April 27, 2022

Dear Appropriations Committee Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting $749,920 in funding for the Navigation and Support Services for Youth program in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is Sanctuary of Hope, located at 4003 W. Adams Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90018.

Sanctuary of Hope (SOH) proposes to provide expanded navigation and support services for 300 additional youth and families, ages 16 to 25, who are homeless, foster care, justice-involved or low-income. SOH currently provides navigation and support for 400 youth per year at their resource and navigation centers located in the greater Crenshaw area of South Los Angeles. These centers offer services such as life coaching (case management), mentorship, mail (mailing address), free wi-fi, computers, charging stations, basic need supports services (hotel/motel vouchers, food, diapers, and clothing), financial assistance, counseling and therapy, housing and service referrals, system navigation, transportation, juvenile justice prevention and diversion, reunification, parent support, character and leadership development, and employment and education opportunities.

This is an excellent use of public funds because the project addresses the social, economic, and environmental issues that prevent youth from reaching their full potential. SOH provides emergency housing for some of its clients, and offers significant support for basic needs for youth living on the streets, in poverty, or aging out of foster care. Services include improving access to social services or public benefit systems through resource linkages, minimizing educational attainment loss through education assistance and financial aid, preventing family separation through family strengthening activities, and improving overall well-being through life coaching and therapeutic service offerings. Expanding these navigation and support services for youth will mitigate high risk behaviors by helping young people build success in school, personal development, emotional self-regulation, coping and problem-solving skills, and supportive adult relationships. SOH places strong emphasis on economic empowerment and achieving self-sufficiency through education, training and job support to increase employability, competency and skills, and hope that the future will be bright.

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

Sincerely,

Karen Bass
Member of Congress