

**CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**  
4TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

CONSTITUENT SERVICE CENTERS:

**MONMOUTH**  
112 Village Center Drive  
Freehold, NJ 07728-2510  
(732) 780-3035

**MERCER**  
4573 South Broad Street  
Hamilton, NJ 08620-2215  
(609) 585-7878

**OCEAN**  
405 Route 539  
Plumsted, NJ 08514-2303  
(609) 585-7878  
By Appointment



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

CO-CHAIRMAN, TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMMISSION

SENIOR MEMBER, FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE

RANKING MEMBER, AFRICA, GLOBAL  
HEALTH, GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS, AND  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE

WESTERN HEMISPHERE SUBCOMMITTEE

RANKING MEMBER, CONGRESSIONAL-  
EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON CHINA

[www.chrissmith.house.gov](http://www.chrissmith.house.gov)

April 25, 2022

The Honorable David E. Price  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing and Urban Development,  
and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2108 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing and Urban Development,  
and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
374 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Allaire Community Farm  
1923 Baileys Corner Rd  
Wall Township, NJ 07719  
[allairecommunityfarm.org](http://allairecommunityfarm.org)

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

I write to respectfully request Community Project Funding for renovation and rehabilitation of the *Allaire Community Farm Market*, in my Congressional District.

This capital improvement project will renovate and rehabilitate a 100-year-old market place building on a farm which provides organically grown produce. The produce is grown by students and young adults on the autism spectrum and with other disabilities, and the gardens and greenhouses support local families battling cancer and those in financial need by supplying them with weekly fresh produce from the farm and other donated organic groceries at no cost. The renovation will ensure safe market space by including upgrades to the electrical service, weatherizing the building, and purchasing and installing sinks, refrigerated cases and freezers.

The Allaire Community Farm (ACF), a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is a sanctuary where passionate people make an impact on the community in an encouraging environment that fosters healing and hope. ACF seeks to utilize their rescued animals and working farm environment to nurture through nature. The Farm's focus populations are special needs individuals, teens with mental health issues such as depression and anxiety, and veterans with PTSD. The goal is to assist these populations to reach their highest potential while enabling them to become their most productive selves.

ACF is open year-round to ensure that the populations they serve have continuity of services. They have multiple specialized programs focusing on healthy eating; pre-vocational opportunities for young adults with intellectual disabilities; equine therapies and other therapeutic interactions caring for farm animals; mental health initiatives; and free programs for our Nation's veterans, just to name a few.

The ACF Farm Market is the hub, essential to all that happens at the farm. Every participant, volunteer and guest that enters and exits the Farm goes through this 100-plus year-old market. Over 100,000 people passed through the market last year and they expect that number to increase significantly with the popularity of the farm growing statewide and with the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions.

Due to the age of the building, the market is in dire need of repair and safety upgrades. There are leaks in the ceiling, holes in the floor and broken or leaky windows throughout the building. There is no insulation and no HVAC, which makes it difficult for market cashiers and volunteers to work for extended periods of time. In addition, the electrical wiring is antiquated, and the plumbing is nonexistent. They also have very limited equipment to display the produce and eggs grown and produced on the farm.

The estimated cost of this project is \$489,000 including an estimated \$392,000 for weatherization, electrical upgrades, plumbing, construction, and renovations; \$84,000 for purchase and installation of refrigeration and other equipment; and \$13,000 for architecture and permits. Should the entire amount not receive federal funding, ACF will fund the remainder with donations.

Allaire Community Farm enjoys wide support from the community-at-large, has over 200 volunteers, and currently collaborates with over 50 agencies and organizations statewide. They are regularly featured in local media and have backing from local and state government officials and agencies. They have been embraced by so many and are truly a "Community Farm".

As the author of the Autism CARES Act and similar laws to help those touched by autism, and as the co-chair of the House Autism Caucus, I have personally visited the Farm and have been deeply impressed by the facility, their programs, and their strong base of volunteers.

Thank you in advance for your full and fair consideration of this priority request. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with me should you have any questions regarding this request. I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH  
Member of Congress