



Community Project Funding Guide

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General Information

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

- are requested on behalf of constituents or constituent organizations by a Member of Congress;
- provide, authorize, or recommend a specific amount of funding to a specific entity for a specific purpose;
- meet applicable eligibility requirements for the program in which the request is made, including applicable underlying statutory and regulatory requirements; and
- are an appropriate use of taxpayer funds by meeting the objective of a federal program under existing law.

This guide is intended to assist Rep. Pappas's constituents in developing Community Project Funding requests.

The House Appropriations Committee will likely only make Community Project Funding available for specific funding accounts and purposes, which are detailed below. This guidance is based on guidance received from the House Appropriations Committee during the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations process, as updated guidance has not yet been issued for the Fiscal Year 2027 appropriations process. *Please note that, in many cases, the available accounts may differ from those under the Fiscal Year 2027 Senate Appropriations guidelines.*

Due to a lower overall cap on the total amount for Community Project Funding in House appropriations bills, projects of a modest size are most likely to receive funding, and the Committee will determine funding caps after reviewing all requests. Keep in mind that project funding will depend on available resources, and larger requests may have to be reduced.

This booklet largely consists of content drawn from House Appropriations Committee Fiscal 2026 guidelines.

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

In addition to the general questions on Rep. Pappas's Community Project Funding Requests form and the account-specific questions below, requesters should be prepared to answer the following subcommittee-wide questions.

1. Has the recipient secured non-federal funds to meet the cost share requirements, if applicable?
2. Has the recipient secured non-federal funds to meet the cost share requirements, if applicable?
3. For Rural Development projects, is the project for an eligible purpose and does it meet all eligibility requirements, with the exception of any Median Household Income requirements, under current law?
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? (If not, it is required to ensure project eligibility.)
9. For ARS B&F only, is it an existing USDA owned and operated facility? (It must be, in order to be eligible.)
10. 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]
11. For ARS B&F only, does the project have distinct and separable phases?
12. For ARS B&F only, what is the estimated completion date of the project? When does completion of construction occur? [mm/yy]
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. 15. For water and waste requests only, provide relevant information, such as the number of households, businesses, or farms that would be served.

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Community Facilities Grants

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

Project requests for non-essential facilities such as community gardens or museums will not be considered.

Priority will be given to essential projects, such as those focused on public health and safety. All projects must serve a rural area as specified in 7 CFR 3570.53 (rural areas including cities, villages, townships and Federally Recognized Tribal lands with no more than 20,000 residents).

Such requests are also subject to non-federal cost share requirements specified in 7 CFR 3570.63(b). Please review program regulations carefully. In-kind contributions and other federal formula or grant 5 resources cannot be counted towards match requirements.

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

The State Rural Development Office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility and non-federal cost share requirements. For Fiscal Year 2024, the average Community Facilities CPF award was about \$1.2 million.

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, ReConnect Program

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

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

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

For Fiscal Year 2024, the average ReConnect CPF award was nearly \$1.2 million.

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

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

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

Any requests are subject to all regulations governing the program which can be found at 7 CFR Part 1734. The program is intended to serve rural areas with populations of 20,000 or less. For fiscal year 2024, the average DLT CPF award was \$600,000.

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Waste Disposal Grants

The Water and Waste Disposal Grant Program may be used to finance the acquisition, construction, or improvement of drinking water sourcing, treatment, storage and disposal; sewer collection, transmission, treatment and disposal; solid waste collection, disposal and closure; and storm water collection, transmission, and closure.

Eligible entities include rural areas and towns with populations of 10,000 or less and Tribal lands in rural areas. Potential recipients will be required to provide a 25% non-federal cost share.

For fiscal year 2024, the average Water and Waste CPF award was nearly \$1.5 million.

Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) owns and operates laboratories and facilities across the United States. Many of these laboratories/facilities are decades old, have outlived their functional lifespan, and are badly in need of major repairs, renovation, or replacement. Requests can assist in the acquisition of land, construction, repair, improvement, extension,

alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities as necessary to carry out the agricultural research programs of the Department of Agriculture.

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

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

Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Operations

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

For FY26, the subcommittee will only consider projects for funding recipients that are state, local, and Tribal organizations, or conservation districts. Non-profit recipients will not be considered.

House CPFs in the account averaged about \$1.3 million in FY24.

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

In addition to the general questions on Rep. Pappas's Community Project Funding Requests form and the account-specific questions below, requesters should be prepared to answer the following subcommittee-wide questions:

- Can this project spend a smaller amount of appropriated funds within 12 months of the enactment of the appropriations act?
- If yes, please provide any details that may be helpful for understanding the scalability of the project.

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) - Scientific and Technical Research and Services

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

Purpose & Federal Nexus:

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

Note: Funding for building construction or renovation projects is not an eligible use of NIST Scientific and Technical Research Community Project Funding.

Department of Commerce - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) - Operations, Research, and Facilities - Coastal Zone Management

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

Purpose & Federal Nexus:

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

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

Department of Justice (DOJ) - Office of Justice Programs (OJP) - State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance - Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (Byrne JAG)

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

Purpose & Federal Nexus:

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

Prohibited Uses:

34 U.S.C. 10152(d) provides:

(d) Prohibited uses Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, no funds provided under this part may be used, directly or indirectly, to provide any of the following matters:

(1) Any security enhancements or any equipment to any nongovernmental entity that is not engaged in criminal justice or public safety.

(2) Unless the Attorney General certifies that extraordinary and exigent circumstances exist that make the use of such funds to provide such matters essential to the maintenance of public safety and good order-

(A) vehicles (excluding police cruisers), vessels (excluding police boats), or aircraft (excluding police helicopters);

(B) luxury items;

(C) real estate;

(D) construction projects (other than penal or correctional institutions);

or (E) any similar matters.

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

- Initiatives that involve the distribution of drug paraphernalia.

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

Prioritization of Projects:

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

Non-Profit Entities:

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

Requirements:

- Awarded projects will be subject to the requirements of 2 CFR Part 200 and the DOJ Grants Financial Guide.
- Allowable costs are those costs consistent with the principles set out in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E, and those permitted by the grant program's authorizing legislation.

Department of Justice (DOJ) - Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) - Technology and Equipment

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

Purpose & Federal Nexus:

Funding must be aligned with the purposes of section 1701(b)(8) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10381(b)(8)). As such, the Chairman will consider projects to develop and/or acquire technologies and equipment, including interoperable communications technologies, modernized criminal record technology, and forensic technology, to assist state, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies, including by reorienting the emphasis of their activities from reacting to crime to preventing crime and training law enforcement officers to use such technologies.

Notes:

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

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) - Safety, Security and Mission Services (SSMS)

NASA SSMS projects support science education, research, and technology development related to NASA's mission.

Purpose & Federal Nexus:

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

Note: The following projects will not be considered for NASA SSMS Community Project Funding:

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

Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies

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

Army Corps of Engineers (Civil Works)

Investigations

Construction

Mississippi River and Tributaries

Operation and Maintenance

Department of the Interior – Bureau of Reclamation

Water and Related Resources

In addition to the general questions on Rep. Pappas's Community Project Funding Requests form and the account-specific questions below, requesters should be prepared to answer the following subcommittee-wide questions.

- Is the project authorized? Is the scope of work to be funded within existing authorization?
- Provide the correct project authorization information, including the official project name and Public Law and section of the law that authorizes the project (example: P.L. 110–114, Section 1401).
- Is the project for an Environmental Infrastructure project or a Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) project? If so, please provide specific section for that authority.
- Is the project a new start? The Subcommittee may provide funding for a very limited number of new starts, if any.
- Provide the name of the Corps District where the project is located.

If a project otherwise eligible is included at the desired amount in the President's budget request, it should be submitted as a programmatic request rather than Community Project Funding. Please submit it through Rep. Pappas's Programmatic and Language Appropriations Requests form, which staff can provide if needed.

Homeland Security

In addition to the general questions on Rep. Pappas's Community Project Funding Requests form and the account-specific questions below, requesters should be prepared to answer the following subcommittee-wide questions.

- Is the requesting jurisdiction a state, Indian tribal government, local government, or territory as defined by section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122)?
- Can the requesting jurisdiction provide the required 25% non-federal cost share (10% for small, impoverished communities)?
- If less than the requested amount were provided as the federal share, would additional state, local, or other eligible funding sources be available to support the project?
- What is the minimum amount of federal funding required for the project to move forward?
- Have you consulted with state/county/local emergency management officials or FEMA about the proposed project? If so, please provide name, agency, and contact information.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) 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).

For any PDM projects designated for funding in the FY 2026 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, the respective State or Territorial Administrative Agency, or Tribal government, must submit an application to FEMA and serve as the administrative agent for the grant on behalf of the entities responsible for the project (grant subrecipients). Each project request must be accompanied by a letter from the respective State or Territorial Administrative Agency, or Tribal government, to be considered for funding.

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

In addition to the general questions on Rep. Pappas's Community Project Funding Requests form and the subcommittee-wide questions above, requesters should be prepared to answer the following questions specific to this account:

1. Did the appropriate State or Territorial Administrative Agency, or Tribal government provide a letter confirming project eligibility and their willingness to administer the grant?
2. Did local government entities provide letters 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 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.
7. 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?
8. If so, what is the FEMA approval date and when will the plan expire?
9. Has your office confirmed the funding request does not include prohibited activities for PDM grants (e.g., dredging waterways; the purchase of emergency vehicles and equipment)?
10. Describe how the proposed activity expands mitigation capacity rather than repair and maintenance of existing capacity.
11. How will the project provide long-term, permanent risk reduction, as opposed to simply supporting short-term, temporary emergency protective measures?
12. Can the recipient describe how the activity supports the needs of people disproportionately at risk of the harmful impacts of natural disasters?
13. Does the recipient specifically encourage adoption and enforcement of the latest disaster resistant building codes?
14. Provide a clear and detailed description of the proposed mitigation activity.
15. How will the mitigation activity be implemented?
16. Who will manage and complete the mitigation activity?
17. What risks will remain from natural hazards after project implementation (i.e., residual risk)?
18. How does the activity reduce the risk to individuals and property for future natural hazards, while reducing reliance on federal funding for future disasters?

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Grants

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

Similar to CPF requests for PDM grants, the database includes specific eligibility questions for EOC grants to ensure the proposed project meets FEMA's requirements as detailed in the most recent NOFO for the competitive EOC Grant Program. Member offices must answer all eligibility questions in the database for a request to be considered.

For any EOC projects designated for funding in the FY 2026 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, the respective State or Territorial Administrative Agency, or Tribal government, must submit an application to FEMA and serve as the administrative agent for the grant on behalf of the entities responsible for the project (grant subrecipients). Each project request must be accompanied by a letter from the respective State or Territorial Administrative Agency, or Tribal government, in order to be considered for funding.

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

In addition to the general questions on Rep. Pappas's Community Project Funding Requests form and the subcommittee-wide questions above, requesters should be prepared to answer the following questions specific to this account:

1. Did the appropriate State or Territorial Administrative Agency, or Tribal government provide a letter confirming project eligibility and their willingness to administer the grant?
2. Did local government entities provide letters 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 Agencies

Environmental Protection Agency – State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

For FY 2026, the Interior Subcommittee will only accept Community Project Funding (CPF) requests in the Environmental Protection Agency – State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) account for certain clean water and drinking water infrastructure projects.

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

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

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

Frequently Asked Questions

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

- Public entities should be considered the primary recipients to oversee the completion of a CPF project. State, municipal, local, territorial, or Tribal governmental entities are the most common recipients of CPF funding. For drinking water projects, the recipient must be a public water system.
- The subcommittee does not allow for-profit recipients and privately-owned projects, even if otherwise eligible under the CWSRF and DWSRF programs.
- Non-profits will be considered on a limited basis at the discretion of the Chairman, as non-profit partners with an inherent governmental function are occasionally used to complete water projects.

What types of projects are ineligible?

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

Are flood control projects eligible?

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

Are irrigation projects eligible?

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

Are fire suppression projects eligible?

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

Can a CPF project include road repairs?

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

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

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

Is ongoing operation and maintenance an eligible expense for a CPF?

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

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

Yes, but the costs 1.) Must be for an otherwise eligible clean or drinking water project 2.) Must be in conformance with applicable federal and EPA statutes and regulations (ex: Build America

Buy America Act, Davis Bacon Act, environmental reviews) and 3.) Are only eligible for FY 2026 CPF funding if the costs are incurred on or after October 1, 2025. All costs incurred are at the risk of the entity and EPA will review each reimbursement CPF project on a case-by-case basis to determine whether the incurred project costs are CPF eligible.

Does a project have to be on a state IUP list in order to be eligible for a CPF?

A project is not required to be on a State Intended Use Plan (IUP), but projects already listed on an IUP are usually eligible to receive CPF funding and can be an easy positive identifier of eligibility. Projects that are already on an IUP are typically aware of the applicable SRF requirements.

Military Construction and Veterans Affairs

Community Project Funding requests must follow the guidelines included in this section. Each project request must be for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 funds only and cannot be for multiyear funding. In addition, requested projects must meet the following criteria:

- Be included on an FY25 or FY26 unfunded requirements/unfunded priorities list (UFR/UPL) from a military service or combatant command, FY25-FY29 Future Years Defense Program and FY26-FY30 Future Years Defense Program, if received in a timely manner.
 - Projects suggested by an installation or unit commander not included on the documents above will not be accepted.
- The subcommittee will consider Community Project Funding included in the FY25 House bill, H.R. 8580 (and the accompanying report), eligible for FY26 funding even if they are not included in the FY26 FYDP or UFR/UPL lists in FY26.
 - FY26 and FY25 resubmitted projects should be submitted to both the House Appropriations Committee and House Armed Services Committee.
- Have at least 35 percent of its design completed.
 - For projects that have not reached 35 percent design, planning and design funding can be requested.
- Able to be obligated in FY26.
- Submitted to the House Armed Services Committee for inclusion in the FY26 National Defense Authorization Act or previously authorized. This also includes any FY25 CPFs being resubmitted.
- Have a DD Form 1391, which is DoD's justification for military construction projects.

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

Sources include:

- **Unfunded Requirements/Unfunded Priorities Lists (UFR/UPL)** – UFRs/UPLs are lists that the Services and Combatant Commanders provide to Congress identifying priority projects that were not included in the President's budget request. UFRs/UPLs are available to Congress within ten days of the release of the President's budget and can be found by contacting the Armed Services' Congressional Liaison Offices.
- **Future Year Defense Program (FYDP)** – The FYDP is a projection of the forces, resources, and programs needed to support DoD operations over a five-year period. The FYDP is released simultaneously with the President's budget request. The FY26-30 FYDP listing the military construction projects that may be eligible for Community Project Funding in FY26 can be obtained through the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) website: <https://comptroller.defense.gov/Budget-Materials/>. The website will likely become updated following the release of the President's FY2026 Budget.

In addition to the general questions on Rep. Pappas's Community Project Funding Requests form and the subcommittee-wide questions above, requesters should be prepared to answer the following questions specific to this account:

- Which Service is the project for?
- Project Title.
- Amount Requested for FY26.
- Program (Is the funding request for construction, unspecified minor construction, or planning and design?).
- Project Location (state/territory title).
- Installation Name (location title).
- Is the project on the FY26-FY30 FYDP? If so, which fiscal year?
- Is the project on a FY26 Service or Combatant Command unfunded requirements/unfunded priorities list (UFRs/UPLs)?
- Does the project have a DD Form 1391, have you included it the submission?
- If a Reserve Component project, does it require a state funding match?
- Is this project at or above 35 percent design complete?
- Can the project funds be obligated in FY26?
- Has a corresponding request been submitted to HASC for inclusion in the FY26 NDAA? If a project was previously authorized in a NDAA, please provide the fiscal year.
- Who is the point of contact in the requesting office?

Military Construction – Construction and Unspecified Minor Construction – Active Components

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

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

Military Construction – Construction and Unspecified Minor Construction– Reserve Components

Eligible Community Project Funding requests include construction for Reserve Components in the accounts listed below. **Note: Some Reserve Component projects require a state funding match:**

- Army National Guard
- Air National Guard

- Army Reserve
- Navy Reserve
- Air Force Reserve

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

In addition to the general questions on Rep. Pappas's Community Project Funding Requests form and the below account-specific questions, requesters should be prepared to answer the following subcommittee-wide questions:

- What are the benefits of this project and why is it a priority? (Benefits could include safety, environmental, economic, equity, mobility, etc.)
- Does the project require an environmental review? If so, what is the status and/or outcome of the environmental review and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) category of action?
- (For Department of Transportation projects) 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?

Department of Transportation - Airport Improvement Program (AIP)

AIP community project funding requests are intended to enhance airport safety, capacity, and security, and address environmental issues.

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 must comply with federal requirements such as Buy America and the National Environmental Policy Act. The potential grantee should reach out to FAA Regional District Offices to ensure that projects are in compliance.

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.

In addition to the general questions on Rep. Pappas's Community Project Funding Requests form and the subcommittee-wide questions above, requesters should be prepared to answer the following question specific to this account:

- Has the airport submitted a grant application for this same project to FAA?
- 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.

Department of Transportation – Highway Infrastructure Projects

Highway Infrastructure Projects are capital projects eligible under title 23 of the United States Code. Eligible projects are described under section 133 of title 23, United States Code, as amended by title III of division A of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Tribal and territorial capital projects authorized under chapters 1 and 2 of title 23, United States Code, are also eligible.

All projects must be:

- 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.
- Requested by state, local, or Tribal entities

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

Applicants should be aware that Highway Infrastructure Projects have a non-federal cost share calculated on a sliding scale. The cost-share requirements are defined in statute and vary based on activity, location, and other factors. Additionally, projects must comply with federal requirements such as Buy America and the National Environmental Policy Act.

In addition to the general questions on Rep. Pappas's Community Project Funding Requests form and the subcommittee-wide questions above, requesters should be prepared to answer the following questions specific to this account:

- Has the request been submitted to a federal agency for non-earmarked funds, or to another Subcommittee or Committee this fiscal year? If yes, which one(s)?

- If the request does not fully fund the project, describe where the remaining funding comes from to complete the project.
- Was the project on a State, tribal or territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) or a metropolitan transportation improvement plan (MTIP) as of 12/31/2023? If yes, please provide a link to the plan.
- Please provide the STIP or TIP ID Number and specify which plan the ID number comes from.

Department of Transportation – Transit Infrastructure Grants

Transit Infrastructure Projects are public transportation capital projects eligible under chapter 53 of title 49 of the United States code.

All projects must be:

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

Public transportation or transit is defined in section 5302(15) and (22) of title 49, United States code, and does not include intercity passenger rail transportation, intercity bus service, charter bus service, school bus service, sightseeing service, courtesy shuttle service for patrons of one or more specific establishments, or intra-terminal or intra-facility shuttle services.

The subcommittee will not fund activities that are administrative in nature even if they are eligible expenses under the statutory citation. These include but are not limited to general operating expenses, joint development projects, and planning activities authorized under sections 5303, 5304, and 5305 of title 49, United States Code.

Additionally, projects must comply with federal requirements such as Buy America and the National Environmental Policy Act.

The 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.

In addition to the general questions on Rep. Pappas's Community Project Funding Requests form and the subcommittee-wide questions above, requesters should be prepared to answer the following questions specific to this account:

- If the project receives less than requested for the transit infrastructure projects, will the project proceed without waiting for additional funding sources?

- Does the project intend to apply for any DOT discretionary programs before proceeding? If yes, will the project sponsor still proceed if not selected?
- Where is the project in the construction process?
- Options include Planning and Environmental Review, Final Design, RFP/IFB Issued, Contract Awarded, Capital Purchase or Lease, Construction, and Other (please specify).
- Was the project on a State, tribal or territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) or a metropolitan transportation improvement plan (MTIP) as of 12/31/2023? If yes, please provide a link to the plan.
- Please provide the STIP or TIP ID Number and specify which plan the ID number comes from.
- Has the project completed the required review(s) under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)? If yes, what is the status and/or outcome of the NEPA review.

Department of Transportation – Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program

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 intercity passenger rail and freight rail transportation systems. All projects must be:

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

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

Projects must comply with federal requirements such as Buy America and the National Environmental Policy Act.

In addition to the general questions on Rep. Pappas's Community Project Funding Requests form and the subcommittee-wide questions above, requesters should be prepared to answer the following questions specific to this account:

- If the project receives less than requested, will the project still proceed without waiting for additional funding sources?
- Where is the project in the construction process?

- Options include: Planning and Environmental Review, Final Design, Right of Way, Contract Awarded, Capital Purchase or Lease, Construction, and Other (please specify).
- Is the project on a state rail plan as of 12/31/2023? If yes, provide a link to the plan and specify page number.
- Is the project included in a grade crossing action plan? If yes, provide a link to the plan and specify page number.

Department of Transportation – Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP)

Port Infrastructure Development Program projects are projects eligible under Section 54301 of title 46, United States Code, as amended by title XXXV of division C of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025.

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

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

Additionally, these projects must comply with federal requirements such as Buy America and the National Environmental Policy Act.

In addition to the general questions on Rep. Pappas’s Community Project Funding Requests form and the subcommittee-wide questions above, requesters should be prepared to answer the following questions specific to this account:

- Is the project at a small port, as described under 46 USC 54301(b)?
- Is the project in a rural area, as described under 46 USC 54301(a)(12) – an area that is outside of a Census-designated urbanized area?
- Has the request been submitted to a federal agency for non-earmarked funds, or to another Subcommittee or Committee this fiscal year? If yes, which one(s)?
- If the request does not fully fund the project, describe where the remaining funding comes from to complete the project.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) - Economic Development Initiative (EDI)

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

Eligible recipients for Community Project Funding in the Economic Development Initiatives account are the following types of entities:

- States and the District of Columbia
- Territories
- Tribal governments
- Counties
- Cities, towns, parishes, or other local government entities, such as public water districts or public redevelopment authorities
- Public colleges and universities, including community colleges, all Historically Black Colleges and Universities defined as a “part B institution” in section 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061), and all Tribal Colleges and Universities as defined in section 316 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c)

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

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); and

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 be consistent with authorized purposes, the Committee expects to prioritize funding for the following types of projects:

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

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

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

Reminder on Environmental Review Requirements:

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

Reminder on Buy America Preference:

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

Planning and administrative costs:

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

In addition to the general questions on Rep. Pappas’s Community Project Funding Requests form and the subcommittee-wide questions above, requesters should be prepared to answer the following questions specific to this account:

- Who are the community partners participating in this project? Have local community development organizations with prior experience with HUD programs been consulted?
- Is this project consistent with the primary objective of the community development program? Please describe who the project is intended to benefit.