

GWEN MOORE
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 3, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I request community funded project funding for the Building Bridges to New Beginnings Project. The entity to receive grant funding would be the City of Milwaukee, located at 200 East Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

The project would support the renovation and expansion of a facility to increase access to services such as housing, healthcare, education, language training, and employment assistance for a growing and vulnerable population of resettled refugees. The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families notes that from 1/1/2001 to 12/31/2015 nearly 7,900 refugees settled in Milwaukee County. The project would also upgrade the facility to make it more accessible and ADA compliant.

This is an appropriate use of taxpayer money because it would support efforts to ensure that more refugees are successfully resettled and attain long term self-sufficiency. The City of Milwaukee's Consolidated HUD plan designates refugees as a population on which to focus on their special needs under that plan, noting that this group would greatly benefit from "access to safe, affordable housing, and services such as employment and job training, legal services, healthy food, mental and physical health care." This project would help address that identified need.

Additionally, refugees often require assistance navigating resettlement in their new communities, including employment services and other efforts to ensure they become and remain self-sufficient. Funding would also help foster an environment that supports refugee entrepreneurship/ With the right support and resources that will be expanded as a result of this project, some refugees may start their own businesses, creating jobs and contributing to local economic growth.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C.5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and/or 5305(a)(5).

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, appearing to read "Gwen Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "M".

Gwen Moore
MEMBER OF CONGRESS