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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE
SUBCOMMITTEES ON
HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR & PENSIONS
WORKFORCE PROTECTIONS
HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE

March 31, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Hennepin County Emergency Shelter Program in fiscal year 2024.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Hennepin County, Minnesota, located at 300 6th Street South, Minneapolis, MN 55487.

The funding would be used to fund the Agate Housing and Services new emergency shelter, which is designed to give people the services they need to move on to permanent housing. The current emergency shelters have operated at capacity for many years. Designed with the direct input of shelter guests, the new shelter will provide for 54 guests with overflow if needed. It will better serve guests in a safer, more comfortable sleeping layout with six-person rooms versus large, congregate, traditional shelter structure and give outreach workers new spaces to connect with those resistant to shelter with 24-hour staffing to support guests' needs for services.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the taxpayers of Minneapolis, MN are experiencing increased homelessness, and this project prototypes a better emergency shelter for families, low-income citizens, and others who are unable to find long-term housing, as well as develops a volunteer system for emergency shelters.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program 42 U.S.C., 5305(a)(2).

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

Sincerely,

Member of Congress