Congresswoman VERONICA ESCOBAR
Texas' 16th Congressional District

Fiscal Year 2027

Community Project Funding Resource Guide

VERONICA ESCOBAR
16TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY CONSTRUCTION,
VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

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NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION
CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS
CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS
DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CAUCUS

Dear El Pasoan,

I am pleased to share this resource guide regarding how to request Community Project Funding (CPF) through the annual appropriations process for fiscal year 2027. This guide is an effort to streamline the process and is a tool to empower you with the best information available to develop your ideas and submissions. I firmly believe in the creativity of our local leaders, stakeholders, and advocates who know exactly what our community needs and that is why I am excited to continue to use Community Project Funding requests to ensure we support your priorities.

In this guide, you will find an overview of the appropriations process, the Community Project Funding process, answers to many frequently asked questions, and a brief overview of alternate federal funding sources. My team and I are looking for your recommendations on projects that will fill a clear and present need in the community, be administered by a local/state government entity or eligible nonprofit, be located in El Paso County, and enjoy significant support from the community. This year my office will be submitting 20 projects to the Appropriations Committee for consideration of funding. To see which projects have been submitted by my office in the past and have been successfully funded, click here.

As you prepare your requests, please keep in mind that my office will receive far more Community Project Funding requests than can be fulfilled. As a result, many deserving, appropriate, and eligible projects will not be provided federal assistance in fiscal year 2027. That is why it is extremely important that every project and requestor continue to pursue other grant and federal/state/local funding opportunities where available. My team and I are here to help you secure this important funding as well. To learn more about other federal grants, please click here.

Thank you again for your interest in this year's Community Project Funding process. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I look forward to using my position to further our communities priorities. My team is available to answer your questions as needed. I look forward to working with you to bring needed federal resources to El Paso.

Sincerely,

Veronica Escobar

Member of Congress

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Deadline and Staff Contact

If you have any questions regarding the Community Project Funding process, please email TX16.Approps@mail.house.gov and a staffer will reach out as soon as possible.
Our process is now open. **The deadline for submissions will be March 6, 2026.**

Please use this form to submit your community project request.

Overview of the Appropriations Process

Each year, the United States Congress considers and enacts twelve annual appropriations bills, which provide the federal government with the funding it needs to operate. These bills fund numerous activities, including government operations, medical research, national defense, infrastructure, and education.

You and your organization should begin developing your request well in advance to ensure that your request is submitted properly and tailored to the needs of your project. As you develop your request, please feel free to contact my staff and use this resource guide to ensure your project request meets all requirements.

If you have problems or questions while completing these forms, please feel free to contact my staff through TX16.Approps@mail.house.gov. My staff is unable to forward request forms to other Congressional or Senate offices.

My team will review each request and contact you if more information is needed. The entire appropriations process can take several months. Appropriations bills approved by the House Appropriations Committees must be agreed to by both houses of Congress and signed into law by the President before the end of the fiscal year on September 30th; however, the process often extends beyond this date.

Your patience during this lengthy and arduous process is greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in submitting a request for our programmatic/language process, please use this form.

Overview of the Community Project Funding Process

This document will provide an overview of the request process and basic information required for all requests. My team and I are looking forward to recommending important local projects for federal funding this year. However, it is important that you know how this process will work this year.

You should know that my team and I expect to receive dozens of requests for funding. While it's my goal to fund as many projects as possible, Members of Congress can only submit **20 requests to fund Community Projects**, and even if submitted by our office, we cannot guarantee that they will be accepted by the House Appropriations Committee and funded.

Community Project Funding requests are narrowly tailored and are not comparable to City Council "discretionary fund" or State Legislature "Member Items." Only a particular set of federal funding streams are eligible for Community Project Funding requests, and only government agencies or non-governmental not-for-profit organizations may receive Community Project Funding. Additionally, our office must disclose publicly some basic information about the requests our office submits to the Appropriations Committee, including the name and

address of the recipient, the amount requested, the intended use of the funds, and the justification of the project. If you are not comfortable with the public disclosure of this information, please refrain from submitting a request.

It is important that any request you make satisfies **every** requirement laid out by the House Appropriations Committee. Below are some important requirements for all submissions:

Guidance for All Community Project Funding Requests

- Requests must be for the fiscal year 2027 funds only and cannot include multi-year funding.
- You must include accurate recipient information when filling out the online request. The recipient's name provided should be the legal name of the organization that will be receiving these funds. Please do not include abbreviations, acronyms, or use a "The" before the recipient's name.
- **You must include a project description, which must be limited to 1,000 characters.**
- You must include an explanation of the request, including an explanation of why this is a good use of taxpayer funds—this information will be included on our official House website.
- You must indicate whether the grantee is a for-profit entity. **Note that in FY 2027, Congress will not fund any for-profit entities.**
- Memorials, museums, and commemoratives (i.e., projects named for an individual or entity) are not eligible for Community Project Funding.
- Please indicate whether you are aware of another member of Congress making a request for this same project (just Yes/No, not which Member(s)).
- **You must include letters of support**. Examples of these include but are not limited to letters from local community organizations, local elected officials, press articles highlighting the need for the requested Community Project Funding, and other materials that would document community support and community need, such as a newspaper editorial or a state/local intended use plan. The Appropriations Committee will use this information when determining whether to grant a request. These can be provided as attachments when you submit your form.

In the interest of transparency, all Members are required to post all Community Project Funding requests submitted to the committee on their website. The posting must include the name of the proposed recipient, the address, the amount of the request, and an explanation of the purpose and justification for the use of taxpayer funds.

As more information becomes available, this guide will be updated.

Data and Lessons from the Past

Since the start of Community Projects Funding in Fiscal Year 2022, I have been able to secure funding for 51 community projects, bringing back to El Paso close to $XX directly to our cities and towns, our schools, our universities, nonprofits, and companies.

In FY26, 13 of my 15 requests were funded, totaling $15,466,000. At this time we have not completed the Homeland Security Appropriations bill for FY26, which includes one more project. If you would like to see a list of previously funded and selected projects, please use this [link.](#)

The majority of projects requested committee-wide were in the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee (namely, Economic Development Initiative grants), Interior Subcommittee (namely, STAG Grants), and Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee.

Under the current Majority, the following rules have been adopted for the community project process. As of today, we are operating as if these will not change for FY26:

- The total amount of money available to spend has been cut to .5% of discretionary spending (in past years it has been 1%). Project costs could end up limited to partial funding of requests.
- Projects must now be tied to existing federal authorization law (more detail can be found in the account descriptions).
- Museums, Memorials, and "Commemorative" Projects are no longer eligible for funding.
- Eligibility for Non-Profits has been limited in certain cases (more details can be found in the account descriptions).
- Non-Profits are no longer eligible for the Economic Development Initiative program under the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Account. This was a decision made by the Majority.

Community Project Funding Eligible Accounts

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

OVERVIEW

For each Community Project Funding request, Requestors will be asked to respond to a series of questions intended to provide transparency and ensure the project is a valuable use of taxpayer funds.

All CPF requests must meet applicable eligibility requirements for the program in which the request is made, including applicable underlying statutory and regulatory requirements (e.g., cost share). Any CPFs that are funded in an appropriations bill will need to apply to USDA to receive the award. The application will be reviewed for compliance prior to official award. To ensure your projects meet eligibility requirements for the Rural Development and Natural Resources Conservation Service accounts, you must consult with Texas' State Rural Development or State Conservation office which can be found here:

Rural Development: https://www.rd.usda.gov/tx

Natural Resources Conservation Services: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/texas

Here are the specific pieces of information needed for the Agriculture bill:

1. The website address of the proposed recipient.
2. For Rural Development projects, has the recipient secured non-federal funds to meet the cost share requirements?
3. For Rural Development projects, what is the federal cost share / grant amount being requested for the project?
4. For Rural Development projects, what is the total project cost?
5. For Rural Development projects, will this project be phased?
6. For Rural Development projects, is the project for an eligible purpose and does it meet all eligibility requirements, with the exception of any Median Household Income requirements, under current law?
7. Does the entity plan to make grants to other entities from the funds provided and, if so, to whom?
8. Why is the project a priority for the district? Briefly explain the community benefits.
9. Has the project received federal funding before and, if so, how much, when, and from which agency or agencies and program(s)?
10. Have you contacted the State Rural Development Office/State Conservation Office to discuss the project and confirm eligibility? (If not, it is required to ensure project eligibility.)
11. With limited funding, if the project cannot be fully funded and must be significantly 5 reduced, is it still a viable project and is that acceptable to the recipient? [yes/no]
12. For ARS B&F only, is it an existing USDA owned and operated facility? (It must be, in order to be eligible.)
13. For ARS B&F only, what is the estimated start date of the project? How soon could the feasibility/engineering design phase commence? [mm/yy]
14. For ARS B&F only, does the project have distinct and separable phases?
15. For ARS B&F only, what is the estimated completion date of the project? When does completion of construction occur? [mm/yy]
16. For Conservation Operations requests only, briefly describe how the project will reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, or other objectives that will help conserve, maintain, and improve natural resources.
17. For Water and Waste requests only, provide relevant information, such as the number of households, businesses, or farms that would be served.

Department of Agriculture

Community Facilities Grants (Rural Housing Service)

Grants to purchase, construct, or improve essential community facilities, to purchase equipment, and pay other related project expenses. Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to: town halls, police or fire departments, and public works vehicles.

Project requests for non-essential facilities such as community gardens or museums will not be considered. Priority will be given to essential projects, such as those focused on public health and safety.

All projects must serve a rural area as specified in 7 CFR 3570.53 (rural areas including cities, villages, townships and Federally Recognized Tribal lands with no more than 20,000 residents). Except for fire stations, nonprofits will not be eligible for CPF project funding.

The Member's request must demonstrate community support. Members should ensure that their request provides the most complete description of the project possible. Submissions should include details on all proposed use of funds, activities that will occur, timeline, and detailed information on the complete service territory.

Such requests are also subject to non-federal cost share requirements specified in 7 CFR 3570.63(b). Please review program regulations carefully and ask your respective state Rural Development offices with specific questions related to cost share eligibility. In-kind contributions and other federal formula or grant resources cannot be counted towards match requirements.

Community Facilities grants cannot be used to pay initial operating expenses or annual recurring expenses, refinance existing debt, pay interest, build or repair facilities in non-rural areas, or pay for construction costs of facilities that will be used for commercial rental space.

The State Rural Development Office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility and non-federal cost share requirements, and can provide additional information on expectations for recipients including environmental reviews and Build America, Buy America Act (BABA) requirements. For Fiscal Year 2026, the average Community Facilities CPF award was about $1.1 million.

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine program (DLT) helps rural residents better utilize the enormous potential of modern telecommunications and the internet for education and healthcare, two critical components of economic and community development. The DLT program helps rural communities acquire the technology and training necessary to connect educational and medical professionals with students, teachers, and patients in rural areas.

Grants may be used for audio and video equipment, broadband facilities that support distance learning or telemedicine (not actual broadband), computer hardware or network components/software, and acquisition of instructional programming.

Any requests are subject to all regulations governing the program which can be found at 7 CFR Part 1734. The program requires **a 15% match** that cannot come from another federal source. Members are strongly encouraged to provide as much detail as possible on how the award will be utilized, what equipment or service will be acquired and any information on population(s) served. The program is intended to serve rural areas with populations of 20,000 or less. Please note for FY27, nonprofit recipients will not be considered.

The State Rural Development Office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility. For fiscal year 2026, the average DLT CPF award was $1,200,000.Rural Water and Waste Disposal Grants

The Water and Waste Disposal Grant Program may be used to finance the acquisition, construction, or improvement of drinking water sourcing, treatment, storage and disposal; sewer collection, transmission, treatment and disposal; solid waste collection, disposal and closure; and storm water collection, transmission, and closure. Members are strongly encouraged to provide details on the number of households and businesses served and details of the exact work to be completed.

Eligible entities include rural areas and towns with population of 10,000 or less and Tribal lands in rural areas. Potential recipients will be required to provide a 25% non-federal cost share. Please note for FY27, nonprofit recipients will not be considered.The State Rural Development Office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility. For fiscal year 2026, the average Water and Waste CPF award was nearly $1.5 million.

Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) owns and operates laboratories and facilities across the United States. Many of these laboratories/facilities are decades old, have outlived their functional lifespan, and are badly in need of major repairs, renovation, or replacement. Requests can assist in the acquisition of land, construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities as necessary to carry out the agricultural research programs of the Department of Agriculture.

Facility requests must be for ARS-owned facilities or for facilities that are already partnering with ARS. Universities seeking new agricultural and/or veterinary facilities or labs are not eligible.

Members are strongly encouraged to provide details on the research to be conducted, why the research is a high priority, as well as details on the modernization and why it is critical in carrying out the research.

Requested funding for new facilities that do not have an existing ARS tie will not be considered

.https://www.ars.usda.gov/about-ars/

Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Operations

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) supports private landowners, conservation districts, and other organizations to conserve, maintain, and improve the Nation's natural resources. Examples of specific objectives include reducing soil erosion, improving soil health, enhancing water supplies, improving water quality, increasing wildlife habitat, and reducing damage caused by floods and other natural disasters.

Members are strongly encouraged to provide details on the work to be done, including if the project will conduct surveys, investigations, or research, and if there is a plan to publish the results of any such work. Members should also describe any preventive measures to be taken, such as engineering operations, methods of cultivation, or changes in use of land.

For FY27, the Subcommittee will only consider projects for funding recipients that are state, local, and Tribal organizations, or conservation districts. Nonprofit recipients will not be considered. Purchase of land and/or fixed equipment are not eligible activities. Projects must have a direct tie to agriculture and/or farmland.

The State Conservationist is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility. House CPFs in the account averaged about $1.3 million in FY26.

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Department of Justice

State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance - Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

Funding must be for activities consistent with, and supportive of, the Office of Justice Programs' mission and aligned with one or more of the purposes described in the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) program, section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10152).

Prohibited Uses:

34 US.C. 10152(d) provides:

- (d) Prohibited uses: Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, no funds provided under this part may be used, directly or indirectly, to provide any of the following matters:
    - (1) Any security enhancements or any equipment to any nongovernmental entity that is not engaged in criminal justice or public safety.
    - (2) Unless the Attorney General certifies that extraordinary and exigent circumstances exist that make the use of such funds to provide such matters essential to the maintenance of public safety and good order-
        - (A) vehicles (excluding police cruisers), vessels (excluding police boats),

or aircraft (excluding police helicopters);
- ■ (B) luxury items;
- ■ (C) real estate;
- ■ (D) construction projects (other than penal or correctional institutions); or
- ■ (E) any similar matters.

Awarded grants will be subject to the requirements of 2 CFR Part 200 and the DOJ Grants Financial Guide.

Allowable costs are those costs consistent with the principles set out in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E, and those permitted by the grant program authorizing legislation.

Byrne JAG Grants assist state, local, and tribal law enforcement efforts to prevent crime, improve the criminal justice system, provide victims' services, and other related activities. Community projects funded under this category must comply with the requirements cited in JAG statutes and be consistent with U.S. Department of Justice guidance for the program. Below are the links to the Department's guidance and frequently asked questions regarding Byrne-JAG:

https://bja.ojp.gov/program/jag/overview

In addition, the Chair will not support the use of Byrne Justice Community Project Funding for the following:

- ● Initiatives that involve the distribution of drug paraphernalia.
- ● Initiatives that undermine the 2nd Amendment or infringe upon rights guaranteed by the Constitution without due process of law.
- ● Initiatives that appear to be anti-law enforcement or unrelated to criminal justice.
- ● Larger projects for the construction or renovation of penal or correctional institutions that will exceed the capability of single-year funding.

In the event of limited funding, the Chair will prioritize projects focused on improving the effectiveness of law enforcement, increasing officer safety, curbing the opioid crisis, and other strategic priorities.

Projects with non-profit recipients may be eligible, so long as the purpose is to carry out work that closely aligns with the purposes of the Byrne JAG program. Such projects will be closely examined.

Requestors submitting Byrne JAG project requests are required to submit answers to the following additional questions. Failure to complete all required questions will result in an incomplete project request. Incomplete project requests will not be considered for community project funds.

- Please describe, with as much specificity as possible, the overall objectives of the proposed project and how the requested funds would be spent to achieve those goals.
- Please provide a detailed budget breakdown for how the funding is anticipated to be spent (e.g., what types of items or services the funds will be used to buy; or how research dollars will be spent).
- If a non-profit, is the recipient entity a non-profit organization as described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986?Please provide the location of this project, in the format 'City (or County), State'.
- Is the requested project currently authorized in law? If yes, please provide a specific legal citation of such authorization.
- Is the purpose of this request the construction or renovation of a building? [yes/no]
- Are the proposed project activities consistent with the activities of the Federal agency? [yes/no]
  - If yes, please describe how these activities are consistent with the activities of the Federal Agency. If not, why is the project being requested?
- Has the project been funded in the past? [yes/no]
  - If the project has been funded in the past, how much funding has been provided to date?
  - If the project has been funded in the past, were such funds provided for discrete, severable activities?
- Please specify any non-Federal sources of funding that have been or are fully anticipated to be applied toward the project, including any dollar amounts and timelines for funding.
- Is the proposed recipient currently in material non-compliance of a prior grant award made by the proposed Federal funding agency? [yes/no]
- Can this project spend a smaller amount of appropriated funds within 12 months of the enactment of the appropriations act? [yes/no] If yes, please provide any details that may be helpful for understanding the scalability of the project.
- Is this proposed project a priority for the local community? [yes/no]
  - If the project is not a priority for the local community, why is it being requested?
- Please describe the current developmental status of this project.
- What is the estimated impact of this project, e.g. number of jobs created/sustained, number of community members served, other projected impacts?
- Is the intended recipient a for-profit entity? [yes/no]
- Are you aware of another Member making a request for this same project? Have you submitted this request to any other Member of Congress or Senator? [yes/no]
- Regarding this request, please provide any additional information that would be useful for the Appropriations Committee to have.
- Is this request consistent with all current statutory and regulatory requirements of Byrne Justice Assistance Grant recipients and subrecipients? [yes/no]
- Is this project intended to serve primarily youth under age 18? [yes/no]
- Is this request to fund the acquisition of property or the construction or renovation of a building? [yes/no]

- Has the intended recipient received any COPS or Byrne-JAG funds at any time in the past ten years? [yes/no]
  - If yes, in what fiscal years and for what purposes?

Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) - Technology and Equipment

All projects submitted must be aligned with the purposes of section 1701(b)(8) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10381(b)(8)).

As such, the Chairman will consider projects to develop and/or acquire technologies and equipment, including interoperable communications technologies, modernized criminal record technology, and forensic technology, to assist State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies, including by reorienting the emphasis of their activities from reacting to crime to preventing crime and training law enforcement officers to use such technologies.

This funding will allow recipients the opportunity to establish and enhance any of a variety of technical equipment and/or programs to encourage the continuation and enhancement of community policing efforts within their jurisdictions. These projects should help improve police effectiveness and the flow of information among law enforcement agencies, local government service providers, and the communities they serve.

The Committee will not fund building construction/renovation projects.

Eligible recipients for COPS Technology and Equipment Community Project Funding are State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies.

Requestors submitting COPS project requests are required to submit answers to the following additional questions. Below are some questions you may be asked to answer:
- Is the recipient a State, Tribal, or local law enforcement agency? Please provide a detailed budget breakdown for how the funding is anticipated to be spent (e.g., what types of items or services the funds will be used to buy; or how research dollars will be spent).
- Please describe, with as much specificity as possible, the overall objectives of the proposed project and how the requested funds would be spent to achieve those goals.
- Please provide the location of this project, in the format 'City (or County), State'.
- Is the requested project currently authorized in law? If yes, please provide a specific legal citation of such authorization.
- Are the proposed project activities consistent with the activities of the Federal agency? [yes/no]
  - If yes, please describe how these activities are consistent with the activities of the Federal Agency. If not, why is the project being requested?
- Has the project been funded in the past? [yes/no]
  - If the project has been funded in the past, how much funding has been provided to date?
  - If the project has been funded in the past, were such funds provided for discrete, severable activities?

- Please specify any non-Federal sources of funding that have been or are fully anticipated to be applied toward the project, including any dollar amounts and timelines for funding.
- Is the proposed recipient currently in material non-compliance of a prior grant award made by the proposed Federal funding agency? [yes/no]
- Can this project spend a smaller amount of appropriated funds within 12 months of the enactment of the appropriations act? [yes/no] If yes, please provide any details that may be helpful for understanding the scalability of the project.
- Is this proposed project a priority for the local community? [yes/no]
  - If the project is not a priority for the local community, why is it being requested?
- Please describe the current developmental status of this project.
- What is the estimated impact of this project, e.g. number of jobs created/sustained, number of community members served, other projected impacts?
- Is the intended recipient a for-profit entity? [yes/no]
- Are you aware of another Member making a request for this same project? Have you submitted this project to another Member of Congress or Senator? [yes/no]
- Regarding this request, please provide any additional information that would be useful for the Appropriations Committee to have.
- Is the purpose of this request the construction or renovation of a building? [yes/no]
- Has the intended recipient received any COPS or Byrne-JAG funds at any time in the past ten years? [yes/no]
  - If yes, in what fiscal years and for what purposes?

Department of Commerce

NIST Scientific and Technical Research and Services (STRS)

All projects submitted must be for activities consistent with, and supportive of, NIST's mission and aligned with one or more of the functions and activities described in section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

Funding must be for activities consistent with and supportive of NIST's mission and within its authorities, such as STEM education activities, scientific research, or other activities that support American manufacturing and industry. Note: Funding for building construction or renovation projects is not an eligible use of NIST Scientific and Technical Research Community Project Funding.

Projects with non-profit recipients, such as universities, are eligible recipients.

Below are some questions you may be required to answer throughout the process.

- Please describe, with as much specificity as possible, the overall objectives of the proposed project and how the requested funds would be spent to achieve those goals.
- If a non-profit, is the recipient entity a non-profit organization as described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986?

- Can this project spend a smaller amount of appropriated funds within 12 months of the enactment of the appropriations act? [yes/no] If yes, please provide any details that may be helpful for understanding the scalability of the project.
- Please provide the location of this project, in the format 'City (or County), State'.
- Is the requested project currently authorized in law? If yes, please provide a specific legal citation of such authorization. Are the proposed project activities consistent with the activities of the Federal agency? [yes/no]
    - If yes, please describe how these activities are consistent with the activities of the Federal Agency. If not, why is the project being requested?
- Has the project been funded in the past? [yes/no]
    - If the project has been funded in the past, how much funding has been provided to date?
    - If the project has been funded in the past, were such funds provided for discrete, severable activities?
- Please specify any non-Federal sources of funding that have been or are fully anticipated to be applied toward the project, including any dollar amounts and timelines for funding.
- Is the proposed recipient currently in material non-compliance of a prior grant award made by the proposed Federal funding agency? [yes/no]
- Is this proposed project a priority for the local community? [yes/no]
    - If the project is not a priority for the local community, why is it being requested?
- Please describe the current developmental status of this project.
- What is the estimated impact of this project, e.g. number of jobs created/sustained, number of community members served, other projected impacts?
- Please provide a detailed budget breakdown for how the funding is anticipated to be spent (e.g., what types of items or services the funds will be used to buy; or how research dollars will be spent).

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Coastal Zone Management

All projects submitted must be for activities consistent with, and supportive of, NOAA's mission and aligned with one or more of the purposes described in the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq.).

Community project funding for NOAA will only be considered within the Coastal Zone Management account. This account does not fund construction projects, and as such, any such requests will not be considered. Requests for funding will be considered for research, demonstration, or education projects performed by external partners or for prioritizing NOAA internal funds for geographically specific projects. Any such project must be aligned with NOAA's mission and within their existing authorities. The subcommittee will not entertain requests for the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations.

Coastal Zone Management funds are distributed to states on a formula basis and will not be considered for community project funding.

Historically, the Committee has not funded vehicles or building construction or renovation as part of community project funding under this account.

NOAA Coastal Zone Management projects are subject to any applicable cost-share required by law under the Coastal Zone Management Program.

Below are some questions you may need to answer during this process:

- Please describe, with as much specificity as possible, the overall objectives of the proposed project and how the requested funds would be spent to achieve those goals.
- Please provide a detailed budget breakdown for how the funding is anticipated to be spent (e.g., what types of items or services the funds will be used to buy; or how research dollars will be spent).
- If a non-profit, is the recipient entity a non-profit organization as described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986?
- Please provide the location of this project, in the format 'City (or County), State'.
- Can this project spend a smaller amount of appropriated funds within 12 months of the enactment of the appropriations act? [yes/no] If yes, please provide any details that may be helpful for understanding the scalability of the project.
- Is the requested project currently authorized in law? If yes, please provide a specific legal citation of such authorization.
- Are the proposed project activities consistent with the activities of the Federal agency? [yes/no]
  - If yes, please describe how these activities are consistent with the activities of the Federal Agency. If not, why is the project being requested?
- Has the project been funded in the past? [yes/no]
  - If the project has been funded in the past, how much funding has been provided to date?
  - If the project has been funded in the past, were such funds provided for discrete, severable activities?
- Please specify any non-Federal sources of funding that have been or are fully anticipated to be applied toward the project, including any dollar amounts and timelines for funding.
- Is the proposed recipient currently in material non-compliance of a prior grant award made by the proposed Federal funding agency? [yes/no]
- Is this proposed project a priority for the local community? [yes/no]
  - If the project is not a priority for the local community, why is it being requested?
- Please describe the current developmental status of this project.
- What is the estimated impact of this project, e.g. number of jobs created/sustained, number of community members served, other projected impacts?
- Is the intended recipient a for-profit entity? [yes/no]
- Are you aware of another Member of Congress making a request for this same project? Have you submitted this request to another Member of Congress or Senator? [yes/no]
- Regarding this request, please provide any additional information that would be useful for the Appropriations Committee to have.

- Has the intended recipient received any competitive grant funding or other funding from NOAA at any time in the past ten years? [yes/no]
  - If yes, in what fiscal years and for what purposes?
- For any science research project request, please provide the name of the individual who is anticipated to be the Principal Investigator for the research project, as well as a link to such person's curriculum vitae, and a list of this person's peer-reviewed publications related to the topic of the requested research project.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

NASA Safety, Security, and Mission Services

All projects submitted must be for activities advancing the purposes described in section 20102 of title 51, United States Code. Projects should focus on science, education, research, and technology development related to NASA's mission.

Funding for building construction or renovation projects, as well as Medical Research Projects will *not* be considered for community project funding.

Some of the questions below may need answers throughout the process:

- Please describe, with as much specificity as possible, the overall objectives of the proposed project and how the requested funds would be spent to achieve those goals.
- Please provide a detailed budget breakdown for how the funding is anticipated to be spent (e.g., what types of items or services the funds will be used to buy; or how research dollars will be spent).
- If a non-profit, is the recipient entity a non-profit organization as described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986?Please provide the location of this project, in the format 'City (or County), State'.
- Is the requested project currently authorized in law? If yes, please provide a specific legal citation of such authorization.
- Are the proposed project activities consistent with the activities of the Federal agency? [yes/no]
  - If yes, please describe how these activities are consistent with the activities of the Federal Agency. If not, why is the project being requested?
- Has the project been funded in the past? [yes/no]
  - If the project has been funded in the past, how much funding has been provided to date?
  - If the project has been funded in the past, were such funds provided for discrete, severable activities?
- Please specify any non-Federal sources of funding that have been or are fully anticipated to be applied toward the project, including any dollar amounts and timelines for funding.

- Is the proposed recipient currently in material non-compliance of a prior grant award made by the proposed Federal funding agency? [yes/no]
- Can this project spend a smaller amount of appropriated funds within 12 months of the enactment of the appropriations act? [yes/no] If yes, please provide any details that may be helpful for understanding the scalability of the project.
- Is this proposed project a priority for the local community? [yes/no]
  - If the project is not a priority for the local community, why is it being requested?
- Please describe the current developmental status of this project.
- What is the estimated impact of this project, e.g. number of jobs created/sustained, number of community members served, other projected impacts?
- Is the purpose of this request the construction or renovation of a building? [yes/no]
- Is the intended recipient a for-profit entity? [yes/no]
- Are you aware of another Member making a request for this same project? Have you submitted this project to any other Member of Congress or Senator? [yes/no]
- Regarding this request, please provide any additional information that would be useful for the Appropriations Committee to have.
- Is the project intended to serve primarily youth under age 18? [yes/no]
- Please provide a detailed budget breakdown for how the funding is anticipated to be spent (e.g., what types of items or services the funds will be used to buy; or how research dollars will be spent).
- Has the intended recipient received any competitive grant funding or other funding from NASA at any time in the past ten years? [yes/no]
  - If yes, in what fiscal years and for what purposes?
- For any science research project request, please provide the name of the individual who is anticipated to be the Principal Investigator for the research project, as well as a link to such person's curriculum vitae, and a list of this person's peer-reviewed publications related to the topic of the requested research project.

Energy and Water Development Subcommittee

The Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies will accept project requests in only the following accounts and only in accordance with existing authorizations:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Civil Works)
- Investigations
- Construction
- Mississippi River and Tributaries
- Operation and Maintenance

Department of the Interior - Bureau of Reclamation
- Water and Related Resources

Not all programs within these accounts will be open for requests. If the project is **not** an individually authorized project or a project under the Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities Program, please let my team know prior to submitting your request.

A Community Project Funding request is only necessary to request an increment of funding or scope above and beyond the President's budget request.

The following questions must be answered in any submission to ensure completeness and timely processing:

- Is the project authorized? Is the scope of work to be funded within existing authorization?
  - What is the statutory citation?
    - If the project is an individually authorized project or a project under the Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities Program, include the statutory citation in the statement of federal nexus.
    - If the project is authorized in a manner other than an individual project authorization or under the Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities Program, please contact the subcommittee for further clarification of eligibility prior to submitting a request.
- What is the official project name?
- What is the Fiscal Year 2027 capability?
- For a Corps of Engineers project, what is the correct appropriations account in which to request funding?
- For a Corps of Engineers project, is this project a new start?
- For a Corps of Engineers project, is this project an environmental infrastructure (EI) project?
- For a Bureau of Reclamation project, is this project authorized only under section 4007, 4009(a), or 4009(c) of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-322)?

Homeland Security Subcommittee

There are two Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant programs within the Subcommittee on Homeland Security's jurisdiction that are open to CPF requests: Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grants and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) grants. Please review the purpose and eligibility requirements, including any environmental and historic preservation requirements, for these two grant programs to ensure proper consideration of the Member's request.

Previously, FEMA found that many CPF requests lacked the necessary details to determine grant eligibility. Requestors are highly encouraged to upload detailed descriptions of each project submitted. For each project description, please include a detailed budget describing how the requested federal funding will be used and confirm the ability of the requesting entity to meet the cost-share requirement.

The PDM and EOC grant programs have cost-share requirements. Federal funding is available for up to 75 percent of the eligible activity costs. The remaining 25 percent of eligible activity costs must generally be derived from non-federal sources. The non-federal cost-share contribution is calculated based on the total cost of the proposed activity. For example, if the total cost is $100,000 and the non-federal cost-share is 25 percent, then the non-federal contribution is $25,000. For PDM grants, small, impoverished communities are eligible for up to a 90 percent federal cost-share for their mitigation planning and project sub-applications in accordance with the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. § 5133(a),(h)(2)).

Department of Homeland Security

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Projects

FEMA's PDM grants assist state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments with planning and implementing sustainable, cost-effective measures to provide long-term, permanent risk reduction to individuals and property from future natural hazards, such as floods and wildfires, while reducing reliance on federal funding for future disasters.

For PDM grant requests, the database includes specific eligibility questions to ensure the proposed project meets FEMA's requirements as detailed in the most recent Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The subcommittee encourages offices to consult with their State Hazard Mitigation Officers when answering the questions in the database. Member offices must answer all eligibility questions in the database for a request to be considered.

For any PDM projects designated for funding in the FY 2027 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, the respective State or Territorial Administrative Agency, or Tribal government, must submit an application to FEMA and serve as the administrative agent for the grant on behalf of the entities responsible for the project (grant subrecipients). Each project request must be accompanied by a letter from the respective State or Territorial Administrative Agency, or Tribal government, to be considered for funding. Please pay careful attention to FEMA's eligibility requirements when answering the following questions:

- Did you upload a letter from the appropriate State or Territorial Administrative Agency, or Tribal government, confirming project eligibility and their willingness to administer the grant?
- Did you or the community consult with state, county, or local emergency management officials, or with FEMA about the proposed project?

- If so, please provide the name of the official, the agency they represent, and their contact information.
- Did you upload letters of support from local government entities demonstrating community support for the project(s)?
- Was this CPF funding in the Fiscal Year 2026 mark?
- Is the proposed project eligible under the most recent Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the PDM grant program?
- Can the requesting jurisdiction provide the required non-federal cost-share (25% of total eligible activity costs, or 10% for small, impoverished communities), as detailed in the NOFO?
- Is the requested federal funding amount limited to a maximum of 75% of the total project cost?
- If less than the requested amount is provided as the federal share, would additional state, local, or other eligible funding sources be available to support the project?
- Can the requesting jurisdiction provide a Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) or other documentation that validates cost-effectiveness, which is defined by FEMA as having a BCA of 1.0 or greater? A non-FEMA BCA methodology may only be used if preapproved by FEMA in writing. Consistent with the NOFO for PDM grants, is the proposed activity consistent with the goals and objectives in both the state or Tribal hazard mitigation plan (44 CFR Part 201) and the local hazard mitigation plan of the jurisdiction in which the project is located?
- If so, what is the FEMA approval date and when will the plan expire?
- Have you confirmed the funding request does not include prohibited activities for PDM grants (e.g., dredging waterways; the purchase of emergency vehicles and equipment)?
- Describe how the proposed activity expands mitigation capacity rather than repair and maintenance of existing capacity.
- How will the project provide long-term, permanent risk reduction, as opposed to simply supporting short-term, temporary emergency protective measures?
- Can the recipient describe how the activity supports the needs of people disproportionally at risk of the harmful impacts of natural disasters?
- Does the recipient specifically encourage adoption and enforcement of the latest disaster resistant building codes?
- Provide a clear and detailed description of the proposed mitigation activity.
- How will the mitigation activity be implemented?
- Who will manage and complete the mitigation activity?
- What risks will remain from natural hazards after project implementation (i.e., residual risk)?
- How does the activity reduce the risk to individuals and property for future natural hazards, while reducing reliance on federal funding for future disasters?
- Has the project been awarded funding in previous Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM), Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), Flood Mitigation Assistance

(FMA), or Hazard Mitigation Grant Program fiscal year grant cycles?

- If so, what is the subgrant ID, or which grant program and fiscal year was the application awarded funding?

Emergency Operations Center Grant Program

FEMA's EOC grants improve emergency management and preparedness capabilities by supporting flexible, sustainable, secure, strategically located, and fully interoperable EOCs with a focus on addressing identified deficiencies and needs. According to the National Fire Protection Association, an EOC is defined as a "facility or capability from which direction and control is exercised in an emergency. This type of center or capability is designated to ensure that the capacity exists for leadership to direct and control operations from a centralized facility or capability in the event of an emergency."

Similar to CPF requests for PDM grants, the database includes specific eligibility questions for EOC grants to ensure the proposed project meets FEMA's requirements as detailed in the most recent NOFO for the competitive EOC Grant Program.

For any EOC projects designated for funding in the FY 2027 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, the respective State or Territorial Administrative Agency, or Tribal government, must submit an application to FEMA and serve as the administrative agent for the grant on behalf of the entities responsible for the project (grant subrecipients). Each project request must be accompanied by a letter from the respective State or Territorial Administrative Agency, or Tribal government, in order to be considered for funding.

Please pay careful attention to FEMA's eligibility requirements when answering the following questions:

- Did you upload a letter from the appropriate State or Territorial Administrative Agency, or Tribal government, confirming project eligibility and their willingness to administer the grant?
- Did you upload letters of support from local government entities demonstrating community support for the project(s)?
- Was this CPF funded in the Fiscal Year 2026 House mark?
- Is the proposed project eligible under the most recent Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Grant Program? Is the requested federal funding amount limited to a maximum of 75% of the total project cost? Can the requesting jurisdiction provide the required 25% non-federal cost share?If less than the requested amount is provided as the federal share, would additional state, local, or other eligible funding sources be available to support the project?
- Have you reviewed the funding restrictions and allowable costs section of the NOFO for EOC grants?
- Have you confirmed the funding request does not include unallowable activities for EOC

grants (e.g., personnel costs; replacement radios for police, fire, and other response personnel; generators for emergency shelters; any equipment that is portable and does not directly support the functional and operational capabilities of an EOC)?

- Is the proposed project related to a structure or facility that meets the definition of an EOC, to include supporting incident management (on-scene) operations across multiple functional disciplines and/or jurisdictions?
- For EOC projects that involve construction or upgrading of multipurpose facilities, such as public safety facilities, police/fire stations, etc., EOC grants may only be used for those parts of the facility that are directly associated with the EOC. Does the requested federal funding amount reflect the proportionate facility construction cost, which is generally based on the square footage (floor space) of the EOC compared to the square footage of the entire facility?
- Have you consulted with state, county, or local emergency management officials, or with FEMA about the proposed project?
- If so, please provide the name of the official, the agency they represent, and their contact information.

Interior and Environment Subcommittee

Department of the Interior

These projects include construction of and modifications to municipal sewage treatment plants and drinking water treatment plants. Similar to past practice, the Committee will be limiting STAG infrastructure grants only to projects that are publicly owned or owned by a non-profit entity and that are otherwise eligible for the funding from that state's Clean Water or Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF) loan programs.

Environmental Protection Agency

State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

Clean Water State Revolving Fund
For FY 2027, the Interior Subcommittee will only accept Community Project Funding (CPF) requests in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) account for certain clean water and drinking water infrastructure projects.

Projects must meet the eligibility criteria of the relevant Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) programs, including for the purposes authorized by federal law and all underlying federal requirements pursuant to Title VI of the Clean Water Act (CWSRF) and Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (DWSRF).

There is a minimum 20% cost share requirement for any portion of a project funded through a STAG CPF and the subcommittee will not waive matching requirements.

Below are EPA brochures on eligibility guidelines for the CWSRF and DWSRF programs. The

subcommittee encourages offices to review and share these brochures with prospective recipients to better evaluate project eligibility prior to submitting CPF requests into the database.

<u>Community Support Letters</u>

Community engagement and support are crucial in determining which projects are worthy of federal funding. Only projects with demonstrated community support will be considered. To demonstrate evidence of community support, Members must also submit community support letters into the database as part of their requests. Members may submit the following:

- Letters of support from elected community leaders (e.g., mayors or other officials) or newspaper editorial boards; • Press articles highlighting the need for the requested Community Project Funding projects;
- Projects listed on State intended use plans, community development plans, or other publicly available planning documents; or
- Resolutions passed by city councils or boards.

<u>Guidance for Entering a STAG CPF Project in the Member Database REQUEST</u>

- Project Title: The format for a requested CPF project title is: [Recipient legal name] for [primary project purpose] Examples include:
- City of North for Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades
- North County for Sewer Main Replacement
- Town of North for Water Transmission Line Expansion

<u>Please note that the subcommittee may modify a requested project title for any requested CPF project.</u>

- Project Description: The project description is used to evaluate the eligibility of a project. It is not possible to determine eligibility solely with terms such as "wastewater upgrade" or "water quality improvement project". Please provide as much detail about the project as possible, such as: "upgrade of wastewater treatment plant to tertiary treatment," "extension of wastewater collection system to replace failing household septic systems," "upgrades to filtration and disinfection at drinking water treatment facility", or "extending public water system distribution by 1,500 linear feet to serve existing households".

<u>Request Information</u>

- Amount Requested for FY27: Each project request must only be for FY 2027 funds and only include an amount that the recipient can reasonably obligate within one year (one year from the date the recipient receives the funds, not one year from the enactment of a final bill). Requests cannot include multi-year funding. The same project can receive funding across multiple years in a phased approach but must be requested again in the subsequent year(s). There is a minimum 20% cost share requirement for any project, or portion of a project, funded through a STAG CPF. For example, if the total amount of a project is $1,000,000, the amount requested in the database under "Amount Requested for FY27" cannot exceed $800,000, and the remaining $200,000 is the responsibility of the entity (see FAQ below for more information on matching requirements).
- Total Project Cost: This is a required field for all STAG CPF projects. The "Amount Requested for FY27" must not exceed 80% of the amount entered for "Total Project Cost". In the above example, the total cost of the project is $1,000,000.

<u>Project/Recipient Information</u>

- Recipient Point of Contact: The point of contact is the individual who will be primarily applying for, and managing, the project. It is very important to include accurate and complete contact information for the point of contact because it is shared with EPA for outreach and application instructions for projects that receive funding in an

enacted bill.

- Recipient Legal Name: The recipient legal name is the legal name of the prospective entity that will submit the application to EPA for CPF project funding, if enacted. The recipient legal name entered into the database must match the entity name on the Member's signed disclosure of financial interest certification letter.

Disclosure And Transparency

- Project Information URL: Please submit the link to the page on your Member's website that will have the posted list of CPF projects that your Member requested.

Supplemental Questions

- State Intended Use Plan (IUP): A project is not required to be on a State Intended Use Plan (IUP) in order to be eligible for a STAG CPF, but projects already listed on an IUP are usually eligible to receive CPF funding and can be an easy positive identifier of CPF eligibility. Projects that are already on an IUP are typically aware of the applicable SRF requirements.
- Federal Nexus: Choose from the list of eligible projects and activities associated with the relevant statutory authority:
    - o For clean water projects, the list of project options is found within the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1383(c) (Section 603(c) of the Clean Water Act), and is also detailed in EPA's CWSRF Eligibility Handbook.
    - o For drinking water projects, the statutory authority is found within Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act and the list of project options is found within 40 CFR 35.3520(b)(2)(i-vi). EPA's DWSRF Eligibility Handbook includes additional information about the eligible project categories.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What types of entities are eligible to receive EPA CPF funding?

- Public entities should be considered the primary recipients to oversee the completion of a CPF project. State, municipal, local, territorial, or Tribal governmental entities are the most common recipients of CPF funding. For drinking water projects, the recipient must be a public water system.
- The subcommittee does not allow for-profit recipients and privately-owned projects, even if otherwise eligible under the CWSRF and DWSRF programs.
- The subcommittee will only accept non-profits as eligible recipients if:
    - o The non-profit provides water or wastewater utility services or
    - o The non-profit is a university

1. What types of projects are ineligible?

The subcommittee will not fund projects, or the portion of a project, for the direct benefit of resorts, golf courses, athletic fields, park amenities, gardens, or similar projects.

2. Are flood control projects eligible?

Projects solely for flood control, including construction or rehabilitation of dams, are not eligible. It is possible for an eligible project to have a flood control benefit, but the project must achieve a water quality benefit, which must be specified in the project description of the Member office submission. For example, a stormwater pump to direct water to a stormwater treatment plant is eligible, but a stormwater pump to move water to another location without treatment is not eligible.

3. Are irrigation projects eligible?

Projects for the sole purpose of irrigation are only eligible if the project uses reclaimed water from wastewater, stormwater, or subsurface drainage water.

4. Are fire suppression projects eligible?

Projects for the sole purpose of fire protection or suppression are not eligible. It is possible for an eligible project to have an ancillary benefit of fire suppression, as water systems are typically designed to accommodate fire flow demands, but the primary purpose of the project must be for the provision of safe drinking water.

5. Can a CPF project include road repairs?

The cost of road repairs is eligible in limited circumstances to the extent that such repairs are required to undertake the CPF water quality improvement project. Road construction for transportation improvements or flood mitigation (such as redirecting drainage or channeling flows) is not eligible.

6. What about projects for the purpose of attracting future economic growth?

Drinking water infrastructure projects must serve the public health needs of the existing population. A project may be sized for a reasonable amount of population growth over the useful life of the project. However, a drinking water project may not be for the purpose of anticipating or attracting future growth or development. Clean water infrastructure projects do not have this restriction.

7. Are ongoing operations and maintenance an eligible expense for a CPF?

No, ongoing operations and maintenance is not an eligible CPF expense and should not be included in the requested project amount.

8. Can a CPF be used to reimburse an entity that has already incurred project costs?

Yes, but the costs 1.) Must be for an otherwise eligible clean or drinking water project 2.) Must be in conformance with applicable federal and EPA statutes and regulations (ex: Build America Buy America Act, Davis Bacon Act, environmental reviews) and 3.) Are only eligible for FY 2027 CPF funding if the costs are incurred on or after October 1, 2026. All costs incurred are at the risk of the entity and EPA will review each reimbursement CPF project on a case-by-case basis to determine whether the incurred project costs are CPF eligible.

9. Is there a matching requirement for STAG CPF projects?

There is a minimum 20% cost share requirement for any project, or portion of a project, funded through a STAG CPF. For example, if the total amount of a project is $1 million, the entity could receive a maximum of $800,000 from the federal government, with the remaining $200,000 the responsibility of the entity.

- Other federal funds generally cannot be used to meet the 20% costshare requirement, with some exceptions (for reference, the exceptions for FY 2026 CPFs included federal funds from the following programs: HUD Community Development Block Grant Program, USDA Rural Development Program, Appalachian Regional Commission grants, and Delta Regional Authority grants). Additionally, non-federal assistance provided by a SRF can be used as part of the project's matching requirement.
- It is important that Member offices discuss with the prospective recipient the ability to meet the matching requirement prior to requesting a project. This does not mean that matching funds must be in-hand prior to requesting a project, but the prospective recipient must have a plan to meet such requirements.

10. What is a reasonable amount to request for each STAG CPF project?

Members should use the range of project amounts funded in prior years as a general guide when making requests. In FY 2026, most House EPA STAG CPFs received around $1,000,000. The Committee may consider higher or lower

project amounts for FY 2027, and any caps will be determined by the Chairman after reviewing the full universe of requests.

STAG projects have very specific eligibility requirements, and the Committee will not consider projects that do not meet those requirements. The following lists some of the project types that are ineligible and eligible for STAG funding:

Projects that are NOT generally eligible for STAG Grants

	Clean Water / Wastewater		Drinking Water
1.	**Land,** except for projects described in the subsequent table under eligibility #11.	1.	**Dams or rehabilitation of dams.**
2.	**Operations and maintenance costs.**	2.	**Operations and maintenance costs.**
3.	**Non-municipal point source control.**	3.	**Water rights,** except if the water rights are owned by a system that is being purchased through consolidation as part of a capacity development strategy or if the water rights purchase is covered by EPA's DWSRF Class Deviation for Water Rights 2019.
4.	**Acid rain drainage correction.**	4.	**Reservoirs,** except for finished water reservoirs and those reservoirs that are part of the treatment process and are located on the property where the treatment facility is located.
5.	**Ambient water quality monitoring.**	5.	**Laboratory fees for monitoring.**
6.	**Flood Control Projects,** unless the project is otherwise managing, reducing, treating, or recapturing stormwater.	6.	**Projects needed mainly for fire protection.**
7.	**Privately owned sewer pipes.**	7.	Projects for systems that lack adequate technical, managerial, and financial capability, unless assistance will ensure compliance.
		8.	Projects for systems in significant non-compliance, unless funding will ensure compliance.
		9.	Projects primarily intended to serve future growth.

Projects that ARE generally eligible for STAG Grants

	Clean Water / Wastewater		Drinking Water
1.	**Wastewater treatment plants, including sludge handling facilities:** Upgraded (increase in treatment level) or expanded (increase in treatment capacity) facilities, including biological facilities, mechanical, a lagoon system, a land treatment system, or individual on-site systems.	1.	Facilitate compliance with national primary drinking water regulations or address serious risks to public health including non-regulated contaminants (i.e., PFAS).
2.	**Collector Sewers:** Small sewers that convey wastewater from residences, commercial establishments, and industrial sites to larger interceptor sewers.	2.	Rehabilitate or develop water sources (excluding reservoirs, dams, dam rehabilitation and water rights) to replace contaminated sources.
3.	**Interceptor Sewers:** Large sewers that convey wastewater from collector sewers directly to a wastewater treatment facility.	3.	Install or upgrade treatment facilities.
4.	**Sewer Pipes:** Rehabilitation is eligible only if pipes are publicly owned.	4.	Install or upgrade storage facilities, including finished water reservoirs, to prevent microbiological contaminants from entering the water system.
5.	**Outfall Sewer:** A sewer that conveys treated wastewater from a wastewater treatment facility to the receiving waters (i.e., a river, stream, lake, ocean, etc.).	5.	Install or replace transmission and distribution pipes to prevent contamination caused by leaks or breaks in the pipe or improve water pressure to safe levels.
6.	**Storm Water Management:** Measures to manage, reduce, treat, or recapture stormwater or subsurface drainage water (i.e., storm sewers, green infrastructure, etc.).	6.	Projects to consolidate water supplies – for example, when individual homes or other public water supplies have a water supply that is contaminated, or the system is unable to maintain compliance for financial or managerial reasons – are eligible for DWSRF assistance.
7.	**Combined sewer overflow (CSO) control and sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) control:** Combined sewers are sewers that convey both wastewater and storm water and may overflow during periods of heavy rain. The costs to correct CSO and SSO overflow problems are eligible.	7.	Land is eligible only if it is integral to a project that is needed to meet or maintain compliance and further public health protection.
8.	**Infiltration/Inflow Correction:** Construction activities that prevent surface water or groundwater from entering the sewer system.	8.	Project planning, design, and other related costs.
9.	**Water Security:** These projects include installation or upgrade of physical security infrastructure such as lighting, fencing, monitoring and access control. Also, cybersecurity measures, installation of safer treatment technologies, and more secure storage of on-site treatment.		
10.	**Septic Tanks:** Remediation, rehabilitation, removal and replacement of failing tanks are eligible, as well as installation of new tanks where none had previously existed.		

11.	**Land:** The leasing and fee-simple purchase of land, including surface and subsurface easements, needed to locate eligible municipal or tribal projects, and land integral to the treatment process (e.g., land for effluent application or recharge basins), and a place to store equipment and material during POTW construction. Municipal purchase of land and/or conservation easements for source water protection are also eligible.		
12.	**Water Reuse:** Projects involving the municipal reuse or recycling of wastewater, stormwater, or subsurface drainage water. This includes but is not limited to the purchase and installation of treatment equipment sufficient to meet reuse standards, distribution systems to support effluent reuse, recharge transmission lines, injection wells, and equipment to reuse effluent (e.g., gray water, condensate, and wastewater effluent reuse systems).		
13.	**Capital Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects:** E.g., river or streambank restoration, agricultural best management practices (i.e., buffer strips, manure containment structures), wetlands restoration, etc.		

For additional eligibility information, please consult:
• EPA's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Eligibility Handbook
• EPA's Overview of Clean Water State Revolving Fund Eligibilities

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Department of Health and Human Services – Health Resources and Services Administration

CPF requests within the HRSA-Wide Activities and Program Support account must fall under the following category:

- **Health Facilities Construction and Equipment—**CPF requests for the cost of limited-scope construction, renovation, or capital equipment purchase for facilities for health, mental health, or substance use disorder services, training of health professionals, or medical research. In addition to

construction and renovation, CPF funding can be used to acquire capital equipment, such as lab equipment, x-ray machines, or telehealth and information technology.

- Equipment-only CPF requests not involving construction are permissible. Generally, any equipment having a useful life of more than one year and a unit cost of at least $5,000 will be eligible as capital equipment. In addition, equipment with lower costs may also be eligible, if it is treated as an item of capital expense under the recipient institution's pre-existing, written accounting policies. Equipment expenses for health information systems and electronic medical records systems are permitted expenditures, software licensees or operating fees are **not** eligible. The costs of expendable supplies such as pharmaceuticals, lab chemicals, or office paper are not eligible. HRSA Health Facilities funding cannot be used to acquire land or purchase existing buildings, or to pay salaries or other operating costs. Funding cannot be used to pay for work previously completed. CPF requests can be used for architectural and engineering costs associated with an eligible construction project but cannot be used for general feasibility studies.
- For more information on construction and equipment requests, see: https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/manage-your-grant/training/community-project-fundingcongressionally-directed.

CPF requests must include a basic budget that clearly describes how the funds will be used for specific purposes to achieve the project's goals.

HRSA CPF recipients may not sub-grant to other organizations or agencies.

Eligbible recipients for Health Facilities Construction and Equipment community project funding include:

- State, local, and Tribal governments.
- Non-profit entities that are (1) certified rural health clinics, (2) Federally Qualified Health Centers, (3) designated Critical Access Hospitals; or (4) hospitals located in areas that meet HRSA's definition of rural: https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/about-us/definition/index.html.

A General Provision prohibits the award from funding projects to expend funds for any abortion. The folloiwing entities are **not eligible for LHHS community project funding:**

- Entities that peform or promote abortions, including providing referrals, counseling, lobbying, and training related to abortions; furnish or develop any item intended to procure abortions; or provide financial support for such entities. The exceptions described in section 507(a) of division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (P.L. 119–75) shall apply.
- Entities that conduct research using embryonic stem cells (if such tissue is obtained pursuant to an induced abortion) or human germline gene modification.
- Entities that facilitate, promote access to, or refer for psychological, behavioral, or medical interventions performed for the purposes of intentionally changing the body of an individual (including by disrupting the body's development, inhibiting its natural functions, or modifying its appearance) to no longer correspond to the individual's biological sex.

Below are specific eligibility questions in the database that must be answered for the LHHS bill:

- Do you affirm that the intended recipient of community project funding is an eligible recipient under LHHS CPF guidelines?
- Why is the project a priority for the district? Briefly explain the community benefits.
- Has the project received federal funding before and, if so, how much, when and from which agencies and program(s)?
- What is the Employer Identification Number (EIN) for the recipient organization?
- Please provide a budget breakdown of this project – maximum of 10 budget categories (i.e., do not upload a spreadsheet with dozens of budget items).
- Please provide the website of the entity to receive funding for this project.
- If the request does not fully fund the project, describe the source(s) of funding necessary to complete the project.
- Please indicate if you are aware of another Member making a request for this same project.

All CPF requests must meet applicable eligibility requirements. Any CPFs that are funded in an appropriations bill will need to apply to HHS for the award. The application will be reviewed for compliance prior to official award. If the CPF recipient's construction project is expected to begin imminently, please note that CPF construction projects must adhere to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) / National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requirements prior to initiating any physical preparation, demolition, alteration and renovation, or construction related to the project. CPF recipients should be sure they are accounting for time for application submission and review, award issuance, and resolution of conditions on the award, including NEPA/NHPA requirements, prior to starting the project.

Community engagement and support are crucial in determining which projects are worthy of Federal funding. **Only projects with demonstrated community support will be considered.** To demonstrate evidence of community support, you **must** submit community support letters into the database as part of their requests.

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs Subcommittee

Department of Defense - Military Construction Accounts

Community Project Funding requests must follow the guidelines included in this section. Each project request must be for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 funds only and cannot be for multiyear funding. In addition, requested projects must meet the following criteria:
- Be included on an unfunded requirements/unfunded priorities list (UFR/UPL) from a military service or combatant command or the FY27-FY31 Future Years Defense Program (FYDP).ABe included on an unfunded requirements/unfunded priorities list (UFR/UPL) submitted to Congress by a military service, combatant command, or the Office of the Under Secretary for Research and Engineering, or have an existing active authorization from a prior National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).
  - Projects suggested by an installation or unit commander not included on the documents above will not be accepted.
- Have at least 35 percent of its design completed.
  - For projects that have not reached 35 percent design, planning and design funding can be requested.
- Able to be obligated in FY27.
- Submitted to the House Armed Services Committee for inclusion in the FY27 National Defense Authorization Act or previously authorized.

- Have a DD Form 1391, which is DoD's justification for military construction projects. The Armed Services' Congressional Liaison Offices can help provide these documents

The Committee will note given anticipated demand and already oversubscription for Community Project Funding we encourage offices to submit, and the subcommittee intends to prioritize Community Project Funding requests below $55,000,000. Requests above that threshold will be difficult to fund as there are several variables affecting the Committee's ability to fund large projects.

Construction and Unspecified Minor Construction – Active Components

Eligible Community Project Funding requests include construction for active components in the accounts listed below

- Army
- Navy and Marine Corps
- Air Force
- Space Force
- Defense-Wide Agencies (SOCOM, DLA, etc.)

Construction and Unspecified Minor Construction – Reserve Components

Eligible Community Project Funding requests include construction for Reserve Components in the accounts listed below. Note: Some Reserve Component projects require a state funding match. Requesting offices must determine whether the proposed project requires such a match and if so, confirm that the project has current state matching funds. The Committee will not waive match requirements:

- Army National Guard
- Air National Guard
- Army Reserve
- Air Force Reserve
- Navy Reserve

Sources of Eligible Community Project Funding Projects

Eligible Community Project Funding requests are those that are submitted to Congress by DoD, the Services, and Combatant Commanders. Sources include:

- **Unfunded Requirements/Unfunded Priorities Lists (UFR/UPL)** – UFRs/UPLs are lists that the Services and Combatant Commanders provide to Congress identifying priority projects that were not included in the President's budget request. The Committee will use FY26 UFRs/UPLs currently available to Congress. The absence of current UFRs/UPLs for FY27 results in the need to utilize the previous list. These lists can be found by contacting the Armed Services' Congressional Liaison Offices.
- **National Defense Authorization Acts.**
- **Unfunded Requirements for Laboratory Military Construction Projects report Congress required by section 2806 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91).**

For military construction Community Project Funding requests, the following information will be needed. This information is specific to the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies.

- Which Service is the project for?
- Project Title.
- Amount Requested for FY27.
- Program (Is the funding request for construction, unspecified minor construction, or planning and design?).
- Project Location (state/territory title).
- Installation Name (location title).
- Does the project have an active authorization from the National Defense Authorization Act? If so, what year?
- Was the project included as an unfunded requirement in the Unfunded Requirements for Laboratory Military Construction Projects report Congress required by section 2806 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91)?
-
- Is the project on a FY26 Service or Combatant Command unfunded requirements/unfunded priorities list (UFRs/UPLs)?
- Does the project have a DD Form 1391, have you included it the submission?
- If a Reserve Component project, does it require a state funding match?
- Is this project at or above 35 percent design complete?
- Can the project funds be obligated in FY27?
- Has a corresponding request been submitted to HASC for inclusion in the FY26 NDAA? If a project was previously authorized in a NDAA, please provide the fiscal year.
- Who is the point of contact in the requesting office?

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee

For Fiscal Year 2027, the subcommittee will include CPFs in the following accounts:

- Department of Transportation – Airport Improvement Program
- Department of Transportation – Highway Infrastructure Projects
- Department of Transportation – Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements
- Department of Transportation – Transit Infrastructure Grants
- Department of Transportation – Port Infrastructure Development Program
- Department of Housing and Urban Development – Economic Development Initiatives

Department of Transportation

Transit Infrastructure Projects

All Projects must be for purposes authorized by chapter 53 of title 49 of the United States Code.

Transit Infrastructure Projects are public transportation capital projects eligible under chapter 53 of title 49 of the United States Code. Eligible capital projects are described under Section 5302(4) of title 49, United States Code, and Section 5339(b)(1) and (c)(1)(B) of title 49, United States Code.

All projects must be:

- Transit capital projects or project-specific planning/design for a transit capital project.
- Supported by the state, local governmental authority, or Tribal government that would administer the project. Inclusion on a Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) or Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) would satisfy this requirement.
- Sponsored by designated or direct recipients, states (including territories and the District of Columbia), local, or Tribal governmental authorities

Public transportation or transit is defined in Section 5302(15) and (22) of title 49, United States Code, as regular, continuing shared-ride surface transportation that is open to the general public or open to a segment of the general public defined by age, disability, or low income, and does not include intercity passenger rail transportation, intercity bus service, charter bus service, school bus service, sightseeing service, courtesy shuttle service for patrons of one or more specific establishments, or intra-terminal or intra-facility shuttle services.

The Subcommittee will not fund activities that are administrative in nature even if they are eligible expenses under the statutory citation. These include but are not limited to general operating expenses, joint development projects, and planning activities authorized under sections 5303, 5304, and 5305 of title 49, United States Code. Additionally, projects must comply with federal requirements such as Buy America and the National Environmental Policy Act. The Committee strongly encourages Member offices to reach out to the project sponsor (i.e., transit agency) to determine the eligibility and viability of their projects.

The Subcommittee will continue to treat the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program as programmatic requests and will not fund CIG projects under Transit Infrastructure Projects. Any projects for which the sponsor is seeking or will seek a CIG grant will not be considered.

Projects must have substantial evidence of community support to be considered for funding. Community support documentation can include letters from elected officials and community groups, local transportation or community development plans, publications (including

Supplemental Questions:
- Project Name.
    - A short name by which the project may be identified, including a very brief description of what the funds will be used for and the project's location. The project name and location will be used to list the project in the House Report and must be accurate to ensure funds are provided to the correct project and location. Any changes after enactment will require additional legislative action.
    - EXAMPLE: *West Elm Paratransit Fleet Replacement.*
- Project Recipient.
    - EXAMPLE: *West Elm Public Transportation Authority*
- General description and scope of project, including benefits and explanation for why project is a priority.
- Total project cost.
    - Provide the total estimated cost of the project. If outlined in the STIP or TIP, provide that amount <u>unless</u> estimated project costs have increased. If project costs have increased, provide a justification.
- Has the project completed the required review(s) under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)? If yes, what is the status and/or outcome of the NEPA review?
    - Projects must complete NEPA before beginning construction/procurement to receive federal funding, including CPFs.
- Does the project have other public (federal, state, local) and/or private funds committed to meet match or cost-share requirements for capital projects?
    - The cost-share requirements are defined in statute. In general, transit capital projects typically require 20 percent non-federal share.
    - EXAMPLE: *Local sales taxes are committed for 25 percent of the project.*
- If the project receives less than requested for the transit infrastructure grants, are there additional sources of Federal or non-federal funding available to deliver the full scope presented in the submitted application? If not, and the full scope cannot be completed with that reduced award, please describe the revised version of the project with a reduced scope, including revised costs.
    - EXAMPLE: *Yes, however, the project will not be able to proceed immediately without the total amount. The West Elm Public Transportation Authority anticipates using FY25 formula funds to make up the shortfall if there are no other federal grant opportunities available.*
- Does the project intend to apply for any DOT discretionary programs before proceeding? If yes, will the project sponsor still proceed if not selected?
    - EXAMPLE: *Yes, the transit agency anticipates submitting an application for the FY25 Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Program before the NOFO deadline. If they are not selected as a grant awardee for Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Program, the West Elm Public Transportation Authority will still proceed using their formula funds.*
- Provide a history of federal funding for the project, if any. Include formula funds and any discretionary grants.
    - EXAMPLE: *FY22 FTA Buses and Bus Facilities Discretionary Grant: $100,000; FY23 FTA Formula Funds: $25,000.*
- Where is the project in the construction process?
    - Drop down options in the database will include Planning and Environmental Review, Final Design, RFP/IFB Issued, Contract Awarded, Capital Purchase or Lease, Construction, and Other (please specify).

- Estimated start and completion dates.
- Is the project currently on a state, tribal or territorial transportation improvement plan (STIP) or a transportation improvement plan (TIP) as of 12/31/2025? If yes, provide a link to the plan.
- Provide the STIP or TIP ID Number and specify which plan the ID Number comes from.

Highway Infrastructure Projects

All Projects must be for purposes authorized by

Highway Infrastructure Projects are capital projects eligible under title 23 of the United States Code, specifically 23 USC 133, or 23 USC 201 or, 23 USC 202, or 23 USC 165. Eligible projects are described under Section 133(b) of title 23, United States Code, as amended by title III of division A of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Tribal and territorial capital projects authorized under Chapter 2 of title 23, United States Code, are also eligible.

All projects must be:

- Capital projects or project-specific planning/design for a capital project.
- Supported by the state or Tribal government that would administer the project. Inclusion on a Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) or Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) would satisfy this requirement.
- Requested by state, local, or Tribal entities

The Subcommittee will not fund activities that are administrative in nature even if they are eligible expenses under the statutory citation. These include general operating expenses, and activities required under sections 134 and 135 of title 23, United States Code.

Applicants should be aware that Highway Infrastructure Projects have a non-Federal cost share calculated on a sliding scale. The cost-share requirements are defined in statute and vary based on activity, location, and other factors.

Additionally, projects must comply with federal requirements such as Buy America and the National Environmental Policy Act. The Committee strongly encourages Member offices and potential funding recipients to reach out to their state departments of transportation to determine the eligibility and viability of projects.

Supplemental Questions:
- Description and benefits of the project and why it is needed.
- Type of project eligible under 23 USC 133 (Surface Transportation Block Grant Program); 23 USC 201 (Federal Lands and Tribal Transportation Programs); 23 USC 202 (Tribal Transportation Program); or 23 USC 165 (Territorial and Puerto Rico Highway Program).
  - NOTE: Choose from 23 USC 133, 23 USC 201, 23 USC 202, or 23 USC 165.
- If the request is for a phase of a larger project, describe all other phases and how this request relates to the entire project.
- Please provide a history of any federal funding already received or approved for the project. Include both formula funds and any discretionary grants.
  - EXAMPLE: *FY20 TIGER/BUILD Grant: $10 million; FHWA Formula Funds: $5 million.*

- Does the project have other public (state, local) and/or private funds committed to meet match or cost-share requirements for costs related to construction, operations, and maintenance? If so, what is the source and amount of those funds?
- Is the project on a STIP or a TIP? If yes, please provide a link to the plan.

Airport Improvement Program (AIP)

AIP community project requests may be used for enhancing airport safety, capacity, and security, and mitigating environmental concerns.

All projects must be:

- AIP eligible in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 47100 et seq. or Section 767(a) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 (49 U.S.C. 44706 note), and FAA policy and guidance.
- Included in the FAA's National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS).
- Supported broadly by local stakeholders, including residents, businesses, and elected officials.
- Administered by an airport and/or airport sponsor.

Projects must comply with federal requirements such as Buy America and the National Environmental Policy Act. The potential grantee should confirm with their FAA Airport District Office to ensure that projects are in compliance and eligible.

For large and medium primary hub airports, the grant covers 75 percent of eligible costs (or 80 percent for noise program implementation). For small primary, reliever, and general aviation airports, the grant covers a range of 9 percent of eligible costs, based on statutory requirements. Specific cost share requirements should be understood by the grantee, and verified by the FAA Regional District Office, along with other requirements to receive FAA funding.

Demonstration of community support for a project is crucial for determining whether it should receive funding. Projects that are not accompanied by substantial evidence of community support will not be considered for funding. Community support documentation can include letters from elected officials and community groups, local transportation or community development plans, publications (including news articles), and any other documents that demonstrate public support for the project.

Supplemental Questions:
- Airport Recipient and Project Name.
  - EXAMPLE: Rehabilitate runway. Airport Name (Include three letter or number airport code).
  - NOTE: This description may be used to list the project in the House report and should be as accurate as possible to ensure that the funding is provided to the correct project and location.
- General description of the project and why it is needed.
- Has the airport sponsor provided assurances that the project is eligible under AIP statutes or Section 767(a) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024? Airport sponsors should engage with their Federal Aviation Administration Airport District Offices to ensure eligibility under statutory requirements.
- What are the benefits of this project and why is it a priority?
- Amount requested for the community project for Fiscal Year 2027, and the total project cost.
- Does the project have other public (federal, state, local) and/or private funds for the required cost-share and committed for the forecasted operations and maintenance costs? What is the source and amount of those funds?
- Has the airport submitted a grant application for this same project to FAA?

Port Infrastructure Development Program

Port Infrastructure Development Program projects are projects eligible under Section 54301 of title 46, United States Code, as amended by title XXXV of division C of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 202.

The subcommittee will only fund projects that meet eligibility criteria and will be administered by eligible applicants, as described by statute. As a reminder, for-profit recipients are not eligible.

This program has a statutory non-Federal matching requirement, with potential exceptions for small and rural area ports. Applicants should review 46 USC sections 54301(a)(8) and 54301(b) for more information on these cost-share requirements before submitting requests for funding. Note that recipients are also required to comply with reviews and audits from the Department of Transportation.

Additionally, these projects may be subject to various Federal requirements such as Buy America and the National Environmental Policy Act. The Committee strongly encourages Members' offices and potential funding recipients to reach out to their local port authorities and the Maritime Administration's Gateway Offices to help determine the eligibility and viability of projects.

Demonstration of community support for a project is crucial for determining whether it should receive funding. Projects must have substantial evidence of community support to be considered for funding. Community support documentation can include letters from elected officials and community groups, local transportation or community development plans, publications (including news articles), and any other documents that demonstrate public support for the project.

Supplemental Questions:
- General description and benefits of the project and why it is needed.
- Is the project at a small port, as described under 46 USC 54301(b)?
- Is the project in a rural area, as described under 46 USC 54301(a)(12) – an area that is outside of a census-designated urbanized area?
- If the request is for a phase of a larger project, describe all other phases and how this request relates to the entire project.
- Has the recipient engaged in discussions with the local port authority and received assurances that the project is eligible under applicable statutes?
- Provide a history of any federal funding already received or approved for the project.
- Does the project have other public (state, local) and/or private funds committed to meet match or cost-share requirements? If so, what is the source and amount of those funds?

Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI)

Rail infrastructure projects are capital projects eligible under the CRISI program authorized in section 22907 of title 49, United States Code. CRISI provides grants to assist in financing the cost of improving passenger and freight rail transportation systems. All projects must be:

1. Rail capital projects or systems planning for a rail capital project (e.g. NEPA and preliminary engineering);
2. Supported by the state, local governmental authority, or Tribal government that would administer the project; and
3. Sponsored by public entities or Tribal entities

The Subcommittee will not fund activities that are administrative in nature even if they are eligible expenses under the statutory citation. These include but are not limited to general operating expenses, rail-related research, and workforce activities. Please note that while planning projects are eligible, projects that are solely planning in nature will be highly scrutinized.

The Committee strongly encourages Member offices to reach out to the project sponsor (i.e., public agency) to determine the eligibility and viability of their projects. Projects must comply with federal requirements such as Buy America and the National Environmental Policy Act. For more on 49 U.S.C. 22905(c)(1) Rail Improvement Grant Conditions, see FAQ here.

The Committee also strongly encourages Member offices to review the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Capital Project Guidance and share this document with the project sponsor to ensure the lifecycle stage of the project matches the requirements.

Projects must have substantial evidence of community support to be considered for funding. Community support documentation can include letters from elected officials and community groups, local transportation or community development plans, publications (including news articles), and any other documents that demonstrate public support for the project.

Supplemental Questions:
- Project Name.
  - A short name by which the project may be identified, including a very brief description of what the funds will be used for and the project's location. This description may be used in the House report and must be accurate to ensure funds are provided to the correct project and location.
  - EXAMPLE: *West Elm Track and Railroad Bridge Improvements.*
- Project Recipient.
  - As a reminder, for-profit entities are not eligible for CPF funding. The recipient must be a public entity that is eligible under the CRISI Program such as a state department of transportation, political subdivision of a state, public agency or publicly chartered authority established by one or more states, or not-for-profit rail carrier that provides intercity rail passenger transportation.
- Please select the eligible project type that best describes the project:
  Please note that CRISI projects are required to primarily benefit intercity passenger rail or freight rail service:
  - Deployment of railroad safety technology, including positive train control and rail integrity inspection systems.
  - A capital project as defined in section 22901(2), except that a project shall not be required to be in a State rail plan developed under chapter 227.
  - A capital project necessary to address congestion or safety challenges affecting rail service.
  - A capital project necessary to reduce congestion and facilitate ridership growth in intercity passenger rail transportation along heavily traveled rail corridors.
  - A highway-rail grade crossing improvement project, including installation, repair, or improvement of grade separations, railroad crossing signals, gates, and related technologies, highway traffic signalization, highway lighting and crossing approach signage, roadway improvements such as medians or other barriers, railroad crossing panels and surfaces, and safety engineering improvements to reduce risk in quiet zones or potential quiet zones.
  - A rail line relocation or improvement project.
  - A capital project to improve short-line or regional railroad infrastructure.

- o The preparation of regional rail and corridor service development plans and corresponding environmental analyses.
  - o Any project necessary to enhance multimodal connections or facilitate service integration between rail service and other modes, including between intercity rail passenger transportation and intercity bus service or commercial air service.
  - o The development and implementation of measures to prevent trespassing and reduce associated injuries and fatalities (e.g., trespass-related capital projects such as physical barriers, fencing, or equipment; trespassing enforcement activities; and outreach campaigns resulting in trespasser deterrence and prevention).
  - o Rehabilitating, remanufacturing, procuring, or overhauling locomotives, provided that such activities result in a significant reduction of emissions.

- General description and scope of project, including benefits and explanation for why project is a priority.
  If the CPF is requested to cover only one phase or segment of a larger project, be clear about how the CPF funds will be used.
  - o EXAMPLE: *The West Elm Track and Railroad Bridge Improvements Project will replace an aging railroad bridge and rehabilitate 11 sidings and wye tracks that can handle increased traffic along the main rail route between the cities of Green Bay and Pembine. CPF funding will cover the costs of final design and construction for the project. The improvements will increase the efficiency of the route by eliminating slow-orders along 32 miles of track and help mitigate congestion along the track to increase safety. It is a priority for both cities given the limited resources they have to fully fund the project.*
- Total project cost.
  - o Provide the total estimated cost of the project. The estimated total cost must be based on the best available information, including engineering studies, studies of economic feasibility, and environmental analyses. See FRA's cost estimate guidance.
  - o *Please note the amount requested should not exceed 80 percent of the total project costs. Rail capital projects under the CRISI program require a minimum 20 percent non-federal share.*
- Does the project have non-federal and/or private funds committed to meet match or cost-share requirements? What is the source and amount of those funds?
  - o The minimum 20 percent non-federal share may be comprised of public sector funding (e.g., state or local) or private sector funding. FRA will not consider any federal financial assistance or any non-federal funds already expended (or otherwise encumbered) toward the matching requirement, unless compliant with 2 CFR part 200.
  - o EXAMPLE: *Local sales taxes are committed for 20 percent of the project.*
- If the project receives less than requested, will the project still proceed without waiting for additional funding sources?
- Provide a history of federal funding for the project, if any. Include prior CRISI or other DOT grant program applications, formula funds and any awarded discretionary grants.
  - o EXAMPLE: Awarded FY20 BUILD Discretionary Grant of $7.5 million.
- Where is the project in the construction process?
  - o Drop down options in the database will include systems planning, project planning, project development, final design, or construction.
  - o *Please note that funding for operations is not eligible.*
- Estimated start and completion dates.
  - o Project sponsors may view the FRA recorded webinar "From Selection to Award—The PostSelection Process for FRA Grants" for a better understanding of the requirements for funding to be obligated.

- Is the project on a state rail plan as of 12/31/2025? If yes, provide a link to the plan and specify page number.
- Is the project included in a grade crossing action plan or other planning document? If yes, provide a link to the plan and specify page number.

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Community Development Fund (CDBG) (Economic Development Initiative (EDI))

NOTE: Non-profits are no longer eligible for the Economic Development Initiative Account. This was a decision made by the Majority.

EDI Community Project Funding within the Community Development Fund account of the HUD title is intended for economic and community development activities, consistent with statutory and additional Committee requirements.

Eligible recipients for Community Project Funding in the Economic Development Initiatives account are the following types of entities:
- States and the District of Columbia
- Territories
- Tribal governments
- Counties
- Cities, towns, parishes, or other local government entities, such as public water districts or public redevelopment authorities
- Public colleges and universities, including community colleges, all Historically Black Colleges and Universities defined as a "part B institution" in section 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061), and all Tribal Colleges and Universities as defined in section 316 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c)

Project requests for the FY26 Economic Development Initiative program must be consistent with the goals of one or more of the following eligible uses of the Community Development Fund (CDF): 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2), 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(4), and 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(5). These statutory eligibilities focus on land or site acquisition, demolition, or rehabilitation; blight removal; and construction and capital improvements of public facilities, except for "buildings used for the general conduct of government."[1]

Programmatic and operational expenses are not eligible

5305(a)(1) – the acquisition of real property (including air rights, water rights, and other interests therein) which is (A) blighted, deteriorated, deteriorating, undeveloped, or inappropriately developed from the standpoint of sound community development and growth; (B) appropriate for rehabilitation or conservation activities; (C) appropriate for the preservation or restoration of historic sites, the beautification of urban land, the conservation of open spaces, natural resources, and scenic areas, the provision of recreational opportunities, or the guidance of urban development; (D) to be used for the provision of public works, facilities, and improvements eligible for assistance under this chapter; or (E) to be used for other public purposes;

5305(a)(2) – the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, or installation (including design features and improvements with respect to such construction, reconstruction, or installation that promote energy efficiency) of public works, facilities (except for buildings for the general conduct of government), and site or other improvements;

5305(a)(4) – clearance, demolition, removal, reconstruction, and rehabilitation (including rehabilitation which promotes energy efficiency) of buildings and improvements (including interim assistance, and financing public or private acquisition for reconstruction or rehabilitation, and reconstruction or rehabilitation, of privately owned properties, and including the renovation of closed school buildings);

5305(a)(5) – special projects directed to the removal of material and architectural barriers which restrict the mobility and accessibility of elderly and handicapped persons;

Given that projects must meet these authorized purposes of the CDBG program, the Committee expects to fund the following types of projects and other similar projects:

- Water or sewer infrastructure projects, which are not otherwise eligible to be funded as CPFs in EPA STAG (Interior bill) or Rural Water and Waste (Agriculture bill);
- Local road infrastructure, which is not otherwise eligible as a CPF in Highways (in this bill);
- Streetscape improvements;
- Housing rehabilitation or construction, residential conversions, and neighborhood revitalization projects, which would increase housing supply and/or improve housing affordability in the local community;
- Projects with a clear economic development benefit for a community or region, such as workforce training centers; and
- Projects that meet a compelling local need consistent with statutory purposes. For example, food banks in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods, youth and senior centers, and multipurpose community centers would be strong submissions.

All projects will be evaluated based on individual submissions, and projects will be selected based on the merits of the project relative to other projects and the availability of CPF funding.

So that Members have the clearest possible guidance on the front end, the following types of projects are not eligible for CPF funding: Healthcare facilities;
- Museums, commemoratives, and memorials;
- Swimming pools, water parks, ski slopes, and golf courses;
- Venues strictly for entertainment purposes, such as theaters, amphitheaters, fairgrounds, and performing arts centers;
- Strictly research, operational, or planning activities; and
- Buildings for the general conduct of government (courthouses, post offices, city halls), which are not allowed under the statute.

Projects require evidence of community support to be considered for funding. Community support documentation can include letters from elected officials and community groups, local transportation or community development plans, publications including news articles, and any other documents that demonstrate public support for the project.

Reminder on Environmental Review Requirements: EDI projects, like all projects funded by HUD, are subject to requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), HUD's NEPA-implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 50 or 24 CFR Part 58, and all applicable federal environmental and historic preservation laws, regulations, and executive orders. An environmental review must be completed before HUD funds and non-HUD funds can be committed to or spent on a project (24 CFR 58.22). If the project will be under construction (or complete) at the time of enactment, the recipient will not likely be able to meet the environmental review requirements.

Taxpayer Identification Number/Unique Entity Identifier: Requesting offices are required to provide a valid Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) and/or Employer Identification Number (EIN) for each potential EDI recipient, as well as the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), which is an entity's official identifier for conducting business with the federal government. If an entity does not presently have a UEI, they can register for one at SAM.gov. Applicants should have this information readily available to provide to your office.

> NOTE: *Political subdivisions and school districts/boards may not have their own unique TIN or UEI. In this case, we recommend naming the recipient as the legal entity under which they are formed and naming the political subdivision in the project description (e.g., "City of Alexandria/For the Department of Public Works' roadway improvements").*

Reminder on Buy America Preference: The "Buy America Preference" in the Build America Buy America (BABA) Act within the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58), requires that all iron and steel, construction materials, and manufactured products used in federally funded infrastructure projects be produced in the United States. If the project will be under construction (or complete) at the time of enactment, the recipient will not likely be able to meet the BABA requirements.

Planning and administrative costs: These costs can be incurred after the date of enactment. However, if the recipient incurs these costs after enactment, but before the grant agreement is signed, they do so at their own risk. If the project is found to be ineligible by HUD or the grant agreement is never signed, HUD cannot reimburse those costs. Hard costs, such as construction, can only be incurred after the successful completion of the required environmental review.

EDI projects are not eligible for the reimbursement of expenses for soft costs (planning, administrative) incurred prior to the completion of a grant agreement between HUD and the grantee; a grant agreement and a completed environmental review are necessary for reimbursement of hard costs (construction activities).

Supplemental Questions:
- Project Name.
- General description of the project and why it is needed.
- What are the benefits of this project and why is it a priority?
- Amount requested for the Community Project Funding and the total project cost.
- Are there community partners participating in this project?
- Does the grantee have experience executing a federal grant?
- Has the request been submitted to another subcommittee or committee this fiscal year? If yes, which one(s)?
- Is this project consistent with the primary objective of the community development program? Please describe who the project is intended to benefit.
- What is the entity's TIN/EIN?
- What is the entity's UEI?
- What is the ZIP code of the project location? If the project spans multiple ZIP codes, provide the ZIP code where most of the appropriation would be spent.
- Does the grantee have a Community Project Funding (CPF)/Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) project that has not yet secured a signed grant agreement with HUD? This should include projects for which appropriations were made since FY2022. If yes, please provide:
  - The title of the project;
  - The fiscal year the CPF/CDS was enacted;
  - The awarding Member(s) and/or Senator(s);
  - The grant number as provided by HUD; and

          o   The grant's status ("No Materials Submitted" or "Grant Review in Progress")

Frequently Asked Questions

The process of requesting and submitting requests for Community Project Funding can be confusing. Here are some of the most frequently asked questions about the process. Please check this section for answers to many of your questions before following up with my staff.

What is Community Project Funding?

Community Project Funding is generally defined as spending provisions in federal legislation that:

- Are requested on behalf of constituents or constituent organizations by a Member of Congress or Senator;
- Provides, authorizes, or recommends a specific amount of discretionary budget authority, credit authority, or specific funding amount to a specific entity for a specific purpose; and,
- The purpose of the project must meet the objective of a federal program under existing law.

Community Project Funding is typically requested for projects with a clear purpose and goal above and beyond normal operating activities, for which private, non-federal funding is not available or sufficient. Community Project Funding will typically only serve as a partial contribution to the total cost of a project.

Community Project Funding is known as Congressionally Directed Spending in the U.S. Senate.

Is there a deadline for submitting a request?

Our process is now open. The deadline for submissions will be March 6, 2026

[Please use this form to submit your community project request.](#)

What if I miss a deadline? Are any exceptions made if the bill hasn't been passed?

Congressional offices review numerous requests in a short amount of time. As a result, deadlines are strictly enforced. Once our office submits my requests to the full committee, I am unable to change or add requests. That is why it's important to submit your request before the deadline.

Are Community Project Funding requests publicly disclosed?

Yes. All requests for Community Project Funding submitted by the Member to the committee for consideration must be publicly listed on that Member's website, including the name and address of the requestor, the amount requested, and the justification for use of taxpayer funds no more than 20 days after requests are submitted.

What if my project's location is just outside Rep. Veronica Escobar's district?

As long as your project is within El Paso County my office will consider them.

How many Community Project Funding requests will the Congresswoman make?

I am limited to submitting **20** requests for Community Project Funding across the entire House Appropriations Committee for FY 2027.

Are there limitations on what Community Project Funding can be used for?

Yes. Federal Programs have very specific restrictions on how federal funds can be used. It is recommended that you closely examine this guide for references to eligible uses or limitations on use. Generally, funding

cannot be used for debt service, recurring or routine expenses, reimbursement of costs, or projects that cannot demonstrate value to the community.

Can I request funding for "bricks and mortar"?

In general, no. One of the most common requests for funding is for building construction or renovation. Most appropriations accounts specifically prohibit this kind of project given the high demand.

There are some exceptions to this rule, including the Economic Development Initiative under the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and certain projects under the Military Construction Subcommittee, etc.

Should I submit my request to both my U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators?

Yes. It is strongly recommended that you submit your request to all of your federal representatives if they are participating in the Community Project Funding process.

How much should I request?

It depends on the account from which you are requesting funds. You should request the amount you need and can realistically use in the time frame laid out for use in the grant (generally one year from when funds are received.) Receiving funds from Community Project Funding in one Fiscal Year is not a guarantee for Community Project Funding in future Fiscal Years. You should only use last year's funding data as general information, and should not be dissuaded from requesting an amount larger than average for the account you're requesting for. You should not, though, request more funds than you need or that can be realistically spent in the Fiscal Year for which you receive the funds. Many accounts have information from the committee on the maximum level of funding that will be considered.

How should I determine how much funding to request?

The level of funding request should be justified by the project proposal, budget plan, and community support. Data on the range of projects can be found in this guide, though you should request what you can realistically use and spend in the Fiscal Year of award. In FY 26, the committee awarded well outlined and high quality projects with the requested amount generally.

A helpful indication may be to look at what a typical grantee may receive for a one-year allocation of funding for the specific program you are interested in requesting a Community Project Funding request for.

Is there a minimum amount one should request for Community Project Funding?

No, there is no minimum amount of funding to request.

What if I do not know the appropriate Account or Agency for my project request?

This guide has been prepared to outline information on available accounts. Requestors should use this guide to identify the appropriate account to identify one that meets the needs of your project or organization. Please call my office if you need additional information.

If my project is funded, will I receive the full amount I request?

There is no guarantee that an approved Community Project Funding request will be funded at the requested level. Please keep this in mind when requesting support for your project.

Do I need letters of support?

Yes. The more community support for a project, the better. As listed above, letters of support from local, municipal, and state elected officials and stakeholders, as well as editorials and articles in local newspapers on the importance and necessity of the project are all important.

I submitted a request. Will it be approved? When will I know?

The FY 2027 Community Project Funding process is extremely targeted, and this process is also very competitive. While my team will look at all requests, it is strongly recommended you explore other grant and funding sources as well.

The House Appropriations bills are typically considered in late spring, with the Senate considering bills in late spring and over the summer. The House and Senate have to convene a "conference committee" to work out the differences in each of those bills.

The Committee requires all members to publicly disclose and post their final requests to the Appropriations Committee once the requests are made. Please remember, even if your project is supported in the House and/or Senate Appropriations bills, the funding level is subject to change until the final bill is signed into law.

This process can be long, but my team and I will be sure to keep all projects apprised of their status.

If my Community Project Funding request is granted, what is the process for getting the assistance and how quickly will I receive it?

In general, recipients of Community Project Funding will be contacted by the appropriate agency or office that oversees the account from which your project received funding. This cannot happen until the appropriations bill in which your project was listed is signed into law. The timing varies between departments and agencies – some may start the process within several weeks, others may take several months after the bill's enactment into law.

In most cases, you will have to complete and submit a grant application outlining the project's goals, cost estimates and other requirements. You will work with a program or contract officer to complete these steps; they may have questions or additional requirements that could affect the timing of the obligations or outlay of funding to your organization.

The process of accessing funding and the time it takes to complete the necessary steps, surprises many recipients who expect the money to be provided immediately.

Please be sure to take this into account when submitting a request.

Can I depend on receiving Community Project Funding for the same project more than once?

Generally, no. Most successful requests are one-time infusions of funding, generally used to launch a project or partially contribute towards the total cost of a project.

Given the limitations on the appropriations process for Community Project Funding, there is no guarantee that Congress will support a project for more than one year. However, you should discuss the needs of your project with your Congressional sponsor(s) if you believe that federal support will be needed beyond a single fiscal year.

Are all non-profits eligible?

501(c)(3)'s are eligible for Community Project Funding. Some 501(c)(6)'s may be eligible on a case by case basis. These include Chambers of Commerce, Farm Bureau's, or Veterans Service Organizations.

What is the anticipated timing for disbursement of Community Project Funding relative to passage of the legislation?

When Community Project Funding is secured in the final spending bill, this will create a grant program for which the requester is the only eligible applicant. The requester will need to apply for the grant that is their Community Project Funding before funds will be disbursed. In terms of timeline, this will vary by federal department/agency as this will be a new process to implement. For context, regular grants usually take between 6-10 months.

Does Fiscal Year 2027 refer to the federal fiscal year or the state fiscal year?

This refers to the Federal Fiscal Year; Fiscal Year 2027 begins on October 1, 2026. Many states have a fiscal year that begins in July. It is not an issue if the state FY 2027 overlaps with federal FY 2026

If the FY27 spending bill isn't finalized until much later (i.e. December 2026), will Community Project Funding requests still need to be fully obligated and spent by September 30, 2027, or will they have 12 months after enactment to obligate funds?

The question on our Community Project Funding form regarding 12 months is primarily for planning purposes and to assess whether the recipient is ready to access the funds. If approved, Community Project Funding will be available for the same "period of availability" as other federal funds in the same account. That could be for one-year, two-years, or five-years depending on the project type.

Will Community Project Funding be taken from the overall funding pot for specific agencies?

For FY 2026, no more than 0.5% of discretionary spending will be allocated to fund all Community Project Funding. We anticipate something similar for FY27.

What limitations are there on non-federal matching funds? Can this come from private donations or is it limited to state and local funding sources? Would in-kind matches be determined at the programmatic level or is there a general rule?

Some programs allow for in-kind matches. The criteria differ based on what the laws for each agency and program allows.

If a non-profit did a membership campaign or donation drive and is able to show the number of donors, as well as that donors were predominantly local residents, would that be considered acceptable community support?

The House Appropriations Committee has recommended publicly available documents such as letters from community leaders, press articles, resolutions passed by local governments, and public planning documents.

Are capital projects eligible for Community Project Funding?

In certain cases, yes. This guide outlines which programs do and don't include capital funding.

Is there a preference for programmatic funding or Community Project Funding?

There is no preference, but the distinction between the two should help guide whether your request is programmatic in nature or a Community Project Funding request. Community Project Funding is for a specific governmental entity or non-profit to carry out a specific program or project in the spending bill at a specified level.

Can Community Project Funding be used for payroll and other operating expenses?

No. Community Project Funding is intended as a one-time infusion of resources to move a project forward that benefits the community, and using it for operating expenses would potentially create a budgeting cliff. There's no guarantee that if one receives Community Project Funding in one fiscal year that there will be subsequent funding in later fiscal years for the same project.

When will we hear back about our request?

This will be a long and competitive process. First, my office will publicly post the requested Community Project Funding requests I will submit to the House Appropriations Committee. Then, the House Appropriations Committee will review and finalize a list of Community Project Funding requests from across the country to be included in the FY 26 House spending bill, which is expected to pass the House in the late summer. Any differences between the House and Senate Appropriations bills will need to be resolved in the early fall before passing and enacting a final spending bill for FY 27.

Other Federal Funding Resources

The Community Project Funding process is highly competitive, and while there are many worthy projects that deserve support, funding limitations prevent many from receiving funding through the Congressional appropriations process. However, it is important to note that Community Project Funding represents only a small fraction of the discretionary funding available through competitive grants, loans, and other opportunities.

Below are a number of useful resources to explore other federal funding opportunities. Each Congressional office has staff dedicated to assisting organizations with seeking and applying for grants; you are strongly encouraged to contact your Congressional representatives to discuss how you can access any assistance from your federal elected officials.

Key Resources

Grants.gov

Looking for other federal funding opportunities? At Grants.gov, organizations can search and apply for competitive grants from 26 different federal agencies. Grants can be searched by agency, type of applicants, intended purposes, and more.

SAM.gov

The official U.S. government website for people who make, receive, and manage federal awards.

GovLoans.gov

Interested in finding out which loans or benefits you may be eligible for? Here you can learn more about federal loans, determine which loans may be right for you, and more.

Benefits.gov

This tool will help you figure out what government benefits you may be eligible for. It also provides information on how to apply for these programs.

USA.gov

The official guide to US Government Information and Services.

Rep. Escobar's Website and Staff

For more grant resources, visit my website or email Kayley Castillo, at Kayley.castillo@mail.house.gov

Feedback

I hope this guide is helpful to you in compiling your Community Project Funding requests. My team has spent many hours putting our process and this guide together. Your feedback is essential to ensuring that this guide and process remain user-friendly. Please share any feedback you have with my staff. Please share any feedback you have directly with my staff at TX16.approps@mail.house.gov.

Thank you.