

# Community Project Funding Guide Fiscal Year 2026

#### Updated April 8, 2025



Dear Community Member,

I am excited to share with you a resource guide on how community members of Florida's Tenth Congressional district can apply for Community Project Funding through the congressional appropriations project.

Community Projects are direct investments in Central Florida that will improve our everyday lives. My office and I are committed to creating a fair, equitable, and transparent process that benefits every part of Florida's Tenth Congressional district.

Community Project Funding allows a specific organization or government to receive federal funds under an existing program. The entity must comply with all requirements of the existing program. Community Project Funding is only available for certain programs. For those following Community Projects over the last few years, please note that this year, the majority party has once again eliminated eligibility for many accounts, including those in healthcare, education, and financial services, and added new restrictions on nonprofit applicants.

In this Community Project Funding guide, you will find explanations of the project application process, criteria to determine your eligibility, an outline of the required information, relevant deadlines for submission, and contact information for my staff in case you have questions.

I am committed to bettering the lives of everyone in Florida's Tenth Congressional District – and that's precisely what supporting these Community Projects will do. Our team is excited to hear your recommendations for projects that fit our criteria by meeting a clear and present need in the community, being administered by local government or eligible nonprofit organizations, and enjoying significant support from community stakeholders.

During this process, please keep in mind that my office will receive and review more requests for Community Projects than can be supported. That is why it is extremely important that every project applicant also pursue other federal, state, or local funding opportunities where applicable. As you review this resource guide, please remember that my team is standing by to support you, and to answer any questions that you may have. We look forward to working with you to bring important resources to Florida's Tenth Congressional District.

Sincerely,
Maxwell Alejandor Fost

Maxwell Alejandro Frost Member of Congress

#### Table of Contents

- I. My Community Project Funding Application Submission Form and Staff Contact List (5)
- II. Overview of the Community Project Funding Process (6)
- III. Details for Open Accounts (7)
  - Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies
     (7)
    - i. Department of Agriculture Farm Production and Conservation Programs
      - Account: Natural Resources Conservation Service (Conservation Operations)
    - ii. Department of Agriculture Research, Education, and Economics
      - 1. Account: Agricultural Research Service (Buildings and Facilities)
    - iii. Department of Agriculture Rural Development
      - 1. Account: Rural Housing Service (Community Facilities)
      - 2. Account: Rural Utilities Service (ReConnect Program)
      - Account: Rural Utilities Service (Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants)
      - 4. Account: Rural Utilities Service (Rural Water and Waste Disposal Grants)
  - ii. Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (11)
    - i. Department of Commerce
      - 1. Account: NIST—Scientific and Technical Research
      - 2. Account: NOAA—Coastal Zone Management
    - ii. Department of Justice
      - 1. Account: COPS Technology and Equipment
      - 2. Account: Byrne Justice
    - iii. National Aeronautics and Space Administration
      - 1. Account: Safety, Security, and Mission Services
  - iii. Energy and Water Development (14)
    - i. Army Corps of Engineers (Civil Works)
      - 1. Account: Investigations
      - 2. Account: Construction
      - 3. Account: Mississippi River and Tributaries
      - 4. Account: Operation and Maintenance
    - ii. Department of the Interior/Bureau of Reclamation
      - 1. Account: Water and Related Resources
  - iv. Homeland Security (17)
    - i. Federal Emergency Management Agency
      - 1. Account: Federal Assistance—Emergency Ops. Centers
      - 2. Account: Federal Assistance—Pre-Disaster Mitigation
  - v. Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies (19)
    - i. Environmental Protection Agency
      - 1. Account: STAG—Clean Water State Revolving Fund
      - 2. Account: STAG—Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
  - vi. Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies (26)
    - 1. Account: Army
    - 2. Account: Army National Guard

- 3. Account: Army Reserve
- 4. Account: Navy & Marine Corps
- 5. Account: Navy Reserve
- 6. Account: Air Force and Space Force
- 7. Account: Air National Guard
- 8. Account: Air Force Reserve
- 9. Account: DoD, Defense-Wide
- vii. Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (28)
  - i. Department of Housing and Urban Development
    - 1. Account: CDBG Economic Development Initiatives
  - ii. Department of Transportation
    - 1. Account: Airport Improvement Program
    - 2. Account: Highway Infrastructure Projects
    - 3. Account: Transit Infrastructure Projects
    - 4. Account: Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements
    - 5. Account: Port Infrastructure Development Program
- IV. Frequently Asked Questions (42)
- V. Other Federal Funding Resources (45)
- VI. Feedback (46)

## I. My Community Project Funding Application Submission Form and Staff Contact List

Please submit all FY26 Community Project Funding requests through my office's form at <a href="https://forms.office.com/g/HjZ4ypU0xA">https://forms.office.com/g/HjZ4ypU0xA</a>

The deadline to submit a Community Project Funding request is April 22, 2025.

## **Staff Contact List**

For specific questions about the process or your request, please reach out to my staff directly:

- Riv Curt, Legislative Director <u>River.Curt@mail.house.gov</u>
- Jason Henry, District Director <u>Jason.Henry@mail.house.gov</u>

## II. Overview of the Community Project Funding Process

The House Appropriations Committee has agreed to fund Community Projects again. These requests will be funded through numerous federal funding bills.

First, you should know at the outset that my team and I expect to receive dozens of requests for project funding. And while it's my goal to help fund as many projects as possible, Members of Congress can only submit fifteen requests to fund Community Projects – and we cannot guarantee what will ultimately be funded.

Second, it is important that any request you make satisfies **every** requirement laid out by the House Appropriations Committee. Most importantly, each request must include demonstrated merit and community support. You will be required to submit evidence of that community support, which could include:

- Letters of support from elected community leaders and community members
- Press articles highlighting the need for the specific project
- Resolutions passed by local/county/state governments
- Projects listed on community development plans, state intended use plans, and other publicly available planning documents
- Support from local newspapers or editorial boards, etc.

#### Additional requirements are listed below:

- A financial disclosure statement from myself certifying that neither my immediate family nor I have any financial interest in the proposed project is required.
- No funds may be used by for-profit recipients.
- Matching funds must be available for each project from the state and/or local government. (Matching funding does NOT have to be in-hand, but officials must have a funding plan in place to meet this requirement).
- To ensure a federal nexus exists for each funded project, the Committee will only fund projects that are tied to a federal authorization law.
- The funds for each project must be obligated in FY26

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, their address, the amount of the request, and an explanation of the purpose and justification for the use of taxpayer funds.

## III. Details for Open Accounts

Community Project Funding is only available for certain programs. The accounts available for Community Project Funding are organized by the 12 Appropriations Subcommittee with responsibility for that program. Below is a list of accounts for FY26 for which an organization can make a request for Community Project Funding, as well as specific information needed to make a submission. Please note, this language was taken from the House Appropriations Committee website and is not in my words.

## Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies (Ag)

#### Specific information needed for the Ag accounts:

- 1. The website address of the proposed recipient.
- 2. If there are additional costs necessary to complete the project, have those been secured?
- 3. For Rural Development projects, is the project for an eligible purpose and does it meet all eligibility requirements under current law?
- 4. Does the entity plan to make grants to other entities from the funds provided and, if so, to whom?
- 5. Why is the project a priority for the district? Briefly explain the community benefits.
- 6. Has any funding for the project been included in any presidential budget and, if so, how much, in which fiscal year, and in which agency or agencies and program(s)?
- 7. Has the project received Federal funding before and, if so, how much, when, and from which agency or agencies and program(s)?
- 8. Have you contacted the State Rural Development Office/State Conservation Office to discuss the project and confirm eligibility?
- 9. 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]
- 10. For ARS B&F only, does the project have distinct and separable phases?
- 11. For ARS B&F only, what is the estimated completion date of the project? When does completion of construction occur? [mm/yy]
- 12. For ARS B&F only, have you verified that this facility is owned or operated by the Agricultural Research Service?
- 13. For ReConnect requests only, please provide relevant information, such as the number of households, businesses, or farms that would be served, what the performance of the service to be offered will be, and whether healthcare or educational facilities will be served.
- 14. 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.
- 15. 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**

## Account: Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Community Facilities Grants

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: medical or dental clinics, healthcare facilities, 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).

The Member's request must demonstrate community support. Members should ensure that their request provides the most complete description of the project as 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. In-kind contributions and other federal formula or grant 5 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. For Fiscal Year 2024, the average Community Facilities CPF award was about \$1.2 million.

## Account: Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, ReConnect Program

ReConnect broadband pilot grants facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas. Grant funds can be used for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service to rural areas without sufficient broadband access, defined as 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream.

The area must be rural and lack sufficient access to broadband service. A rural area is any area which is not located within a city, town, or incorporated area that has a population of greater than 20,000 inhabitants. Sufficient access to broadband is defined as greater than 90% of any rural area in which households have fixed, terrestrial broadband service delivering at least 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream. Mobile and satellite services will not be considered in making the determination of sufficient access to broadband.

Stand-alone middle-mile projects are not eligible under the ReConnect Program. However, middle-mile facilities are eligible if they are needed to bring sufficient broadband service to all premises in the area.

Members are strongly encouraged to include information in their requests, such as the number of households, businesses, or farms will be served in the area, what the performance of the service to be offered will be, and whether healthcare or educational facilities will be served.

Additionally, when submitting a request, Members are reminded that all policies and procedures apply, including environmental and related reviews and the non-federal cost share requirement of 25% of the overall project cost. Policies and procedures can be found at https://go.usa.gov/xexPT.

USDA's Rural Development office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility. For fiscal year 2024, the average ReConnect CPF award was nearly \$1.2 million.

## Account: Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, 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 programing.

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 of 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.

The State Rural Development Office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility. For fiscal year 2024, the average DLT CPF award was \$600,000.

## Account: Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, 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.

The State Rural Development Office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility. For fiscal year 2024, the average Water and Waste CPF award was nearly \$1.5 million.

## Account: Department of Agriculture, 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.

## Account: Department of Agriculture, 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 FY26, the Subcommittee will only consider projects for funding recipients that are State, local, and Tribal organizations, or public conservation districts. Non-profit recipients will not be considered.

The State Conservationist is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility. House CPFs in the account averaged about \$1.3 million in FY24.

For more information on accounts in the Aq Subcommittee, see full Committee quidance.

## Subcommittee Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS)

#### **Department of Commerce**

### Account: NIST - Scientific and Technical Research

NIST Scientific and Technical Research projects support standards-related research and technology development.

#### Purpose & Federal Nexus

- Funding 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.
- 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.

Supplemental Questions for NIST Scientific and Technical Research project requests:

- 1. Is the recipient entity a non-profit organization as described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986? [yes/no]
- 2. 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.
- 3. Are you aware of another Member making a request for this same project?
- 4. Please provide the location of this project, in the format 'City (or County), State'.

## Account: NOAA – Coastal Zone Management

Coastal Zone Management projects support the protection, restoration, and responsible development of our nation's diverse coastal communities and resources.

**Purpose & Federal Nexus:** Funding 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.).

**Cost-Share Requirements:** Coastal Zone Management projects are subject to any applicable cost-share required by law under the Coastal Zone Management Program.

<u>Supplemental Questions for NOAA Coastal Zone Management project requests:</u>

- 1. Is the recipient entity a non-profit organization as described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986? [yes/no]
- 2. 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.
- 3. Are you aware of another Member making a request for this same project?
- 4. Please provide the location of this project, in the format 'City (or County), State'.

#### Department of Justice

### **Account: Byrne Justice**

DOJ Byrne JAG projects assist state, local, and Tribal law enforcement efforts to enforce laws, address violent crime, increase prosecutions, improve the criminal justice system (including the correctional system), provide victims' services, and other related activities.

**Purpose & Federal Nexus:** 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.

In addition, the Chairman communicated that he 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.

**Prioritization of Projects:** 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.

**Non-Profit Entities**: 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.

#### Requirements

- Awarded grants will be subject to the requirements of 2 CFR Part 200 and the <u>DOJ Grants</u> Financial Guide.
- This link to the Department's guidance may help guide you in gauging the eligibility of a proposed Byrne project: <a href="https://bja.ojp.gov/program/jag/overview">https://bja.ojp.gov/program/jag/overview</a>
- 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's authorizing legislation.

#### Supplemental Questions for Byrne Justice project requests:

- 1. Is the recipient entity a non-profit organization as described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986? [yes/no]
- 2. 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.
- 3. Please provide the location of this project, in the format 'City (or County), State'.

## Account: Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Technology and Equipment

COPS Technology and Equipment projects support state, local, and Tribal law enforcement efforts to develop and procure the technology and equipment needed to respond more quickly and effectively, improve officer safety, increase transparency and enhance community relations.

**Purpose & Federal Nexus**: Funding 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.

Notes:

- Eligible recipients for COPS Technology and Equipment Community Project Funding are State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies.
- Funding for building construction or renovation projects is not an eligible use of COPS
   Technology and Equipment Community Project Funding.

#### <u>Supplemental Questions for COPS Technology & Equipment project requests:</u>

- 1. Is the recipient a State, Tribal, or local law enforcement agency?
- 2. 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.
- 3. Please provide the location of this project, in the format 'City (or County), State'.

### Account: NASA Safety, Security and Mission Services

NASA Safety, Security and Mission Services projects support science education, research, and technology development related to NASA's mission.

**Purpose & Federal Nexus**: Funding 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.

Note: The following projects will not be considered for NASA Safety, Security and Mission Services Community Project Funding:

- Building construction or renovation projects.
- Medical research projects.

#### Supplemental Questions for NASA Safety, Security, and Mission Services project requests:

- 1. Is the recipient entity a non-profit organization as described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986? [yes/no]
- 2. 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.
- 3. Please provide the location of this project, in the format 'City (or County), State'.

For more information on accounts in the CJS Subcommittee, see full Committee quidance.

## **Energy and Water Development (E&W)**

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:

## **Army Corps of Engineers (Civil Works)**

**Account: Investigations** 

**Account: Construction** 

**Account: Mississippi River and Tributaries** 

**Account: Operation and Maintenance** 

## Department of the Interior/Bureau of Reclamation

#### Account: Water and Related Resources

- Not all programs within these accounts will be open for Community Project Funding requests.
  - If the project is **not** an individually authorized project or a project under the Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities Program, please contact the Subcommittee for further information **prior to** submitting a request.
- To support the funding level and scope of a project included in the President's budget request, please submit a program request. [Please note that funding for projects in the budget request may not be automatic, and therefore, the Committee strongly recommends Members submit a program request in support of each budget request project the Member supports, especially any new project.]
- A Community Project Funding request is only necessary to request an increment of funding or scope above and beyond the President's budget request.
  - (YES) Program request to support the President's budget request of \$10 for Project A.
  - (YES) Community Project Funding request to support \$5 in addition to the President's budget request for Project A.
  - (NO) Program request or Community Project Funding request to support \$15 for Project A.
- Within the Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation, the Committee will accept
  program requests for additional funding above the budget request for categories of
  projects (e.g., navigation maintenance, flood control studies, etc.), but Members should be
  aware that this funding may be extremely limited in Fiscal Year 2026. For specific projects
  of particular interest, Members are strongly encouraged to submit Community Project
  Funding requests for amounts above the budget request.
- After the official Community Project Funding requests have been received, the subcommittee will ask the federal agencies for technical assistance on each requested project, including the information described in the suggested questions below. The subcommittee will evaluate project requests based on the information provided to the subcommittee directly from the federal agency.

The subcommittee strongly recommends that Member offices contact the relevant Corps of Engineers District Office or Bureau of Reclamation Regional Office to ask the following specific questions about the project of interest prior to submitting a Community Project Funding request.

• Is the project authorized? Is the scope of work to be funded within existing authorization?

- If YES, the project may be eligible as a Community Project Funding request in the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill.
  - 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.
- If NO, STOP the project is not eligible as a Community Project Funding request in the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill.
- What is the official project name?
  - o Include this name in the "Project Title" field in the electronic system and in the certification of no financial interest.
- What is the fiscal year 2026 capability?
  - This amount is the maximum funding level the Subcommittee will consider for inclusion in the appropriations bill. The existence of a capability amount does not guarantee that funding level or any funding will be able to be accommodated in the appropriations bill; it simply indicates the maximum amount that can be considered for inclusion.
  - For Fiscal Year 2026, the Corps will express capability by providing a range that represents a project's minimum and maximum possible capability.
  - If the Corps provides a capability range prior to the release of the Fiscal Year 2026
     President's budget request, any funding recommended in the budget request should be deducted from both numbers.
  - o If the Corps can provide only a capability range prior to the CPF submission deadline, Members should consider basing their requests on the higher of the two numbers. Eventually, the true Fiscal Year 2026 capabilities for projects will become known, and the Committee will not exceed those amounts regardless of the amount requested. However, requesting the higher number of the range allows the Committee to consider all funding options as the technical data are refined throughout the Fiscal Year 2026 cycle.
  - Regular communication with the relevant Corps District is essential. Capability
    expressions could fluctuate throughout the fiscal year. Corps Districts and Members
    should be proactive in their outreach with each other to validate capability expressions.
- For a Corps of Engineers project, what is the correct appropriations account in which to request funding?
  - Submit the Community Project Funding request under this account.
- For a Corps of Engineers project, is this project a new start?
  - The subcommittee may need to focus Fiscal Year 2026 resources on making progress on ongoing projects, in order to maximize federal benefits. If so, new starts may be very limited, if included at all. While new start requests will be accepted, Members should consider this limitation when making requests.
- For a Corps of Engineers project, is this project an environmental infrastructure (EI) project?
  - The subcommittee may need to focus Fiscal Year 2026 resources on projects in the main mission areas of the Corps (navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, environmental restoration), in order to maximize federal benefits. If so, EI projects may

be very limited, if included at all. While EI requests will be accepted, Members should consider this limitation when making requests.

- 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)?
  - If YES, the project is not eligible as a Community Project Funding request in the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill.

For more information on accounts in the E&W Subcommittee, see full Committee guidance.

## **Homeland Security**

#### Federal Emergency Management Agency

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 <u>environmental and historic preservation requirements</u>, for these two grant programs to ensure proper consideration of the Member's request.

In the past, many CPF requests lacked the necessary details for FEMA to determine grant eligibility. While the database limits project summaries to 1,000 characters, offices are highly encouraged to upload detailed project descriptions for all PDM or EOC requests. Each project description should include a detailed budget describing how the requested federal funding will be spent and confirm the ability of the requesting entity to meet the cost-share requirement.

While the subcommittee will try to provide the full federal cost-share for CPFs, overall demand may limit the ability to do so. Therefore, Member letters should clearly state the minimum amount of federal funding required for a project to move forward.

Cost-Share Requirements: The PDM and EOC grant programs are eligible for up to 75 percent federal cost-share. The remaining 25 percent of eligible activity costs must generally be derived from non-federal sources. The non-federal cost-share contribution is 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 90 percent federal cost-share for mitigation planning and project subapplications in accordance with the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. § 5133(a),(h)(2)).

#### **General Checklist**

- Did you upload a letter from the appropriate State or Territorial Administrative Agency (e.g., Ohio Emergency Management Agency), or Tribal government, confirming project eligibility and their willingness to administer the grant?
- Have you confirmed that the legal name of the grant recipient you entered is the State or Territorial Administrative Agency, or Tribal government, that would administer the grant?
- Did you upload letters of support from local entities (e.g., Lake County and/or City of Mentor) demonstrating community support for the project(s)?

#### Account: Federal Assistance—Emergency Ops. Centers

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. Member offices must answer all eligibility questions in the database for a request to be considered.

For any EOC projects designated for funding in the FY 2026 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.

CPF funding in FY 2024 ranged between \$89,000 and \$3,000,000 for individual EOC grants.

#### Checklist

- Did you upload a letter from the appropriate State or Territorial Administrative Agency (e.g., Nevada Division of Emergency Management), or Tribal government, confirming project eligibility and their willingness to administer the grant?
- Did you upload letters of support from local entities (e.g., Washoe County and/or City of Reno) demonstrating community support for the project(s)?
- Have you confirmed the requesting jurisdiction is a state, Tribal government, local government, or territory as defined in the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. § 5122(4),(6),(8))?
- Does the EOC request involve the construction or upgrading of a multipurpose facility, such as a public safety building or police/fire station?
  - If yes, does the CPF request limit costs to only the square footage directly associated with the EOC and not the entire facility?
- Can the requesting jurisdiction provide the required non-federal cost-share (25 percent of the total project cost)?
- Have you indicated the minimum amount of federal funding needed for the project to advance if it is not feasible to fund the full federal cost-share of the total project cost?

#### Account: Federal Assistance—Pre-Disaster Mitigation

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 <u>Notice of Funding Opportunity</u>

(NOFO). The subcommittee encourages offices to consult with their <u>State Hazard Mitigation Officers</u> 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 2026 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.

CPF funding in FY 2024 ranged between \$75,000 and \$10,000,000 for individual PDM grants.

#### Checklist

- Did you upload a letter from the appropriate <u>State or Territorial Administrative Agency</u> (e.g., Nevada Division of Emergency Management), or Tribal government, confirming project eligibility and their willingness to administer the grant?
- Did you upload letters of support from local entities (e.g., Washoe County and/or City of Reno) demonstrating community support for the project(s)?
- Have you confirmed the requesting jurisdiction is a state, Tribal government, local government, or territory as defined in the <a href="Stafford Act">Stafford Act</a> (42 U.S.C. § 5122(4),(6),(8))?
- Have you confirmed the proposed activity is consistent with the current FEMA-approved multihazard mitigation plan in compliance with 44 CFR Part 201?
- Have you confirmed the requesting entity can provide a <u>Benefit-Cost Analysis</u> that validates the cost-effectiveness of the request?
- Does the total project cost reflect federal and non-federal resources?
- Can the requesting jurisdiction provide the required non-federal cost-share (25 percent of the total project cost, or 10 percent of the total project cost for small impoverished communities as detailed in the NOFO)?
- Have you indicated the minimum amount of federal funding needed for the project to advance
  if it is not feasible to fund the full federal cost-share of the total project cost?

For more information on accounts in the Homeland Security Subcommittee, see full Committee guidance.

## Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

## **Environmental Protection Agency**

## Account: STAG—Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Account: STAG— Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

For FY 2026, the Interior Subcommittee will only accept Community Project Funding (CPF) requests in the Environmental Protection Agency – 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).

H.R. 1968, the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (P.L. 119-4), did not include funding for any Community Funded Projects. Therefore, any CPF that was proposed to be funded in the House FY 2025 Interior bill (H.R. 8998) did not receive funding. Should a Member wish to pursue funding for a CPF that was proposed to receive funding in last year's Interior bill, the Member must resubmit the project as a FY 2026 CPF request and include updated Federal Nexus and Financial Disclosure forms. Offices that submit exactly the same information as a project proposed for funding in FY 2025 should select the "Yes" drop down in the Member submission portal, when asked. Please only select "Yes" if the information is identical to what was submitted in FY 2025. Please be aware that resubmitting a FY 2025 project (or multiple projects) will count towards the Community Project Funding submission cap of 15 per Member for FY 2026.

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 recommends that offices share these brochures with requesting entities to better evaluate the eligibility of requested projects prior to submitting projects into the database.

- EPA's Overview of Clean Water State Revolving Fund Eligibilities
- EPA's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Eligibility Handbook

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

- 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.
  - Non-profits will be considered on a limited basis at the discretion of the Chairman, as non-profit partners with an inherent governmental function are occasionally used to complete water projects.
- 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.
- 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 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.

- 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.
- 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 a fire suppression benefit, 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Is ongoing operation 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.
- 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 2026 CPF funding if the costs are incurred on or after October 1, 2025. 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.
- Does a project have to be on a state IUP list in order to be eligible for a CPF? A project is not
  required to be on a State Intended Use Plan (IUP), but projects already listed on an IUP are
  usually eligible to receive CPF funding and can be an easy positive identifier of eligibility.
  Projects that are already on an IUP are typically aware of the applicable SRF requirements.
- What funding amount should I request in the member submission portal?
  - Each project request must only be for FY 2026 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 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. In this case, the submission for this project should be \$800,000.
    - Other federal funds generally cannot be used to meet the 20% cost share requirement, with some exceptions (for reference, the exceptions for FY 2024 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.
- 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 2024, most EPA STAG infrastructure projects funded in the House bill ranged from \$100,000 to \$5,000,000. The Committee may consider higher or lower project amounts for FY 2026, and any caps will be determined by the Chairman after reviewing the full universe of requests.
- Does the subcommittee have any tips on how to fill out the requested information for a STAG CPF project in the Member database?
  - Project Recipient: The legal name of the prospective entity entered into the database must match the entity name on the Member's signed disclosure of financial interest certification letter. 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. Accurate information will help ensure efficiency in awarding funding.
  - o 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 1500 linear feet to serve existing households".
  - Federal Nexus: Please identify which statutory authority authorizes the requested project.
    - 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).
    - 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).
  - Website: Please submit the link to the page on your Member's website that has the posted list of CPF projects that your Member requested.

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 for STAG funding:

**Projects that are NOT generally eligible for STAG Grants** 

Clean Water / Wastewater Drinking Water

1.	<b>Land,</b> 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.	7. Privately owned sewer pipes.		Projects for systems that lack adequate technical, managerial, and financial capability, unless assistance will ensure compliance.			
		8.	Projects for systems in significant noncompliance unless funding will ensure compliance.			
		9.	Projects primarily intended to serve future growth.			

The following list provides some examples of the types of projects that are eligible for STAG grant funding, and which are most frequently funded:

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.	<b>Collector Sewers:</b> 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.	<b>Sewer Pipes:</b> 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.	<b>Outfall Sewer:</b> 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.	
8.	Infiltration/Inflow Correction: Construction activities that prevent surface water or groundwater from entering the sewer system.		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.	<b>Septic Tanks:</b> 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 more information on accounts in the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Subcommittee, <u>see full Committee guidance</u>.

## Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies (MilCon)

### **Department of Defense**

**Account: Army** 

**Account: Army National Guard** 

Account: Army Reserve

**Account: Navy & Marine Corps** 

**Account: Navy Reserve** 

Account: Air Force and Space Force

Account: Air National Guard
Account: Air Force Reserve
Account: DoD, Defense-Wide

**Community Project Funding** requests must follow the guidelines included in this section. Each project request must be for FY 2026 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 FY26-FY30 Future Years Defense Program (FYDP).
  - Projects suggested by an installation or unit commander not included on the documents above will not be accepted.
- The subcommittee will consider Community Project Funding included in the FY25 House bill, H.R. 8580 (and the accompanying report), eligible for FY26 funding even if they are not included in the FY26 FYDP or UFR/UPL lists in FY26.
  - FY26 and FY25 resubmitted projects should be submitted to both the House Appropriations Committee and House Armed Services Committee.
- 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 FY26.
- Submitted to the House Armed Services Committee for inclusion in the FY26 National Defense Authorization Act or previously authorized. This also includes any FY25 CPFs being resubmitted.
- 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 enactment of H.R. 1968, the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 did not include previously identified Community Funded Projects in House Bill H.R. 8580 (and the accompanying report). Any Member wishing to request a project previously submitted or identified

in FY25 will need to be resubmit in FY26 should the office wish to continue pursuing award for that project in FY26. Offices will need to resubmit all associated project information into the database, including updated Federal Nexus and Financial Disclosure forms when opting to resubmit a project request from FY25. Please note any decision to resubmit a FY25 project will count towards the Community Project Funding submission cap of 15.

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 \$50,000,000. Requests above that threshold will be difficult to fund as there are several variables affecting the Committee's ability to fund large projects.

#### **Construction- Active Components**

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

- Army
- Navy and Marine Corps
- Air Force and Space Force
- Defense-Wide Agencies (Special Operations Command (SOCOM), Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), etc.)

#### **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
- Navy Reserve
- Air Force 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. UFRs/UPLs are available to Congress within ten
  days of the release of the President's budget and can be found by contacting the Armed Services'
  Congressional Liaison Offices.
- Future Year Defense Program (FYDP) The FYDP is a projection of the forces, resources, and programs needed to support DoD operations over a five-year period. The FYDP is released simultaneously with the President's budget request. The FY26-30 FYDP listing the military construction projects that may be eligible for Community Project Funding in FY26 can be obtained

through the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) website: <a href="https://comptroller.defense.gov/Budget-Materials/">https://comptroller.defense.gov/Budget-Materials/</a>. The website will likely become updated following the release of the President's FY2026 Budget.

Please contact the subcommittee if you have any issues identifying the eligible FY26 sources for military construction Community Project Funding requests.

#### Supplemental Information

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 FY26.
- Program (Is the funding request for construction, unspecified minor construction, or planning and design?).
- Project Location (State/Territory Title).
- Installation Name (Location Title).
- Is the project on the FY26-FY30 FYDP? If so, which fiscal year?
- 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% design complete?
- Can the project funds be obligated in FY26?
- 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?

For more information on accounts in the MilCon Subcommittee, see full Committee quidance.

## Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

#### <u>Department of Housing and Urban Development</u>

## Account: CDBG – Economic Development Initiative

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

- **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.

<sup>1</sup> 42 U.S.C. 5302(a)(21) provides: "The term 'buildings for the general conduct of government' means city halls, county administrative buildings, State capitol or office buildings, or other facilities in which the legislative or general administrative affairs of the government are conducted. Such term does not include such facilities as neighborhood service centers or special purpose buildings located in low- and moderate-income areas that house various non-legislative functions or services provided by government at decentralized locations."

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 Disposal (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.

The following types of projects are not eligible for funding under this account:

- Museums, commemoratives, memorials.
- Swimming pools, water parks, ski slopes, golf courses.
- Healthcare facilities.
- Venues strictly for entertainment purposes e.g., theaters and performing arts venues.
- Strictly research or planning activities.
- Buildings for the general conduct of government (courthouses, post office, city halls), which are not allowed under the statute.

**Demonstration of Community Support:** Projects require 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.

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.

Reminder on Buy America Preference (BAP): 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.

**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").

**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.

For each EDI Community Project Funding request, Members will need to provide specific information through the electronic submission process. The database will include the following questions to assist the Subcommittee in vetting and selecting projects. The Chair may require additional information from your office. Please ensure Community Project Funding requests are not duplicative of requests to another Subcommittee.

#### Checklist

- 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").
- Was this project funded within this account in the FY25 House Transportation-HUD bill?
   (Y/N)

 If yes, please provide the title of the project, and the page number it appeared on, as it shows in the back of the report in House Report 118–584.

NOTE: If you submitted this project in a different account in the THUD bill or another bill in FY25 — and it later appeared in the THUD bill — please conform your request to match the bill and account where the project ended up. For example, if you submitted a roadway project under the Highway Infrastructure Programs (HIP) account, and after technical review it was funded in the Economic Development Initiatives (EDI) account, please submit it through EDI this year. As an additional example, if you submitted a project in the Rural Development (Agriculture) account and it ended up in the EDI (THUD) account, please ensure you submit it in the right bill/account.

For more information about the EDI account, see full Committee guidance.

#### <u>Department of Transportation</u>

#### Account: Airport Improvement Program

AIP Community Project Funding requests are intended to enhance airport safety, capacity, security, and environmental concerns.

#### All projects must be:

- AIP eligible in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 47100 et seq., 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.

#### **Federal Requirements:**

Projects will be subject to various Federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, and the National Environmental Policy Act. The potential grantee should reach out to FAA Regional District Offices to ensure that projects will be in compliance with these mandates.

#### **Cost Share:**

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 90-95 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:**

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.

#### Database Questions:

For each AIP Community Project Funding request, Members will need to provide specific information through the database. The database will include the questions below to assist the Chair in evaluating and selecting projects. The Chair may require additional information on the project beyond the information provided in the database.

- 1. Airport Recipient and Project Name.
  - EXAMPLE: Rehabilitate runway. Airport Name (3 letter or number airport code), City, State (2 letter postal 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.
- 2. General description of the project and why it is needed.
- 3. Was this project funded within this account in the FY25 House Transportation-HUD bill? (Y/N)
  - a. If yes, please provide the title of the project, and the page number it appeared on, as it shows in the table in the back of House Report 118–584.
- 4. Has the airport sponsor provided assurances that the project is eligible under AIP statutes? Airport sponsors should engage with their Federal Aviation Administration Airport District Offices to ensure eligibility under statutory requirements.
- 5. What are the benefits of this project and why is it a priority?
- 6. Amount requested for the Community Project Funding for fiscal year 2026, and the total project cost.
- 7. Estimated start and completion dates.
- 8. 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?
- 9. Has the airport submitted a grant application for this same project to FAA?

For more information about the Airport account, see full Committee guidance.

## **Account: Highway Infrastructure Projects**

Highway Infrastructure Projects are capital projects eligible under title 23 of the United States Code. 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 chapters 1 and 2 of title 23, United States Code, are also eligible.

All projects must be:

- 1. Capital projects or project-specific design for a capital project.
- 2. 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.
- 3. Requested by state, local, or Tribal entities.

The Subcommittee <u>will not fund</u> activities that are administrative in nature even if they are eligible expenses under the statutory citation. These include general operating expenses, and planning 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 <u>cost-share requirements</u> are defined in statute and vary based on activity, location, and other factors.

Additionally, most projects will be subject to various Federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, and the National Environmental Policy Act. The Committee strongly encourages Members' offices and potential funding recipients to reach out to their state departments of transportation to determine the eligibility and viability of projects.

For each Highway Infrastructure Projects request, Members will need to provide specific information through the electronic submission process. The database will include the following questions to assist the Subcommittee in vetting and selecting projects.

#### **Demonstration of Community Support:**

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 demonstrating public support for the project.

#### Checklist:

- Description and benefits of the project and why it is needed.
- Was this project funded within this account in the FY25 House Transportation-HUD bill? (Y/N)
  - o If yes, please provide the title of the project, and the page number it appeared on, as it shows in the table in the back of House Report 118–584.
  - NOTE: If you submitted this project in a different account in the THUD bill or another bill in FY25 – and it later appeared in the THUD bill – please conform your request to match the bill and account where the project ended up. For example, if you submitted a roadway project under the Highway Infrastructure Programs (HIP) account, and after technical review it was funded in the Economic Development Initiatives (EDI) account, please submit it through EDI this year.
- Type of project eligible under <u>23 USC 133</u> (Surface Transportation Block Grant Program); <u>23 USC 201</u> (Federal Lands and Tribal Transportation Programs); <u>23 USC 202</u> (Tribal Transportation Program); or <u>23 USC 165</u> (Territorial and Puerto Rico Highway Program).
  - o 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.
  - o 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.

For more information about the Highway account, see full Committee quidance.

### **Account: Transit Infrastructure Projects**

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. All projects must be:

- 1. Transit capital projects or project-specific planning/design for a transit capital project;
- 2. 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; and
- 3. 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, 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 <u>will not fund</u> 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, most projects will be subject to various Federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, and the National Environmental Policy Act. The Committee strongly encourages Members' 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.

For each Transit Infrastructure Project request, Members will need to provide specific information through the electronic database. The database will include the following questions to assist the Subcommittee in vetting and selecting projects. The Chair may require additional information from your office.

<u>Demonstration of Community Support:</u> 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.

Community Project Funding (CPF) Questions for Transit Infrastructure Projects:

- 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.
  - a. EXAMPLE: West Elm Paratransit Fleet Replacement, City, State, Congressional District.
- 2. Project Recipient.
  - a. EXAMPLE: West Elm Public Transportation Authority
- 3. General description and scope of project, including benefits and explanation for why project is a priority.
- 4. Was this project funded within this account in the FY25 House Transportation HUD bill? (Y/N)
  - a. If yes, please provide the title of the project, and the page number it appeared on, as it shows in the table in the back of House Report 118–584.
  - b. NOTE: If you submitted this project in a different account in the THUD bill or another bill in FY25—and it later appeared in the THUD bill—please conform your request to match the bill and account where the project ended up. For example, if you submitted a project under the Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) account, and after technical review it was funded in the Transit Infrastructure Program (TIP) account, please submit it through TIP this year. This will save staff time when revetting these projects.
- 5. Total project cost. Provide the total estimated cost of the project. If outlined in the STIP or TIP, provide that amount unless estimated project costs have increased. If project costs have increased, provide a justification.
- 6. 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.
- 7. Does the project have other public (federal, state, local) and/or private funds committed to meet match or cost-share requirements for capital projects?
  - a. The cost-share requirements are defined in statute. In general, transit capital projects typically require 20 percent non-federal share.
  - b. EXAMPLE: Local sales taxes are committed for 25 percent of the project.
- 8. 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.
  - a. 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.
- 9. Does the project intend to apply for any DOT discretionary programs before proceeding? If yes, will the project sponsor still proceed if not selected?
  - a. 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.

- 10. Provide a history of federal funding for the project, if any. Include formula funds and any discretionary grants.
  - a. EXAMPLE: FY22 FTA Buses and Bus Facilities Discretionary Grant: \$100,000; FY23 FTA Formula Funds: \$25,000.
- 11. 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).
- 12. Estimated start and completion dates.
- 13. Is the project on a state, tribal or territorial transportation improvement plan (STIP) or a transportation improvement plan (TIP) as of 12/31/2023? If yes, provide a link to the plan.
- 14. Provide the STIP or TIP ID Number and specify which plan the ID Number comes from. EXAMPLE: See below the North Carolina STIP, ID Number R-5809 H141741. The STIP or TIP also can be used for the location/description of a project, the total project cost, and information about where funding comes from.

DIVISION 1					
ROUTE/CITY COUNTY	ID NUMBER	LOCATION / DESCRIPTION	LENGTH (Miles)	TOTAL PROJ COST (THOU)	PRIOR YEARS COST (THOU)
RURAL PROJE	ств				
NC 45 BERTIE	R-5809 H141741	HERTFORD COUNTY LINE TO WASHINGTON COUNTY LINE, MODERNIZE ROADWAY.	24.8	23589	2219

For more information about the Transit account, see full Committee quidance.

### Account: Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements

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:

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

The Subcommittee <u>will not fund</u> 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 also strongly encourages Member offices to review the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) <u>Capital Project Guidance</u> and share this document with the project sponsor to ensure the lifecycle stage of the project matches the requirements.

For each CRISI request, Members will need to provide specific information through the electronic database. The database will include the following questions to assist the Subcommittee in vetting and selecting projects. The Chair may require additional information from your office.

<u>Demonstration of Community Support:</u> 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.

#### Checklist

- 1. 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.
  - a. EXAMPLE: West Elm Track and Railroad Bridge Improvements, City, State, Congressional District.
- Project Recipient. As a reminder, <u>for-profit entities are not eligible for CPF funding</u>. 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.
- 3. 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.)
  - a. Deployment of railroad safety technology, including positive train control and rail integrity inspection systems.
  - b. 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.
  - c. A capital project necessary to address congestion or safety challenges affecting rail service.
  - d. A capital project necessary to reduce congestion and facilitate ridership growth in intercity passenger rail transportation along heavily traveled rail corridors.
  - e. 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.
  - f. A rail line relocation or improvement project.
  - g. A capital project to improve short-line or regional railroad infrastructure.
  - h. The preparation of regional rail and corridor service development plans and corresponding environmental analyses.

- i. 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.
- j. 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).
- k. Rehabilitating, remanufacturing, procuring, or overhauling locomotives, provided that such activities result in a significant reduction of emissions.
- 4. 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.)
  - a. 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. 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.
- 5. Was this project funded within this account in the FY25 House Transportation HUD bill? (Y/N)
  - a. If yes, please provide the title of the project, and the page number it appeared on, as it shows in the table in the back of House Report 118–584.
  - b. NOTE: If you submitted this project in a different account in the THUD bill or another bill in FY25—and it later appeared in the THUD bill—please conform your request to match the bill and account where the project ended up. For example, if you submitted a project under the Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) account, and after technical review it was funded in the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) account, please submit it through CRISI this year.
- 6. Total project cost. 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 <u>cost estimate guidance</u>. 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.
- 7. Does the project have other public (federal, state, local) and/or private funds committed to meet match or cost-share requirements for costs related to construction? If so, what is the source and amount of those funds?
  - a. 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 <u>2 CFR part 200</u>.
  - b. EXAMPLE: Local sales taxes are committed for 20 percent of the project.
- 8. If the project receives less than requested, will the project still proceed without waiting for additional funding sources?
- 9. Provide a history of federal funding for the project, if any. Include formula funds and any discretionary grants.
  - a. EXAMPLE: FY20 BUILD Discretionary Grant of \$7.5 million.

- 10. Where is the project in the construction process? Drop down options in the database will include systems planning, project planning, project development, final design, or construction. Please note that funding for operations is not eligible.
- 11. Estimated start and completion dates. Project sponsors may view the FRA recorded webinar "From Selection to Award—The Post Selection Process for FRA Grants" for a better understanding of the requirements for funding to be obligated.
- 12. Is the project on a state rail plan as of 12/31/2024? If yes, provide a link to the plan and specify page number.
- 13. 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.

For more information about the Rail account, see full Committee guidance.

## Account: 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 2025.

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 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 local port authorities to help determine the eligibility and viability of projects.

For each Port Infrastructure Development Program project request, Members will need to provide specific information through the electronic submission process. The database will include the questions below to assist the subcommittee in vetting and selecting projects.

<u>Demonstration of Community Support:</u> 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.

#### Checklist

- 1. General description and benefits of the project and why it is needed.
- 2. Was this project funded within this account in the FY25 House Transportation-HUD bill? (Y/N)

- a. If yes, please provide the title of the project, and the page number it appeared on, as it shows in the table in the back of House Report 118–584.
- b. NOTE: If you submitted this project in a different account in the THUD bill or another bill in FY25—and it later appeared in the THUD bill—please conform your request to match the bill and account where the project ended up. For example, if you submitted a project under the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) account, and after technical review it was funded in the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) account, please submit it through PIDP this year.
- 3. Is the project at a small port, as described under 46 USC 54301(b)?
- 4. 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?
- 5. If the request is for a phase of a larger project, describe all other phases and how this request relates to the entire project.
- 6. Has the recipient engaged in discussions with the local port authority and received assurances that the project is eligible under applicable statutes?
- 7. Provide a history of any federal funding already received or approved for the project.
- 8. 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?

For more information about the Port account, see full Committee guidance.

### IV. 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 refer to 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.
- Provide, authorize, or recommend a specific amount of discretionary budget authority, credit authority, or specific funding amount to a specific entity for a specific purpose; and.
- Fund projects designed to respond to the objective(s) 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, and 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.

#### Is there a deadline for submitting a request?

Yes. The deadline to submit a Community Project Funding request for our office is April 22, 2025.

#### 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 my office submits our 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.

#### 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 funding 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.

#### 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.

#### How much should I request?

It depends on the account from which you are requesting funds. You should not request more funds than you need or that can be realistically spent in the Fiscal Year for which you receive project funds. While you should request the amount that can be expended in the upcoming Fiscal Year that you need, please remember that projects are not always funded fully due to budgetary restraints. Note also that receipt of funds from Community Project Funding in one Fiscal Year is not a guarantee for Community Project Funding in future Fiscal Years.

#### 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 that meets the needs of your project or organization. Please contact my office if you need additional information or guidance.

#### 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. It is very likely that you will only receive a portion of your request, if any funding at all. This is mostly due to budgetary restraints. 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 your application demonstrates, the better. As noted 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 2025 Community Project Funding process is extremely targeted, and this process is also very competitive. While my team will carefully review all requests, it is strongly recommended that you explore other grant and funding sources as well.

Subcommittee deadlines fall at the end of March. In order for my team and I to properly examine all requests, my office's deadline is April 22, 2025.

The House Appropriations bills are typically considered in the late spring, with the Senate considering bills in late spring and over the summer. The House and Senate have to convene what's called 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. Hence, please remember that 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 throughout.

## 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 your 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.

## V. Other 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; and 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. 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.

## VI. 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.

Thank you,

Maxwell Alejandro Frost

Maxwell Alejander Frost

Member of Congress