****

**FY2025 Community Project Funding Guide**

This guide provides additional preliminary information for Community Project Funding requests as part of the Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations process in the House of Representatives. Please review the guide prior to filling out the application. This guide is based on FY2024 guidance due to the delay in receiving FY2025 guidance from the Appropriations Committee.

It is expected that each Member of the House will be able to submit up to 15 requests. While many factors will go into deciding which projects to support, the primary deciding factor will be the ability for a project to meet the needs of Delaware and its communities. Only certain funding accounts are eligible for Community Project Funding requests within the jurisdiction of the seven Subcommittees accepting these requests. *Not all funding requests made by Members of the House will be approved.*

**Timeline for Enacted Community Project Funding requests**

Please note the earliest *possible* availability of funding will not be until October 2024, the start of Fiscal Year 2025. Realistically, funding will not be available until sometime well after the start of Fiscal Year 2025 and will be contingent on many factors including the date of enactment of appropriations legislation (for Fiscal Year 2024, that was March 2024) and time associated with the implementation of funding programs your request is associated with.

**Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester’s Committee Assignment**

Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester is currently a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce (E&C). On E&C, she sits on three subcommittees: Health, Energy, and Innovation, Data, and Commerce. E&C is what is known as an “authorizing committee,” which means the Committee oversees, modifies, and creates programs within the agencies of its jurisdiction. It does not have jurisdiction over the yearly spending bills for projects, agencies, and grant programs. These bills are the jurisdiction of the House Appropriations Committee.

**Deadline and Point of Contact**

The deadline for submission of applications for FY 2025 Community Project Funding is **April 16, 2024, by close of business.** If you have any questions, please [DE00.fundingquestions@mail.house.gov](mailto:DE00.fundingquestions@mail.house.gov).

**Additional Information**

Please check the appropriations tab on [Congresswoman Blunt Rochester's website](https://bluntrochester.house.gov/constituent-services/appropriations-requests.htm) for updates and additional information, including the application for standard programmatic and language-based appropriations requests, i.e. non-Community Project Funding requests. For information on past appropriations bills, including dates of enactment and legislative text, please review this [status table by CRS](https://crsreports.congress.gov/AppropriationsStatusThttps:/crsreports.congress.gov/AppropriationsStatusTable?id=2024able?id=2021). It is encouraged to reach out to the Congresswoman’s office with questions and assistance.

**Funding Opportunities – Table of Contents**

[Funding Opportunities – Table of Contents 2](#_Toc162427510)

[Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies Appropriations: 3](#_Toc162427511)

[Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Appropriations: 7](#_Toc162427512)

[Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Appropriations 11](#_Toc162427513)

[Energy and Water Development and Related Appropriations 14](#_Toc162427514)

[Homeland Security and Related Appropriations: 15](#_Toc162427515)

[Interior, Environment and Related Appropriations: 18](#_Toc162427516)

[Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies 22](#_Toc162427517)

Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies Appropriations:

**Eligible Accounts:**

The Subcommittee on Agriculture will accept Community Project Funding requests in five accounts as noted below:

* Agricultural Research Service, Buildings, and Facilities
* Rural Development, Rural Housing Service, Rural Community Facility Grants
* Rural Development, Rural Utilities Services, Water and Waste Grants
* Rural Utilities Service, ReConnect Grants
* Rural Utilities Service, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants
* Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Operations

**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. Facility requests must be for ARS-owned facilities or for facilities that will enhance ongoing ARS work. 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.

Applicants 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.

Requests for ARS-owned facilities will be given priority for funding. The average award in FY2024 was $4.1 million.

**Rural Development, Rural Community Facility Grants:**

Grants to purchase, construct, or improve essential community facilities, to purchase equipment, and pay other related project expenses. Essential community facilities include, but are not limited to, healthcare facilities, public facilities, public safety measures, educational services, or other community support services. Examples of eligible projects include; medical or dental clinics, towns halls, courthouses, childcare centers, police or fire departments, public works vehicles, or distance learning equipment.

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), and the Member’s request must demonstrate community support. Submissions should include details on all proposed uses of funds, activities that will occur, timeline, and detailed information on the complete service territory, including median household income of the proposed project.

Please review all program regulations carefully, most notably:

* **Cost share requirements.** The Community Facilities program has a cost share calculated on a graduated scale. The applicant should be aware of any cost share as documented in 7 CFR 3570.63(b).
* **Credit Elsewhere Test.** Applicant shall certify they cannot finance the project from their own resources and credit is not otherwise available on reasonable terms from non-Federal sources.

Community Facilities grants generally 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. The average CPF award for FY2024 was $1.2 million.

**Rural Utilities Service, ReConnect Grants:**

ReConnect broadband pilot grants facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas. Grants 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. The area must be rural and lack sufficient access to broadband service. A rural area is any area which is not located within: (1) 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.

Applicants 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. Please note that all policies and procedures apply, including environmental and related reviews **and the 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 is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility. For FY2024, the average ReConnect CPF award was $1.2 million.

**Rural Development, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants:**

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

All requests are subject to all the regulations governing the program which can be found at 7 CFR Part 1734. The **program requires a 15% match** that cannot come from another federal source.

The State Rural Development Office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility. Applicants are strongly encouraged to include information in their requests, such as how the award will be utilized, what equipment of service will be acquired and any information on population(s) served. The program is intended to serve rural areas with populations of 20,000 or less. For FY2024, the average CPF award was $500,000.

**Rural Development, Water and Waste Disposal Grants:**

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

Eligible entities include rural areas and towns with population of 10,000 or less and Tribal lands in rural areas. The account has not been subject to CPFs in the previous years. Potential recipients will be required to provide a 25% non-federal cost share.

The State Rural Development Office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility. For FY2024, the average award was $1.5 million.

**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. Conservation Operations has four major program components: Conservation Technical Assistance, Soil Survey, Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting, and Plant Materials Centers. Examples of specific objectives include reduce soil erosion, improve soil health, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce damage caused by floods and other natural disasters. Due to the newness of the urban agriculture program, the subcommittee will not consider such proposals this year as part of CPFs in Conservation Operations. Applicants are strongly encouraged to include information in their requests, such as if the project will conduct surveys, investigations, or research, if there is a plan to publish the results of any such work, and a description of any preventive measures to be taken, such as engineering operations, methods of cultivation, or changes in use of land.

For FY2025, the Subcommittee will only consider projects for funding recipients that are State, local, and Tribal organizations, or public conservation districts. Non-profit recipients will not be considered. For FY2024, the average award was $1 million.

**Supplemental Required Questions for the Agriculture Subcommittee:**

1. The website address of the proposed recipient.

2. If there are additional costs necessary to complete the project, have those been secured?

3. For Rural Development projects, is the project for an eligible purpose and does it meet all eligibility requirements under current law?

4. Does the entity plan to make grants to other entities from the funds provided and, if so, to whom?

5. Why is the project a priority for the district? Briefly explain the community benefits.

6. Has any funding for the project been included in any presidential budget and, if so, how much, in which fiscal year, and in which agency or agencies and program(s)?

7. Has the project received Federal funding before and, if so, how much, when, and from which agency or agencies and program(s)?

8. Have you contacted the State Rural Development Office/State Conservation Office to discuss the project and confirm eligibility?

9. For ARS B&F only, what is the estimated start date of the project? How soon could the feasibility/engineering design phase commence? [mm/yy]

10. For ARS B&F only, does the project have distinct and separable phases?

11. For ARS B&F only, what is the estimated completion date of the project? When does completion of construction occur? [mm/yy]

12. For ARS B&F only, have you verified that this facility is owned or operated by the Agricultural Research Service?

13. For ReConnect requests only, please provide relevant information, such as the number of households, businesses, or farms that would be served, what the performance of the service to be offered will be, and whether healthcare or educational facilities will be served.

14. For Conservation Operations requests only, briefly describe how the project will reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, or other objectives that will help conserve, maintain, and improve natural resources.

15. For Water and Waste requests only, provide relevant information, such as the number of households, businesses, or farms that would be served.

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Appropriations:

**Eligible Accounts**

The Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies will accept community project funding requests only in the following six accounts:

* Department of Commerce (DOC), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Scientific and Technical Research Services (STRS)
* DOC, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Coastal Zone Management
* Department of Justice (DOJ), Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), COPS Technology and Equipment
* DOJ, Byrne Justice Assistance Grants
* National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Safety, Security, and Mission Services

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

Funding must be for activities consistent with and supportive of NIST’s mission and within its authorities, such as STEM education activities, scientific research, or other activities that support American manufacturing and industry. **This account does not fund building construction or renovation.** For FY2024, the average award was $1.5 million.

**Supplemental Questions for STRS Projects**

1. Is the recipient entity a non-profit organization as described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986? [yes/no]
2. Can this project spend a smaller amount of appropriated funds within 12 months of the enactment of the appropriations act? [yes/no] If yes, please provide any details that may be helpful for understanding the scalability of the project.
3. Are you aware of another Member making a request for this same project?
4. Please provide the location of this project, in the format ‘City (or County), State’.

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – Coastal Zone Management**

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

Historically, the Committee has not funded vehicles or building construction or renovation as part of community project funding under this account. For FY2024, the average award was $1.35 million.

**Supplemental Questions for NOAA ORF Projects**

1. Is the recipient entity a non-profit organization as described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986? [yes/no]
2. Can this project spend a smaller amount of appropriated funds within 12 months of the enactment of the appropriations act? [yes/no] If yes, please provide any details that may be helpful for understanding the scalability of the project.
3. Are you aware of another Member making a request for this same project?
4. Please provide the location of this project, in the format ‘City (or County), State’.

**Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG):**

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://bja.ojp.gov/program/jag/overviewhttps://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/jag-faqs.pdf>. Awarded grants will be subject to requirements under 2 CFR Part 200 and DOJ’s Grants Financial Guide. Allowable costs are those costs consistent with 2 CFR 200, Subpart E, and costs permitted by the authorizing legislation. The Committee notes several prohibitions on Byrne-JAG funds, including that listed under 34 USC 10152(d). Additionally, the Committee will not support 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.

For FY2024, the average award was $700,000.

**Supplemental Questions for Byrne JAG Grant Projects**

1. Is the recipient entity a non-profit organization as described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986? [yes/no]
2. Can this project spend a smaller amount of appropriated funds within 12 months of the enactment of the appropriations act? [yes/no] If yes, please provide any details that may be helpful for understanding the scalability of the project.
3. Is the purpose of this request the construction or renovation of a building? [yes/no]
4. Are you aware of another Member making a request for this same project? [yes/no]
5. Please provide the location of this project, in the format ‘City (or County), State’.

**Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) - Technology & 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. 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.

* 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.

For FY2024, the average award was $800,000.

**Supplemental Questions for COPS Projects**

1. Is the recipient a State, Tribal, or local law enforcement agency?
2. Can this project spend a smaller amount of appropriated funds within 12 months of the enactment of the appropriations act? [yes/no] If yes, please provide any details that may be helpful for understanding the scalability of the project.
3. Is the purpose of this request the construction or renovation of a building? [yes/no]
4. Are you aware of another Member making a request for this same project? [yes/no]
5. Please provide the location of this project, in the format ‘City (or County), State’.

**National Aeronautics and Space Administration (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. 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.

For FY2024, the average award was $1.3 million.

**Supplemental Questions for NASA Projects**

1. Is the recipient entity a non-profit organization as described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986? [yes/no]
2. Can this project spend a smaller amount of appropriated funds within 12 months of the enactment of the appropriations act? [yes/no] If yes, please provide any details that may be helpful for understanding the scalability of the project.
3. Is the purpose of this request the construction or renovation of a building? [yes/no]
4. Are you aware of another Member making a request for this same project? [yes/no]
5. Please provide the location of this project, in the format ‘City (or County), State’.

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Appropriations

**Eligible Accounts**

The Subcommittee will consider requests within the following 10 accounts only:

* Military Construction, Air Force
* Military Construction, Air Force Reserve
* Military Construction, Air National Guard
* Military Construction, Army
* Military Construction, Army National Guard
* Military Construction, Army Reserve
* Military Construction, Defense-Wide
* Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps
* Military Construction, Navy Reserve
* Military Construction, Space Force

**Military Construction Projects**

Each project request must be for fiscal year (FY) 2025 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 FY25-FY29 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 FY25.
* Submitted to the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) for inclusion in the FY25 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 requests include both construction and unspecified minor military construction projects for active components. An unspecified minor military construction project is a project that has an approved cost equal to or less than $9,000,000. The types of projects under this heading are for the following accounts: Army, Navy and Marine Corps, Air Force, Defense-Wide Agencies (SOCOM, DHA, etc.)

**Construction and Unspecified Minor Construction – National Guard and 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. The types of projects under this heading are for the following accounts: Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve.

**Planning and Design**

The types of projects under this heading include improving facility resilience, study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services for all eligible defense accounts.

**Lists of Eligible Community Projects**

The eligible lists of community projects are those that are submitted to Congress by the Secretary of Defense. Projects that only appear on a list or FYDP provided by a base commander will not be accepted*.* Such lists include:

* **Future Year Defense Program (FYDP)** – FYDP is a projection of the forces, resources, and programs needed to support Department of Defense (DOD) operations over a five-year span. The FYDP is released simultaneously with the President’s budget request. The updated document listing projects eligible for FY 2025 will be obtainable after the FY 2025 full budget rollout, through the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) website: [https://comptroller.defense.gov/Budget-Materials/.](https://comptroller.defense.gov/Budget-Materials/)
* **Unfunded Requirements/Unfunded Priorities Lists (UFRs/UPLs)** – UFRs/UPLs are lists that each Service provides to Congress that identify priority projects which were not included in the President’s budget request. These lists must be approved by the Secretary of Defense. UFRs/UPLs become available to Congress on the date of the President’s full budget release (not skinny budget) and can be found by contacting the [Congressional Liaison Offices of the Armed Services.](https://housenet.house.gov/campus/liaison-offices)

As indicated above, some Reserve Component projects will additionally require a corresponding State funding match. Please verify said funding before submission. The Committee will not waive match requirements.

**Supplemental Questions for Military Construction Projects**

* Which Service is the project for?
* Project Title.
* Amount Requested for FY25.
* Program (Is the funding request for construction, unspecified minor construction, or planning and design?).
* Project Location (State/Territory Title).
* Installation Name (Location Title).
* Is the project on the FY25-FY29 FYDP? If so, which fiscal year?
* Is the project on a FY25 Service or Combatant Command unfunded requirements/unfunded priorities list (UFRs/UPLs)?
* Does the project have a DD Form 1391?
* If a Reserve Component project, does it require a State funding match?
* Is this project at or above 35% design complete?
* Can the project funds be obligated in FY25?
* Has a corresponding request been submitted to HASC for inclusion in the FY25 NDAA? If a project was previously authorized in a NDAA, please provide the fiscal year.
* Who is the point of contact in the requesting office?

Energy and Water Development and Related Appropriations

**Eligible Accounts**

The Committee will only consider submissions within the following ten accounts and areas:

* Army Corps of Engineers (ACE), Investigations
* ACE, Construction
* ACE, Operations & Maintenance
* ACE, Mississippi Rivers & Tributaries
* Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Water and Related Resources

**General Information for Corps and Reclamation Requests**

All requests for the Corps of Engineers (Corps) and Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) accounts listed above should reflect a funding amount that can be realistically utilized in FY25 and must be authorized projects. This is referred to as the project’s “capability” for FY25. All projects will be sent to the relevant agency for technical assistance, including regarding project capability.

For a Bureau of Reclamation project, projects authorized only under section 4007, 4009(a), or 4009(c) of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–322) are not eligible as a community project.

**Supplemental Questions for Corps or Reclamation Projects**

* What is the official project name and authorization? What was the FY23 enacted funding level for the project?
* What is the FY25 President’s Budget Request funding level for the project?
* Please provide contact information for the relevant Corps District Project Manager and Corps District Name or the relevant Reclamation staff name and Region name.  Please include the cell phone number and email address for the contact.
* If making a Corps request, please provide the name of the Corps Division and Corps District where the project is located.
* If making a Reclamation request, please provide the name of the Reclamation Region where the project is located.
* Please include detailed information about the non-federal sponsor of the project or the non-federal project partner, if applicable.

Homeland Security and Related Appropriations:

**Eligible Accounts:**

The Subcommittee on Homeland Security will accept Community Project Funding requests for only the two following Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal Assistance accounts:

* Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants
* Emergency Operations Center Grants

**Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants**

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).](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=340685) The subcommittee encourages offices to consult with their [State Hazard Mitigation Officers](https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/state-contacts) when answering the questions in the database. Member offices must answer all the eligibility questions in the database for a request to be considered.

For any PDM projects designated for funding in the FY 2025 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).

For FY2024, the average award was $1.8 million.

**Supplemental Questions for Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants**

1. Did your office upload a letter from the appropriate State or Territorial Administrative Agency, or Tribal government, confirming project eligibility and their willingness to administer the grant?
2. Did your office upload letters of support from local government entities demonstrating community support for the project(s)?
3. Is the proposed project eligible under the most recent Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the PDM grant program?
4. Can the requesting jurisdiction provide the required non-federal cost share (25% of total eligible activity costs, or 10% for small, impoverished communities), as detailed in the NOFO?
5. If less than the requested amount is provided as the federal share, would additional state, local, or other eligible funding sources be available to support the project?
6. Can the requesting jurisdiction provide a Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) or other
7. documentation that validates cost-effectiveness, which is defined by FEMA as having a BCA of 1.0 or greater? A non-FEMA BCA methodology may only be used if preapproved by FEMA in writing.
8. Consistent with the NOFO for PDM grants, is the proposed activity consistent with the goals and objectives in both the state or tribal hazard mitigation plan (44 CFR Part 201) and the local hazard mitigation plan of the jurisdiction in which the project is located?
9. If so, what is the FEMA approval date and when will the plan expire?
10. Has your office confirmed the funding request does not include unallowable activities for PDM grants (e.g., dredging waterways; the purchase of emergency vehicles and equipment)?
11. Describe how the proposed activity expands mitigation capacity rather than repair and maintenance of existing capacity.
12. How will the project provide long-term, permanent risk-reduction, as opposed to simply supporting Short-term, temporary emergency protective measures?
13. Can the recipient describe how the activity supports the needs of people disproportionally at risk of harmful impacts of natural disasters?
14. Does the recipient specifically encourage the adoption and enforcement of the latest disaster resistant building codes?
15. Provide a clear and detailed description of the proposed mitigation activity.
16. How will the mitigation activity be implemented?
17. Who will manage and complete the mitigation activity?
18. What risks will remain from natural hazards after project implementation (i.e., residual risk)?
19. How does the activity reduce the risk to individuals and property for future natural hazards, while reducing reliance on federal funding for future disasters?
20. Has the project been submitted, selected, or awarded funding in current or previous PreDisaster Mitigation (PDM), Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), or Hazard Mitigation Grant Program fiscal year grant cycles?
21. If so, what is the subgrant ID, or which grant program and fiscal year was the application submitted, selected, or awarded funding?
22. Has your office or the community consulted with state, county, or local emergency management officials, or with FEMA about the proposed project?
23. If so, please provide the name of the official, the agency they represent, and their contact information.

**Emergency Operations Center Grants**

FEMA’s EOC grants improve emergency management and preparedness capabilities by supporting flexible, sustainable, secure, strategically located, and fully interoperable [EOCs](https://training.fema.gov/programs/emischool/el361toolkit/glossary.htm#E) 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](https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/emergency-operations-center). Member offices must answer all the eligibility questions in the database for a request to be considered. For any EOC projects designated for funding in the FY 2025 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). For FY2024, the average award was $1.1 million.

**Supplemental Questions for Emergency Operations Center Projects**

1. Did your office upload a letter from the appropriate State or Territorial Administrative Agency, or Tribal government, confirming project eligibility and their willingness to administer the grant?
2. Did your office upload letters of support from local government entities demonstrating community support for the project(s)?
3. Is the proposed project eligible under the most recent Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Grant Program?
4. Is the requested federal funding amount limited to a maximum of 75% of the total project cost?
5. Can the requesting jurisdiction provide the required 25% non-federal cost share?
6. If less than the requested amount is provided as the federal share, would additional state, local, or other eligible funding sources be available to support the project?
7. Has your office reviewed the funding restrictions and allowable costs section of the NOFO for EOC grants?
8. Has your office confirmed the funding request does not include unallowable activities for EOC grants (e.g., personnel costs; replacement radios for police, fire, and other response personnel; generators for emergency shelters; any equipment that is portable and does not directly support the functional and operational capabilities of an EOC)?
9. Is the proposed project related to a structure or facility that meets the definition of an EOC, to include supporting incident management (on-scene) operations across multiple functional disciplines and/or jurisdictions?
10. For EOC projects that involve construction or upgrading of multipurpose facilities, such as public safety facilities, police/fire stations, etc., EOC grants may only be used for those parts of the facility that are directly associated with the EOC. Does the requested federal funding amount reflect the proportionate facility construction cost, which is generally based on the square footage (floor space) of the EOC compared to the square footage of the entire facility?
11. Has your office or the community consulted with state, county, or local emergency management officials, or with FEMA about the proposed project?
12. If so, please provide the name of the official, the agency they represent, and their contact information.

Interior, Environment and Related Appropriations:

**Eligible Accounts:**

The Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies will only accept project requests in the following accounts:

* EPA, State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG), Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and Clean Water State Revolving Fund

**EPA, State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG):**

For FY 2025, 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. 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.

When submitting EPA STAG Community Project Funding requests, please be aware of the following guidance:

* Ban on for-profit recipients and privately-owned projects. The Committee will not fund projects to for-profit entities and privately-owned projects are NOT eligible for infrastructure grants, even if they are otherwise eligible for assistance under a SRF program.
* State, municipal, local, territorial, or Tribal governmental entities as grantees. Public entities should be considered as the primary grantees to oversee the completion of the project. For STAG water infrastructure projects, States have Intended Use Plans (IUPs) with drinking water and wastewater projects that have already been vetted by governmental officials.
* Non-profits as grantees. Non-profits will be considered on a limited basis at the discretion of the Chairman. If a Member requests that funding be directed to a non-profit organization, the Member will need to provide evidence that the recipient is a non-profit organization as described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Many water projects often partner with non-profit entities to complete projects. Therefore, the Chairman will consider, on a limited basis, projects that are directed to non-profits with an inherently governmental function.
* Federal Nexus. The Committee will only fund projects with purposes authorized by Federal law:
  + o Clean water/wastewater projects: Title VI of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C 1381 et seq.
  + o Drinking water projects: Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300j12.
* 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:
  + o 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.
  + o 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.
  + o 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.
* One-year funding: Each project request must be for FY 2025 funds only and cannot include a request for multiyear funding.
* Project Amounts. Members should use the range of project amounts funded in FY 2024 as a general guide when making requests. For FY2024, the average award for Clean Water SRF or Drinking Water SRF was $1.2 million. Note that the Committee may consider higher project amounts for fiscal year 2025, and any caps will be determined by the Chairman after reviewing the full universe of requests.
* Contact information. It is very important to include accurate contact information for the prospective grantee when filling out the online request. This includes a point of contact, phone number, email information, and address. The grantee name entered into the online database must match the grantee name on the signed disclosure of financial interest certification letter.
* Eligibility Questions. Member offices must answer all the eligibility questions in the database for a request to be considered including the below supplemental questions:
  + o Is this a Clean Water SRF project or a Drinking Water SRF project? o Is the project on your State’s most recently finalized Clean Water/Drinking Water SRF Intended Use Plan (IUP)?
  + o Has the project received Federal funds previously? If so, please describe.
  + o Does the project have (or expects to have within 12 months) its 20% cost share requirement?
  + o Given the Federal nexus requirement, does the project help meet or maintain Clean Water Act/Safe Drinking Water Act standards? If so, please describe.

STAG projects have very specific eligibility requirements, and the Committee will not consider projects that do not meet those requirements. For questions regarding eligibility, please contact the office.

**Clean Water/Wastewater projects generally eligible for STAG grants**

1. **Wastewater treatment plants, including sludge handling facilities** ‐ upgraded (increase in treatment level) or expanded (increase in treatment capacity) facilities, including biological facilities, mechanical, a lagoon system, a land treatment system, or individual on‐site systems.
2. **Collector Sewers** ‐ Small sewers that convey wastewater from residences, commercial establishments, and industrial sites to larger interceptor sewers.
3. **Interceptor Sewers** ‐ Large sewers that convey wastewater from collector sewers directly to a wastewater treatment facility.
4. **Sewer Pipes ‐** Rehabilitation is eligible only if pipes are publicly owned.
5. **Outfall Sewer** ‐ A sewer that conveys treated wastewater from a wastewater treatment facility to the receiving waters (i.e., a river, stream, lake, ocean, etc.).
6. **Storm Water Management** – Measures to manage, reduce, treat, or recapture stormwater or subsurface drainage water (i.e. storm sewers, green infrastructure, etc.).
7. **Combined sewer overflow (CSO) control and sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) control** ‐ Combined sewers are sewers that convey both wastewater and storm water and may overflow during periods of heavy rain. The costs to correct CSO and SSO overflow problems are eligible.
8. **Infiltration/Inflow Correction** ‐ Construction activities that prevent surface water or groundwater from entering the sewer system
9. **Water Security ‐‐** These projects include installation or upgrade of physical security infrastructure such as lighting, fencing, monitoring and access control. Also, cybersecurity measures, installation of safer treatment technologies, and more secure storage of on‐site treatment.
10. **Septic Tanks ‐‐** Remediation, rehabilitation, removal and replacement of failing tanks are eligible, as well as installation of new tanks where none had previously existed.
11. **Land** - The leasing and fee‐simple purchase of land, including surface and subsurface easements, needed to locate eligible municipal or tribal projects, and land integral to the treatment process (e.g., land for effluent application or recharge basins), and a place to store equipment and material during POTW construction. Municipal purchase of land and/or conservation easements for source water protection are also eligible.
12. **Water Reuse** ‐ Projects involving the municipal reuse or recycling of wastewater, stormwater, or subsurface drainage water. This includes but is not limited to the purchase and installation of treatment equipment sufficient to meet reuse standards, distribution systems to support effluent reuse, recharge transmission lines, injection wells, and equipment to reuse effluent (e.g., gray water, condensate, and wastewater effluent reuse systems).
13. **Capital Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects** – e.g., river or streambank restoration, agricultural best management practices (i.e., buffer strips, manure containment structures), wetlands restoration, etc.

**Clean Water/Wastewater projects NOT eligible for STAG grants**

1. **Land,** except for projects described above as eligible under #11
2. **Operations and maintenance costs**
3. **Non‐municipal point source control**
4. **Acid rain drainage correction**
5. **Ambient water quality monitoring**
6. **Flood Control Projects**, unless the project is otherwise managing, reducing, treating, or recapturing stormwater
7. **Privately owned sewer pipes**

**Drinking Water projects generally eligible for STAG grants**

1. Facilitate compliance with national primary drinking water regulations or address serious risks to public health including non-regulated contaminants (i.e. PFAS).
2. Rehabilitate or develop water sources (excluding reservoirs, dams, dam rehabilitation and water rights) to replace contaminated sources.
3. Install or upgrade treatment facilities.
4. Install or upgrade storage facilities, including finished water reservoirs, to prevent microbiological contaminants from entering the water system.
5. Install or replace transmission and distribution pipes to prevent contamination caused by leaks or breaks in the pipe or improve water pressure to safe levels.
6. Projects to consolidate water supplies – for example, when individual homes or other public water supplies have a water supply that is contaminated, or the system is unable to maintain compliance for financial or managerial reasons – are eligible for DWSRF assistance.
7. Land is eligible only if it is integral to a project that is needed to meet or maintain compliance and further public health protection.
8. Project planning, design and other related costs.

**Drinking Water projects NOT eligible for STAG grants**

1. Dams or rehabilitation of dams.
2. Operations and maintenance costs.
3. Water rights, except if the water rights are owned by a system that is being purchased through consolidation as part of a capacity development strategy or if the water rights purchase is covered by EPA’s DWSRF Class Deviation for Water Rights 2019.
4. Reservoirs, except for finished water reservoirs and those reservoirs that are part of the treatment process and are located on the property where the treatment facility is located.
5. Laboratory fees for monitoring.
6. Projects needed mainly for fire protection.
7. Projects for systems that lack adequate technical, managerial, and financial capability, unless assistance will ensure compliance.
8. Projects for systems in significant noncompliance, unless funding will ensure compliance.
9. Projects primarily intended to serve future growth.

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies

**Eligible Accounts:**

The Subcommittee will accept community project requests for four accounts within the Department of Transportation and the Department of Housing and Urban Development:

* Department of Transportation (DOT), Airport Improvement Program (AIP)
* DOT, Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP)
* DOT, Transit Infrastructure Grants (TIG)
* DOT, Port Infrastructure Development Program
* DOT, Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI)
* Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives (EDI)

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

AIP Community Project Funding requests are intended to enhance airport safety, capacity, and security, and environmental concerns. For FY2024, the average award was $3.6 million. All projects must be:

* AIP eligible in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 47100 et seq., and FAA policy and guidance.
* Included in the FAA’s National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS).
* Supported broadly by local stakeholders, including residents, businesses, and elected officials.
* Administered by an airport and/or airport sponsor.

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

Cost Share: For large and medium primary hub airports, the grant covers 75 percent of eligible costs (or 80 percent for noise program implementation). For small primary, reliever, and general aviation airports, the grant covers a range of 90-95 percent of eligible costs, based on statutory requirements. Specific cost share requirements should be understood by the grantee, and verified by the FAA Regional District Office, along with other requirements to receive FAA funding.

**Supplemental Questions for Airport Improvement Program Projects**

1. Project Name.
2. General description of the project and why it is needed.
3. Has the airport sponsor provided assurances that the project is eligible under AIP statutes? Airport sponsors should engage with their Federal Aviation Administration Airport District Offices to ensure eligibility under statutory requirements.
4. What are the benefits of this project and why is it a priority?
5. Amount requested for the Community Project Funding for fiscal year 2024, and the total project cost.
6. Estimated start and completion dates.
7. Does the project have other public (federal, state, local) and/or private funds for the required cost-share and committed for the forecasted operations and maintenance costs? What is the source and amount of those funds?
8. Has the airport submitted a grant application for this same project to FAA?

**DOT, Highway Infrastructure Projects (HIP):**

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 FY2024, the average award was $2.4 million.

**Supplemental Questions for Highway Infrastructure Projects**

1. Project Name.
2. General description and benefits of the project and why it is needed.
3. Amount requested for the project.
4. Total project cost.
5. Type of project eligible under 23 USC 133(b) (Surface Transportation Block Grant Program); 23 USC 201 (Federal Lands and Tribal Transportation Programs); 23 USC 202 (Tribal Transportation Program); or 23 USC 165 (Territorial and Puerto Rico Highway Program).
6. Estimated start and completion dates
7. Has the request been submitted to a federal agency for non-earmarked funds, or to another Subcommittee or Committee thisfiscal year? If yes, which one(s)?
8. Please provide a history of federal funding for the project, if any. Include both formula funds and any discretionary grants.
9. Does the project have other public (state, local) and/or private funds committed to meet match or cost-share requirements for costs related to construction, operations, and maintenance? If so, what is the source and amount of those funds?
10. If the request does not fully fund the project, describe where the remaining funding comes from to complete the project.
11. Is the project on a STIP or a TIP? If yes, please provide a link to the plan.
12. Please provide the STIP or TIP ID Number and specify which plan the ID Number comes from.

**DOT, Transit Infrastructure Projects**

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

All projects must be:

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

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.

Additionally, most projects will be subject to various Federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, and the National Environmental Policy Act. The Committee strongly encourages Members’ offices to reach out to the project sponsor (i.e., transit agency) to determine the eligibility and viability of their projects.

The Subcommittee will continue to treat the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program as programmatic requests and will not fund CIG projects under Transit Infrastructure Projects. Any projects for which the sponsor is seeking or will seek a CIG grant will not be considered. For FY2024, the average award was $1.2 million.

**Supplemental Questions for Transit Infrastructure Projects:**

1. Project Name
2. Project Recipient
3. General description and scope of project, including benefits and explanation for why project is a priority.
4. Amount of CPF funding requested for project.
5. Total project cost.
6. Does the project require an environmental review? If so, what is the status and/or outcome of the review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)?
7. Does the project have other public (federal, state, local) and/or private funds committed to meet match or cost-share requirements for costs related to construction, operations, and maintenance? If yes, list sources and amounts of funds.
8. If the project receives less than requested for the transit infrastructure projects, will the project proceed without waiting for additional funding sources?
9. Does the project intend to apply for any DOT discretionary programs before proceeding? If yes, will the project sponsor still proceed if not selected?
10. Provide a history of federal funding for the project, if any. Include formula funds and any discretionary grants.
11. Where is the project in the construction process?
12. Estimated start and completion dates.
13. Is the project on a state, tribal or territorial transportation improvement plan (STIP) or a transportation improvement plan (TIP) as of 12/31/2022? If yes, provide a link to the plan.
14. Provide the STIP or TIP ID Number and specify which plan the ID Number comes from.

**DOT, 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 forprofit 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.

For each Port Infrastructure Development Program project request, Members will need to provide specific information through the electronic submission process. The database will include the questions below to assist the Subcommittee in vetting and selecting projects. For FY2024, the average award was $3.2 million.

**Supplemental Questions for Port Infrastructure Program:**

1. Project Name
2. General description and benefits of the project and why it is needed.
3. Amount requested for the project.
4. Total project cost.
5. Who is the recipient? Provide a website address if available.
6. Is the project at a small port, as described under 46 USC 54301(b)?
7. Is the project in a rural area, as described under 46 USC 54301(a)(12) – an area that is outside of a Census-designated urbanized area?
8. Estimated start and completion dates.
9. Has the request been submitted to a federal agency for non-earmarked funds, or to another Subcommittee or Committee thisfiscal year? If yes, which one(s)?
10. Please provide a history of federal funding for the project, if any.
11. Does the project have other public (state, local) and/or private funds committed to meet match or cost-share requirements? If so, what is the source and amount of those funds?
12. If the request does not fully fund the project, describe where the remaining funding comes from to complete the project.

**DOT, Consolidated Rail Infrastructure 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.

The Committee strongly encourages Members’ offices to reach out to the project sponsor (i.e., public agency) to determine the eligibility and viability of their projects. Projects will be subject to various Federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

For each CRISI request, Members will need to provide specific information through the electronic database. The database will include the following questions to assist the Subcommittee in vetting and selecting projects. The Chair may require additional information from your office. For FY2024, the average award was $1.8 million.

**Supplemental Questions for CRISI Program:**

1. Project Name
2. Project Recipient
3. General description and scope of a project, including the benefits and explanation for why project is a priority.
4. Amount of CPF funding requested
5. Total project cost
6. Does the project have other public (federal, state, local) and/or private funds committed to meet match or cost-share requirements for costs related to construction? if so, what is the source and amount of those funds?
7. If the project receives less than requested, will the project still proceed without waiting for additional funding sources?
8. Provide a history of federal funding for the project, if any. Include formula funds and any discretionary grants.
9. Where is the project in the construction process?
10. Estimated start and completion dates.
11. Is the project on a state rail plan as of 12/31/2022? If yes, provide a link to the plan and specify page number.
12. Is the project included in a grade crossing action plan? If yes, provide a link to the plan and specify page number

**Department of Housing and Urban Development - 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.” 1 Programmatic and operational expenses are not eligible.

* 5305(a)(1) – the acquisition of real property (including air rights, water rights, and other interests therein) which is (A) blighted, deteriorated, deteriorating, undeveloped, or inappropriately developed from the standpoint of sound community development and growth; (B) appropriate for rehabilitation or conservation activities; (C) appropriate for the preservation or restoration of historic sites, the beautification of urban land, the conservation of open spaces, natural resources, and scenic areas, the provision of recreational opportunities, or the guidance of urban development; (D) to be used for the provision of public works, facilities, and improvements eligible for assistance under this chapter; or (E) to be used for other public purposes;
* 5305(a)(2) – the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, or installation (including design features and improvements with respect to such construction, reconstruction, or installation that promote energy efficiency) of public works, facilities (except for buildings for the general conduct of government), and site or other improvements;
* 5305(a)(4) – clearance, demolition, removal, reconstruction, and rehabilitation (including rehabilitation which promotes energy efficiency) of buildings and improvements (including interim assistance, and financing public or private acquisition for reconstruction or rehabilitation, and reconstruction or rehabilitation, of privately owned properties, and including the renovation of closed school buildings);
* 5305(a)(5) – special projects directed to the removal of material and architectural barriers which restrict the mobility and accessibility of elderly and handicapped persons;

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

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

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

So that Members have the clearest possible guidance on the front end, the following types of projects are not eligible for CPF funding:

* Museums, commemoratives, memorials;
* Swimming pools, water parks, golf courses;
* Healthcare facilities;
* Venues strictly for entertainment purposes – e.g., theaters and performing arts venues.

Due to the statutory restriction on using funds for “buildings for the general conduct of government,” things like courthouses and town halls cannot be funded.

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

Reminder on Environmental Review Requirements: EDI projects, like all projects funded by HUD, are subject to requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), HUD’s NEPA-implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 50 or 24 CFR Part 58, and all applicable federal environmental and historic preservation laws, regulations, and Executive Orders. An environmental review must be completed before HUD funds and new commitments of non-HUD funds can be used on a project (24 CFR 58.22).

In addition to meeting the above eligibility criteria, all projects must meet these Committee requirements:

* Administered by state, local, or tribal governmental entities or non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations.
* As a reminder, for-profit entities are not eligible for Community Project Funding.
  + o Members are advised that projects for governmental entities to improve private properties pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(4) will be highly scrutinized and possibly not funded.
* Members are advised that projects submitted under 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1)(C) will be disfavored if the only or primary purpose of the project is “beautification” or historic preservation, without evidence of other community development or economic development benefits.

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).

* Supported broadly by local stakeholders, including residents, businesses, and elected officials.
* Administered by government or non-profit entities, including public housing agencies, as well as tribes and tribally designated housing entities.

For FY2024, the average award was $1.3 million.

**Supplemental Questions for Economic Development Initiative Projects**

1. Project Name
2. General description of the project and why it is needed
3. What are the benefits of this project and why is it a priority?
4. Amount requested for the Community Project Funding and the total project cost.
5. Who are the community partners participating in this project? Have local community development organizations with prior experience with HUD programs been consulted?
6. Has the request been submitted to another Subcommittee or Committee this fiscal year? If yes, which one(s)?
7. Is this project consistent with the primary objective of the community development program? Please describe who the project is intended to benefit.