



RAUL RUIZ, M.D.
Member of Congress
36th District of California

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

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January 27, 2021

U. S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration, Office of Grants Management
Attention: Brinda Ruggles, Grant Officer
Reference FOA-ETA-17-03
200 Construction Avenue, NW, Room N4716
Washington, DC 20210

Letter of Support: Riverside County Office of Education YouthBuild Program

Dear Ms. Ruggles:

I write in support of the Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE), Alternative Education Unit, and California Family Life Center (CFLC) and their application for YouthBuild funding. If granted, this funding would enable Riverside County Youth to access crucial educational resources and job training to succeed.

The Riverside County YouthBuild project will create a comprehensive program for youth development, employment, and educational services for disadvantaged youth and families in the area. With this funding, 60 San Jacinto and Hemet residents – ages 16 through 24 – will access educational programs and occupational skills training in construction trades and technician logistics.

As the Representative of California's 36th Congressional District, I understand the difference a YouthBuild program would make in the lives of the individuals I serve and represent. The San Jacinto region, which encompasses the cities of San Jacinto and Hemet, has experienced severe economic hardship due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. In fact, the region has experienced low graduation rates, high unemployment, significant poverty, and increased foreclosure rates in recent months. Despite the economic downturn, rapid population growth trends in the San Jacinto Valley have continued through the pandemic. With a YouthBuild program, Riverside County at-risk youth will gain the skills they need to obtain a high school diploma, GED certificate, or employment. Additionally, this funding simultaneously improves access to affordable housing, aids crime prevention, and spurs leadership development.

I believe that RCOE and CFLC have the capacity to ensure this program exceeds performance standards while addressing the core issues within a low-income community. For this reason, I support their application for YouthBuild funding and urge full and fair consideration, consistent

with all relevant program rules and regulations. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact my office at (760) 424-8888.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Raul Ruiz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Raul" and last name "Ruiz" clearly distinguishable.

Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress