



Fiscal Year 2023 Community Project Funding Requests

Listed below are the projects Congresswoman González Colón submitted to the House Appropriations Committee in FY23.

NOTE: The projects are listed alphabetically by intended recipient

Project Title: Hogar Ruth Community Services Center – Construction of community services center for victims of domestic violence

Proposed Recipient: Hogar Ruth Para Mujeres Maltratadas, Inc.

Recipient Address: P.O. Box 538, Vega Alta, PR 00692

Amount Requested: \$3,996,500

Explanation: This project would fund the construction of Hogar Ruth Para Mujeres Maltratadas, Inc.'s (Hogar Ruth) community services center in Vega Alta, Puerto Rico. Hogar Ruth is a nonprofit domestic violence service organization established in 1984 that serves over 5,000 victims annually in Puerto Rico. The construction of the community services center would provide adequate facilities from which the organization can host and run its programs to support victims, including (1) housing and shelter programs to support victims of domestic violence, homeless women and children, and those at risk of being homeless; (2) programs to support sexual assault victims and their families; and (3) community impact and outreach programs, such as training and education initiatives on gender-based violence.

Signed Financial Disclosure (Hogar Ruth CPF)

Project Title: Center for Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture

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

Recipient Address: P.O. Box 517, Barranquitas, PR 00794

Amount Requested: \$941,975

Explanation: This project would fund the construction phase of the Center for Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture, and therefore expand the current 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 develop in-vitro seeds to be used by local farmers and researchers to increase the volume and value of agricultural production, increase income and employment in the central region of Puerto Rico, and enhance economic competitiveness. Additionally, the Center will provide technical assistance and training to farmers and community members who are interested in sustainable agriculture and crop maintenance using in-vitro techniques. The advances made possible by this Center are expected to promote sustainable agriculture in communities throughout the Island, as well as climate resiliency and food security.

Signed Financial Disclosure (ISBIOT)

Project Title: Infrastructure Improvements and Mitigation Project at Quebrada de Monte Claro Creek in Bayamón, Puerto Rico

Proposed Recipient: Municipality of Bayamón

Recipient Address: P.O. Box 1588, Bayamón, PR 00960-1588

Amount Requested: \$3,250,000

Explanation: This project would fund infrastructure improvements and a landslide mitigation project at the Quebrada de Monte Claro creek in Bayamón, Puerto Rico. Quebrada de Monte Claro creek is prone to landslides along its streambank during rainfall events, which can cause accidents, damage property, and put the lives of the area's residents at risk. Funding would be used by the municipal government to carry out the necessary mitigation work, including hydrologic-hydraulic study and design; clean and remove damaged channel materials; construct a combined channel section (preliminarily, a trapezoidal section with variable base and side slopes); and install a cyclone fence.

Signed Financial Disclosure (Bayamon CPF)

Project Title: Camuy Resilient Municipal Community Center

Proposed Recipient: Municipality of Camuy

Recipient Address: P.O. Box 539, Camuy, PR 00627

Amount Requested: \$4,000,000

Explanation: This project would fund the construction of the Camuy Resilient Municipal Community Center. The Municipality of Camuy identified a former elementary school that is currently unused and wishes to refurbish it as a community center. The center would offer social and educational services during non-emergency periods and would serve as a location for emergency shelter and services during and after natural and other emergencies. It will have a center for emergency operations, offices for the Camuy municipal police, among other areas to serve the community.

Signed Financial Disclosure (Camuy CPF)

Project Title: Law Enforcement Equipment, Technology, and Training for the Ciales Municipal Police

Proposed Recipient: Municipality of Ciales

Recipient Address: P.O. Box 1408, Ciales, PR 00638

Amount Requested: \$91,830

Explanation: This project would provide financial assistance to the Municipality of Ciales to acquire security and technological equipment, as well as the appropriate training to operate these tools, for its municipal police department. These additional resources would enable municipal police officers in Ciales to more effectively carry out their law enforcement responsibilities, in turn enhancing their capabilities to fight and investigate illicit activities, improve public safety, and protect the town's citizens from crime and other related risks.

Signed Financial Disclosure (Ciales CPF)

Project Title: Acquisition of Two Police Patrol Boats for the Loíza Municipal Police

Proposed Recipient: Municipality of Loíza

Recipient Address: P.O. Box 508, Loíza, PR 00772

Amount Requested: \$279,000

Explanation: This project would improve public safety and crime control initiatives in Loíza, a coastal town in northeastern Puerto Rico, by funding the acquisition of two (2) police patrol boats for the municipal police force. The vessels would provide needed capabilities to allow municipal police officers to patrol the waters off Loíza, including to intercept and disrupt criminal activity

and maritime smuggling events that threaten the security of the town's residents. The boats would similarly allow the municipal police force to support federal and state law enforcement operations along Loíza's coast, enforce laws protecting marine natural resources, combat illegal fishing, and contribute to search and rescue efforts.

Signed Financial Disclosure (Loiza CPF)

Project Title: New San Juan District Puerto Rico Drainage Project

Proposed Recipient: Municipality of San Juan

Recipient Address: P.O. Box 70179, San Juan, PR 00936-8179

Amount Requested: \$3,600,000

Explanation: This project would fund the cleaning of three sections of drainage canals located in the Hato Rey Norte area in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The canals are currently clogged with vegetation and debris, causing increased flooding activity that impacts private and public infrastructure. The project would improve resiliency, impact an area of high population, and support economic activity, residents, and businesses. Reducing the occurrence of flooding will also assist in mitigating damages from natural disasters.

Signed Financial Disclosure (San Juan CPF)

Project Title: Center for Emergency Operations in San Sebastián

Proposed Recipient: Municipality of San Sebastián

Recipient Address: P.O. Box 1603, San Sebastián, PR 00685

Amount Requested: \$4,000,000

Explanation: This project would fund the construction of a roof at a multi-use public square in the Municipality of San Sebastián, in front of the Tití Benitez Park. Upon construction, the municipality will use this center as an area to distribute supplies during emergency periods. The center would also be used for community events and gatherings during non-emergency periods, like school graduations, local farmer's markets, dance lessons, job fairs, etc.

Signed Financial Disclosure (San Sebastian CPF)

Project Title: Embarcadero Project at the Municipality of Utuado

Proposed Recipient: Municipality of Utuado

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

Amount Requested: \$4,000,000

Explanation: This project would fund the development of a tourist center at the Embarcadero (pier) in Lago Dos Bocas (Dos Bocas Lake) in the Municipality of Utuado. The project includes the restoration of two event rooms, reconstruction of current structures, construction of a restaurant, areas for small businesses and other premises. The project will support economic development, local tourism, as well as preserve natural resources.

Signed Financial Disclosure (Utuado CPF)

Project Title: Municipality of Vieques Security Camera System

Proposed Recipient: Municipality of Vieques

Recipient Address: 449 Calle Carlos Le Brum, Vieques, PR 00765

Amount Requested: \$420,000

Explanation: This project would improve public safety in the Municipality of Vieques by funding the acquisition and installation of an island-wide security camera system. Surveillance cameras would be located at different strategic, high-traffic areas throughout the island municipality, providing municipal police officers additional tools to enhance their law enforcement capabilities, monitor and combat criminal activity, and protect the lives of Vieques' residents and tourists alike.

Signed Financial Disclosure (Vieques CPF)

Project Title: Completion of PR-122 Connector, from Lajas to San Germán, Puerto Rico

Proposed Recipient: Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority

Recipient Address: P.O. Box 42007, San Juan, PR 00940-2007

Amount Requested: \$5,000,000

Explanation: This project would allow the Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority to complete design and plans preparation, studies, and Right-of-Way (ROW) acquisition for the

extension of Angel Castro Perez Avenue (PR-122), from road PR-321 to road PR-166 (San Germán South Bypass), within the boundaries of the municipalities of Lajas and San Germán, Puerto Rico. Funding would also be used to supplement Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds for construction of the proposed connector, which will be 2.77 km long and consist of a 4-lane divided typical section including paved shoulders at both sides to facilitate and improve the transport of goods, people, and services between Lajas and San Germán.

Signed Financial Disclosure (PRHTA Lajas-San German CPF)

Project Title: Reconstruction of highway PR-181, from Km 38.6 to Km 55.0, in Gurabo, Puerto Rico

Proposed Recipient: Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority

Recipient Address: P.O. Box 42007, San Juan, PR 00940-2007

Amount Requested: \$4,800,000

Explanation: This project would fund the reconstruction of 16.4 kilometers of road along highway PR-181, from Km 38.6 to Km 55.0, in the Municipality of Gurabo. The road, which serves as a connector for commuters from Gurabo to Puerto Rico's metropolitan area, currently exhibits high deterioration of pavements and safety devices, posing safety hazards to daily travelers. The project will include cold milling and resurfacing for several segments; pavement marking and retroreflective pavement markings, signage, and mile posts; retaining walls (using gabions); roadside reconstruction; replacement of concrete; barriers drainage; improvement sidewalks; construction; and safety devices (guardrails). The requested funding would be used to complete the NEPA process, design and plans preparations, studies, and construction.

Signed Financial Disclosure (PRHTA Gurabo CPF)

Project Title: Aerospace Institute for Research

Proposed Recipient: University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus

Recipient Address: P.O. Box 9000 University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, Post Street, Mayagüez, PR 00681-9000

Amount Requested: \$7,500,000

Explanation: This project would fund the construction of a 12,000 square foot annex at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus to serve as the Aerospace Institute for Research (AIR). This building will house research and development laboratories, and related support

facilities, including a Propulsion Laboratory, Material Sciences Laboratory, Atmospheric Sciences Laboratory, Navigational Technologies Laboratory, among other facilities. The AIR would support academic and private investment by contributing to the preparation of students and faculty in the field of aerospace, as well as maintain a supply of professionals to work in this and similar STEM-related industries. It would promote innovation in areas of advance and applied sciences and improve overall U.S. competitiveness.

Signed Financial Disclosure (UPR Mayaguez CPF)

Project Title: Planning and Design Funding for the Advanced Individual Training (AIT) Barracks on Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico

Proposed Recipient: U.S. Army Reserve

Recipient Address: 101 Bloxon Street, Building 205, Suite 207, Fort Myer, VA 22211

Amount Requested: \$1,500,000

Explanation: This project would fund the planning and design for the proposed construction of a one-story Advanced Individual Training (AIT) Barracks on Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico to accommodate 48 soldiers for the 1-333rd Regiment (Multifunctional Training Battalion) schoolhouse. Currently, there are no barracks on Fort Buchanan. Without this project, the training missions for the 1-333rd REGT (MFTB) schoolhouse will continue to be negatively impacted, resulting in diminished training effectiveness and efficiency as well as negative recruiting and retention. The requested planning and design funding is needed to make the AIT Barracks project 35 percent design and shovel ready.

Signed Financial Disclosure (Fort Buchanan CPF)

Project Title: Soraya's Shelter and Transitional Housing Program in Cabo Rojo

Proposed Recipient: Waves Ahead Corp.

Recipient Address: 1149 Americo Miranda Avenue, San Juan, PR 00921

Amount Requested: \$250,000

Explanation: This project would fund the construction of the Soraya's Shelter and Transitional Housing Program in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico. The project would remodel and expand an abandoned building in Cabo Rojo to establish a location that includes a community center and offers shelter and transitional housing services for persons who are homeless, elderly, and identify

as members of the LGBTQ+ community. The program would provide the space for counseling and mental health services, housing services and overall support for this community.

Signed Financial Disclosure (Waves Ahead Shelter CPF)

Press Release [Spanish]