

MADELEINE DEAN
4TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3804

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
150 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-4731

DISTRICT OFFICES:
115 EAST GLENSIDE AVENUE, SUITE 1
GLENSIDE, PA 19038
215-884-4300

1200 EAST HIGH STREET, SUITE 105
POTTSTOWN, PA 19464
610-382-1250

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 A Space for Neighbors 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 for the purchase of a permanent building for Neighbors Helping Neighbors, a local food bank and community center that focuses on food security, educational empowerment, and community resource linkage. A Space for Neighbors is currently located in Ardmore, PA, at the center of the low-income census tract of Lower Merion Township. The current building is a rented location within walking distance of approximately 91% of their beneficiaries, and where the grassroots nonprofit provides free highly individualized, dependable support to approximately 1,600 hard-to-reach residents in-need annually, through a combination of direct-service Food Security, Education and Outreach programs.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because according to the 2020 census, 3,373 residents of Lower Merion Township were reported as living in poverty pre-pandemic. The needs have increased drastically over the past six years. Despite living in the second wealthiest county in PA, there are many seniors and families struggling greatly from food, health, and economic uncertainty. NHN programming is designed to protect the dignity and anonymity of our beneficiaries, which compels more neighbors to use our trusted services. We are increasing the mental and physical wellbeing of residents through free weekly food distribution, walk-up gardens, daily tutoring and a fulfilling opportunity to complete court appointed community service hours for under 18 and over 18 years of age non-violent offenders.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Madeleine Dean". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "M".

Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress