

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

March 27, 2026

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the LBCC Fire Academy. The entity to receive funding for this project is Long Beach City College, located at 4901 E. Carson St. Long Beach, CA 90808.

The goal of this project is to establish the LBCC Fire Academy as a regional public safety training hub that expands the pipeline of qualified firefighters and emergency responders serving Long Beach and Southern California. The project is intended to address workforce shortages in fire service and emergency response, strengthen long-term regional preparedness, and create career pathways for local students through LBCC's Fire Science degree and certificate programs and an Accredited Regional Training Program developed in partnership with the Long Beach Fire Department. The requested HUD-EDI funding would support the capital construction portion of the project, specifically the development of fire academy training facilities and related instructional infrastructure needed to operate the program.

The LBCC Fire Academy will provide two primary curricular pathways designed to prepare students for careers in fire service and emergency response: an Associate of Science Degree in Fire Science and a Certificate of Achievement in Fire Science.

The Associate degree program provides students with education and training in the technical fields related to fire protection, prevention, and safety practices. The curriculum also offers lower-division preparation for students seeking to pursue a bachelor's degree in fire science or a related field. The Associate Degree prepares students for entry into a fire academy and supports career advancement for individuals already employed in fire-related industries. Completion of this degree strengthens applicants' competitiveness for fire academy admission, and current students in the program have expressed strong interest in pursuing careers in the fire service.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and 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, appearing to read "Robert Garcia", is written over a white background.

Robert Garcia
Member of Congress