April 29, 2022

Dear Appropriations Committee Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting $1,500,000 in funding for the Ethiopian Community Los Angeles Community Center (ECLA) project in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is African Communities Public Health Coalition, (African Coalition), located at 3761 Stocker St, Los Angeles, CA 90008.

The ECLA project would use this funding for the purchase and renovation of a facility to serve as a community hub, social and educational center. ECLA will house Elderly and Youth Services, a Child/Parenting Center, preschool classrooms, afterschool programs, outside playground, community room, kitchen, restrooms, and administrative offices.

The Los Angeles region is home to the third-largest Ethiopian population after the capital city of Addis Ababa and Washington, DC. The development of Little Ethiopia as a hub for economic activity speaks to the strength of the community and its largely successful economic journey. But the community lacks a central hub for social and educational activities outside of its strong faith-based institutions. This funding would support acquisition of a building and planning for programming that would support immigrants as well as 1st, 2nd and 3rd generation Ethiopian Americans. ECLA would house multi-generational services, as well as spaces for recreation, events and administrative offices. The project would be accomplished through the African Communities Mental Health Coalition, which has worked extensively with the Ethiopian community in the region since African Coalition was founded many years ago.

It is an excellent use of taxpayer funds because it will support community resilience and self-sufficiency. Resilient communities that are able to support their members help to reduce negative outcomes such as loss of housing, unemployment, and cultural disconnection leading to undesirable behavior. It will also benefit the region by increasing the opportunities for broadening cultural understanding of an important subsection of the Los Angeles population.

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

Sincerely,

Karen Bass
Member of Congress