



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

April 28, 2021

Dear Appropriations Committee Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$220,000 in funding for Urban Peace Institute and Chapter TWO: South Los Angeles Peace Ambassadors in fiscal year 2022.

The entity to receive funding for this project is The Connie Rice Institute for Urban Peace, located at 1910 W. Sunset Blvd., Suite 800, Los Angeles, CA 90026. The project location is 1535 W. 62nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90047.

Urban Peace Institute (UPI) and Chapter T.W.O. currently operate a pilot violence intervention program through their peace ambassadors in and around Harvard Park, Hawkins High School and Green Meadows Park, areas of South Los Angeles with a high incidence of violent crime, especially gun violence. Peace ambassadors act as essential violence intervention workers and first responders to ensure safety in Los Angeles' most underserved communities of color. This funding will strengthen and expand the South Los Angeles Peace Ambassadors project, allowing it to: train and support new peace ambassadors; better coordinate among peace ambassadors and other community workers; make better use of data to review patterns of shootings and develop deployment plans; and build and deepen relationships to strategically engage key neighborhood influencers. The Peace Ambassadors predict that this work will effectively lower neighborhood violence by at least 15% over the course of the grant period, avoiding incalculable costs to the families and neighborhoods in which gun violence takes its toll.

Peace ambassadors and gang intervention workers have a demonstrated track record of reducing gun violence and saving lives. Evaluations demonstrate that gang intervention services have resulted in a 43% reduction in retaliatory violence and prevented 185 gang retaliations in Los Angeles over a one-year period. By keeping the peace on the streets of Los Angeles, violence intervention workers also prevent unnecessary costs associated with the criminal justice system. Gang intervention's proven reductions in violent retaliations have generated an estimated cost saving to Los Angeles' criminal justice systems of at least \$55 million per year. These investments constitute a highly effective use 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".

Karen Bass
Member of Congress