

Central Islip, NY—On Tuesday, Congressman Steve Israel (D-Huntington) announced the House passage of \$100,000 in funds for PRONTO of Long Island to develop a new vocational training program. The program will target individuals who have not completed high school seeking GEDs, recent graduates of PRONTO's ESL program, high school seniors and individuals interested in joining a trade union.

“The future competitiveness of our nation depends on the availability of programs that allow all Americans to better themselves,” said Congressman Israel. “These new funds will allow more Long Islanders to attain a high school degree or prepare for college or trade school.”

“We’re very excited about these new funds,” said Frank Sinisi, the President of the Board of Pronto of Long Island. “They will allow us to kick off next year’s program and give a lot of people an opportunity to make their dreams come true.”

PRONTO is a Long Island-based non-profit human services agency that provides a helping hand to the homeless, unemployed, uninsured or those in need of basic services. PRONTO currently provides three levels of E.S.L. instruction, an introduction to the local community college and a personal development center that offers basic computer instruction for personal, educational and business use. The new funds will be spent on further developing the vocational and educational training program as well as expanding equipment and staffing.

The funds were approved as part of the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education FY2008 funding bill, which passed the House on July 19, 2007.