

**WASHINGTON OFFICE**  
2244 RAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-8045  
FAX: (202) 225-2772

**CHULA VISTA OFFICE**  
333 F STREET, SUITE A  
CHULA VISTA, CA 91910  
(619) 422-5963  
FAX: (619) 422-7290

**EL CENTRO OFFICE**  
380 NORTH 8TH STREET, #14  
EL CENTRO, CA 92243  
(760) 312-9900  
FAX: (760) 312-9664



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

**Juan Vargas**  
51st District, California

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES**  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTOR PROTECTION,  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND CAPITAL MARKETS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING,  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND INSURANCE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY,  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
AND MONETARY POLICY

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**  
WESTERN HEMISPHERE, CIVILIAN SECURITY,  
AND TRADE  
MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA,  
AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

April 27, 2022

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

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

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the "Summer Math Academies for Student and Teacher Success" project in fiscal year 2023, in the amount of \$1,125,360. The entity to receive the funding is the Regents of the University of California; University of California San Diego, located at 9500 Gilman Dr, La Jolla, CA, 92093.

Summer Math Academies (SMA) for Students and Teachers are a way to 1) deepen grades 6-12 Black, Latino, low-income, and military-connected students' mathematical knowledge in San Diego's lowest income serving communities (e.g., Barrio Logan, Chula Vista), and to 2) elevate mathematical teaching and learning in San Diego County high-need areas. SMA for Teachers begins with a one-week, research-based institute that focuses on critical areas in the teaching and learning of mathematics. It continues with a three-week SMA for Students where the participating teachers (working in pairs) apply their new knowledge with a group of up to 25 students and reflect daily (with a mentor) on their students' thinking and their instruction.

SMAs have been held at Sweetwater Union High School and Barrio Logan Elementary School. The Barrio Logan SMA, held virtually in July 2020, engaged 12 rising 5th grade students in a reconceptualization of mathematics, including content from game theory. This new award, if funded, would allow for a significant SMA scale up in CA-51. An additional 32 teachers and nearly 400 students would directly benefit in up to 16 locations throughout San Diego County, including Barrio Logan, Chula Vista Elementary School District and Sweetwater Union High School District.

SMAs are effective because they support improved teacher practice and mindsets while providing students opportunities to deepen their mathematical learning. SMAs also work towards sustainability by focusing heavily on in-depth teacher professional development. Daily mentoring of SMA teachers reinforces lessons learned in the initial training and ensures that thousands more Black, Latino, low-income, and military-connected students benefit from improved teaching practices. Each SMA high school math teacher works with 120 to 150 students per year beyond the summer students served. This "multiplier effect" produces a large return on investment to justify the use of taxpayer funds for this purpose.

This project has received written support from the San Diego County School Boards Association; San Diego County Supervisor Nora Vargas; and San Diego City Council President Sean Elo-Rivera.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Juan Vargas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

JUAN VARGAS  
Member of Congress