



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0916

March 13, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Fresh Start Emergency Shelter Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Manatee County Government, located at 1112 Manatee Ave W, Bradenton, Florida, 34205.

The funding would be used to renovate an existing structure into a permanent facility providing emergency shelter and integrated behavioral health, employment, and financial counseling services for individuals experiencing homelessness. The project aligns with community development program objectives because it offers essential public services, improves local safety and stability, and expands facility capacity for adults who are facing housing instability.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it provides a comprehensive, service-based alternative to homelessness by establishing a permanent facility offering emergency shelter, substance abuse treatment, mental health care, and employment assistance. This approach supports national priorities related to public safety, behavioral health, and homelessness reduction while reducing long-term public costs associated with crisis response and untreated health conditions.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vern Buchanan".

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress