

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

April 26, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education,
& Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education,
& Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you craft the fiscal year 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include \$50,000 in community project funding to the Leader Valley Foundation for the Leader in Me project in Waterloo, IA.

As a mother of two, I understand the important role schools play in developing our future leaders and preparing our next generation to enter adulthood, and I believe the curriculum and instruction our students receive should reflect that future-ready standard. Leader Valley seeks to instill effective habits and authentic leadership by developing work ethic, problem-solving, and interpersonal skills to help grow the next generation of successful workers. Leader in Me schools create partnerships with local businesses to instruct children at the PreK-12 level in critical skills education, teaching important life and professional skills alongside the traditional curriculum. With support from local leaders, businesses, and universities, schools integrating Leader in Me models have a proven track record of increasing academic performance, attendance, and graduation rates, while decreasing suspensions.

If selected for funding, Leader Valley would use these funds to assist with the integration of Leader in Me curriculum for two additional schools in Cedar Valley, IA. These funds would be used for teacher and principal training, the development of a tailor-made curriculum, and the acquisition of course materials, expanding access to career development for children in the Cedar Valley region. During my time meeting with constituents across Iowa's First Congressional District, I have continually heard about the need for a developed and trained workforce. I believe Leader in Me is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it addresses such challenges by expanding access to opportunity for students in Cedar Valley, teaching skills from a young age, and encouraging students to meet with local businesses for mock interviews, resume workshops, seminars, and more.

I appreciate your consideration of my request, and I believe that if accepted for funding, the Leader in Me project will have a positive impact on the lives of children in the Cedar Valley community, and lead to increased economic opportunity and career potential across the entire region.

Sincerely,



Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress
Committee on Appropriations