

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

ZOE LOFGREN

18TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

[HTTPS://LOFGREN.HOUSE.GOV](https://lofgren.house.gov)

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March 27, 2026

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the San Benito County Free Library Expansion in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the County of San Benito, located at 481 Fourth Street, 1st Floor, Hollister, California 95023.

The funding would be used to complete the expansion and modernization of the San Benito County Free Library, the county's primary public resource for education, digital access, youth programming, community learning, and workforce development. The county has already secured \$9,900,000 in State Building Forward Grant funding and committed \$1,270,553 for architectural, engineering, and construction management services toward a total project cost of \$14,850,000. The CPF request closes the remaining funding gap and enables the county to complete final pre-construction requirements and begin construction of the modernized facility.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because federal investment directly leverages a substantial state commitment that is already in place. Without CPF support, the county cannot complete the project and risks losing the state grant. The San Benito County Free Library is the anchor institution for public education and digital equity in a rural, underserved county of approximately 64,000 residents. The project advances workforce development, digital access, and community capacity-building in a county with a predominantly agricultural economy and limited alternative access to these services.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized under the Department of Housing and Urban Development Economic Development Initiatives account. The expansion and modernization of a public library in an underserved rural community constitutes an eligible economic development and community capacity-building activity, directly supporting workforce development, educational attainment, and digital equity for a low-income population consistent with the purposes of the HUD EDI program.

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

Sincerely,



Zoe Lofgren

Member of Congress

California's 18th Congressional District