

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 22, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, 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 the Fellsmere Public Library and Community Resource Center Project in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Indian River County, located at 1801 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32960.

The funding will be used to support the creation of the Fellsmere Library and Community Resource Center, a centrally located facility in one of the county's most underserved rural areas. The Center will feature a full-service public library with physical and digital resources, literacy programming, tutoring spaces, and youth engagement areas. It will also include a small business incubator, workforce development and job readiness training areas, and broadband-enabled technology labs to support digital learning and entrepreneurship. Offices for human services and veteran support staff will allow residents to receive one-on-one assistance with housing, benefits navigation, and other core needs—without needing to leave their own community.

The project is an appropriate use of Federal funds because it supports the creation of project that is rooted in a long-standing community vision: to bring essential services together in a way that expands opportunity, supports self-sufficiency, and strengthens families. For generations, Fellsmere residents have faced limited access to basic services that other communities rely on every day. The nearest full-service library, career center, and many human services are located miles away. As a result, families, veterans, students, and job seekers often struggle to connect with the programs that could help them move forward. This initiative removes roadblocks and gives residents the tools they need to succeed.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized under multiple statutory eligibility criteria, including: 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2): Construction of public facilities, 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(4): Rehabilitation and site improvements, and 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(5): Removal of barriers to access for underserved populations.

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

Sincerely,



Mike Haridopolos  
Member of Congress