OUTREACH

- Reach out to local officials & organizations.
- Alert the local media.
- Hold information sessions.

RECEIVE REQUESTS

- Set up an intake form for basic expressions of interest.
- Take meetings from potential recipients.

REVIEW & PRIORITIZE

- Vet applicants — both the project and the requesting entity.
- Check for evidence of community support.
- Member selects up to 10 projects to request.

REFINE REQUESTS

- Notify applicants Member will recommend to committee
- Work on answering all supplemental questions, ensuring matching funding (if required)

SUBMIT & DISCLOSE

- Submit through the Appropriations Committee portal.
- Includes statement of no financial interest.
- Post on Member’s website.

THE COMMUNITY GRANT PROCESS WITHIN CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES:

- Each House Member may submit up to 10 project funding requests.
- Limited to 1% of overall discretionary spending.
- All requests must be posted online.
- Member must certify no financial interest by Member or immediate family.
- For-profit entities not eligible (only government and nonprofits).
- Priority given to projects with evidence of community support.
- GAO will audit sample of enacted requests.

Want to copy/paste? Get this info in Google Docs
Congressional offices are already hearing from well-resourced local governments and organizations that have lobbyists. **BUT it should not be necessary to retain a lobbyist to submit a community project for consideration.**

**LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD, ELEVATING WORTHWHILE LOCAL INITIATIVES**

One way Member offices can level the playing field is by making clear information available about the CPF program and **reaching out to eligible entities within the district**, such as:

- Local Mayors and County Executives
- State officials
- Law enforcement agencies
- Community development entities
- Housing authorities
- School districts and universities
- Local transportation authorities
- Agricultural extension offices
- Organizations that serve small businesses
- Workforce training organizations
- Medical and mental health providers

**PROVIDING INFORMATION AT SCALE**

The short lead-time for submitting requests means that Member offices have to manage their time and resources. One of the easiest ways to make the most of limited staff time is by **making information about the program easy to find and easy to understand** and holding a webinar (or several) to explain and take questions.

**EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF “COMMUNITY SUPPORT”**

Given the limited funds and need for Members to select specific projects to recommend, some Member offices may prefer to encourage fewer proposals that have broad community support, which is a factor Appropriators will consider when evaluating requests, such as:

- Letters of support from elected community leaders
- Press articles highlighting the need for the requested community project funding
- Support from newspaper editorial boards
- Projects listed in state intended use plans, community development plans, or other publicly available planning documents
- Resolutions passed by city councils or boards, or
- Other compelling evidence of community support

Consider establishing a **LOCAL ADVISORY GROUP** to provide input on submissions. Narrowing down local requests to 10 selections AND prioritizing 1–10 will be a challenge for any Member. Inviting representatives from the local community to provide input on potential projects can be a good way to ensure diverse views are considered AND demonstrate the kind of community support the committee is looking for!
RECEIVING AND PROCESSING REQUESTS

A clear, standardized intake form is the best way for Congressional offices to receive initial expressions of interest from organizations and entities with projects to be considered. Even if information is shared in a physical or virtual meeting or phone call, **every organization or government entity should be directed to enter information into the form** so that projects can be more easily organized, compared and evaluated.

**SAMPLE FORMS, STANDARD FIELDS**

We have created several sample form versions that you can duplicate, customize, and embed on the Member’s website. Click on the images below to view the form customization view. This informational video explains how to customize the forms (**AIRTABLE** and **GOOGLE**).

![AIRTABLE SAMPLE FORM](image)

![GOOGLE SAMPLE FORM](image)

**VETTING REQUESTS**

While some requests may be from known entities, some may come in from organizations or entities that are not familiar to the office. Requests that the Member is considering recommending should get a thorough vetting, including a review of information available through public filings (like 990s for nonprofits) and a search of news articles.
Every Member and office establishes its own standards for evaluating and prioritizing requests — and it is helpful to plan the process and evaluation criteria up front, which might look something like this:

**STAFF RECEIVES AND VETS INITIAL INQUIRIES**

- Does the requesting entity meet eligibility criteria? (governing entity or nonprofit; not financially connected to the Member or any immediate family of the Member)
- Does the project fit into one of the “approved accounts” (left)?
- If the program has a matching fund requirement, has the project secured the match?
- Does the project have evidence of community support?
- Do public filings by the requesting entity appear to be in order? Does the organization have a clear governing structure and accountability standards?

**STAFF PRESENTS LIST OF VETTED PROJECTS TO THE MEMBER**

Once staff have completed the initial review, the Member has to decide which projects they want to recommend, keeping in mind:

- The Member may ONLY recommend **up to ten projects** (sign-on letter of support for other Members’ requests do not count against the 10 projects).
- The Member **must rank** recommended projects in order from 1–10.
NOTIFYING APPLICANTS

Once the Member has selected the projects they would like to recommend, it is important both to let those projects that didn’t advance know that no further action is needed and to work with recommended projects to refine their proposals and ensure they have submitted all necessary information.

PREPARING THE SUBMISSION

Most approved accounts require a large amount of additional information beyond the standard fields. These can be found in subcommittee guidance documents or the “Program-Specific Guidance” summaries we have compiled.

Staff should work with the requesting organization to have complete answers to all questions and any required follow-up documentation.

Pay special attention to two fields the Appropriations Committee has specifically noted as important to their consideration:

- **Statement of taxpayer value** (“Why is this project a good use of taxpayer funds?”)
- **Evidence of community support** — As previously mentioned, the Committee will prioritize projects with clear demonstrations of community support.

STATEMENT OF NO FINANCIAL INTEREST

House rule XXIII, clause 17 requires that neither the Member nor their spouse or immediate family have financial interest in the projects they request. Each submission must include a letter attesting to no financial interest.

- Certification must be on letterhead
- Request titles in the Database, Request Letter, and Certification Letter should all be identical
- Prioritization list in database should match the Member request letter
- Immediate family” means related to Member as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, husband, wife, father-in-law, or mother-in-law
- Certification must be signed by Member of Congress
- Certification must be submitted for ALL requested projects and any other members’ requests for which the member signed a letter of support
SUBMISSION THROUGH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PORTAL

Requests must be submitted through the appropriations committee portal at:
https://appropriationssubmissions.house.gov/

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

- Confirmed appropriate account selected
- All questions answered, including program-specific supplemental questions
- Included explanation of funding source if matching funds required
- Included proof of nonprofit status (if potential recipient is nonprofit organization)
- Included signed Member attestation of no financial interest — INCLUDING letters from other Members who signed on in support
- No more than 10 requests (including joint requests and sign-ons) submitted
- Requests have been prioritized across all subcommittees
- Evidence of community support is included
- Requests listed on Member’s website and link provided to the Appropriations Committee

POSTING LIST OF REQUESTS ON MEMBER WEBSITE

Members are required to post every Community Project Funding request online simultaneously with their submission to the Committee. The website must be searchable. (Please note that your office does not need to post the programmatic requests it makes to the appropriate subcommittee, only the Community Project Funding.)

Suggestions for Website disclosure:

- Standardized URL: member.house.gov/community-project-funding

Include standard fields for each request:

- City
- State
- Project Title
- Proposed Recipient
- Amount Requested
- Subcommittee
- Agency
- Program
- Project Description
- Taxpayer Value explanation
- Evidence of Community Support
GETTING STARTED
SETTING UP YOUR COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

This is new for everyone!
According to an assessment from the Bipartisan Policy Center, “the decade-long moratorium [on congressionally-directed spending] has drastically diminished member and staff experience and familiarity with earmarks. A BPC assessment shows that only about 30% of members of the current House of Representatives and just 42% of the Senate served in Congress prior to the 2011 ban.”

An entirely new system
Based on unanimous bipartisan recommendations from the House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, congressionally directed spending has been reinstated, with changes meant to provide greater transparency, prevent corruption, and ensure spending is targeted to programs supported by local communities. So even for offices that were around for the old system, the new Community Funding program will require some setup and adjustments.

SETUP CHECKLIST

- Establish a deadline for applicants to submit information.
  You may want to consider multiple deadlines for different stages:
  - Initial expressions of interest
  - Full applications for selected projects
  - Evidence of community support evidence

- Decide what criteria your office will use for evaluating submissions and for vetting applicants.
  This will help expedite the decision-making process later

- Post relevant information on the Member’s website.
  The more you can make publicly available, the less staff time will be required to answer questions and explain the process. (See examples in this guide)

- Set up your intake form.
  (See examples in this guide)

- Send letter/email to local officials and relevant organizations.
  (See examples in this guide)

- Share information on social media.
  (See examples in this guide)

- Draft a “We are reviewing your request” template.
  (This can also be set up in the system you use for your intake form — such as Airtable or Google Forms)

- Draft a rejection template for projects that will not advance.

- Draft an acceptance template for projects that will be further considered.
  (including any additional information necessary—or see below for supplemental forms)
**TIMELINE**

**SETTING UP YOUR COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM**

**No time to lose!**

The Committee on House Appropriations has set a very aggressive timeline for the receipt of grant requests — especially since offices have to set up for and get the word out about an entirely new system. Below are some suggestions for budgeting your time over the next few months to make sure your office makes the most of this opportunity.

### Submission Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APR 28</th>
<th>APR 29</th>
<th>APR 30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labor, HHS, Ed</td>
<td>Agriculture, Rural</td>
<td>Financial Services and General Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy and Water Development</td>
<td>Development, FDA</td>
<td>Homeland Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commerce, Justice,</td>
<td>Interior, Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Transportation, and Housing and Urban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Defense</td>
<td>Development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TBD**

MilCon-VA will accept submissions after the release of the President’s budget.

### Example Office Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK OF MAR 22</th>
<th>WEEK OF MAR 28</th>
<th>WEEK OF APR 5</th>
<th>WEEK OF APR 12</th>
<th>WEEK OF APR 17</th>
<th>WEEK OF APR 24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish evaluation criteria</td>
<td>Launch page on website with information for applicants</td>
<td>Hold information session or webinar</td>
<td>INTERNAL DEADLINE for initial submissions</td>
<td>Refine final applications</td>
<td>Member reviews final requests to be submitted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design intake form</td>
<td>Reach out to local officials and community groups</td>
<td>Emphasize need for applicants to demonstrate community support</td>
<td>Review applications</td>
<td>Ensure all questions answered</td>
<td>Member signs NO FINANCIAL INTEREST statements for every request</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build list of local officials and community groups</td>
<td>Send press release explaining the program and process for submission</td>
<td>Announce information session or webinar</td>
<td>Vet applicants</td>
<td>Perform extended vetting of applicants</td>
<td>SUBMIT ALL REQUESTS THROUGH APPROPRIATIONS PORTAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alert local news outlets that announcement coming soon</td>
<td>Get input from local advisory board</td>
<td>INTERNAL DEADLINE for initial submissions</td>
<td>Member selects projects to submit</td>
<td>Continue to encourage evidence of community support</td>
<td>Post information about all requests on Member website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Begin taking meetings from interested organizations</td>
<td>Consider setting up a local advisory board to review requests</td>
<td>Review applications</td>
<td>Notify successful applicants, request additional information</td>
<td>Prepare statements of NO FINANCIAL INTEREST and collect letters from other Members who signed on in support</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consider setting up a local advisory board to review requests</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Prepare rejection template to unsuccessful applicants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SAMPLE OUTREACH LETTER

Office of Rep. [First] [Last], District [#], [State]

Re: Community Project Funding Program

Dear [Contact]:

This year, Members of Congress once again have an opportunity to submit a limited number of projects for funding consideration. The new "Community Project Funding Program differs from "earmarks" of the past in a few ways:

- Only government entities or nonprofit organizations are eligible for funding.
- All request must be made public.
- Representatives must attest that neither they nor immediate family members have financial interest in the project.
- Representatives are limited to 10 total requests in a limited number of accounts.
- A sample of funding awards will be audited after awarding by the Government Accountability Office.

Projects in several program areas are eligible for funding, such as:

- Rural Community Facility grants
- COPS Technology and Equipment
- SBA Small Business Initiatives
- DOL Training and Employment Services
- SAMHSA Health Surveillance and Program Support
- Department of Education—Innovation and Improvement
- HUD Economic Development Initiative (EDI)

I encourage you to review the eligible federal agency programs to determine if any current or planned projects would be appropriate for a funding request. If a suitable project is identified, please submit it for initial staff review by [DATE] using this form. If the project is selected, my staff will contact you for the additional information required for a request to be submitted.

The Appropriations Committee has assured Members that projects will be reviewed on their merits — including statements explaining the project’s value to taxpayers and evidence of community support. Please note that there is no guarantee that requested projects will be awarded. However, if there is an opportunity to get additional support for the important work happening in our community, I welcome your input.

Sincerely,

Rep. First Last

Considerations for messaging the program

While every office will have its own way of sharing information about the program, a few key themes will need to be addressed by all, including:

- **This is a new program.** No one is quite sure how it will go.
- **This is not the old “earmark” system.** Significant measures are in place to provide additional transparency, eliminate self-dealing, and prioritize projects supported by communities.
- **There are no guarantees.** Each Member can only submit ten requests. There is no guarantee that ANY requests will be funded, and it is very unlikely that ALL requests will be funded.
- **Members can make a limited number of requests.** Because each Member is limited to ten requests, the Member will prioritize requests that appear to have the greatest chance of being funded.
- **Community support is important.** One of the best ways to increase the chance that a request is approved is by demonstrating community support.
- **Time is short.** The timeline for compiling necessary information and submitting requests is very short. Applicants will need to work closely with staff to get submissions ready in time.

SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA

COMMUNITY PROJECT
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

[Contact Info]

www.lastname.house.gov/community-grant-funding
202-225-2000

Rep. First Last [OH-7]
COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING PROGRAM

✓ Contact your US House Representative to find out if they are participating.
✓ Check to see if your project is covered by programs listed as “Approved Accounts.”
✓ Familiarize yourself with the relevant Agency’s requirements for the program.
✓ Submit initial information about your project to your Representative’s office.
✓ Demonstrate “evidence of community support.”
✓ Work with Congressional staff to refine the proposal and ensure it is selected by the Representative as one of their 10 requests to the Appropriations Committee.

1 CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE
   Ask if they plan to submit community project funding requests to the Committee on Appropriations.
   If so, what is their deadline and submission requirements?

2 CHECK PROGRAM LIST
   Funding is only available for programs in “Approved Accounts.”
   Check the list to see if your project qualifies.

3 CHECK AGENCY REQUIREMENTS
   Guidance from the relevant agency and Appropriations Subcommittee will tell you what information you need to submit.
   Make sure you prepare every question!

4 SHOW COMMUNITY SUPPORT
   The Appropriations Committee will prioritize requests with community support.
   Newspaper editorials, letters from local officials, local gov resolutions… it all helps!

5 SUBMIT ALL REQUIRED INFO
   Send all required information to Congressional staff as soon as possible so they have time to review and consider the request.
Follow the rules *and* best practices!
The Committee on House Appropriations has established reporting rules for community funding requests that offices MUST FOLLOW in order to have requests considered.

1. Statement of No Financial Interest
As covered earlier, each request must include a signed letter from the Member certifying that neither they nor any immediate family members have a financial interest in the project that is the subject of the request.
The Statement of No Financial Interest is required for all requests submitted in the Member’s name **AND** for any projects in which the Member signed on as a co-sponsor or supporter.

2. Post on Member Website
Members are required to post every Community Project Funding request online simultaneously with their submission to the Committee. The website must be searchable. Please note that your office **does not need to post programmatic requests**, only requests for Community Project Funding.

The Committee has not yet clarified the exact information or format required for projects to be posted on Member websites, but the following suggestions have been vetted with good government groups and transparency experts. **We encourage offices to adopt this format to aid the public’s understanding of the requests.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEBSITE DISCLOSURE RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>![ ] Standardized URL (to enable the public to easily find the information): member.house.gov/community-project-funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>![ ] List basic fields for all requests and post information in HTML or other machine-readable format (do NOT just upload the information as a PDF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Project Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Proposed Recipient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Amount Requested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Subcommittee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Project Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Taxpayer Value explanation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Evidence of Community Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>![ ] Make this information available as a downloadable CSV (comma separated values) file</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>![ ] Ensure that the website and any linked files are 508 compliant and consistent with the most up-to-date web accessibility standards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Project Funding is available for certain approved federal programs within several agencies. Summaries are available below. Please consult the official subcommittee guidance for all programs before submission.

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

**USDA: Agricultural Research Service, Buildings, and Facilities**  
For repairing, renovating, or replacing Agricultural Research Service laboratories and facilities. Can be used for buying land, construction, repair, improvement, alteration, extension, or buying equipment or facilities.

**USDA: Rural Development, Rural Community Facility Grants**  
To be used for purchasing, constructing, or improving essential rural community facilities, including healthcare facilities, public facilities, public safety measures, educational services, and other community support services. Some examples of eligible projects include medical or dental clinics, town halls, courthouses, childcare centers, police or fire departments, public works vehicles, or distance learning equipment. Can’t be used for refinancing debt, paying interest, non-rural areas, or commercial rental space.

**USDA: Rural Utilities Service, ReConnect Grants**  
For facilitating rural broadband deployment. Can be used for construction, improvement, or other facilities and equipment needed for broadband service to rural areas without sufficient access (less than 90% of the area households having access to fixed terrestrial service with at least 10 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream). Middle-mile facilities are eligible if they are needed to bring sufficient service to all premises. Mobile and satellite service are not considered in determining sufficient service.

### Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

**DOJ: Byrne Justice Assistance Grants**  
To assist state, local, and tribal law enforcement efforts to prevent crime, improve criminal justice, provide victims’ services, etc. Usually does not fund vehicles, construction, or renovation. Encourages community project funding to improve police-community relations.

**DOJ: COPS Technology and Equipment**  
To assist state, local, and tribal law enforcement in developing/acquiring effective technologies and communications to help investigate, respond to, and prevent crime. Projects should improve police effectiveness and communication between law enforcement agencies, local service providers, and communities.

**Commerce: NOAA: Operations, Research, and Facilities**  
For research, demonstration, or educational projects performed by external partners, or prioritizing NOAA internal funds for geographically specific projects. Note that this does NOT include construction projects, or funding for the National Weather Service, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, or Coastal Zone Management funds.

**NASA: Safety, Security, and Mission Services**  
For STEM education activities, scientific research, or other work supportive of NASA’s mission directorates and within the agency’s authorities. Not for building construction or renovation.

### Defense

**DOD: Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation: Army**

**DOD: Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation: Navy**

**DOD: Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation: Air Force**

**DOD: Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation: Space Force**

**DOD: Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation: Defense-Wide**
## Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies

- Army Corps of Engineers: Investigations
- Army Corps of Engineers: Construction
- Army Corps of Engineers: Mississippi River and Tributaries
- Army Corps of Engineers: Operation and Maintenance
- Bureau of Reclamation: Water and Related Resources

While local government entities may initiate requests with Members of Congress, funds will be received by either the Corps of Engineers or Reclamation.

## Financial Services and General Government

- **SBA: Small Business Initiatives**
  To support small businesses through projects like entrepreneur training, workforce development, counseling, research, and construction or acquisition of facilities.

## Homeland Security

- **DHS: Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants**
  For projects that meet the Notice of Funding Opportunity requirements for BRIC grants (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities). Must have an appropriate letter of support from the state agency responsible for administering mitigation grants in the requestor’s state.

- **DHS: Nonprofit Security Grants**
  For projects that meet the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Nonprofit Security Grant program--intended to provide support for target hardening and physical security enhancements to nonprofits at high risk of terrorist attack, including promoting coordination and collaboration between communities and state/local government. [See also the Preparedness Grants Manual](#).

- **DHS: Emergency Operations Center Grants**
  For projects that meet the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Emergency Operations Center Grant Program, intended to support flexible, sustainable, secure, strategically located, and fully interoperable Emergency Operations Centers, focused on addressing identified deficiencies. Grants are available for construction or renovation of primary EOCs. Again, must be submitted with a letter from the appropriate state administrative agency.

## Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

- **DOI: Federal land acquisitions under Land and Water Conservation Fund**
  For acquisitions for the purpose of land conservation and the encouragement of outdoor recreation. Although third parties are often involved in coordinating land acquisition, please note that the project should be requested through the agency that would manage the land being acquired (BLM, Fish and Wildlife, NPS, or in USDA, the Forest Service).

- **EPA: State and Tribal Assistance Grants for certain water infrastructure projects**
  Primarily for STAG (State and Tribal Assistance Grants) infrastructure projects, including funding local wastewater and drinking infrastructure projects, to include construction/modification of sewage treatment plants and drinking water treatment plants. Only for projects that are publicly-owned or owned by a nonprofit. Minimum 20% cost share requirement for any project funded through a STAG infrastructure grant. **Be prepared to show how the 20% cost share will be obtained.**

- **USDA: Certain State and Private Forestry projects within the US Forest Service**
  For providing technical and financial assistance through the network of State Foresters to improve management, protection, and utilization of forests, including state fire assistance projects, urban/community forestry projects, and specific forest disease/pest treatment areas.
**Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies**

**DOL: Employee Training Administration: Training and Employment Services**
For projects that 1) provide direct services to individuals to enhance employment opportunities; 2) demonstrate linkage with State/local workforce investment systems, and 3) include evaluation. Note that equipment and curriculum development may be incidental to project funding but not the primary component. Can not be used for facility construction/renovation.

**HHS: Health Resources and Services Administration: Program Management**
For projects in the following four categories: 1) Health professions education and workforce development; 2) Rural health outreach; 3) Rural health research, and 4) Telehealth and Health IT. Grant funding may be used for capital equipment, but not expendable supplies. Not for land/building acquisition, salaries, work previously completed, or general feasibility studies. Please note that health facilities are normally the only types of construction projects eligible for construction/renovation funding through this account.

**HHS: SAMHSA: Health Surveillance and Program Support**
For projects in the following categories: 1) Mental health (supporting programs to promote prevention/treatment of mental health disorders); 2) Substance abuse treatment (improving access/removing barriers to high quality treatment and recovery services); 3) Substance abuse prevention. Not for construction (other than limited amounts of necessary renovation).

**Education: Innovation and Improvement**
For a broad spectrum of innovation and improvement projects including services, curricula development, acquisition of books/computers, training, arts education, full-service schools, early childhood education, etc. Special education services are also eligible, as are early intervention services for infants/toddlers, transition services, and postsecondary education services. Elementary and secondary education projects should be submitted through this account. Eligible grantees are state education agencies, school districts, colleges and universities, and other public and private nonprofit entities. Funding for individual schools is usually awarded to the school district. Can not be used for construction or renovation except in minor remodeling for tech upgrades; also can not be used for daycare and non-educational childcare.

**Education: Higher Education**
For improvement of access to and quality of post-secondary education, including hiring and training faculty, developing curricula, improving degree programs/teacher prep programs, partnerships with school districts, acquiring lab equipment, establishing research/training centers. Can not be used for construction/acquisition/renovation. Recipients may not restrict participants based on race, ethnicity, or gender.

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**Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies**

**DOD: Military Construction: Army**
**DOD: Military Construction: Navy and Marine Corps**
**DOD: Military Construction: Air Force**
**DOD: Military Construction: Defense-Wide**
**DOD: Military Construction: Army National Guard**
**DOD: Military Construction: Air National Guard**
**DOD: Military Construction: Army Reserve**
**DOD: Military Construction: Navy Reserve**
**DOD: Military Construction: Air Force Reserve**
**DOT: Local Transportation Priorities**

Local Transportation Priorities are highway and transit capital projects eligible under title 23 and title 49 of the United States Code. Eligible projects are described under Section 133(b) of title 23, United States Code. 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 local 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.

**DOT: Airport Improvement Program (AIP)**

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

All projects must be:
- AIP eligible in accordance with 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.

**DOT: Economic Development Initiative (EDI)**

EDI community project requests may be used for economic and community development activities, including land or site acquisition, demolition or rehabilitation of housing or facilities, construction and capital improvements of public facilities (including water and sewer facilities), and public services. Requests may also include planning and other activities consistent with the underlying authorization for the Community Development Block Grant program within HUD. EDI community project requests are not eligible for the reimbursement of expenses for activities already undertaken (including debt service or debt retirement).

All projects must be:
- Supported broadly by local stakeholders, including residents, businesses, and elected officials.
- Administered by governmental or non-profit entities, including public housing agencies, as well as tribes and tribally designated housing entities.
RESOURCES

NEWS COVERAGE AND EXPERT COMMENTARY

How Earmarks Can Strengthen Congress, Anne Kim, Washington Monthly, March 19, 2021

Why Washington decided earmarks aren’t so bad after all, NBC News, Alex Seitz-Wald, March 18, 2021

Earmarks are back, and Americans should be glad, John Hudak, Brookings, March 17, 2021

Reviving Earmarks the Right Way: Some Advice for Congress, Zachary Courser & Kevin R. Kosar, AEI, March 15, 2021

The Power of the Purse: A Phoenix from the Ashes?, Franz Wuerfmannsdobler, Collier Fernekes, Michael Kelley, Bipartisan Policy Center, February 26, 2021

The Power of the Purse: The 411 on Earmarks, Franz Wuerfmannsdobler, Collier Fernekes, Michael Kelley, Bipartisan Policy Center, February 25, 2021

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GOT QUESTIONS?

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(Personal office staff can sign into LegiDash to ask questions anonymously)