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

April 30, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger,

I am requesting funding for the Village Exchange Center Facility Renovation Project in Fiscal Year 2022. This request is for the Economic Development Initiative account. The entity to receive funding for the project is the Village Exchange Center, located at 1609 Havana St., Aurora, CO 80010.

The Village Exchange Center is seeking \$1,700,000 million to renovate and expand its space, which will enhance workforce training, food services, and other supports for the Northwest Aurora community. The proposed renovations will take place on the basement and main levels, and include: build-out of a commercial kitchen and commissary space with a restaurant storefront for two community restaurants, construction of multiple classrooms including two children's classrooms, a high-tech STEM classroom for youth and adult learning, and adult learning classrooms. The renovation will also include a two-story addition to support VEC offices and 20 community-focused organizations that VEC will support and mentor through the pandemic recovery. This investment will result in both economic and equity benefits in Aurora, supporting the community, the neighborhood, and the local economy.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds. This project will build and expand important infrastructure in a low-income, high-priority community in Northwest Aurora serving primarily immigrants and refugees. This capital investment will support these communities by financing a dedicated training and workforce development space where individuals can establish expertise, gain experience, and create the local connections needed to take their business ideas from conception to marketplace.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project. I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jason Crow  
Member of Congress