

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1501

May 10, 2024

The Honorable Steve Womack
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing & Urban Development,
& Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing & Urban Development,
& Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Womack and Ranking Member Quigley:

As you begin crafting the fiscal year 2025 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include \$990,000 for the Eldora Housing Rehabilitation Project as a community project funding request through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiative account. The intended recipient is the City of Eldora, located at 1442 Washington Street, Eldora, Iowa 50627. This project would take place in several locations in the City of Eldora.

This project will take steps to improve the community's housing conditions through renovation of dilapidated homes and downtown revitalization. In collaboration with the Iowa Economic Development Authority and Iowa State University, the City conducted a study to evaluate housing readiness to spur growth in their rural community. Through extensive community outreach, city officials identified development needs in 25 single family homes throughout Eldora, as well as six upper story units within downtown.

With this funding, the City of Eldora would work with community residents and local contractors to improve the state of housing in areas of identified need. This effort will provide significant support for the community's economic development goals, including attracting working families to address workforce needs for local small businesses. Additionally, this project will offer benefits to Eldora's low-income and senior residents. Nearly 30% of the city's population is over the age of 55, and a shortage of quality housing continues to put their health and safety at risk. Such projects are core to the mission of the Economic Development Initiatives account, which aims to support projects that rehabilitate properties to strengthen local economies. By facilitating improvements to housing in the rural community of Eldora, the community can secure continued economic growth and retain and attract new working families to rural Iowa.

I strongly urge the Committee to include this community project funding request in the FY25 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ashley Hinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ashley Hinson

Member of Congress

Committee on Appropriations