located at 123 South 2nd Street Shelton, WA 98584.

In September 2019, Shelton Youth Connection (SYC) opened a drop-in center in Shelton, WA for youth and young adults ages 12 to 24 years old. The center is a safe place to connect with supportive services allowing them options to achieve their best possible outcome.

The project includes purchasing and renovating at the currently leased location, providing access to 6,000 additional square feet to create 12 transitional housing living spaces for homeless or at-risk of homeless youth and young adults whom they currently serve. Preventing youth homelessness has positive, long term affects for our communities. Shelton Youth Connection believes if we can support and change a minimum of one person's life a month from homelessness to hopefulness with permanent housing it would be a benefit to taxpayers.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

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Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$1,800,000 in funding for the New Water Source to be connected to existing tribal water system project in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is Squaxin Island Tribe, located at 10 SE Squaxin Lane, Shelton, WA 98584-9200.

Funding would go towards a final engineering and construction of connecting a new water source to the Squaxin Island Tribe water system approximately 1.5 miles away. The Squaxin Island Tribe's current water source is at capacity and diminishing every year. This water source allows for the Squaxin to maintain and build a thriving economy. This project will reap a great return for the region, providing new jobs while preserving existing jobs for families of surrounding counties.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

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Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$250,000 in funding for the Thurston County Elections Center Expansion project in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Thurston County Auditor's Office, located at 2000 Lakeridge Dr. SW, Olympia, WA 98502.

These funds would be spent to transform a portion of the Thurston County Ballot Processing Center from covered parking to a secure and enclosed election observation area. Elections are the backbone of our democracy. Election observation helps ensure electoral integrity. It also strengthens citizen participation, and foster governmental accountability. Providing the facilities necessary to host partisan and nonpartisan observers and members of the public will allow that to happen in a safe, transparent manner.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress