

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 \$252,000 under the Fiscal Year 2023, Department of Education, Elementary and Secondary Education – Innovation & Improvement account for the Pima County School Superintendent's Office - The STEMAZing Project, located in Tucson, Arizona. The entity receiving the project is located at 200 N Stone Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85701. The location of the project is 200 N Stone Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85701.

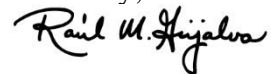
The requested funding is urgently needed to provide kindergarten and third grade teachers from across Arizona's 3rd Congressional District with the resources and professional learning they need to better meet the needs of their students. Kindergarten and third grade students are being selected because they are the first-grade levels in the K-2, 3-5 grade bands. The project aims to positively impact students' academic performance, a result seen when social and emotional learning interventions are implemented. The project will address the five key competencies of social and emotional learning (self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making) using the Ninja Life Hack Books and Curriculum. This series of 64 books, their related lessons, and the skills of the professional educators will positively impact students. Developing social and emotional skills as early as possible is essential for the success and well-being of students. This is more important now than ever in the wake of the pandemic.

This proposal includes: \$124,000 which will be used to purchase the Ninja Life Hack complete set of books, lesson plans, and other related materials. For substitute teacher coverage and participating teacher stipends, \$30,000 has been allocated. To provide the professional learning workshops and follow-up sessions, which will be designed and facilitated by experienced teacher leaders, \$28,500 has been allocated. These funds include payment to the teacher leaders for the design and facilitation of six full-day workshops, venue costs, and facilitation of six follow up sessions. For the translation of books, lesson plans, and facilitation of at least two of the full day

workshops and three follow up workshops in English and Spanish, \$20,000 has been allocated. Finally, the remainder of the budget has been allocated for project evaluation \$10,000, a Project Director \$15,000, and \$24,500 for indirect costs for the county office, which includes the office serving as the fiscal agent for all funds distribution.

This funding request is valuable use of taxpayer funds as it's a critical investment in the social and emotional learning of Arizona students and educators are in need of tools to help develop the social and emotional skills of their youngest students. The Ninja Life Hack books and curriculum has the potential to positively influence both the social and emotional well-being of students and their academic performance. In addition to the program, the six full-day professional learning workshops for this project will be spread across the congressional district. The STEMAZing Project has relationships with partners in all these areas of the congressional district. These partners will be included in the logistics, recruitment of participants, and the evaluation of the project. Additionally, the books and lessons will be translated into Spanish to make them more accessible to all students in the congressional district. The STEMAZing Project has done work in Spanish for more than four years using a local educator as our translator, who will work with the teacher leaders facilitating the full-day workshops and follow-up sessions. This investment will have an immense impact in the development of students across Arizona's Congressional District 3. I appreciate your time and consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' and 'G'.

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress