

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that he has secured final congressional approval of his request for \$250,000 in federal funding for the new Boys & Girls Club facility in Binghamton, New York. Hinchey used his position on the House Appropriations Committee to secure the funds as part of the fiscal year 2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Appropriations bill. The Senate is due to easily approve the measure in the coming days. President Obama is then expected to sign the bill into law.

"The new Boys & Girls Club facility in Binghamton is serving as a central safe haven for local children where they can play and learn at a facility that will enhance their social and educational skills while keeping them off the streets after school," Hinchey said. "I am very pleased that I was able to obtain these federal funds, which will yield enormous benefits for the children of Binghamton and the Broome County community as a whole. The Boys & Girls Club of Binghamton plays an important role in the well-being of local children and this new facility will further enhance the organization's ability to serve as a second home for them."

The federal funds Hinchey secured will help put the finishing touches on the modern 21,500 square foot handicap-accessible facility that is safe and will provide local children with a wide array of healthy activities that will help keep them off the streets. The new facility, which opened in November, includes a large playing field, basketball court, and jungle gym. It replaced the Clinton Street building, which lacked many basic features and is largely inefficient.

The old facility required climbing four flights of stairs to go from one activity area to another. Merely entering the building required climbing stairs. Also, the parking area consisted of just a few spaces that were used by staff members, leaving no room for parents to park when picking up their children. The Boys & Girls Club of Binghamton is responsible for the well-being of thousands of young people. However, the old building's lack of a logical floor plan, combined with numerous stairways and doorways that lead directly to busy city traffic, all worked against this high priority. The new building is a single level facility with a more logical layout and full parking lot.

The need for a new building was also due to the age of the old facility that has interior fixtures that are past or near the end of their service life. The furnace needed major renovations or replacement. The heating and cooling costs were excessive, and air conditioning was only available in the administrative offices. Fixing or replacing equipment would have done little to improve the insulation quality in such an old building. The new building addresses all of those

problems.