

## **Community Project Funding requests**

- Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
  - Grace Health Dental Care Expansion Project
    - Requested \$525,000
    - Recipient: Grace Health
    - Recipient address: 181 West Emmett Street, Battle Creek, MI 49037
  - Davenport University Casa Latina Initiative
    - Requested: \$1,324,644
    - Recipient: Davenport University
    - Recipient address: 6191 Kraft Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512
  - The Grow Your Own Teachers in Partnership with Grand Rapids Urban School Districts Project
    - Requested: \$759,346
    - Recipient: Davenport University
    - Recipient address: 6191 Kraft Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512
  - The Aquinas College Center for Teaching Excellence
    - Requested: \$183,750
    - Recipient: Aquinas College
    - Recipient address: 1700 Fulton St E, Grand Rapids, MI 49506
  - Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital Project
    - Requested: \$4,000,000
    - Recipient: Mary Free Bed
    - Recipient address: 235 Wealthy St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
  - Rapid Education Prototyping for Change, Learners, Community, Equity project
    - Requested: \$1,000,000
    - Recipient: Grand Valley State University
    - Recipient address: 1 Campus Dr., Allendale, MI, 49401

PETER J.F. MEIJER  
THIRD DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

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COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY  
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ENERGY  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Grace Health Dental Care Expansion Project located at Grace Health.

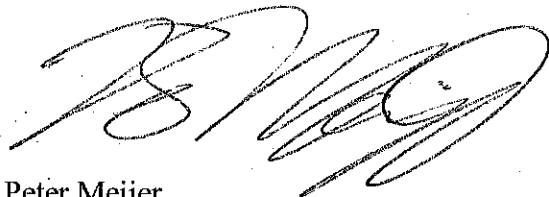
The project sponsor for this project is Grace Health located at 181 West Emmett Street, Battle Creek, MI 49037.

The funding is designated to help renovate a space within their existing space to add 4 operatories to meet the increasing dental demands of the community, particularly for low-income individuals. Grace Health is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that serves a quarter of Calhoun County's population. The renovation will increase dental space within the current building and improve optimal function of the space.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits: This project will allow this FQHC to increase access to dental care by 20%. The updated facility will allow Grace Health to provide quality dental care to the underserved community members in a safe way. This project will allow Grace Health to care for an additional 4,000 dental encounters annually.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Peter Meijer  
Member of Congress  
April 27, 2022

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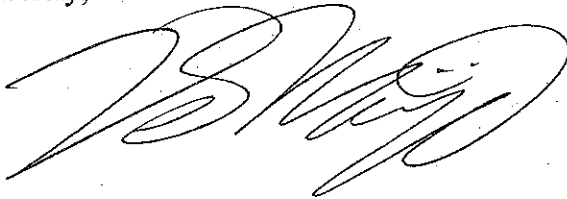
I am requesting funding for the Rapid Education Prototyping for Change, Learners, Community, Equity project. The project sponsor for this project is Grand Valley State University (GVSU), located at 1 Campus Dr., Allendale, MI, 49401.

The funding would be used to increase student participation in the Rapid Education Prototyping for Change, Learners, Community, Equity (RP4) program. This program seeks to empower high school students through regional, user-centered design summits. Student teams from across the country create pitches for projects they believe will help students thrive. The funding will allow 1,000 more students access to the RP4 program.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits: This program engages pre-collegiate individuals with a network of support and regional and national public higher education entities. This program began in 2019 and GVSU plans to grow the program beyond the 5 other institutions of higher education that have adopted the program. This program allows high school students to redesign their student experience by proposing educational reforms that they then present to a voting body, and if it is selected by that body, it can be implemented. This ensures students have an active role in creating a student learning environment that addresses their needs and promotes their success, having a long lasting effect on the newest generation of students.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Peter Meijer  
Member of Congress  
April 27, 2022

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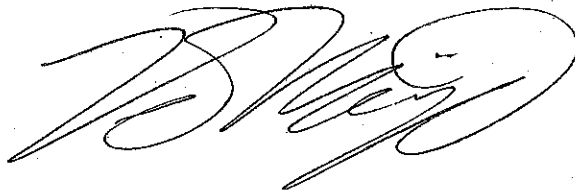
I am requesting funding for the Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital. The project sponsor for this project is Mary Free Bed, located at 235 Wealthy St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503..

The funding would be used to create a new facility dedicated exclusively to children's rehabilitation. This project, in partnership with the Spectrum Health Helen DeVos Children's Hospital would feature outpatient programs on level one and inpatient programs on level two. The facility would double the number of pediatric rooms at Mary Free Bed, and would feature therapy gyms, home-like areas where children can practice every day tasks as part of their recovery, a classroom with a certified teacher, and a space for families to enjoy meals together.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits: Currently, Mary Free Bed and Spectrum Health's childrens hospital serve children from across the state and the region. This new facility will provide children with complex care needs the unique, high quality, integrated, and comprehensive care they need. It will also provide unique training and fellowship opportunities for our healthcare professionals across the area, making West Michigan a highly sought after location for specialized pediatric care.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Peter Meijer  
Member of Congress  
April 27, 2022

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Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Aquinas College Center for Teaching Excellence. The project sponsor for this project is Aquinas College, located at 1700 Fulton St E, Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

The funding would be used to create a new Center for Teaching Excellence at Aquinas College. This center will allow their teaching faculty to transition to an active learning style, where students are actively engaged in the classroom. Funding specifically will be used to support staffing, faculty development, and curriculum development.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits: Approximately 80% of Aquinas College graduates chose to work and live in the Grand Rapids area. This Center will be responsible for implementing a student-centered teaching and learning model that facilitates professional development and academic success. Ensuring that Aquinas College graduates are well-prepared for the workforce will make them highly sought after in the West Michigan region and will help address the ongoing workforce shortages West Michigan faces.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



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Member of Congress  
April 27, 2022

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Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Davenport University Casa Latina Initiative located at Davenport University.

The project sponsor for this project is Davenport University, located at 6191 Kraft Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512.

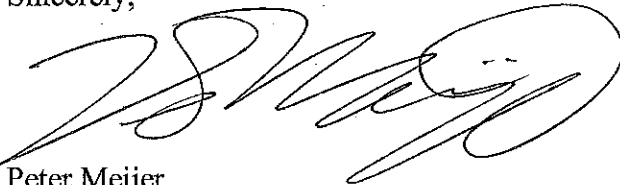
The funding would be used to launch the Casa Latina initiative. Specifically, the funding would be used to train faculty and staff on how to teach courses and provide student services using dual language delivery. Additionally, the funding would be used to develop curriculum and provide community outreach and recruitment activities, with an emphasis on the benefits of bilingual education.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits:

The Casa Latina Initiative project will create a fully bilingual, dual-language academic initiative that will be integrated throughout Davenport University. This project will reflect the community it serves, help increase Latin representation in higher education, and increase their rates of success in both academia and in the workplace. Those identifying as Hispanic represent 5% of Michigan's overall population, but only 2% of the Hispanic population hold a bachelor's degree or higher. This education model will provide career-oriented academic programs offered in dual language, as well as bilingual student support services, ensuring higher success rates of the Latin population in higher education.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Peter Meijer  
Member of Congress  
April 27, 2021

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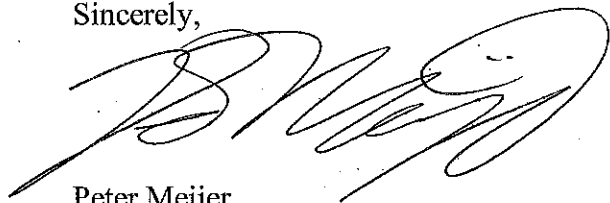
I am requesting funding for the Grow Your Own Teachers in Partnership with Grand Rapids Urban School Districts Project. The project sponsor for this project is Davenport University, located at 6191 Kraft Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512.

The funding would be used to create a pipeline of new educators in partnership with the Grand Rapids urban school district partners, including Grand Rapids Public Schools and Hope Academy/Lighthouse Academy. Specifically, this pipeline would create several pathways for students, non-certified staff, and community members to pursue education and certification towards becoming a teacher within their district's schools. The project will prepare teachers to be effective STEM teachers who can support K-12 youth to succeed academically.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits: Currently, Michigan is experiencing a significant teacher shortage. This project creates a collaboration between our urban schools and Davenport University to proactively engage youth, non-certified staff, including substitute teachers and teacher aides, and local community members who are interested in a teaching career within their community. The University will provide undergraduate programs that focus on STEM educators and urban STEM education, which will help the existing shortage of STEM teachers in Michigan. Currently, there are 757 annual openings statewide for bachelor's degree graduates qualified to teach integrated K-12 science. This shortage ultimately diminishes the number of students who may consider and pursue careers in STEM. This project will help address these shortages and ensure greater STEM engagement in future generations.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Peter Meijer  
Member of Congress  
April 27, 2022