April 26, 2022

The Hon. Rosa L. DeLauro  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Hon. Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth H.O.B.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the below community project in fiscal year 2023 (FY23):

Name: Encuentros: Scaling a Community-Based Model of Emotional Healing  
Amount Requested: $121,000  
Recipient: Identity of Maryland, Inc. AKA Identity, Inc.  
Project Address: c/o Nonprofit Village, 15800 Crabbs Branch Way, #300, Rockville, Maryland 20855  
Purpose: to build out and scale Identity’s successful, evidence-based, non-clinical Community Mental Health program called Encuentros that gives youth and families from historically underserved Latino communities in Montgomery County, MD access to mental and behavioral health support at a time of urgent and unprecedented need.  
Justification: Identity’s non-clinical community-based Encuentros program provides no-cost, culturally and linguistically sensitive emotional support groups covering topics that include anxiety, trauma, grief, depression, emotional agility/resilience and self-care. These groups offer a safe space for participants to engage in open, honest discussion about mental and emotional health challenges and develop shared strategies for managing them. This innovative, evidence-based program addresses the mental health crisis, exacerbated by the pandemic, that has ravaged our community and totally overwhelmed the already inadequate supply of bilingual mental health providers.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Very truly yours,

Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress