

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
3RD DISTRICT, ARIZONA

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
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April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro & Ranking Member Cole,

I am requesting \$1,088,768 under the Fiscal Year 2023, Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) - Social Services Research and Demonstration account for the Higher Ground a Resource Center Restart S.M.A.R.T. Program located in Tucson, Arizona. The entity receiving the project funding is located at PO Box 27883, Tucson, AZ 85726. The school sites where the locations of the project will take place **Apollo Middle School** - 265 W Nebraska St, Tucson, AZ 85706, **Doolen Middle School** - 2400 N Country Club Rd, Tucson, AZ 85716, **Safford Middle School** - 200 E 13th St, Tucson, AZ 85701, **Utterback Middle School** - 3233 S Pinal Vista, Tucson, AZ 85713, **Lawrence Middle School** - 4850 W Jeffrey Rd, Tucson, AZ 85746 and a possible prospective site would be **Grijalva Elementary School** - 1795 W Drexel Rd, Tucson, AZ 85746

The Higher Ground a Resource Center - Restart S.M.A.R.T. Program seeks to use these funds to support five Restart S.M.A.R.T. school sites and a prospective additional school site within Arizona's Congressional District 3. This project follows a community school model where they use strategic, mindful, agile, resilient, and trauma-responsive practices to address community's needs. These funds will be used for the salaries of the staff, coalition expenses to ensure sustainability, afterschool and summer school programming for youth, and research and development of their patented mapping system which helps to individualize the supports for youth and families and ensure services are unduplicated, coordinated, and streamlined.

The Restart S.M.A.R.T. school sites will enhance youth and family engagement by utilizing a multi-generational approach to help families break the cycle of poverty. This is achieved by addressing the needs of parents and youth simultaneously to improve outcomes for the whole family and the community. At each Restart S.M.A.R.T. site, there is a team of three staff: a Site Director, a Student Support Specialist, and a Family Support Specialist. The Student Support

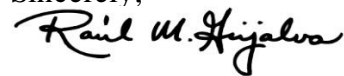
Specialist works directly with youth in the school, providing Social-Emotional Learning through varying activities, and coaches support youth reach their goals. The Student Support Specialist focuses on connecting youth with the resources they need to be well. The Family Support Specialist works directly with the student's families to identify the household's needs and identify gaps or barriers to resources such as behavioral health services, transportation for the youth, or financial obstacles. At each Restart S.M.A.R.T. site, students and families receive holistic wellness support by providing wrap-around services and addressing all the non-academic needs.

The requested funds include: Restart S.M.A.R.T. for the prospective new school site (Director: \$60,000, Student Support Specialist: \$43,472, Family Support Specialist: \$43,472), After School programming for five schools: \$98,800, Support Staff for five sites: \$260,832, Coalition staff: \$60,000, ERE (benefits, insurance, general): \$169,972, Research costs: \$90,000, Programmatic costs: \$229,140, and Administrative costs: \$33,080.

This project is an effective use of taxpayer funds as these federal funds are being invested directly into the community and the objective of Restart S.M.A.R.T. is to create a sustainable hub of resources for families and youth in historically underserved communities. When implementing a new Restart S.M.A.R.T. site, this organization targets communities that have been historically marginalized and experience a disconnection to the resources they need. The youth and families have struggled with accessing services and making their voice heard in their respective school districts due to the lack of funding for our school districts to effectively address the impacts of poverty on families' physical, mental, social, environmental, and emotional health.

Data from the program has shown existing inequities in the neighborhoods where Restart S.M.A.R.T. sites are located. Additionally, while data on the community has shown this, the voices of the community are often not represented or effectively engaged. Funding this project would mean that taxpayers are seeing real change in their community and having an active voice in that change. I appreciate your time and consideration of this important project that will support the future of students in Arizona.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.

Raúl M. Grijalva