



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

April 30, 2021

Dear Appropriations Committee Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$220,000 in funding for the St. Joseph Center Workforce Development Training Programs for Low Income Adults in fiscal year 2022.

The entity to receive funding for this project is St. Joseph Center located at 204 Hampton Drive, Venice, CA 90291. The project locations are 12420 Venice Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90066 and 10131 National Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90034.

Funds for this project will support expansion of existing job training and career development programs at St. Joseph Center (SJC) that are targeted at people who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of losing their housing. Codetalk and Fortifi LA are web technology job training programs designed to serve low income and un/underemployed women (Codetalk) and extremely vulnerable populations, such as those recently released from prison and people with long histories of homelessness (Fortifi LA). In a rigorous 16-week program offered six times per year, SJC provides the skills, tools, training, and support so that graduates can pursue entry-level positions in the tech sector. Bread & Roses Kitchen is offered five times per year and consists of eight weeks in a kitchen-classroom followed by a four-week externship with our restaurant partners. The program serves low-income adults with barriers to employment such as histories of homelessness and/or incarceration, poverty, and un/underemployment. Program participants are 75% people of color. Funds will also support launch of the TV and Film Apprenticeship Program, a pilot that will provide access to gainful, entry-level opportunities in the entertainment industry, to transform income prospects for low-income adults who have experienced homelessness and economic disadvantage. Major entertainment industry companies have already partnered to offer these opportunities on a small scale, and the full program will create additional, regular training and job opportunities.

Homelessness has reached epidemic proportions in Los Angeles, and economic instability is the biggest contributor to individuals and families losing their housing. Workforce development is critical to lifting people out of poverty and preventing homelessness, and is an appropriate 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