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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3201

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES AND
GENERAL GOVERNMENT – VICE CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY CONSTRUCTION,
VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CYBERSECURITY
AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COUNTERTERRORISM
AND INTELLIGENCE

June 17, 2026

Dear Supervisors, Mayors, and Local Government Leaders:

As your Representative in Congress, I have consistently advocated for responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars, public safety, and adherence to the rule of law at every level of government.

Over the past several years, I have secured tens of millions of federal dollars for local priorities across New York's First Congressional District, including projects that improve public safety, strengthen infrastructure, and protect water quality. As a former village trustee and Chief of Staff to the Suffolk County Legislature, I understand firsthand how these investments improve our constituents' quality of life while helping local governments meet critical needs. In Fiscal Year 2026, I secured the third-highest amount of Community Project Funding among New York's 26 Members of Congress, demonstrating my commitment to delivering meaningful results for our communities.

Each year, municipalities throughout New York's First Congressional District submit requests through my office for Community Project Funding (CPF), a program I have used to support critical infrastructure, environmental improvements, public safety initiatives, and other projects that directly benefit our communities.

I welcome collaborating with you on how we can build on these successes, but with one important condition: moving forward, I will not support Community Project Funding requests from municipalities that have adopted policies, enacted local laws, or taken official actions that deliberately obstruct, impede, or refuse lawful cooperation with federal authorities carrying out their responsibilities under federal law.

Federal taxpayers should not be asked to subsidize local governments that actively undermine the lawful execution of federal responsibilities. While municipalities retain broad authority over local matters, Community Project Funding is a discretionary congressional appropriations process. As such, it is appropriate to consider whether an applicant government demonstrates a willingness to cooperate with federal partners, uphold the rule of law, and protect public safety.

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Recent actions by certain municipalities in New York to limit cooperation with federal immigration authorities have raised serious concerns in this regard. These concerns are compounded by state policies that have made New Yorkers less safe. New York's cashless bail laws have reduced accountability for criminal offenders, while the state's recent prohibition on local participation in federal 287(g) agreements will hinder cooperation between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities, making it more difficult to identify and remove violent criminal illegal aliens from our communities.

While America's legal immigration system can and should be improved, there should be no ambiguity that government officials at every level have an obligation to respect and comply with duly enacted federal law. Likewise, while our constitutional system of federalism and the Tenth Amendment appropriately limit the federal government's ability to compel state and local governments to adopt particular policies, Congress retains broad discretion in determining how federal taxpayer dollars are allocated.

Accordingly, municipalities that adopt sanctuary policies, restrict lawful cooperation with federal immigration authorities, or otherwise choose policies that undermine public safety and the rule of law should not expect favorable consideration of Community Project Funding requests submitted through my office. While local governments remain free to pursue such policies, they should not expect congressional support for discretionary federal funding while doing so.

My intention is straightforward: to use the Community Project Funding process to encourage cooperation with federal authorities, promote public safety, and uphold the rule of law. Municipal leaders may choose whether to align with policies that restrict cooperation with federal law enforcement or pursue policies that position their communities to remain eligible for millions of dollars in federal Community Project Funding. My priority will remain supporting local governments that demonstrate responsible governance, cooperation with federal agencies, and a commitment to public safety and the rule of law.

The policy I have described above is intended to provide transparency, fairness, and predictability for all prospective applicants as they prepare future funding requests.

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Thank you for your service to our shared communities. I look forward to continuing to work with local governments across New York's First Congressional District to advance projects that strengthen our region and improve the lives of our constituents.

Sincerely,



Nick LaLota
Member of Congress