



KAREN BASS
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
37TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

April 29, 2021

Dear Appropriations Committee Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$250,000 in funding for A New Way of Life Safe Homes Women's Reentry & Economic Development Initiative in fiscal year 2022.

The entity to receive funding for this project is A New Way of Life Reentry Project (ANWOL), located at 9512 South Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90002.

Resources for women to return to their communities after incarceration are limited and underfunded, even as women are the fastest-growing incarcerated population, up over 700% since the 1980s. Every year more than 2,500 women are released from California prisons, and over 13,000 women in California are currently on parole. For over two decades, A New Way of Life has offered a supportive "welcome home" to assist women to heal from substance abuse and incarceration, exit parole, and to transition back to their families and their communities successfully.

The need to protect inmates from the high rate of COVID infection in prisons led to more women coming home in Los Angeles County and needing services like those provided by ANWOL. The organization opened two new residential facilities in the past year and increased their support for employment training and placement. Funding this project would help sustain those new facilities and expanded employment services.

For 1/3 the cost of incarceration, individualized services include 12-step recovery programs, tech training, personal/family counseling, family reunification, comprehensive employment services, education, and permanent housing -- all designed to facilitate self-sufficiency. Support for women re-entering society has proven to reduce recidivism, homelessness, encounters with the child welfare system and parole violations. Expanding the availability of services that have proven effective constitutes a wise investment of taxpayer funds.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" being more prominent than the last name "Bass".

Karen Bass
Member of Congress