

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

April 27, 2022

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 2023 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include \$1,000,000 in community project funding for Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity, located at 803 W 5th Street, Waterloo, IA 50702, for targeted neighborhood revitalization in Waterloo, Iowa.

This project will support revitalization, opportunity, and stability for residents of Waterloo neighborhoods who live well below the median household income level for Black Hawk County. Historic generational poverty, economic crisis, and disinvestment have led to certain areas of Waterloo falling into disrepair and driving away growth in the community. Expanding homeownership in these neighborhoods will strengthen and stabilize families in Waterloo, spurring economic growth in the community.

Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity has a proven track record, having successfully undertaken the rehabilitation of dozens of properties in the historic Walnut neighborhood of Waterloo since 2016. These neighborhood revitalizations process are a fully community-involved process in which Iowa Heartland works alongside and consults neighborhood residents, local government entities, businesses, and community members to ensure the needs of the community are met, voices are heard, and the positive effects will be lasting.

Habitat's plans address more than just the local housing crisis; they offer a holistic approach that seeks to preserve historic neighborhoods, establish a sense of community, create economic opportunities, impart new job skills to future residents, and make communities safer. Habitat puts its beneficiaries on the path to long-term stability, helping residents achieve homeownership by teaching them the financial skills they need to succeed through homebuyer education courses. Residents also help build homes in their neighborhood, investing themselves in the success of the project while also learning new job skills.

If awarded funding, this project will specifically support the ongoing renovation of houses in the Walnut and Church Row neighborhoods. While Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity is currently working on the Walnut neighborhood, this will allow them to continue the Walnut project and expand into the Church Row neighborhood. Church Row consists of 1,450 properties and is similarly in need of significant work to be move-in ready. With over 350 qualified families currently on the wait list, the funding will be put to good use without delay.

I appreciate your consideration of this request, as I strongly believe that providing these funds to increase the supply of affordable housing in Waterloo will lead to continued development in the region, aid the education to workforce pipeline, bolster the entire regional economy, and expand opportunity to often overlooked community members.

Sincerely,



Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress
Committee on Appropriations