

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0926

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May 8, 2024

The Honorable Steve Womack
Chair
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development, and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development, and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Womack and Ranking Member Quigley,

I am requesting funding for the College of the Florida Keys Student and Employee Housing Project in Fiscal Year 2025.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the College of the Florida Keys located at 5901 College Road, Key West, Florida 33040.

The funding would be used to construct a facility that would include 240 student beds and 25 to 50 employee housing units, increasing the community wide housing supply. The College and the county's economic growth are hampered by geographic restrictions and a controlled Rate of Growth Ordinance limiting housing supply. College employees and other qualified employees will have access to studios, 1-bedroom, and 2- bedroom units. Based on employee salaries, 95% of CFK's full-time employees fall within or below the workforce housing salary range for a single household in Monroe County. This project will support CFK staff and allow other employees to use available units if they are not occupied. With this flexibility, the community-wide housing supply will increase. CFK will construct a facility that will provide safe, affordable housing for an additional 240 students. The facility will also include a minimum of 25 employee housing units and may include up to 50 employee housing units, pending legislative approval. The public private partnership will keep the cost of housing affordable for CFK students and employees, which is critical because Monroe County has the highest cost of living and highest cost for housing in Florida. Housing is a serious issue in the FL Keys so this is a valuable use of taxpayer funds as it will provide for a home for students and employees. The project will serve to encourage young adults to remain in the Keys and will attract residents from outside the county. It will reduce traffic congestion as people will be more centrally located and does not create an escalation of housing costs.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gimenez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Congressman Carlos A. Gimenez
Florida's 28th Congressional District

