

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

April 26, 2021

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

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development, & Related
Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

As you craft the fiscal year 2022 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include \$500,000 in community project funding for Jones County Economic Development, located at 107 S. Ford Street, Anamosa, IA 52205, for the development of affordable housing across Jones County, Iowa.

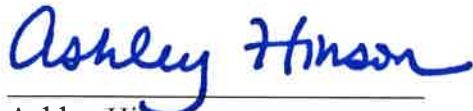
Jones County is one of the most rural areas in Iowa's First Congressional District; its largest city, Anamosa, has an estimated 5,500 residents. While areas across the country have experienced population loss and housing prices have risen nationwide, local schools and businesses in Jones County have sought solutions to stem the tide of reverse migration as their community has shrunk even further. Although there are jobs available, there is a severe lack of affordable housing available, with many units having fallen into disrepair or been destroyed by the August 2020 Derecho. The young families and entry-level workers that these available jobs attract do not have the capital to build new homes and are often forced to seek employment elsewhere or undertake long commutes. This concern over the absence of available rural housing is heard routinely in my interactions with constituents, and Jones County Economic Development has undertaken efforts to create solutions to this problem.

If awarded funding, Jones County Economic Development would use these resources to increase access across the board to single-family homes. With support from local governments and school districts in the county, Jones County Economic Development would employ a diverse set of methods to assist in the development of affordable housing, in turn, attracting young families, revitalizing schools, and filling vacant jobs – all of which are drivers of a vibrant economy. These funds will support the acquisition of previously condemned or vacant housing lots, buying down “soft costs” for buyers that would traditionally qualify for affordable housing, and gap financing for developing land. This project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it would help expand opportunities for prospective middle and low-income families and

individuals in Jones County, allowing them to live closer to their places of work and increasing their access to community services and resources.

I appreciate your consideration of this request, as I strongly believe that providing these funds to increase the supply of affordable housing in Jones County will lead to continued development in the region, aiding schools, the economy, and providing expanded opportunity to those in the region.

Sincerely,



Ashley Hinson

Member of Congress

Committee on Appropriations