

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

April 26, 2021

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Roybal-Allard and Ranking Member Fleischmann:

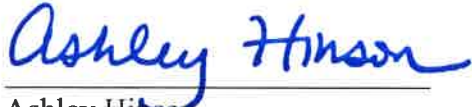
As you craft the fiscal year 2021 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include \$263,000 in community project funding for the Jackson County Emergency Operations Center in Maquoketa, IA. These funds will help the people of Jackson County and the surrounding communities effectively prepare for and respond to emergencies and disasters. The project has the support and assistance of the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, many communities across the country have been forced to assess, reevaluate, and create emergency response systems. Rural communities like Jackson County, IA, have been in desperate need of a physical Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to address the needs of its residents, not only from the pandemic, but also from the August 2020 Derecho storms and resulting flooding. Due to the immense impact these events had on the surrounding communities, the need for a centralized structure has become increasingly apparent.

The funds will assist in the construction of an EOC to aid the community in increasing its effectiveness in disaster mitigation and response. This EOC will lead to the creation of systems to respond to emergencies more efficiently, increasing coordination among the local entities to ensure effective and timely response to a rural area. By providing situational awareness to community residents and responders, ensuring continuity of operations, providing information analysis, and effectively incorporating the National Incidental Management System, the Jackson County EOC will greatly impact the lives of the community's residents.

These systems will not only help the community more effectively respond to disaster but will increase mitigation efforts to decrease the cost and damage caused by future events. I strongly encourage you to consider this request to help the citizens of Iowa.

Sincerely,



Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress
Committee on Appropriations