

Working for Yonkers

A Report from
Congressman
Eliot Engel

US House of Representatives
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Official Business

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Congressman Eliot Engel Obtains over \$7.15 Million in Federal Funds for Yonkers in 2005

Since the beginning of the year, Congressman Eliot Engel has obtained over \$7.15 million in Federal funds and grants for the City of Yonkers.

The Federal funds and grants include a \$992,000 grant to improve Yonkers public schools and \$1,500,000 in job-creating economic development funds for the City's Industrial Development Agency. An additional \$44,378 was obtained to assist in cleaning up the Patchlin Chemical site's brownfield.

To combat crime and drug abuse, \$100,000 was obtained for the "weed and seed" program ("weed" out drug dealing and crime and "seed" communities with social and economic programs), \$33,415 for the Yonkers Anti-Violence Project, \$81,166 for the Housing Authority's substance abuse program and a \$226,655 Department of Justice grant to fight crime.

The Job Plus-YMCA program received \$49,444 and \$47,714 went to Groundwork Yonkers' Community Food and Nutrition Program.

To help build affordable housing, \$198,034 was secured for the City's Home Investment Partnership. The Yonkers Public Housing Authority received over \$600,000 to make needed improvements and provide housing and continue supportive services.

Transportation Improvements

Congressman Engel placed funds for better highways and public transit in the final transportation funding bill. These funds included \$313,500 for Trolley Bus Acquisition and \$800,000 for the Rockland-Yonkers-New York City ferry service.

Ashburton Avenue reconstruction was a key priority for Congressman Engel during 2005. He acquired \$1 million in the transportation bill and another \$800,000 in another piece of legislation.

Congressman Engel was pleased that Congress agreed that the rebuilding of Ashburton Avenue was important. "These funds will help construct a five-lane road from the Saw Mill River Parkway to the waterfront. As the City of Yonkers implements its revitalization plan, this money will help improve access from the major regional highways into the downtown business and waterfront districts," he concluded.

In addition to the funds obtained directly for Yonkers, Engel worked with Congresswoman Nita Lowey to make sure that Westchester County obtained \$3.135 million for the Westchester County-Bee Line bus replacement program.

"One of the most important things that I can do as your Congressman is to work hard to bring Federal funds back from Washington," Eliot Engel stated. "The millions of dollars I worked to secure over the years are helping to make Yonkers a better, safer place in which to live."

Health Care Legislation

Congressman Engel sponsored three important pieces of legislation to provide health insurance to millions of uninsured New Yorkers.

The Small Business Health Insurance Promotion Act would create a 50% tax credit to help small businesses and the self-employed with the costs of health coverage.

The FamilyCare Act would lower costs and expand affordable coverage for working parents by making the parents of children eligible for Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program also eligible for coverage.

And his Medicare Early Access Act would allow people between the 55 and 64 to purchase Medicare.



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