

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4320

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations,
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations,
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Mentor Recruitment Project to Prevent Juvenile Delinquency project in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Texas, Inc. at 10843 Gulfdale Street, San Antonio, TX 78216. The proposed project is located in Bexar County, Texas.

The funding would be used to build and develop a campaign to recruit volunteers and quickly match them with at risk youth waiting for a mentor, and to retain them in long, strong mentoring relationships proven to reduce juvenile delinquency and the risk of criminal behavior. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it supports an initiative that is consistent with activities that work to prevent and combat juvenile delinquency. Funding for mentor recruitment is an investment in the community's future. Without positive role models and mentors, many young people struggle to break free from destructive cycles, perpetuating harmful behaviors. Mentors play a crucial role in disrupting destructive cycles by offering guidance, support, and new perspectives to youth. They help young individuals overcome obstacles, avoid re-offending, and ultimately achieve success. By providing youth with the tools to navigate their challenges, Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Texas, Inc.'s project will support a stronger, more resilient community.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10152).

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

Sincerely,



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress