



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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Shenango Valley Multipurpose Community Center Rehabilitation Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Hermitage located at 800 N. Hermitage Road Hermitage PA 16148. The funding would be used to rehabilitate an existing building located immediately between the Hermitage City Building and Hickory High School, and that is being decommissioned as a National Guard Armory. The building includes classroom/office space in the front, followed by a lobby, and a dining hall and truck room that is conducive to reprogramming as recreational space. The location of the building is ideal for a multipurpose community center. It is situated on State Route 18 along the primary commercial center for the Shenango Valley, in the most populous city in Mercer County and a quarter mile from the intersection with U.S. 62, which is the main intersection serving the Hickory Fields development at the former Shenango Valley Mall site. As it is next door to Hickory High School, such proximity will allow student-athletes to access it conveniently and safely via foot. Further it already includes sufficient parking space to provide convenient access for seniors and other users traveling by vehicle to the site. This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the funding will be used to repurpose a National Guard Armory building that is being decommissioned and reserve it for community use. The original building was built with taxpayer dollars and it is prudent to repurpose it for another use that will also provide a public benefit. Therefore, the federal appropriation will be solely used to provide the necessary upgrades to repurpose the building as a community center. Further, the project will use taxpayer dollars in an efficient manner to fill an existing gap related to indoor recreation and community space. Instead of constructing a new facility at a much greater cost, the project will rehabilitate an existing building, at a fraction of the cost, and one that is ideally located to serve the youth, seniors, and other adults living in the Shenango Valley.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C.5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and/or 5305(a)(5).

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

Sincerely,

Member of Congress