

LAUREL M. LEE
15TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON
THE JUDICIARY

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HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
VICE CHAIR

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS
CHAIRWOMAN

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0915

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DISTRICT OFFICE:
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TAMPA, FL 33647
TEL: (813) 393-5077

June 3, 2025

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the City of Lakeland, Florida's project entitled *City of Lakeland Fire Station 8* in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Lakeland located at 228 S. Massachusetts Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33801. The funding would be used to build a new fire station. The Lakeland Fire Station 8 project will enhance emergency response capabilities in one of the fastest-growing areas of Lakeland and Polk County, improving public safety for residents and businesses in Congressional District 15. By reducing response times and increasing fire protection and emergency medical coverage, the station will support the City's commitment to efficient fire suppression, emergency medical services, and disaster response. This investment strengthens regional resilience, aligns with Florida's growth and infrastructure priorities, and contributes to national public safety objectives by ensuring rapid and effective emergency services in a critical transportation and commerce corridor.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the project directly supports public safety, emergency preparedness, and community resilience—core responsibilities of government at all levels. Fire stations serve as critical infrastructure for life-saving emergency medical services, fire suppression, and disaster response, ensuring rapid intervention during crises. Federal investment in local fire protection aligns with national priorities, such as homeland security, disaster mitigation, and infrastructure resilience.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Laurel M. Lee
Member of Congress

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June 3, 2025

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the City of Tampa, Florida's project entitled *City of Tampa Fire Station #24* in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Tampa located at 306 East Jackson Street, Tampa, FL 33602. The funding would be used to build a new fire station. The new fire station will serve the rapidly expanding residential and commercial neighborhoods in the surrounding area. It will be a two-story, 11,000 square foot building that will house four vehicle bays, firefighter facilities as well as community meeting space.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because this fire station will improve emergency response times for residents of this part of FL-15. This area is currently served by Fire Station 13, which is one of the busiest stations in the country with over 10,000 calls/month.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Laurel M. Lee
Member of Congress

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15TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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April 28, 2025

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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Hillsborough Community College's project entitled *Plant City Workforce Education Center* in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Hillsborough Community College, located at 4115 N. Lois Avenue, Tampa, FL 33614. The funding would be used to provide education and economic development opportunities for Eastern Hillsborough County and the Tampa Bay Region. The facility will function as a comprehensive training center for high-wage careers in the healthcare, business, agriculture, and technology fields. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will provide access to necessary job skills for greater economic mobility and an improved standard of living.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2), 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(4), and/or 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(5).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Laurel M. Lee
Member of Congress

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15TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Hillsborough County, Florida's project entitled *Drinking Water Infrastructure Inspection and Analysis Program* in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Hillsborough County, located at 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL 33602. The funding would be used to support an analysis of Hillsborough County drinking water infrastructure currently in use to identify potential issues so that repairs or replacement of pipes can be implemented, and to assess the remaining useful life of the infrastructure. Hillsborough County has a robust inventory of underground pipes that are integral to the proper functioning of the county's potable water service. Following a water main break in east Hillsborough County, Hillsborough County conducted a forensic analysis to help discern information specific to the broken pipe. The result of the analysis prompted the need to conduct a comprehensive inspection and analysis of all existing water infrastructure. In addition to examining the various types of pipes used, the county will also use techniques to assess the pipe's performance and conduct additional tests to determine the useful life of the infrastructure. The goal is to preempt future breaks by conducting preventive investigations and analyses. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because inspecting, maintaining, and rehabilitating potable water infrastructure is critical to safeguarding the provision of drinking water services.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300j-12.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Laurel M. Lee
Member of Congress

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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the City of Lakeland's project entitled *Fairbanks Sidewalk Project* in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Lakeland, Florida, located at 228 S. Massachusetts Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33801. The funding would be used for The Fairbanks Street Project proposes to construct a 6-foot wide concrete sidewalk on the south side of Fairbanks Street, between North Wabash Ave. and Kathleen Road. This sidewalk would provide a safe and accessible pedestrian connection between the existing sidewalks along Wabash Ave. and Kathleen Road, providing a connection to essential services such as grocery stores and schools. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will provide safe non-motorized transportation alternatives for residents within a designated Environmental Justice Area, including residents of the adjacent West Kathleen Neighborhood. Corridor provides access to nearby employment opportunities as well as the new IDEA Public School campus

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 U.S.C. 133.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Laurel M. Lee
Member of Congress

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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the City of Lakeland's project entitled *Williams Water Plant* in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Lakeland, Florida, located at 228 S. Massachusetts Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33805. The funding would be used for the conversion from gaseous chlorine disinfection to a liquid chlorine treatment process for use in the disinfection of drinking water at the Williams Water Treatment Plant. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the conversion from gaseous chlorine to liquid chlorine (sodium hypochlorite) at the Williams WTP increases safety for staff, persons in surrounding neighborhoods, and the environment by eliminating the potential of a chlorine gas leak. Removal of a highly hazardous chemical being stored and/or traveling through a community gives the project a high priority.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Title VI of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C 1381 et seq.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Laurel M. Lee
Member of Congress

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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Moffitt Cancer Center's project entitled *CryoCure: Illuminating Cancer's Hidden Structures* in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Moffitt Cancer Center located at 12902 USF Magnolia Dr. Tampa, FL 33612. The funding would be used to enable cancer researchers to quantitatively image proteins and drug interactions at near-atomic resolution, providing the first insights into atomic-level structural chemistry that will accelerate the development of targeted therapies and reveal molecular vulnerabilities of cancer.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the CryoCure project aligns with NIST's focus on developing cutting-edge measurements to support next-generation cancer prognostics, diagnostics, and therapies. It also contributes to NIST's efforts in creating standards that promote technology development, manufacturing, and translation in cancer research. The project addresses an urgent demand for access to oncology care and research in Florida. More than 155,000 Florida residents are newly diagnosed with cancer each year. Our state ranks #2 in the U.S. for cancer incidence and mortality. Moffitt Cancer Center is a major impact organization in Florida's 15th Congressional District. At any given time, thousands of FL-15 residents are actively receiving lifesaving cancer treatment at Moffitt. In addition, at least 3,000 residents of FL-15 are employed at Moffitt. Our local economy also benefits from the overall economic impact generated by Moffitt, which exceeds \$2.4 billion per year and generates revenue for local businesses serving Moffitt's medical and research enterprise.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 272 of title 15, U.S.C.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Laurel M. Lee
Member of Congress

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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Pasco County, Florida's project entitled *Crystal Springs Chlorine Booster Station* in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Pasco County located at 19420 Central Boulevard Land O' Lakes, Florida 34637. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the county is having difficulty maintaining sufficient chlorine levels in the area. The county frequently flushes its water main lines, which results in the unnecessary disposal of treated drinking water that could otherwise be distributed to constituents. This project will improve the reliability of the drinking water system and minimize the unnecessary flushing of potable water. The project will facilitate compliance with national primary and state drinking water regulations related to chlorine levels.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300j-12

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Laurel M. Lee
Member of Congress

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15TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Pasco County, Florida's project entitled *Livingston Road – new sidewalk and turn lanes at Collier Parkway/S Countyline Rd.* in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Pasco County, located at 38053 Live Oak Avenue, Dade City, FL 33523. The funding would be used to improve traffic flow and safety at the intersection of Collier Parkway and S Countyline Road by constructing new southbound turn lanes. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it aligns with the federal government's constitutional role in promoting general welfare and ensuring safe, efficient transportation infrastructure. By improving traffic flow, reducing congestion, and enhancing safety at an important intersection, the provided federal tax dollars would support economic activity and public safety, making it a justifiable and beneficial use of taxpayer resources.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 U.S.C. 133.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Laurel M. Lee
Member of Congress

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May 14, 2025

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Pasco County's project entitled *Oldwoods Avenue at Wyndfields Blvd - Connectivity & Intersection Safety Improvements*. The entity to receive funding for this project is Pasco County, located at 8731 Citizens Drive New Port Richey, Florida 34654. The funding would be used for improving traffic flow and safety, reducing delays and congestion for residents, school traffic, and emergency responders. By enhancing mobility, it will support economic activity and improve the quality of life for those who live, work, and play in Pasco and neighboring counties. Additionally, it will serve as a model of collaboration between community members, developers, and various levels of government to deliver important infrastructure improvements that benefit the region and state. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because this project aligns with the federal government's constitutional role in promoting general welfare and ensuring safe, efficient transportation infrastructure. By improving traffic flow, reducing congestion, and enhancing safety at an important intersection, it supports economic activity, emergency response access, and public safety. The presence of a school further amplifies the need for improvements, as the project will help manage school-related traffic and ensure safer conditions for students, parents, and staff. Additionally, it will enhance mobility for residents who rely on this road as their sole access point, making it a justifiable and beneficial use of taxpayer resources.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 U.S.C. 133.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Laurel M. Lee
Member of Congress

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15TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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May 15, 2025

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the City of Plant City's project entitled *Vehicle Incident Prevention and Mitigation Program* in fiscal year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Plant City, Florida, located at 302 W Reynolds Street, Plant City, FL 33563. The funding would be used for deploying specialized barriers during public events, such as parades, to mitigate the threat posed by vehicles. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because these barriers will significantly enhance the Plant City Police Department's ability to protect the community from vehicle-based threats, improve operational efficiency, and ensure compliance with international security standards. Approval of this purchase will demonstrate a proactive commitment to safeguarding public events and ensuring the safety and well-being of all residents and visitors to Plant City.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 1701(b)(8) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10381(b)(8)).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Laurel M. Lee
Member of Congress

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15TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Polk County's project entitled *Kathleen Road Widening and Extension Project* in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Polk County, Florida, located at 330 West Church Street, Bartow, FL 33831-9005. The funding would be used for the widening and extension of Kathleen Road north from Duff Road to U.S. Hwy 98 at the Rockridge Road intersection. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because investing in physical infrastructure would support FL-15th's economic growth, as it improves transportation, communication, and energy systems that businesses in our community rely on. It would create jobs in both the short and long term while enhancing productivity and connectivity.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 U.S.C. 133.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Laurel M. Lee
Member of Congress

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15TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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April 28, 2025

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the University of South Florida's project entitled *Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Cyber Maker Space Equipment Acquisition and Installation* in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of South Florida, located at 4202 E. Fowler Avenue, Tampa, FL 33620. The funding would be used to establish a high-tech, state-of-the-art AI/Cyber Makerspace, using federal community project funding to purchase and install technology and equipment to develop an AI/Cyber Makerspace within the university's new College of AI, Cybersecurity, and Computing. This equipment would allow the local development of foundational AI models, provide hands-on learning and experimentation with AI tools and networking equipment, and much more to foster a practical understanding of how these technologies intersect with cybersecurity. It will accelerate AI technology adoption in research labs, centers, and institutes across the university and local startups, businesses, and the government to enhance their competitive edge in operational security. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because a makerspace equipped with the best-available equipment will attract students eager to learn utilizing the technology as well as faculty eager to expand their research portfolios with access to tools that will allow them to do more, creating an ecosystem of advanced innovation in emerging fields and new entrepreneurial ventures in Florida's 15th Congressional District. Local businesses will also have access to the space, driving economic growth by providing them with the tools and expertise to securely integrate advanced AI technologies into their current business models. In addition to the well-documented need for many more practitioners trained in AI and cybersecurity to ensure our sustained national defense, there has been a five-fold increase in demand for AI job skills in the United States, as well as tens of thousands of unfulfilled private sector cybersecurity jobs in the state and nationally.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 272 of title 15, U.S.C.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Laurel M. Lee
Member of Congress

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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the University of South Florida's project entitled *Veterans, Military Families, and First Responder Services Complex* in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of South Florida, located at 4202 E. Fowler Avenue, Tampa, FL 33620. The funding would be used to co-locate the university's student veterans, ROTC students, and first responders. If funded, this facility would provide a collaborative space for student veterans and military-connected students to build a community with one another and to receive academic support services, career counseling, and workforce training and support to connect student veterans and military-connected students with in-demand and high-wage jobs after graduation. This support center will work with businesses in the community who are eager to hire veterans and military-connected students and ensure they are equipped with the skills they need as soon as they enter the workforce. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because many veteran and military-connected students use federal VA education benefits to pursue their college degree. With more than 640,000 veterans living in Florida's 15th Congressional District, there is a tremendous opportunity to develop a veteran-focused talent pipeline.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2), 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(4), and/or 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(5).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Laurel M. Lee
Member of Congress