

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1501**

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations,  
Subcommittee on Homeland  
Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations,  
Subcommittee on Homeland  
Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Roybal-Allard and Ranking Member Fleischmann:

As you craft the fiscal year 2023 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include \$245,000 in community project funding for the Buchanan County Emergency Operations Center, located at 210 Fifth Avenue NE Independence, IA 50644.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Buchanan County Emergency Management realized the need for more robust emergency operations and preparedness, and is seeking the renovation of an existing structure so that it may serve as the new emergency operations center (EOC). This new center will be better equipped to serve the needs of Buchanan County residents and the surrounding communities in times of disaster.

This project would help ensure that Buchanan County is prepared for disasters in advance and able to minimize lives lost and mitigate damage done area businesses and property. Currently, Buchanan County Emergency Management is operating out of an old car dealership's property in Independence, IA, but the county has purchased a building into which emergency operations will be able to move after renovations.

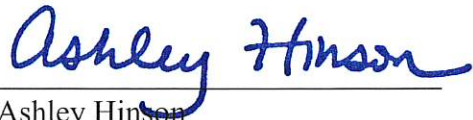
Having already acquired the building, this funding would support the county's construction and renovation needs for the new emergency operations center. The EOC will now house the main emergency operations activities, emergency equipment storage, and space for all county partners to meet in and coordinate disaster response.

Due to current space and resource constraints, all Buchanan County emergency operations personnel are unable to fit in the same building and instead must travel from office to office or prop up makeshift meeting spaces. This EOC will serve as a one-stop-shop for the whole of Buchanan County, and aid in the service of neighboring counties through pre-existing mutual aid agreements.

Funding this center is a responsible use of taxpayer dollars that will provide more efficient and comprehensive essential emergency services to a county of 23,000 people and beyond. Additionally, by investing in disaster planning and mitigation through this center's success now, taxpayers will be saved money in the long run, as a better coordinated local emergency response team will require fewer federal resources when disaster strikes.

This project has robust local support. I strongly urge the Committee to include this community project funding request in the FY23 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



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Ashley Hinson

Member of Congress

Committee on Appropriations