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Washington, DC 20515

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OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Migration

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Community Support Services Co-op of the William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity and the Bread of Life Academy in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity, located at 5220 Scott St. #108 Houston, TX. 77004.

The funding would be used for the rehabilitation of their existing property and the expansion to an 18-unit building will be done in a manner that all of our facilities will be ADA-compliant and LEED certified. Our existing 50-unit, affordable housing complex serves 50+, low-income people aged 62 and over. The current structure is inadequate to serve our tenants properly. In the years since its construction, it is no longer ADA-compliant. Also, its design does not include climate controls in the hallways and common areas. These particular improvements are critically important to our tenants for two reasons: Reason 1. Texas heat and other weather conditions pose a health risk to our tenants. Reason 2. The inappropriate development doesn't allow us to serve our tenants with disabilities using the current ADA code.

Phase II of our project will also allow us to use adjacent land to extend the existing building and create an additional 18 1-bedroom/1-bathroom units for seniors 62 and above. The adjacent land had previously been used as a bar/barber shop and was not compliant with current building codes. During the COVID pandemic, the owners sold the land and WALIPP cleared it for construction. Each unit will provide 642 sq ft of living space along with access to office space and an outdoor pavilion. The booming growth of Houston's senior population, coupled with the rise in gentrification and limited affordable housing creates a huge need for additional units in the WALIPP Senior Residence. This property provides targeted services to some of our community's most at-risk residents. The program will also support educational and advancement pathways that provide justice and equity in employment for young adults emerging from foster care, transition-age youth, and historically marginalized and underserved Houstonians. It will also

provide evidence-based psychotherapy, outreach, prevention, and education for community members and promoting energy efficiency.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Not Just Housing, A Home, Phase II will provide low-income elders from throughout the Houston area with responsibly built, LEED-certified, low-carbon-footprint housing. We believe that at WALIPP by updating our building to LEED standards, we will become a leader in high quality senior housing throughout the City of Houston. The rehabilitation and construction goals are to provide an age-friendly environment which can promote health and delay functional decline, thus keeping people in their homes for as long as possible. With the additional units, WALIPP will be able to preserve the affordability and comfort for elders aging in place, while also providing evidence-based psychotherapy, outreach, prevention, and education for community members and those assisting in the construction of the project.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(4), and/or 5305(a)(2).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sheila Jackson Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sheila" being more prominent.

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress