



COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0509

April 30, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee of Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding in the amount of \$1,500,000 for Resurgent Stockton: Economic Development, Workforce Development and Youth Employment in the fiscal year 2022 Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill.

The project sponsor for this project is the City of Stockton, located at 425 N. El Dorado Street, Stockton, CA 95202.

The City of Stockton is proposing the Resurgent Stockton: Economic Development, Workforce Development and Youth Employment (Resurgent Stockton) project – a collaborative initiative that includes an Entrepreneurship Center and a co-packing and cold storage facility to support entrepreneurs, the cottage food industry, and urban farmers, and that would address food insecurity. This project is a priority, as the Entrepreneurship Center would serve as a hub for Downtown Stockton in enhancing the necessary support and tools to foster successful entrepreneurs that contribute to job growth, community innovation and engagement, and overall revitalization of the downtown core.

The project would provide an enhanced Entrepreneurship Center to include additional equipment and technology such as a podcast studio for creatives to produce their own music, videos, commercials, and podcasts, along with training and meeting space – all of which would support local entrepreneurs and community members. In concert with the Stockton Community Kitchen Incubator, the Entrepreneurship Center would work with the existing Entrepreneurship Grant program to include additional access to equipment, technology, training rooms, meeting space, and co-working office sponsorships to further the support and training to local entrepreneurs. Integrated within the Resurgent Stockton program would be a robust workforce development component for training and hands-on work experience that supports local employment by creating jobs and monetizing the economic initiatives offered at the Entrepreneurship Center.

The existing Stockton Community Kitchen Incubator works exclusively with low income entrepreneurs as determined by HUD Guidelines for San Joaquin County and furnishes a fully staffed commercial kitchen facility, classroom space, and offers hands-on experiences necessary to operate a food business—including ServSafe certification. It also provides mentorship to gain the necessary skills, personal support, and business expertise for food enthusiasts who are under-resourced to help them become successful in the food industry. In addition, classes, counseling, and mentorship are offered to committed clients who desire business ownership by supporting them from initial concept to product launch.

Resurgent Stockton: Economic Development, Workforce Development and Youth Employment project represents a good use of taxpayer dollars, as funding would complement the existing Stockton Community Kitchen Incubator program and contribute to job growth, community innovation and engagement, and overall revitalization of the downtown core. The project provides vital workforce development with a focus on youth, small business development, entrepreneurship development, and addresses food insecurity for those who do not have access to fresh grown produce.

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry McNerney", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress