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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

CHAIRMAN, CONGRESSIONAL EXECUTIVE
COMMISSION ON CHINA

CHAIRMAN, GLOBAL HEALTH, GLOBAL
HUMAN RIGHTS, AND INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

CO-CHAIRMAN, TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION

SENIOR MEMBER, HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

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May 10, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
H-310 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Cartwright,

I write to respectfully request Community Project Funding in fiscal year 2025 for the urgently needed Dottie's House Domestic Violence Shelter Continuation of Services project in Brick, New Jersey in my congressional district (NJ-04).

The Dottie's House Domestic Violence Shelter Continuation of Services project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds as the activities funded are consistent with, and supportive of, the Office of Justice Programs' mission and are aligned with the purposes of the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) program, being a program to support crime victims and witnesses.

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds as it also is in keeping with the stated goals of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program providing specific funding for programs that support crime victims and witnesses. Dottie's House has strong connections with community partners including law enforcement, the Ocean County's prosecutors office, and local social services and healthcare organizations. This proposed project has the widespread, strong support of local, county and state elected officials, and is well positioned to being immediately obligated upon receipt of funds. The project has a federal nexus to funding under Chapter 34 U.S.C. Section 10152(d) and will provide services to crime victims.

Dottie's House is exclusively dedicated to helping victims of domestic violence. The organization provides shelter for woman and children over a two-year period as part of a transitional housing program, assisting an average of 50-75 individuals annually. The program offers 16 fully equipped individual apartments, including kitchens, washer/dryer units,

bathrooms, and living rooms furnished through generous private donations. This setup ensures each family can enjoy a private residence within a supportive communal facility.

During their stay, resident-victims receive significant counseling and support. In fact, Dottie's House staff members provide comprehensive support to empower women toward healing, as well as provide financial and emotional independence, including one-on-one case management sessions covering various aspects such as parenting skills, housekeeping, budget management, job training, education, health/nutrition, stress management, and fostering personal growth. The children specifically receive services with on-site tutors, art therapist, and support individual and group counseling. All of this is done to support these victims of crime and help them to rebuild a healthy family life.

The total amount of this Community Funding Project request is \$271,498. The project will use \$123,500 of the total to address a short-term gap for professional clinical casework and support staff and allow Dottie's House to serve added crime victims.

In addition, the facility is 25 years old and many of the major appliances are beyond their useful life. In 2023, Dottie's House faced the failure of multiple critical appliances, including water and heating systems, and appliances such as washers and dryers. Thus \$147,998.00 of the total will be used to restore and replace major aged systems in order provide a better dignified housing for the transitioning families, as well as conserve energy and water and reduce costs.

I certify that neither I nor any member of my immediate family have any financial interest in this project.

Thank you in advance for your careful consideration of my request for assistance for the Dottie's House Domestic Violence Shelter Continuation of Services. I appreciate the Committee's due consideration of the proposal.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Member of Congress