

To:

03/11/2022

Capitol Funding Project Committee Chair Rep Mohamud Noor

We appreciate your attention in understanding issues and opportunities related to SEWA-AIFW's Cultural Service Center Project. SEWA-AIFW is organized as a Nonprofit organization under chapter 501c3 of US Code to provide culturally specific services.

I have been an enthusiastic supporter of SEWA-AIFW since its inception over two decades ago. I have developed a very popular document MY DESI PLATE FOOD PLATE, a Reference Guide for Healthy Eating for the organization. The document is based on USDA's MY PLATE principles but is relevant to South Asian dietary traditions.

The objective of this project is to establish a Cultural Center for more than 92,000 Twin Cities residents of South Asian origin. This project would fulfill an urgent need for the group of Minnesota American immigrants.

The initiative entails acquiring, renovating and suitably equipping the SEWA-AIFW Cultural Center in Brooklyn Center, MN. The objectives are:

1. Establish a cultural center for the South Asian community in Twin Cities. Presently, there is no such center while other immigrant communities have their own centers in the twin Cities.
2. The center will increase space capacity for SEWA-AIFW to provide overall support in ongoing work. SEWA-AIFW has provided services to low-income and limited English-speaking South Asians in Minnesota since 2004.
3. SEWA-AIFW projects include:
 - a. Free and bilingual health screenings,
 - b. SNAP outreach,
 - c. Meals-on-Wheels,
 - d. Mental Health counselling,
 - e. Youth sports and leadership programs
 - f. Support to survivorship sexual/domestic violence,

More recently, SEWA-AIFW has expanded services to meet additional needs of members of the community, and has registered consistent increase in the number of people served. The creation and development of the Cultural Service Center will allow the SEWA-AIFW to grow and fulfill needs of South Asian immigrants.

The current Covid pandemic has exasperated societal challenges related to racial disparities but provided critical opportunities to help communities of color. In this regard, it would be an honor to participate in Nonprofit Capitol Investment Project Grant.

I enthusiastically support the mission and valuable work being done by SEWA-AIFW and endorse the application for funds related to establishment of the Cultural Center in Brooklyn Center, MN.

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