

MADELEINE DEAN  
4TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

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Congress of the United States  
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March 27, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, the Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for Renovations to PHS Meadowbrook Farm Public Garden and Education Center in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Montgomery, located at 104 West Main Street, Suite 2, Norristown, PA 19401.

The funding would be used to make strategic capital improvements to gardens, landscapes, accessibility, lighting, and historical facilities at PHS Meadowbrook Farm, a 25 acre, free-to-all public garden located in Montgomery County, PA. PHS Meadowbrook Farm provides an accessible and inviting outdoor space for people of all backgrounds to experience and learn about horticulture and the natural world, as well as local history. Our proposed project will make smart improvements in facilities and landscapes, preserve historic features of the site, and improve accessibility. These renovations will ensure Meadowbrook Farm remains a vital resource for Montgomery County and Southeastern Pennsylvania by boosting visitation, accessibility, and public awareness and appreciation of the site. Over the past few years, there has been a well-documented increase in public demand for free, convenient outdoor recreation and wellness opportunities. Meadowbrook Farm is meeting this need for many people now with the potential to serve many more in the future.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because PHS Meadowbrook Farm also provides a host of services to the community. It hosts local residents of Sunrise Senior Living in Abington and participants of a local behavioral health and skills assessment program. Meadowbrook Farm is a member of the Rydal Meadowbrook Civic Association and hosts association meetings. About twenty (20) local residents volunteer on a weekly basis at the garden.

Through a public gardens internship program funded by local horticultural enthusiasts, students gain hands-on experience in the field of public horticulture. This project also advances Montgomery County's comprehensive plan, Montco 2040, by making improvements to an important part of the region's green infrastructure network and a unique community destination. An improved PHS Meadowbrook Farm will also address the plan's goals to facilitate more opportunities for healthy outdoor activity and conservation of natural resources. The southeastern Pennsylvania region is known as "America's Garden Capital." Over 30 public gardens, arboreta, and historic landscapes are open to the public within 30 miles of Philadelphia. Meadowbrook Farm is one of the only free public gardens among this group, organized under the Greater Philadelphia Gardens Collaborative. PHS uses Meadowbrook Farm to help promote and market the collaborative to attract visitors to Pennsylvania from across Mid-Atlantic region and beyond.

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

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

Sincerely,



Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress