



*Congresswoman*

**VERONICA ESCOBAR**

*Texas' 16th Congressional District*

**Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations:**

**Community Project Funding Resource Guide**

*Last Updated: March 2023*

VERONICA ESCOBAR  
16TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

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DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CAUCUS

DEPUTY WHIP

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NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION

Dear El Pasoan,

I am pleased to share this resource guide regarding how to request Community Project Funding (CPF) through the annual appropriations process for fiscal year 2024. This guide is an effort to streamline the process and is a tool to empower you with the best information available to develop your ideas and submissions. My team and I will do everything possible to work for projects that will be beneficial to our community. Unfortunately, unlike the past two years under Democratic control, this Republican majority has unveiled a new set of rules on projects with aims to restrict funding and limit the types of projects we can submit. The rules also effectively ban projects in three major appropriations bills—Labor-Health and Human Services-Education, Financial Services and General Government, and Defense—a devastating rule that limits our ability to deliver on key issues like education, national security, education, health, child welfare & family planning, and domestic violence, workforce development, and so much more.

Nonetheless, I firmly believe in the creativity of our local leaders, stakeholders, and advocates who know exactly what our community needs and that is why I am excited continue to use Community Project Funding requests to ensure we support your priorities.

In this guide, you will find an overview of the appropriations process, the Community Project Funding process, answers to many frequently asked questions, and a brief overview of alternate federal funding sources. My team and I are looking for your recommendations on projects that will fill a clear and present need in the community, be administered by a local/state government entity or eligible nonprofit, be located in El Paso County, and enjoy significant support from the community. This year my office will be submitting 15 projects to the Appropriations Committee for consideration of funding. To see which projects were submitted by my office last year and were successfully funded, click [here](#).

As you prepare your requests, please keep in mind that my office will receive far more Community Project Funding requests than can be fulfilled. As a result, many deserving, appropriate, and eligible projects will not be provided federal assistance in fiscal year 2024. That is why it is extremely important that every project and requestor continue to pursue other grant and federal/state/local funding opportunities where available. My team and I are here to help you secure this important funding as well. To learn more about other federal grants, please click [here](#).

Thank you again for your interest in this year's Community Project Funding process. My team is available to answer your questions as needed. I look forward to working with you to bring needed federal resources to El Paso.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Veronica Escobar".

Office of Rep. Veronica Escobar

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## Deadline and Staff Contact

If you have any questions regarding the Community Project Funding process, please email [TX16.Approps@mail.house.gov](mailto:TX16.Approps@mail.house.gov) and a staffer will reach out as soon as possible.

**The deadline for submissions is March 17, 2023.** If you need more time, you must email us **immediately** and my staff will evaluate requests on a case-by-case basis.

## **Overview of the Appropriations Process**

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

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

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

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

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

## **Overview of the Community Project Funding Process**

The House Appropriations Committee has announced that it will grant limited requests for Community Project Funding for the federal Fiscal Year 2024 (October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024). This document will provide an overview of the request process and basic information required for all requests. My team and I are looking forward to recommending important local projects for federal funding this year. However, it is important that you know how this process will work this year.

You should know that my team and I expect to receive hundreds of requests for funding. While it's my goal to fund as many projects as possible, Members of Congress can only submit 15 requests to fund Community Projects, and even if submitted by our office, we cannot guarantee that they will be accepted by the House Appropriations Committee and funded.

Community Project Funding requests are narrowly tailored and are not comparable to City Council "discretionary fund" or State Legislature "Member Items." Only a particular set of federal funding streams are eligible for Community Project Funding requests, and only government agencies or non-governmental not-for-profit organizations may

receive Community Project Funding. Additionally, our office must disclose publicly some basic information about the requests our office submits to the Appropriations Committee, including the name and address of the recipient, the amount requested, the intended use of the funds, and the justification of the project. If you are not comfortable with the public disclosure of this information, please refrain from submitting a request.

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

### **Guidance for All Community Project Funding Requests**

- Requests must be for the fiscal year 2024 funds only and cannot include multi-year funding.
- You must include accurate recipient information when filling out the online request. The recipient's name provided should be the legal name of the organization that will be receiving these funds. Please do not include abbreviations, acronyms, or use a "The" before the recipient's name.
- **You must include a project description, which must be limited to 1,000 characters.**
- You must include a budget breakout specifically describing how the requested Federal funding will be used by the grantee, such as amounts for salaries for providers or instructors, tuition payments, educational materials, exhibits, supplies, evaluation activities, equipment, travel, etc. This can be provided in a separate, attached document.
- You must include an explanation of the request, including an explanation of why this is a good use of taxpayer funds—this information will be included on our official House website.
- You must indicate whether the grantee is a for-profit entity. Note that in FY 2024, Congress will not fund any for-profit entities.
- Memorials, museums, and commemoratives (i.e., projects named for an individual or entity) are not eligible for Community Project Funding.
- Please indicate whether you are aware of another member of Congress making a request for this same project (just Yes/No, not which Member(s)).
- **You must include letters of support.** Examples of these include but are not limited to letters from local community organizations, local elected officials, press articles highlighting the need for the requested Community Project Funding, and other materials that would document community support and community need, such as a newspaper editorial or a state/local intended use plan. The Appropriations Committee will use this information when determining whether to grant a request. These can be provided as attachments when you submit your form.

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

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

## **Data and Lessons from FY22 and FY23**

Since the start of Community Projects Funding in Fiscal Year 2022, I have been able to secure funding for 23 community projects, bringing back to El Paso nearly \$36 million directly to our cities and towns, our schools, our universities, nonprofits, and companies.

### **Fiscal Year 2022 Community Project Funding**

14 requests were funded, totaling **\$25,097,706**

These requests included:

- El Paso Children’s Hospital Pediatric Mobile Clinic, \$595,000
- The El Paso International Airport Solar Covered Parking Project, \$1,750,000
- The El Paso ISD After-School Community Learning Centers: Broadening STEAM Learning Ecosystems, \$2,000,000
- The Heritage Tourism Business Connection, \$500,000
- The SAC 1 Sediment Detention Basin, \$1,000,000
- The TTUHCEP El Paso Border Health Center, \$3,000,000
- The town of Anthony, Texas Police Department, Municipal Court, and Emergency Shelter Facility, \$1,925,000
- The El Paso County Animal Welfare Pet Wellness Clinic, \$1,300,000
- The El Paso County Senior Meal and Community Kitchen, \$4,000,000
- The Horizon City Transit-Oriented Development Phase 1, \$1,735,000
- La Casa de los Abuelitos, \$2,442,706
- A Planning Study conducted by Texas A&M Transportation Institute, El Paso to Improve Land Border Crossing Transit and Pedestrian Connectivity to Business Districts in the El Paso Region for Equity, Accessibility and Economic Development, \$750,000
- for Vinton Water and Wastewater Phase III, \$4,000,000
- Appraisal Study for Future Projects on the Franklin Canal, \$100,000

### **Fiscal Year 2022 Community Project Funding**

9 requests were funded, totaling **\$11,584,000**

These requests included:

- El Paso Makes Contract Support for El Paso Manufacturers, \$964,000
- Cotton Valley Broadband Expansion, \$2,850,000
- El Paso Police Department Body-Worn Camera Program, \$525,000
- The Crisis Intervention Team, \$2,015,000
- Paso del Norte Trail, \$1,000,000
- Casitas Community Project, \$1,000,000
- County of El Paso for First-Time Water and Wastewater Connection Projects, \$1,105,000
- Centro De Salud Familiar La Fe, Inc., El Paso, TX for facilities and equipment, \$925,000

- El Paso County Hospital District/University Medical Center of El Paso, El Paso, TX for purchase of equipment, \$1,200,000

## **Community Project Funding Eligible Accounts**

### **AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES**

#### **OVERVIEW**

The Subcommittee will include a very limited number of community projects this year.

[Full committee guidance can be found here.](#)

Only six accounts in the Agriculture appropriations bill will include CPFs. Keep in mind project funding will depend on available resources, and larger requests may have to be reduced. All CPF requests must meet applicable eligibility requirements for the program in which the request is made, including applicable underlying statutory and regulatory requirements (e.g., cost share). Any CPFs that are funded in an appropriations bill will need to apply to USDA to receive the award.

The application will be reviewed for compliance prior to official award. To ensure your projects meet eligibility requirements for the Rural Development and Natural Resources Conservation Service accounts, you must consult with your respective State Rural Development or State Conservation office which can be found here:

Rural Development: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/state-offices>

Natural Resources Conservation Services: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/state-office-contacts/texas-state-office>

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

#### **Funding-Eligible Accounts**

- Department of Agriculture–Farm Production and Conservation Programs
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service (Conservation Operations)
- Department of Agriculture–Research, Education, and Economics
  - Agricultural Research Service (Buildings and Facilities)
- Department of Agriculture–Rural Development
  - Rural Housing Service (Community Facilities)
  - Rural Utilities Service (ReConnect Program)
  - Rural Utilities Service (Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants)
  - Rural Utilities Service (Rural Water and Waste Disposal Grants)

## **Department of Agriculture, Farm Production and Conservation Programs**

- **Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Operations**

*House CPFs in the account averaged about \$1.3 million in FY23.*

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.

The State Conservationist is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility.

## **Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service**

- **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. Requests must be for ARS-owned or operated facilities.

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.

## **Department of Agriculture, Rural Development**

- **Rural Housing Service (Community Facilities)**

*For fiscal year 2023, the average Community Facilities CPF award was about \$1.3 million.*

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.

Priority will be given to essential projects, such as those focused on public health and safety. Any project 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 cost share requirements specified in 7 CFR 3570.63(b).

Please review program regulations carefully. 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.

- **Rural Utilities Service (ReConnect Program)**

*For fiscal year 2023, the average ReConnect CPF award was nearly \$1.2 million.*

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.

## **Department of Agriculture, Rural Development**

- **Rural Utilities Service (Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants)**

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine program (DLT) helps rural residents better utilize the enormous potential of modern telecommunications and the internet for education and healthcare, two critical components of economic and community development. The DLT program helps rural communities acquire the technology and training necessary to connect educational and medical professionals with students, teachers, and patients in rural areas. Grants may be used for audio and video equipment, broadband facilities that support distance learning or telemedicine (not actual broadband), computer hardware or network components/software, and acquisition of instructional programming.

*The program requires a 15% match that cannot come from another Federal source.*

Members are strongly encouraged to provide as much detail as possible on how the award will be utilized, what equipment or service will be acquired and any information on population(s) served. The program is intended to serve rural areas with populations of 20,000 or less. The State Rural Development Office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility.

## **Department of Agriculture, Farm Production and Conservation Programs**

- **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.

The State Conservationist is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility. *House CPFs in the account averaged about \$1.3 million in FY23.*

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## COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE

### Overview

The Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee is reviewing community project requests ONLY in the categories listed below.

[Full committee guidance is available here.](#)

Project requests that do not fit into one of these categories will not be eligible for community project funding. For each account, please see the specific guidelines below for additional information on eligible activities and submission criteria/questions.

### Funding-Eligible Accounts

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

- Department of Commerce
  - NIST—Scientific and Technical Research
  - NOAA—Coastal Zone Management
- Department of Justice
  - COPS Technology and Equipment
  - Byrne Justice
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
  - Safety, Security, and Mission Services

### Department of Commerce

- **NIST Scientific and Technical Research and Services (STRS)**

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.

- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (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.

## **Department Of Justice**

- **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.

- **State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance—Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG)**

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

<https://bjaojp.gov/program/jag/overview>

<https://bjaojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/jag-faqs.pdf>

## **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 U.S.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 Chair will not support the use of Byrne Justice Community Project Funding for the following:

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

## **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 DOJ Grants Financial Guide.

Below are the links to the Department's guidance and frequently asked questions regarding the Byrne-JAG program, which may help guide you in gauging the eligibility of a proposed Byrne project:

- <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/jag/overview>
- <https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/jag-faqs.pdf>

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.

## **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa)**

- **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.

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## **ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE**

### **Overview**

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.

[Full committee guidance can be found here.](#)

### **Funding-Eligible Accounts**

Energy and Water Development

- Army Corps of Engineers (Civil Works)
  - Investigations
  - Construction
  - Mississippi River and Tributaries
  - Operation and Maintenance
- Department of the Interior/Bureau of Reclamation
  - Water and Related Resources

**Department of the Interior – Bureau of Reclamation**

- **Water and Related Resources**

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.

**HOMELAND SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Overview**

Over the past two fiscal years, FEMA found that many CPF requests lacked the necessary details to determine grant eligibility. For each project description, please include a detailed budget describing how the requested federal funding will be used and confirm the ability of the requesting entity to meet the cost-share requirement.

[Full committee guidance can be accessed here.](#)

**Funding-Eligible Accounts**

- Federal Emergency Management Agency
  - Federal Assistance—Emergency Ops. Centers
  - Federal Assistance—Pre-Disaster Mitigation

**Cost-Share Requirements**

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

## **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

- **Emergency Operations Center Grant Program**

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

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

For any EOC projects designated for funding in the FY 2024 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).

*CPF funding in the FY 2023 House bill ranged between \$158,176 and \$3,000,000 for individual EOC grants.*

- **Pre-Disaster Mitigation Projects**

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

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

For any PDM projects designated for funding in the FY 2024 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).

*CPF funding in the FY 2023 House bill ranged between \$320,482 and \$10,000,000 for individual PDM grants.*

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## **INTERIOR AND ENVIRONMENT SUBCOMMITTEE**



## Overview

For FY 2024, the Interior Subcommittee will accept Community Project Funding requests in the Environmental Protection Agency – State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) account for certain clean water and drinking water infrastructure projects. **The Subcommittee will not accept project requests in any other account.**

[Full committee guidance can be accessed here.](#)

## Funding-Eligible Accounts

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

- Environmental Protection Agency
  - STAG—Clean Water State Revolving Fund
  - STAG—Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

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

**Matching requirements.** There is a minimum 20% cost share requirement for any portion of a project funded through a STAG infrastructure grant and the Committee will not waive matching requirements:

- For example, a \$1 million project could receive a maximum of \$800,000 from the Federal government, with the remaining \$200,000 the responsibility of the grantee.
- In *almost* all cases, other Federal funds cannot be used to meet this 20% cost share. However, assistance provided by a SRF does count towards the project's matching requirement.
- It is important that Member offices discuss with their State and local officials the ability for localities to meet matching requirements prior to requesting a project. This does not mean that matching funds must be in-hand prior to requesting a project, but that local officials must have a plan to meet such requirements in order for such a project to be viable.

**Project Amounts.** Members should use the range of project amounts funded in FY 2023 as a general guide when making requests. In FY 2023, most EPA STAG infrastructure projects funded in the House bill ranged from \$45,000 - \$5,000,000. Note that the Committee may consider higher project amounts for fiscal year 2024, and any caps will be determined by the Chairman after reviewing the full universe of requests.

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## MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

### Overview

[Full committee guidance can be found here.](#)

All community project requests must meet the eligibility requirements for a specific account in which the project is funded. Only certain Department of Defense accounts in the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies bill are in this category. Please follow the guidance on submitting community project funding requests within such accounts, provided below.

## **Funding-Eligible Accounts**

### Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Funding-Eligible Accounts

- Army
- Army National Guard
- Army Reserve
- Navy & Marine Corps
- Navy Reserve
- Air Force and Space Force
- Air National Guard
- Air Force Reserve
- DoD, Defense-Wide

Community Project Funding requests must follow the guidelines included in this section. Each project request must be for fiscal year (FY) 2024 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 FY24-FY28 Future Years Defense Program (FYDP).
- Projects suggested by an installation or unit commander will not be accepted.
- Have at least 35 percent of its design completed.
  - For projects that have not reached 35 percent design, planning and design funding can be requested.
- Able to be obligated in FY24.
- Submitted to the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) for inclusion in the FY24 National Defense Authorization Act or previously authorized.
- Have a DD Form 1391, which is DoD's justification for military construction projects. The Armed Services' Congressional Liaison Offices can help provide these documents.
- **Construction and Unspecified Minor Construction – Active Components**

Eligible Community Project Funding requests include both construction and unspecified minor military construction projects for active components in the accounts listed below. An unspecified minor military construction project is a project that has an approved cost equal to or less than \$9,000,000.

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

- **Construction and Unspecified Minor Construction – Reserve Components**

Eligible Community Project Funding requests include both construction and unspecified minor military construction projects for Reserve Components in the accounts listed below. An unspecified minor military construction project is a project that has an approved cost equal to or less than \$9,000,000.

**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 FY24-28 FYDP listing the military construction projects that may be eligible for Community Project Funding in FY24 can be obtained through the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) website: <https://comptroller.defense.gov/Budget-Materials/>.

# TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

## Overview

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

Full committee guidance can be found [here](#).

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

The Subcommittee **will not fund** activities that are administrative in nature even if they are eligible expenses under the statutory citation. These include general operating expenses, and activities authorized under sections 5303, 5304, and 5305 of title 49, United States Code. 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, consistent with the fiscal year 2022 process.

All projects must be:

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

## Funding-Eligible Accounts

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

## Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

### • Economic Development Initiative (EDI)

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.

Project requests for the FY24 Economic Development Initiative program must be eligible under one or more of the following criteria of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program:

- 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), 5305(a)(5); which are as follows—but limited to—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.”<sup>1</sup> Programmatic and operational expenses **are not eligible**.

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

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

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

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

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

## Department of Transportation (DOT)

- **Airport Improvement Program (AIP)**

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

All projects must be:

- AIP eligible in accordance with sections 47101 to 47175 of title 49, United States Code, and FAA [policy and guidance](#).
- Supported broadly by local stakeholders, including residents, businesses, and elected officials.
- Administered by an airport and/or airport sponsor.

- **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 Chapter 2 of title 23, United States Code, are also eligible.

All projects must be:

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

The Subcommittee **will not fund** activities that are administrative in nature even if they are eligible expenses under the statutory citation. These include general operating expenses, and activities required under sections 134 and 135 of title 23, United States Code. Applicants should be aware that Highway Infrastructure Projects have a non-Federal cost share calculated on a sliding scale. The [cost-share requirements](#) are defined in statute and vary based on activity, location, and other factors.

Additionally, 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.

- **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 2022.

The Subcommittee will only fund projects that meet eligibility criteria and will be administered by eligible applicants, as described by statute. As a reminder, funding may not be directed to for-profit recipients. Due to the limited amount of total CPF funding, priority will be given to projects at small inland river and coastal ports and terminals, as described in 46 U.S.C. 54301(b), and to discrete, smaller-scale projects at larger ports and intermodal connections to ports.

This program has a statutory non-Federal matching requirement, with potential exceptions for small and rural area ports. Applicants should review 46 USC sections 54301(a)(8) and 54301(b) for more information on these cost-share requirements before submitting requests for funding.

Note that recipients are also required to comply with reviews and audits from the Department of Transportation.

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

- **Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI)**

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

All projects must be:

- Rail capital projects or systems planning for a rail capital project;
- Supported by the state, local governmental authority, or Tribal government that would administer the project; and
- Sponsored by public entities or Tribal entities.

This is a new Community Project Funding account for Fiscal Year 2024. The Subcommittee will not fund activities that are administrative in nature even if they are eligible expenses under the statutory citation. These include but are not limited to general operating expenses, rail-related research, and workforce activities.

Projects will be subject to various Federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

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



## **What is Community Project Funding?**

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

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

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

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

## **What appropriation bills will no longer accept projects?**

Members of the House are prohibited from requesting CPFs in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS), Financial Services and General Government (FSGG), and Defense bills.

## **What accounts, from bills that are still accepting projects, are no longer available to submit projects to?**

Beyond restrictions on the above types of projects and no longer including projects for any accounts in the LHHS, FSGG, and Defense bills, Republicans will no longer include projects in the following six accounts:

1. Commerce, Justice, Science - Department of Commerce - National Institute of Standards and Technology - Construction
2. Energy and Water - Energy Projects
3. Interior - Department of Interior - National Park Service - Save America's Treasures
4. Interior - Department of Agriculture - U.S. Forest Service - State and Private Forestry
5. Interior - Land and Water Conservation Fund - Land Acquisition
6. Military Construction and Veterans Affairs - Department of Veterans Affairs - Minor Construction

## **What new accounts now include projects, if any?**

There are three new accounts that can now include projects:

1. Agriculture - Rural Development Programs - Rural Utilities Service - Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program



2. Transportation and Housing and Urban Development - Department of Transportation - Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program
3. Transportation and Housing and Urban Development - Department of Transportation - Port Infrastructure Development Program

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

Yes. The deadline to submit a Community Project Funding request for our office is **March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. If you need additional time to procure additional pieces of Community Support, please let my team know in advance. My team is happy to work with you on a case-by-case basis.

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

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

### **Are Community Project Funding requests publicly disclosed?**

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

### **What accounts are not eligible for funding this year?**

Republicans have banned three bills this year from being open to projects. Any accounts in the Defense, Labor-Health and Human Services-Education, and Financial Services bills are not eligible. A few accounts under some other bills that are included may have also been removed or limited in scope. Please refer to the sections on those bills in this guide to see those changes.

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

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

### **How many Community Project Funding requests will the Congresswoman make?**

I am limited to submitting **15** requests for Community Project Funding across the entire House Appropriations Committee for FY 2023.

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

Yes. Federal Programs have very specific restrictions on how federal funds can be used. It is recommended that you closely examine this guide for references to eligible uses or limitations on use. Generally, funding cannot be used for debt service, recurring or routine expenses, reimbursement of costs, or projects that cannot demonstrate value to the community.

### **Can I request funding for “bricks and mortar”?**

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

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

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

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

### **How much should I request?**

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

### **How should I determine how much funding to request?**

The level of funding request should be justified by the project proposal, budget plan, and community support. Data on the range of projects can be found in this guide, though you should request what you can realistically use and spend in the Fiscal Year of award. In FY 22, the committee awarded well outlined and high quality projects with the requested amount generally.

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

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

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

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

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

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

There is no guarantee that an approved Community Project Funding request will be funded at the requested level. Previously, most projects were funded at the requested level, though we expect that could change. Please keep this in mind when requesting support for your project.

### **Do I need letters of support?**

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

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

The FY 2024 Community Project Funding process is extremely targeted and this process is also very competitive. While my team will look at all requests, it is strongly recommended you explore other grant and funding sources as well.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Are all non-profits eligible?**

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

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

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

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

As of now, the House Appropriations Committee does not have an overall funding level for discretionary spending for FY 2024. However, no more than .05% of discretionary spending will be allocated to fund all Community Project Funding.

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

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

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

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

## **Are capital projects eligible for Community Project Funding?**

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

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

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

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

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

### **When will we hear back about our request?**

This will be a long and competitive process. First, my office will publicly post the requested Community Project Funding requests I will submit to the House Appropriations Committee. Then, the House Appropriations Committee will review and finalize a list of Community Project Funding requests from across the country to be included in the FY 2024 House spending bill.

## **Other Federal Funding Resources**

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

Eligible grant seekers may request a Letter of Support from my office for submission to federal departments and agencies so they may give their full and fair consideration, consistent with applicable laws and regulations, to completed grant applications. To request a Letter of Support, please contact my Grants Coordinator, Manny Rodriguez, at [Manny.Rodriguez@mail.house.gov](mailto:Manny.Rodriguez@mail.house.gov) or at 915-541-1400.

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

### **Key Resources**

### [Grants.gov](https://www.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](https://www.SAM.gov)

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

### [GovLoans.gov](https://www.GovLoans.gov)

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

### [Benefits.gov](https://www.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](https://www.USA.gov)

The official guide to US Government Information and Services.

### [Congresswoman Veronica Escobar's Official Website](#)

The [Grant Services](#) section of my official website serves as resource for grant seekers to find information on federal grants, loans, and nonfinancial assistance for projects, as well as on private funding.

## **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 directly with my staff at [TX16.approps@mail.house.gov](mailto:TX16.approps@mail.house.gov).

Thank you.