



FY 2022 Community Funding Project Requests

House Appropriations Committee – Community Project Funding Requests

This year, Members of Congress had the opportunity to submit **up to ten (10) Community Project Funding requests** for possible inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations Bills.

In accordance with transparency requirements issued by the House Appropriations Committee, the final list of projects that Congresswoman González-Colón submitted is included below. However, **the fact that a project is included within this list does not guarantee it will receive an award.** At this point, it will be entirely up to the House Appropriations Committee to evaluate each project and determine if they receive funding based on their merits, including if they are a good use of taxpayer funds, meet all applicable requirements, and have broad community support.

Listed below are the projects Congresswoman González Colón has submitted to the House Appropriations Committee.

Project Title: Purchase of law enforcement equipment and technology for the Utuado Municipal Police

Proposed Recipient: Municipality of Utuado

Recipient Address: Calle Betances #27, Apartado 190, Utuado, PR 00641

Amount Requested: \$115,033

Explanation: This project would provide financial assistance to the Municipality of Utuado to purchase security, technological, and administrative equipment for its municipal police force. This represents an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because these additional tools would enable municipal police officers in Utuado to carry out their law enforcement responsibilities in a more

effective manner, in turn enhancing their capabilities to fight and investigate illicit activities, improve public safety, and protect the municipality's citizens from crime and other related risks.

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Project Title: Rehabilitation of facilities at Bosque Forestal (Patillas Forest Recreation Area) in the Real neighborhood of Patillas, Puerto Rico

Proposed Recipient: Municipality of Patillas

Recipient Address: P.O. Box 698, Patillas, PR 00723

Amount Requested: \$112,000

Explanation: This project seeks to promote tourism and economic development in Patillas through the improvement of facilities at Bosque Forestal, a forest recreation area in the municipality's Real neighborhood. Financial assistance would enable the Municipality to acquire, build, and rehabilitate assets such as gazebos, kiosks, small bridges, grills, bathrooms, lighting posts, sinks, showers, and parking space. Besides its economic benefits and potential to increase tourism in Patillas, the project is also an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it would enhance outdoor recreation opportunities for the local community.

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Project Title: Early Childhood Intensive Behavioral Intervention Program

Proposed Recipient: Sociedad de Educación y Rehabilitación (SER) de Puerto Rico, Inc.

Recipient Address: 500 Baez St Urbanizacion Perez Morris San Juan, PR 00917-5020

Amount Requested: \$180,000

Explanation: The Early Childhood Intensive Behavioral Intervention Program would support the comprehensive development of children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Puerto Rico from the ages of 18 months to 6 years, based on principles of Applied Behavioral Analysis. The main objective is to positively impact the development of children with ASD and stimulate learning and adaptive behaviors, allowing them an easier integration into different environments. The program also seeks to achieve socially significant changes in the behavior of children diagnosed with ASD, will assist in training caregivers and will yield valuable data related to ASD in Puerto Rico.

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Project Title: Center for Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture

Proposed Recipient: Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Barranquitas Campus

Recipient Address: P.O. Box 51, Barranquitas, Puerto Rico 00794

Amount Requested: \$941,975

Explanation: The Center for Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture is designed to expand the laboratory capabilities of the current Institute for Sustainable Biotechnology (ISBiot) located in the Barranquitas Campus of the Inter American University of Puerto Rico. The Center will maximize the agricultural resilience of the mountainous region of Puerto Rico, reduce food insecurity, and promote economic progress by developing in vitro seeds to be used by local farmers and researchers which will increase the volume and value of agricultural production; increase rural incomes and employment; and enhance the competitiveness of the rural economies of Barranquitas and the central region of Puerto Rico.

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Project Title: Rehabilitation of San Lorenzo Community Facility of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Puerto Rico

Proposed Recipient: Boys and Girls Club of Puerto Rico

Recipient Address: 501 Avenida R.H. Todd, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00907

Amount Requested: \$870,000

Explanation: The Boys and Girls Club of Puerto Rico has operated a club site in the Municipality of San Lorenzo for 13 years and serves five municipalities: San Lorenzo, Juncos, Gurabo, Caguas and Las Piedras, which are considered low-income areas. The original San Lorenzo Boys and Girls club house or site was destroyed by Hurricane Maria. The Club was later able to acquire an unused public school in this municipality to be their new community facility, however, the site requires repairs to make it suitable to serve students, residents, and their employees. This request would provide \$870,000 to finance these repairs, which include connecting the 4 buildings in the school complex via internal renovations, expand the entrance area with security improvements, resurface and reconfigure the courtyard between the buildings, and complete safety and sustainability repairs to the building infrastructure and systems. The usable space would be expanded from 7,700 square feet to 12,000 square feet.

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Project Title: Lajas Municipality Solid Waste Facility Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan

Proposed Recipient: Municipality of Lajas

Recipient Address: P.O. Box 910 Lajas, PR 00667-0910

Amount Requested: \$247,000

Explanation: This project seeks to build stormwater infrastructure in the only public landfill at the Municipality of Lajas, Puerto Rico. The landfill serves constituents in the municipalities of Lajas, Cabo Rojo, San Germán, Hormigueros, Guanica, Sabana Grande and Yauco, all of which are low-income areas. The landfill is currently at capacity and the municipality is working to close cells that are filled and build new ones. The stormwater plan would complement this work and ensure the municipality can properly maintain the landfill itself, and comply with regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency. If constructed, the plan will extend the use of this landfill by 25 years and protect constituents from environmental hazards.

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Project Title: Construction of a new well and other improvements for the community water system in Barrio Rubias (Rubias Ward) in Yauco, Puerto Rico

Proposed Recipient: Municipality of Yauco

Recipient Address: P.O. Box 1, Yauco, PR 00698

Amount Requested: \$300,000

Explanation: This project would fund the construction of a new well and the installation of the control system of the pumping station in Barrio Rubias (Rubias Ward), a low-income, rural community in Yauco that has historically lacked reliable water service. The requested funding would also be used to convert the community water system into one that is energetically sustainable through the installation of photovoltaic cells, batteries, and an electric generator to ensure its operation in cases of emergencies and natural disasters.

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Project Title: Rehabilitation of the Jarealito Fishing Village (Villa Pesquera de Jarealito) in Arecibo, Puerto Rico

Proposed Recipient: Department of Agriculture of Puerto Rico

Recipient Address: P.O. Box 10163, San Juan, PR 00908-1163

Amount Requested: \$500,000

Explanation: The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate and address some of the infrastructure needs of the fishing village located in the Jarealito community of Barrio Islote (Islote Ward) in Arecibo, Puerto Rico. Specifically, it would fund the design and construction of a new concrete building at the site, as well as improvements of the electrical systems and utilities. Funding would also cover the purchase of equipment for cleaning, processing, packaging, handling, and refrigeration of the product, thus ensuring the fishing village complies with appropriate food safety standards. Lastly, the project would enable the Department of Agriculture of Puerto Rico to acquire technological equipment to support fishing activities at the site, which are one of the main economic drivers of nearby low-income, coastal communities.

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Project Title: Construction of the Eco-Agro Tourism and Historical Park in Vega Alta, Puerto Rico

Proposed Recipient: Municipality of Vega Alta

Recipient Address: P.O. Box 1390, Vega Alta, PR 00692

Amount Requested: \$300,000

Explanation: The purpose of this project is to fund the construction of an agritourism complex in Barrio Bajura (Bajura Ward) in Vega Alta that showcases the history of sugarcane in the municipality. The complex would rehabilitate the grounds and recreate the old Carmen Sugar Mill that used to operate in Barrio Bajura; have an area where visitors can learn more about local crops and agricultural products; and have a passive park for children with a playground and other attractions. With the requested amount, the Municipality of Vega Alta also intends to fund the reforestation of the area where the complex will be located.

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Project Title: Caño Martín Peña- Ecosystem Restoration Project

Proposed Recipient: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Recipient Address: 701 San Marco Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32207

Amount Requested: \$32,000,000

Explanation: The Caño Martín Peña- Ecosystem Restoration Project seeks to reestablish the tidal connection between the San Juan Bay and San José Lagoon in the municipality of San Juan, Puerto Rico. The project consists of dredging of approximately 2.2 miles of the eastern half of the Caño Martín Peña channel. This would improve dissolved oxygen levels and salinity stratification, increase biodiversity by restoring or enhancing, among others, fish habitat and benthic conditions, and overall health of the San Juan Bay Estuary System. The project is also critical for the revitalization of surrounding areas, which includes close to 26,000 residents in 8 communities, and neighboring municipalities. The project will also support economic development by reestablishing recreational navigation. This request seeks to cover the expenses associated with the first of three construction contracts.

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