

**Testimony of Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury  
Before the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban  
Development, and Related Agencies  
Member Day Hearing  
March 25, 2026**

Good morning. Thank you so much for allowing me the opportunity, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, to bring forward our priorities here in this committee.

Today, I would like to focus on the community project funding requests that we've submitted, and in particular, the needs of New Mexico's First Congressional District. My district includes Albuquerque and ten rural counties in central New Mexico. Like much of rural America, it is a place where people are truly struggling—whether that's housing, behavioral health, access to fundamental infrastructure for economic stability, the ability to care for children, or support for our veterans. My work on behalf of my community is deeply rooted in addressing these challenges and investing in the fundamental infrastructure our communities need.

I'd like to outline some of our key community project funding requests this year, starting with housing. Housing is, of course, a major priority. It goes without saying that across America there is an affordable housing crisis—both in terms of available housing stock and the number of people living on the edge. We need programs that can help transition people back into stable housing.

That is why I have submitted six key projects for our community in the housing arena. These include a transitional housing facility in Albuquerque for people struggling with addiction and working to get back on their feet after experiencing homelessness. We also have several projects aimed at preventing homelessness and providing housing stability in the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County. Additional requests would acquire housing plots and rehabilitate homes for low-income families in the Albuquerque metro area. Another project would invest in housing for the Mescalero Apache Tribe in southern New Mexico. These are vital programs for the prosperity and well-being of our community, and we humbly ask for your support as these requests move forward.

We are also focused on helping families and individuals who need stabilization services. This includes requests for behavioral health and transitional programs, such as funding for a re-entry

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and stabilization initiative for people coming out of incarceration to help them secure stable housing and reintegrate into the community.

Food insecurity is another major concern. New Mexico is a state where one in five families experience food insecurity, and the problem is particularly acute in rural and tribal communities. Through the City of Albuquerque, we are requesting funding for a statewide food distribution program to ensure that food reaches low-income families in some of the most remote parts of our state.

We are also requesting funding through this subcommittee for irrigation infrastructure for our farmers. I know this may seem like an unusual request, but last year we were able to secure funding for the Rio Grande Pueblos through this committee, and I want to thank you for your support and leadership. These investments are critical. As you know, the West is experiencing a severe drought, and with the heat dome currently over much of the region, we have insufficient snowpack to get through the water year. This will severely impact our farmers and, ultimately, worsen food insecurity across our communities.

Additionally, we have included a request for a program in Albuquerque that supports early childhood education and stabilizes families coming out of homelessness. This would significantly expand a program called Cuidando Los Niños. We have also requested funding to build an AAPI cultural center in New Mexico, which is an important investment in supporting our Asian American community.

Finally, I want to emphasize our request for a veteran transit program. New Mexico has one of the highest numbers of enrolled active-duty military members and veterans per capita in the country. Service is part of our culture and identity, and it is our responsibility to ensure we take care of our veterans. A high percentage of them live in rural and remote areas, and this project will help us reach them.

Thank you so much for your leadership and for your work in all of these areas. I appreciate your consideration of our requests, and I stand ready to answer any questions. Thank you.