

Congresswoman Sylvia R. Garcia Remarks
THUD Subcommittee on Appropriations

Good afternoon, everyone.

Thank you Chair Cole and Ranking Member Quigley for having me here today to share my Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations priorities within the T-HUD Subcommittee.

I am proud to represent Texas' 29th Congressional District, which includes the cities of Houston, South Houston, Pasadena, Jacinto City, and Galena Park.

This year, I am submitting a number of Community Project Funding requests, and I would like to highlight a few of them for you to emphasize the benefits they will have on my community, which is 77% Latino.

First, I am requesting \$21 million for a new facility on behalf of the Houston Food Bank.

This new community facility will not only feed peoples' nutritional needs, but will provide adult education and GED courses, job placement, and career guidance, to empower constituents to improve their economic standing.

I am also submitting a \$3 million request for the Harris County Veterans Village.

This project will acquire 30 tiny homes in a space adjacent to Veterans Memorial Park in north Houston.

These homes will provide shelter to our nation's heroes.

And Harris County would provide workforce assistance and other holistic services to ensure our unhoused veterans receive the support and care that they deserve.

I know we can all agree that housing veterans is an ideal use of federal funding.

And as a Co-Chair of the House Homelessness Caucus, this is a top priority of mine.

Several other projects I am submitting will renovate and repair community and senior centers.

One specifically senior center is in the city of South Houston.

Their roof there has been patched numerous times but continues to leak and cause interior damage.

The city will soon not be able to continue providing meals and community services for seniors without this roof replacement.

My saying in my district--and I hope you can agree--is that it's ALL about the seniors.

They deserve a quality place to gather, enjoy meals, and receive services.

This project will allow them to do just that.

In addition to this center, I will also be submitting requests to fund projects to renovate the MD Anderson YMCA in the northside, the BakerRipley Ripley House center in Second Ward, and the currently shuttered Mason Park Community Center in the Magnolia Park neighborhood.

All these centers allow our communities to grow, thrive, and develop and I appreciate the subcommittees' support of my community project requests.

Additionally, I want to flag a bipartisan general appropriations request letter I am leading, with my colleague from Tennessee, Republican Rep. Tim Burchett.

A bipartisan group of colleagues, and myself, are requesting full funding for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Innovations (CRISI) Grant Program.

This program funds projects that improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of intercity passenger and freight rail.

Finally, another bipartisan general appropriations request I am leading is about full funding for maritime education centers.

This request is co-led with Republican Congressman, Mike Gallagher from Wisconsin.

I represent a large portion of the Port of Houston and the Houston Ship Channel, so the maritime industry is a critical part of my local economy.

Our letter requests strong, robust investment in high quality education centers training the next generation of maritime workers.

Thank you for consideration of these requests.

I am happy to answer any questions you might have and I yield any remaining time.