

LAUREN UNDERWOOD
14TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS
underwood.house.gov

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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

DEMOCRATIC POLICY
AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

COMMUNICATIONS STANDARDS COMMISSION

May 23, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for Bentley Road Trail Connection in Plainfield, Illinois in the Fiscal Year 2026.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Plainfield Park District, located at 23729 W. Ottawa Street, Plainfield, Illinois 60544.

This funding would be used for the development of land for community development and growth. This project creates a physical path for economic development benefit by serving as a vital link between the existing multi-use pathways at Riverside Parkway, Sunset Park, and Hammel Woods along the DuPage corridor.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will provide connectivity between Naperville, Illinois to Channahon, Illinois connecting downtowns, employment centers, regional retail and parks and recreation areas.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in 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,

Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress

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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Center for Parenting Students project in Fiscal Year 2026.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Waubonsee Community College, located at Route 47 at Waubonsee Drive, Sugar Grover, Illinois 60554.

This funding would be used for the repurposing and conversion of property located on Waubonsee Community College into a place for economic development benefit by serving as a center for parenting students that provides a safe learning space for families, including the implementation of lactation suites, changing tables, and other necessary resources for students to successfully navigate education and professional development.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because family accessible centers on campuses like this are necessary to maintain a balance between childcare and economic advancement, especially in a rural area like Waubonsee that has limited childcare facilities and early education workforce.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C. 5305 (a)(4)

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

Sincerely,

Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress

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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the City of Lockport Environmental Infrastructure Program (City of Lockport) project in fiscal year 2026.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Army Corps of Engineers, located at 231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500, Chicago, 60604.

The funding would be used for an environmental infrastructure project to improve wastewater management, including stormwater management, in the city of Lockport, Illinois. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it is authorized under Public Law 117-263 to meet critical wastewater management needs in Lockport and beyond, with a particular focus on underserved children in the Will County community.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 8375 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Lauren Underwood".

Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress

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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Clean Water Project in Oglesby, IL (City of Oglesby-Watermain Replacement) in fiscal year 2026.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Oglesby, located at 110 East Walnut Street, Oglesby, IL 61348.

This funding would enable the City of Oglesby to address a critical infrastructure issue by replacing 2,100 linear feet of water main in an older section of town. This section of the water main has surpassed its projected lifespan and is at a heightened risk of failure. Compounding this concern is the fact that the existing water main is composed of asbestos cement and/or lead, both of which pose significant threats to the health and safety of residents.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will mitigate these risks and safeguard public health. These funds are a prudent investment in long-term cost savings, as preventing lead contamination can help avoid expensive public health interventions and environmental remediation efforts.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300j-12.

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

Sincerely,

Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress

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Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Education for Parents Project in Dekalb, IL in Fiscal Year 2026.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Northern Illinois University, located at 1425 W. Lincoln Highway, Dekalb, Illinois 60115.

The funding would be used for the rehabilitation and conversion of property located on Northern Illinois University campus into a place for economic development benefit by serving as a workforce training center and serving a compelling local need for affordable childcare in DeKalb, Illinois.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the additional classrooms and expanded services will allow the entity to offer high-quality learning and care to an additional 20 infants and toddlers, thus granting more families access to educational resources in the region.

This project has a federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(4).

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

Sincerely,

Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress

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H-307 The Capitol
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The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Expanding Hope and Reducing Hunger in La Salle, IL (Illinois Valley Food Pantry) project in fiscal year 2026.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Illinois Valley Food Pantry, located at 122 Wright Street - LaSalle, IL 61354.

The funding would be used to help The Illinois Valley Food Pantry to secure a new facility equipped with expanded refrigeration and storage capacity. With these improvements, the Illinois Valley Food Pantry can ensure the availability of both perishable and non-perishable foods for those in need. Moreover, a larger, accessible location will enhance its ability to serve the community effectively, reflecting its commitment to providing essential assistance to all who seek it.

This project has a Federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Lauren Underwood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lauren" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Underwood".

Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



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Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Grand Prairie Water Commission Infrastructure Construction for Northern Illinois project in fiscal year 2026.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Joliet, located at 150 W Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL 60432.

Funds for the Grand Prairie Water Commission Infrastructure Construction for Northern Illinois project would be used to construct approximately 7.5 miles of 60-66" diameter water transmission main, bringing treated Lake Michigan water into GPWC communities in the 14th District. This segment of transmission main runs from just west of the Des Plaines River along 135th Street and Route 53 in Romeoville to Renwick and Gaylord in the City of Crest Hill.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it preemptively addresses an imminent water shortage in communities in Northern Illinois. Should a water shortage materialize, it would precipitate both economic and public health crises for the State of Illinois.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300j-12.

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

Sincerely,

Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress

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Chairman
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 Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Law Enforcement Collaboration to Prevent Workplace Crime project in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Joliet Township, located at 175 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432.

The funding would be used to hire one attorney and two project staff dedicated to collaborating with the IL Attorney General's (ILAG) office and other law enforcement organizations (LEOs) in Will County and surrounding areas to pursue prosecutorial cases concerning workplace crime. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will bridge the current gap between victims and witnesses of workplace crimes and relevant federal, state, and local LEOs to deter crime in the workplace, prosecute violations, and work productively with the local community.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) program, section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10152).

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

Sincerely,

Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress

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H-307 The Capitol
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The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Lead-Free Water Project in Aurora, IL (City of Aurora—Lead Water Service Line Replacement) project in fiscal year 2026.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Aurora, located at 44 E. Downer Place, Aurora, IL 60507.

The funding will be used to remove and replace all remaining lead water service lines within the City of Aurora's system, which will provide safe, potable water. Funding will help to replace an estimated 120 lead service lines for homes across the City, impacting nearly 400 residents. Without this funding, Water and Sewer rates will be forced to escalate to provide the revenue stream needed to meet the unfunded mandate.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because lead contamination in drinking water presents significant health risks, particularly to vulnerable populations such as children and pregnant women. By proactively addressing this issue through the replacement of lead service lines, the Project seeks to mitigate these risks and safeguard public health.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300j-12.

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

Sincerely,

Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



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The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Lockport Township Emergency Shelter project in Fiscal Year 2026.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Lockport Township, located at 1463 Farrell Road, Lockport, Illinois 60441.

This funding would be used for the conversion of existing space within the Lockport Township Government Complex into an emergency shelter for use during weather-related emergencies requiring temporary evacuation of residents.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will enhance community preparedness by providing a safe, reliable emergency shelter for residents who lack other options, and serve as a training site for local emergency responders.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C. 5305 (a)(4)

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

Sincerely,

Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress

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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Reducing Recidivism and Supporting Reentry in Will County, IL project in fiscal year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Will County Workforce Services Division- LWIA- 10, located at 2400 Glenwood Ave, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

The funding will be used to provide work training services to justice impacted individuals, increasing officer safety and reducing the recidivism rate in Will County, IL. Through this program, formerly incarcerated individuals will obtain skills that will help them obtain and keep meaningful employment.

This project has a Federal nexus because it is for the purposes described in the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) program, section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10152).

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

Sincerely,

Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress

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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Securing A Sustainable Water Source in Oswego, IL project in fiscal year 2026.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Village of Oswego, located at 100 Parkers Mill, Oswego, IL 60543.

The funding would be used to connect to and draw drinking water from Lake Michigan starting in 2027. This Project will fund the construction of the three receiving stations, which are integral to the success of the Lake Michigan Water Source Project. The receiving stations will enable the municipalities to store and prepare for a new safe water source. Each City requires one receiving station to prepare and store safe water for the communities and to establish a proper connection with the DuPage Water Commission and Lake Michigan.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will ensure the municipalities will have a stable water source and water infrastructure necessary for the community's public health and to sustain a growing economy.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300j-12.

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

Sincerely,

Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress

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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for Senior Outreach and Care in Romeoville, Illinois in Fiscal Year 2026.

The entity to receive funding for this project is White Oak Library District, located at 201 W. Normantown Rd., Romeoville, Illinois 60446.

The funding would be used for the construction of the Outreach Services Department at the Crest Hill Branch Library to meet increased demands for their library outreach services. With these improvements, they will be able to provide more public library services, increase circulation of literature to seniors at senior centers, and make technology assistance more accessible to senior citizens at their homes.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will allow the library to serve up to 2,000 more seniors each month, increased access to vital services for this vulnerable community.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C.5305(a)(1).

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

Sincerely,

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Member of Congress

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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Shab-eh-nay Tribal Administration Buildings (Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation) project in fiscal year 2026.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, located at 16281 Q Road, Mayetta, Kansas 66509.

The funding would be used to support the rehabilitation and conversion of property located on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's land into governmental office space, meeting space, and official housing.

This project has a Federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Lauren Underwood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lauren" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Underwood".

Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress

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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Strengthening Rural Healthcare for Farmers and Families in Mendota, IL (Mendota Health Center) project in fiscal year 2026.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Community Health Partnership of Illinois, located at 205 West Randolph Street, Suite 1340, Chicago, IL 60606.

The Community Health Partnership (CHP) has served as a private, non-profit Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) for over five decades. The funding by CHP to build an expanded Mendota Health Center. CHP will transform the 10,666-square-foot warehouse into an expanded Mendota Health Center with much-needed space for medical, dental, and behavioral health services. The proposed health center will house 25 employees and serve over 6,000 individuals needing accessible, quality primary care services. Situated in the heart of rural North Central Illinois, the center serves as a lifeline for a community heavily reliant on agriculture, with over 98% of patients falling at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

This project has a Federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a).

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

Sincerely,

Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress