



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1408

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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Easterseals Community Rehabilitation and Independence Center – New Construction. The entity to receive funding for this project is Easterseals Rehabilitation Center.

The funding would be used to construct a new 90,000-square-foot, fully accessible, community based rehabilitation and independence center in Evansville, Indiana. The current 44,000-square-foot facility serves approximately 6,000 individuals annually across southwest Indiana but has exceeded full capacity and cannot be expanded. Outdated layouts and converted closets/observation rooms limit service capacity and prevent optimal use of modern rehabilitation technology. In multiple program areas, space constraints have required the organization to limit scheduling availability despite ongoing referrals, directly impacting timely progress toward independence. A purpose-built facility is needed to remove barriers, expand access to services, and provide the spaces necessary for individuals to gain or maintain independence, driver readiness, and workforce participation, ensuring timely support for the growing regional population with disabilities. The new facility will more than double available space, ultimately allowing Easterseals to significantly increase its annual service capacity, positioning the organization to serve substantially more individuals each year than is currently possible.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it is a true public-private partnership, leveraging significant private, philanthropic, and corporate investment alongside public funding support to expand critical community infrastructure. The project will serve more than 6,000 individuals annually, many of whom rely on these services to gain or maintain the independence necessary to participate in the workforce, reducing long-term reliance on public assistance and strengthening regional economic stability. The new facility will also support approximately 300 professionals whose employment contributes directly to the local economy while delivering services that advance self-sufficiency and workforce readiness. As a one-time federal investment in durable public infrastructure, this project increases service capacity, removes barriers to employment, and generates lasting economic impact across southwest Indiana.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C.5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and/or 5305(a)(5). 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 that reads "Mark B. Messmer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Mark Messmer
Member of Congress