

MELANIE A. STANSBURY
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

**COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
ACCOUNTABILITY**

RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
DELIVERING ON GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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March 17, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the New Mexico Peer Support Workforce Expansion and Behavioral Health Access Initiative in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the New Mexico Health Care Authority, located at 2040 South Pacheco Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505.

The funding would be used to expand training and workforce development opportunities for Certified Peer Support Workers (CPSWs) to address critical behavioral health workforce shortages and improve access to care across New Mexico. Funding will support increased training capacity, certification pathways, and workforce entry through scholarships, stipends, and partnerships with training providers. This includes expanding specialized peer support endorsements for maternal recovery, veterans, and Native American communities to better serve diverse populations.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it addresses a critical shortage in the behavioral health workforce using a cost-effective, evidence-based model. CPSWs improve engagement in care, reduce hospitalizations and crisis service utilization, and support long-term recovery outcomes. Expanding this workforce will increase access to culturally responsive care in rural and underserved communities, reduce strain on emergency systems, and lower long-term public healthcare costs.

This project is consistent with and authorized under Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. § 254b), which supports the development and expansion of community-based health services and the health workforce, including behavioral health services for medically underserved populations.

Additionally, this project aligns with Sections 736 and 737 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 293 and 294), which authorize the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to support workforce development, training, and education programs for behavioral health providers, including paraprofessionals such as peer support specialists.

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

Sincerely,



Melanie Ann Stansbury

Member of Congress