

NEAL P. DUNN, MD  
2ND DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & COMMERCE

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0902

840 WEST 11TH STREET  
SUITE 2250  
PANAMA CITY, FL 32401  
(850) 785-0812

300 SOUTH ADAMS STREET  
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301  
(850) 891-8610

466 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5235

March 13, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman,  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rose DeLauro  
Ranking Member,  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro

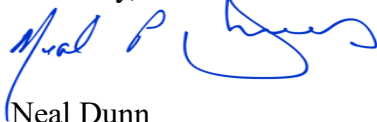
I am requesting funding for NextStep Works!: A Learning Lab for Autistic Adults in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is NextStep at Endeavor Academy, located at 2660 Endeavor Blvd, Marianna, FL 32448.

The funding would be used to launch NextStep Works!, a learning lab to provide hands-on training and instruction to strengthen opportunities for long-term employment for autistic adults, as well as a driver education program utilizing technology and evidence-informed instruction tailored to autistic learners. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because many young adults with autism demonstrate strong cognitive ability and motivation to work, but face barriers related to social, executive functioning, and communication skills—as well as transportation access and limited workforce preparation opportunities tailored to neurodivergent learners. NextStep has a proven record of success with 100% of graduates competitively employed since 2022. This funding would allow us to expand our programming to address observed barriers to ensuring successful employment for autistic adults.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized under the Public Health Service Act.

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

Sincerely,



Neal Dunn  
Member of Congress