



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 \$500,000 in funding for Ward EDC King Solomon Village Interim Housing in fiscal year 2022.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Ward Economic Development Corporation located at 1177 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007.

Ward EDC King Solomon Village Interim Housing (KSV) will offer long-term shelter and sanitation to vulnerable persons currently living outdoors, until permanent housing can be built at that location. The traditional housing development model leaves properties that are in pre-development standing idle while navigating sometimes tedious regulations. KSV will put a property in development for longer-term housing into use immediately by offering sleeping pod units with privacy closings inside a larger building, with access to sanitation facilities and supportive services. Residents will be permitted to stay for up to five years. The pods will be reusable at another location when WEDC begins construction for permanent housing at this site. This funding will also support the retrofit of the building's plumbing, electrical, and HVAC systems to create a healthy, sustainable energy conserving environment with pleasing aesthetics.

The Los Angeles County 2020 homeless headcount of 66,436 people represents a 12.7% rise from the 2019 point-in-time count. A study by LASHA, the county's homeless agency, found that Black people are four times more represented among people experiencing homelessness than in the County population overall. The cost of living in Los Angeles forces adults and families, even those with jobs, to seek shelter in temporary and make-shift housing and tents in public view. These encampments are in virtually every community in Los Angeles, but more prevalent in low wealth communities like South Central Los Angeles, where KSV will be located. KSV would permit an immediate opportunity for individuals to make a transition from living outdoors while preserving their ability to have some private space and store possessions in their pod.

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" and last name "Bass" clearly legible.

Karen Bass
Member of Congress