April 28, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman,  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member,  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole,

I am requesting $500,000 under the fiscal year 2022, Postsecondary Education, Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) account for JobPath, Inc. a nonprofit organization in Tucson, Arizona.

JobPath was founded in 1998 by Pima County Interfaith Council and other community members to support the educational goals of adults enrolled in two-year or less job-training educational programs. JobPath partners with Pima Community College, Pima County, and the City of Tucson to ensure that programs are aligned with local and state employment priorities. The completion of the selected program increases the individual’s employability in the following industries: information technology, advanced manufacturing, and healthcare.

Employment opportunities in Tucson, Arizona and Pima County have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The McKinsey Global Institute states that millions of jobs have been permanently changed or wiped out, and these shifts mean fewer hospitality and retail jobs in addition to ongoing automation of office and factory jobs. Prior to the pandemic; hospitality, retail and tourism were significant sources of low-skilled jobs that were disproportionately held by people of color, particularly women. Parents with children were further impacted due to limited childcare options and virtual learning responsibilities that forced some parents to stay home and leave the workforce. Consequently, due to changes of the labor market, many of these adults won’t be returning to their previous employers and will be in need of job-training educational program opportunities in order to reenter the workforce.

The requested funding will be used to enroll 200 recently displaced workers, with a focus on underrepresented women and parents, in post-secondary degree or certificate programs that can be completed within one-year or less. These programs align with industries essential to the economic recovery of Pima County. JobPath participants will be able to access employment opportunities that pay sustainable wages and positively impact their families for generations to come. Additionally, JobPath will provide financial assistance to cover school related expenses, funds for minor emergencies, case management, and social services.
The project is a priority because it presents a unique opportunity for displaced workers in Southern Arizona to pursue job-training educational programs that are in-demand, provide economic opportunities to access better housing, eliminate food insecurity, and afford quality early childhood education for their children. In 2020 JobPath outcomes include:

- 95% of JobPath students graduated from their programs of study
- 85% got a job in their field within 6 months, filling a critical need for in-demand jobs that require post-secondary degree or credentials but not a four-year degree
- The average annual salary increase of JobPath graduates is over $42,200
- With nearly 50% of Jobpath students raising children, this salary increase, and the benefits, leads to a multigenerational game changer than can stop the cycle of poverty

According to Applied Economics, a third-party evaluator, supporting JobPath has a total return on investment of 3:1, the $500,000 investment will generate $1.5 million in increased wages, tax revenue, and decreased public assistance costs. The project has broad community support and will support the economic recovery of Southern Arizona.

I appreciate your time and consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress