



JOHN GARAMENDI  
UNITED STATES CONGRESS

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March 30, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member Quigley,

I am requesting funding for the Solano Early Learning project in the fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is The County of Solano, located 675 Texas St, Suite 6500 in Fairfield, CA 94533-6342. There is an acute need for early childcare and learning opportunities in Solano County due to a lack of facilities and other challenges. To address this priority community need, Solano County is working to transform a shuttered elementary school into a high-quality, mixed-delivery service early learning and childcare center.

The Vallejo Early Learning Center (ELC) is a multi-partner project led by the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission in conjunction with a local Head Start provider, the Vallejo City Unified School District, the Solano County Office of Education, and private childcare and early learning providers. Solano County's ELC will be the first of its kind in California and will serve as a model for other communities where a lack of childcare facilities is a barrier to early childhood learning expansion and where there are surplus school sites.

The project will offer a variety of infant/toddler early learning opportunities and childcare through a dual-pronged approach - providing high quality early education for children, as well as safe and consistent child care for working families. All told, this innovative project will serve 200 infants through preschoolers and families annually. In addition, there will be approximately 65 staff at the facility, including an onsite team of "Quality Counts" early-learning coaches provided by the Solano County Office of Education. Funding would be utilized to rehabilitate and repurpose a former school site into a modern, energy efficient, and age-appropriate facility to serve low-income children.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it would rehabilitate and abandoned public facility into a public childcare facility. The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized: 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, reading "John Garamendi".

JOHN GARAMENDI  
Member of Congress