

To Committee Chair

Rep Fue Lee

Thank you for taking the time to hear our issues about SEWA-AIFW's Cultural Service Center project.

This initiative allows SEWA-Aifw to acquire, renovate, and equip the SEWA-AIFW Cultural Service Center in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. Not only will this project create a safe space for the South Asian communities in Minnesota, but it will also increase SEWA's capacity to assist, train, and provide overall support to these groups. I look forward to supporting this project and ongoing work in our community. SEWA has provided invaluable services to low-income and limited English speaking South Asians in Minnesota since 2004.

I appreciate that Sewa-Aifw provide free and bilingual health screenings, SNAP outreach, Meals-on-Wheels, mental health counseling, youth sports and leadership programs, and support to survivors of sexual or domestic violence. In recent years SEWA has expanded services and has consistently increased the number of people served yearly. By creating the SEWA-AIFW Cultural Service Center, SEWA can continue to grow, meeting the needs of our South Asian communities. In a year where the Covid-19 pandemic has continued to lay bare Minnesota's existing racial disparities, opportunities centering Minnesota's communities of color are more critical than ever. I am thrilled to hear about your proposal for the Non Profit Capitol Investment Project Grant to support SEWA's purchase and renovation of the Cultural Service Center. I value SEWA's dedication to providing such indispensable services to the South Asian communities of our district. Again, congratulations on this work. I look forward to supporting this project as you continue your work.