

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

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

As you begin crafting the fiscal year 2023 (FY2023) appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you consider the following funding priorities:

1. Provide a funding level of \$300,000 for Calhoun County Board of County Commissioners in FY2023 to fund the design of a Women's Dorm at the Calhoun County Jail. The funding would be used for designing a Women's Dorm at the Calhoun County Jail to allow the Calhoun County Sheriff's Department the capability to house female inmates.
2. Provide a funding level of \$3,500,000 for Bay County, Florida in FY2023 to fund Fountain Fire Station. On October 10, 2018, Hurricane Michael, a Category 5 storm, took a devastating toll on Bay County leaving nothing but destruction in its pathway. According to the April 16, 2019 "Bay County Hurricane Michael Long Term Planning Report" the following statistics were quoted:
 - Twenty-five (25) deaths
 - 22,000 residents left homeless
 - 17 million of the 20 million cubic yards of debris were in Bay County alone
 - 13 percent of Bay County students never returned post-storm
 - \$3 billion trees (\$9 per person in U.S.) lost in timber
 - 3 schools closed after the storm
 - Bay Medical Center forced to shrink one-quarter of its previous size and
 - 69% percent of residential homes were damaged

The Fountain Community lies in the Northern part of Bay County and is comprised mostly of low to moderate (LMI) income families living in mobile homes and sub-standard housing. This new fire station will help the County meet the critical fire rating

needs of the residents. Currently, the closest “manned” fire station to the Fountain area is 15-18 minutes away, and the two other responding stations are 20 minutes away. The funding for this project would be used to construct a fire station in this LMI community.

3. Provide a funding level of 1,260,000.00 for The Town of Westville in FY2023 to fund the town of Westville Multi-Response Facility. Funding for the Town of Westville Multi-Response Facility would help alleviate the emergency/medical concerns for the citizens of western Holmes County. The Town of Westville is seeking funds for project development and environmental (PD&E) studies, survey, engineering design and permitting, inspection and site development construction. The Town of Westville currently owns adjoining, vacant, unimproved parcels which are ideal for this type of overall facility.

The Multi-Response Facility is proposed to include: the Westville Volunteer Fire Department, a Urgent Care/Rural Health Clinic, and a Special Needs Shelter. Additionally, Holmes County Emergency Medical Services will be located adjacent to the urgent care clinic for immediate transportation, Holmes County Sheriff’s Office Substation will be able to dispatch to the west side of the county, and the Town of Westville Administrative Offices will be located onsite for security purposes and will include a large educational conference room to be used by any of the above for continuing education and for community education.

4. Provide a funding level of \$5,391,230 for the City of Williston in FY2023 to fund an Emergency Services Facility. This facility will be located in Williston, Florida. The City of Williston Fire Rescue Department is responsible for responding to all types of fire, vehicle accidents, medical calls, alarms, hazardous materials incidents, technical rescues, and other incidents within the 6.75 square miles of the City of Williston along with a contracted response district totaling roughly 128 square miles within Levy County. In addition, they are also the secondary response station when no units are available for Levy County Fire Rescue District 11 and Bronson Fire Rescue which adds an additional 220 square miles of coverage. The new facility is to be located at the City owned airport and will have direct access to both the Airport, a growing Industrial park adjacent to the airport and will have immediate access to US 41, a main highway. The existing building is located downtown requiring police and fire vehicles to maneuver through several intersections and traffic lights to get to a main highway.
5. Provide a funding level of \$5,000,000 for Calhoun County Board of County Commissioners in FY2023 to fund Chipola River Clean-Up. The services provided by this project will allow citizens and visitors to be able to safely navigate the river for fishing, floating or other recreational activities that support the local economy without the concern of debris causing safety issues and the nutrient and water height levels will resume to normal levels to protect water quality, wildlife, and property along the river.
6. Provide a funding level of \$3,129,045 for Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners in FY2023 to fund the construction of a new Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The American Civil Society of Engineers (ACSE) designates the current EOC building as a Category IV structure meaning it is critical for the delivery of emergency services. Despite its importance, the current structure does not meet hurricane building codes. Due to this, the building would need to be evacuated in the event of a

serious storm. This puts the safety and well being of many local residents and first responders at risk.

Unfortunately, remodeling the old structure will not be sufficient to completely remove risk associated with the loss of the structure. To that end, the new facility would alleviate these risks and allow emergency services to continue in an emergency event.

7. Provide a funding level of \$4,737,987 for Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners in FY2023 to fund the Wakulla County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) This EOC is being built to combine the new EOC with a countywide Public Safety Communications Center. The EOC will serve as a place for first responders and dispatch to respond to citizen needs in an emergency event. The project is aimed to reduce long-term risk associated with such an event including loss of life, injury, and property damage. This project will increase the overall safety of Wakulla County.
8. Provide a funding level of \$5,550,000 for the Washington County Board of County Commissioners in FY2023 to fund the Washington County Regional Emergency Shelter, Staging Site, and Commerce Center. This multipurpose facility would serve as an operations center that would allow for the continuation of education in the event of an ongoing school closure, housing for vulnerable citizens in emergency situations, and sheltering evacuees. Additionally, the site would serve as an emergency supplies staging area with the capacity to handle large amounts of critical resources. Lastly, when not in Emergency use, the facility will be used for various county operations and as regional meeting facility that will bolster community needs and local economic activity.
9. Provide a funding level of \$1,000,000 for the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners in FY2023 to fund the Gulf County floating dry dock. This dry dock would create infrastructure, create a skilled workforce, and develop an ongoing ship repair and haul out facility on deep water property in Port St. Joe, Florida. Additionally, the necessary infrastructure would include a self-docking floating dry dock capable of handling vessels up to 10,000 LT weight, and would enable Gulf County and the region to become a vessel outfitting and vessel repair center for the northern Gulf of Mexico.
10. Provide a funding level of \$500,000 for Gulf County Board of County Commissioners in FY2023 to fund the Washington Recreational Center. This recreational center would serve the low and moderate income community of Port St. Joe, Florida. This center would improve the quality of life for residents by encouraging an active lifestyle and community participation. These funds would be used to fully rehabilitate the current center which sustained damage from Hurricane Michael. Restoring it would allow residents, many of them youth, to receive the full benefits of a thriving recreational center.
11. Provide a funding level of \$975,000 for Gulf County Board of County Commissioners in FY2023 to fund the construction of a new airport in the county. Currently, the county does not have an airport. Not only would the airport improve transportation in the area, it would also make residents safer by serving as a means for evacuating the community in emergency events and being utilized as an arrival point and staging area for supplies and first responders following a natural disaster. Lastly, the airport would provide a much-needed economic kickstart to help the community fully recover from Hurricane Michael.

12. Provide a funding level of \$2,492,000 for Clinical Lab Equipment in FY2023. This request would support the new Florida State University Health Tallahassee Center (Center) by funding simulation and virtual reality (VR) labs for clinical instruction. This Center would serve the communities of the greater Tallahassee area through a direct clinical impact on patient care through the opportunity to significantly enhance education of students (e.g., medical, nursing, physician assistant, physical therapy, sports medicine), research (both clinical trials as well as clinical and translational investigations), and training (e.g., residents, physicians, nurses, other clinician) through a state-of-the-art surgical training suite and learning space (e.g., fully equipped training OR for advanced surgical, cadaveric, simulator, and mannequin training, as well as a fully functional testing area to research new devices and procedures).

13. Provide a funding level of \$2,000,000.00 for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bay County, INC. in FY2023. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Bay County, INC. is requesting a dollar-for-dollar match on building back two of our community centers (three buildings) that were severely damaged from Hurricane Michael. The investment into buildings is desperately needed because of the local rise in costs associated with storm recovery as well as the sudden rise in additional costs of construction materials and labor post pandemic. Our community has suffered greatly over the last several years in our recovery efforts and the pandemic slowed that recovery down even more. We have been providing services to children utilizing the school buildings in the local communities where our sites were, but we are unable to operate at the capacity we were before the storm.

14. Provide a funding level of \$300,000 for Endeavor Forward, Inc. in FY2023 to fund NextStep at Endeavor Academy Transition Program for Adults with Autism. NextStep at Endeavor Academy will prepare adults with autism for transition beyond secondary school by providing instruction in employment and independent living skills. All participants will have an employment experience where skills will be directly taught based on individualized, targeted goals using evidence-based practices. This will allow these individuals a better quality of life as well as allowing them the opportunity to be productive, contributing members of their communities and the state of Florida.

15. Provide a FY23 funding level of \$95.3 million for Tyndall AFB under the Natural Disaster Recovery program. These projects will support and continue the Tyndall AFB reconstruction after Hurricane Michael and support the ongoing Installation of the Future project. This allocation to Tyndall AFB is a good use of taxpayer funds because it helps ensure MILCON projects at Tyndall AFB have the proper funding support to be completed on time and provide continued support to the local economy.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Neal P. Dunn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Neal" and last name "Dunn" clearly distinguishable.

Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress