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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

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

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
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 Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing and Urban Development  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing and Urban Development,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member Quigley,

I write to respectfully request Community Project Funding in fiscal year 2024 to fund the Phase One of the *YMCA of Greater Monmouth Camp Zehnder Renovation and Revitalization* located at 3911 Herbertsville Road, Wall Township, NJ 07731 in my Congressional District (NJ-04).

The YMCA's Camp Zehnder is a 140-acre day camp facility serving Southern Monmouth and Northern Ocean Counties. Camp Zehnder provides affordable and accessible outdoor learning opportunities for nearly 500 children each summer, allowing campers to build confidence while participating in activities such as archery, swimming, fishing, rock climbing, zip-lining, cycling and more. The facility is also home to year-round mental health counseling conducted by licensed professionals, as well as a substance abuse Intensive Outpatient Program that addresses addiction issues and helps each individual explore the factors contributing to their illness and to identify all the measures necessary to sustain recovery, once it is achieved. The lasting effects of the pandemic have made these services even more critically important. By having accessible and affordable mental health professionals at their local YMCA, barriers are removed for children and families to seek the support they need.

The renovation and revitalization of YMCA Camp Zehnder is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds as it supports the goals of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, by meeting one of the three statutorily defined national objectives to principally benefit

low- and moderate-income persons, as the YMCA provides services to low- and moderate-income individuals regardless of their means. Additionally, the Y of greater Monmouth County meets a critical public health needed by providing year-round mental health and substance use disorder treatment services. Furthermore, this project provides much needed childcare facilities during summer months for working families while schools are out of session, providing parents with predictable schedules to ensure their ability to continue to work year-round. This project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2).

The camp is committed to providing a safe, inclusive environment for children and adults of all abilities and all socio-economic levels, ensuring no one is turned away due to an inability to pay. Many families utilize the camp as childcare during the summer months, allowing parents to go to work with peace of mind knowing that their children will be cared for throughout the day, from early morning to early evening.

A recent study of the YMCA of Greater Monmouth's real estate assets concluded that while the camp facility is centrally located to the communities that rely on the YMCA, the camp lacks the modern facilities to safely provide the breadth of services needed, including in inclement weather. As a result, the group is undertaking a revitalization plan. The first phase will include installing a commercial grade generator to ensure safe operations in the event of severe weather and power outages and construct and repair buildings on-site to have space for campers to cool off from the heat and take shelter during severe weather. Ensuring adequate safe shelter for campers will also double the number of families that can be served through the enriching summer camp programs.

The proposed revitalization will create jobs while expanding community programs for youth and families, allowing the Y to serve almost twice as many individuals, and provide new and increased offerings and services.

In 2024, the YMCA of Greater Monmouth County will celebrate their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and I can think of no better way to help this respected organization celebrate than to put shovel to ground on this meaningful Camp Zehnder Renovation and Revitalization Plan. The amount of this request is \$1,648,000 for this first phase of the comprehensive capital improvement and modernization for YMCA Camp Zehnder that is expected to cost a total of \$4.35 million.

This project enjoys considerable community support from local social service agencies, as well as local, county and state officials. I certify that neither I, nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Thank you in advance for your careful consideration. I appreciate the Committee's due consideration of the proposal.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH  
Member of Congress