

 **SARAH MCBRIDE**  
DELAWARE'S  CONGRESSWOMAN

# Community Project Funding Handbook



Access the  
application at  
[\*\*mcbride.house.gov/CPF\*\*](https://mcbride.house.gov/CPF)

Dear Neighbor,

I am excited to share that my office is now accepting Community Project Funding (CPF) requests for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027. This process gives us an important opportunity to work together to direct federal resources toward projects that strengthen our communities and meet the real, everyday needs of our neighbors across Delaware. Unfortunately, the House Appropriations Committee has given us an extremely short turnaround time, so the **deadline to submit projects to our office is Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM.**

To support this effort, my team has prepared a resource guide to help organizations understand the Community Project Funding process and what will be required to submit a request once the application period opens. The guide is designed to clearly explain the process so you can focus on developing strong, community-driven proposals. I'm eager to hear your ideas and to partner with you on projects that can make a meaningful difference for Delawareans.

It's also important to be transparent about the realities of the Community Project Funding process. While it remains one of the most direct ways to bring federal investment back to Delaware, the program is highly competitive and governed by rules set by the House Republican majority of the Appropriations Committee. Each Member is limited to 15 requests, and all proposals must strictly adhere to Committee guidelines to be eligible for consideration. This handbook outlines those requirements in detail to help you shape a strong application. Ultimately, the Committee determines which projects receive funding, and as we have seen in recent years, many worthy proposals are not selected, and most proposals do not receive full funding.

Thank you for your interest in Community Project Funding and for the work you do to serve our state. My team is available to answer questions as you prepare, and I look forward to working together wherever possible to secure federal resources that help Delaware thrive.

Sincerely,



Sarah McBride  
Delaware's Congresswoman

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## *Overview*

Each year, Congress considers annual appropriations bills that provide funding for our federal government. The House Appropriations Committee, which drafts these bills, allows Members of Congress to direct limited funds from existing federal programs and accounts to eligible projects overseen by state, local, or Tribal governments and nonprofit organizations. This process, known as Community Project Funding (CPF), lets Congresswoman McBride direct federal funds to 15 worthy projects that directly serve Delawareans. In the Congresswoman's first year in office, she secured over \$19 million for projects addressing workforce development, rural health care, affordable housing, law enforcement, transportation and environmental infrastructure, education, and more. To learn about these projects, please visit [www.McBride.House.gov/community-project-funding](http://www.McBride.House.gov/community-project-funding).

## *Process*

The Republican majority controlling the House Appropriations Committee determines which types of projects are eligible for Community Project Funding. **Applicants must apply through the Congresswoman's application at [www.McBride.House.gov/CPF](http://www.McBride.House.gov/CPF) by Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM.** The Congresswoman reviews each request she receives but she can only submit 20 projects for consideration. The Committee reviews each request and determines whether to include funding for the project in the relevant FY2027 appropriations bill. This decision lies entirely with the House Appropriations Committee. CPFs can only become law if Congress passes an appropriations bill with the project attached.

Senators Coons and Blunt Rochester also have a similar process, called Congressionally Directed Spending or CDS. I will work closely with them to support all our delegation's projects, so I encourage you to submit your projects to their offices in addition to mine.

It can take approximately a year for a successful Community Project Funding application to receive authorization, and project sponsors may not receive funding from an agency for months or even years. If Congress fails to pass annual appropriations bills and passes a full-year Continuing Resolution (CR) – as it did for FY2025 – CPFs will not be funded. Please keep the fact that funding is not guaranteed in mind.

If an appropriations bill with CPFs included becomes law, project sponsors must then work with federal agencies to implement projects consistent with federal law. You will be contacted by the relevant agency and will then have to complete and submit a grant application. At this point, this is not to determine whether or not you will actually receive funding, but rather to gather the necessary information to disburse the funds and double-check eligibility. This process can take months or years, depending on how quickly the agencies can move, and will vary by agency. Please keep our office posted during this process.

## *Requirements*

The House Appropriations Committee and its respective subcommittees have specific requirements that must be met for a project to be eligible to receive Community Project funding. It's important to tailor your application very specifically to these requirements.

Applicants can only request support through specific accounts made available by the Committee, and these accounts may change year to year. If your project does not meet the criteria for any of these programs, it is ineligible for support through Community Project Funding, and you should not apply. This guide includes a list of eligible accounts and descriptions to help applicants determine if their project may qualify.

### Eligible Entities

For-profit entities are **ineligible** for Community Project Funding. State, local, or Tribal governments and certain nonprofit organizations can apply for Community Project Funding, but eligibility differs based on each specific account. **Notably, nonprofits are not eligible for HUD's Economic Development Initiative (EDI) or (new this year) any of the Agriculture and Rural Development accounts (with the exception of fire stations).** Please review the accounts below to determine if your project is appropriate for Community Project Funding. Projects must be located in the state of Delaware.

### Eligible Costs

Applicants can only request support through specific accounts (programs) made available by the House Appropriations Committee. Each account comes with its own rules and restrictions. This guide includes a list of eligible accounts and descriptions to help applicants determine if their project may qualify. House Republicans have restricted which accounts we are able to access, so Senators do have access to more accounts. **Notably, House members are not able to submit projects to the Defense or Financial Services bills. New this year, House members are permitted to submit projects to the Labor-HHS bill, but only for the Health Resources and Services Administration Account (with many restrictions).** Historically, Delaware's Senators have been able to submit projects for these bills, so our office would be happy to support your submission through their offices but are unfortunately not able to accept your application in our office.

Generally, capital expenses are eligible across accounts, while operational and programmatic expenses are not. Capital expenses are major, permanent, mostly one-time expenses, whereas operational and programmatic costs are smaller, recurring and more variable expenses.

Memorials, museums, and commemoratives (i.e., projects named for an individual or entity) are not eligible for Community Project Funding.

Awards must be structured as **one-year** requests, and funding must be for Fiscal Year 2027 only.

## Demonstrations of Project Merit and Support

You must be able to demonstrate that the request has community support. Acceptable forms of evidence of community support include letters from elected community leaders, press articles highlighting the need for the specific project, newspaper editorial board pieces, a state-intended use plan or community development plan, or a city council resolution. **Applicants should be prepared to submit 1-5 community support letters consolidated into a single PDF. These must be addressed to Rep. Sarah McBride.**

## Budget

Our application will ask you to submit a PDF budget for your project. It's important that this is as detailed as possible. Budgets must be itemized and clearly indicate how each dollar you're requesting will be spent. Be sure to indicate what parts of this budget will be funded by other means.

## Stewardship Requirements

Most requests for Community Project Funding require a non-federal cost-share from the project sponsor. Details on this are included for each account in the handbook. If the project would normally require a funding match or cost share by a non-federal entity, then the requesting entity will need to demonstrate that it can and/or has a plan to provide this match if it makes a request for Community Project Funding. The Committee will conform to statutory match and cost-sharing requirements.

## *Additional Information*

### Typical Funding Amounts

Funding amounts vary based on the account and the scope of the project. In past years, Rep. McBride submitted requests ranging from \$250,000 to \$12 million. Typical awards are around \$1 million. The House Appropriations Committee frequently does not fund the full amount requested for most projects, so it is important to disclose whether a project that receives less than the requested amount can proceed.

## Components of a Successful Application

- Projects that have demonstrated strong community support
- Projects that have a precise scope with itemizable funding
- Projects that conform squarely within the boundaries of an eligible account made available by the House Appropriations Committee
- A well-thought out, detailed, and complete application
- The capacity of an origination to carry out a federal grant

## Transparency

Congresswoman McBride must sign a financial disclosure for all Community Project Funding requests affirming that neither she nor any immediate family members have a financial interest in the project. Any selected project is subject to an audit by the federal Government Accountability Office (GAO).

All Members are required to publicly post their final Community Project Funding requests submitted to the House Appropriations on their website. The posting must include the name of the proposed recipient, the address, the amount of the request, and an explanation of the purpose and justification for the use of taxpayer funds. Congresswoman McBride's CPFs will be posted at [mcbride.house.gov/community-project-funding](http://mcbride.house.gov/community-project-funding).

## *Staff Contacts*

We encourage you to reach out to our office prior to submitting your application. Working with our team before you submit an application will allow us to provide guidance on the feasibility of projects and ensure your project is eligible.

Jacob Glasser, Legislative Director: [Jacob.Glasser@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jacob.Glasser@mail.house.gov)

Bryon Short, State Director: [Bryon.Short@mail.house.gov](mailto:Bryon.Short@mail.house.gov)

Mackenzie Stamp, Deputy State Director & Grants Coordinator: [Mackenzie.Stamp@mail.house.gov](mailto:Mackenzie.Stamp@mail.house.gov)

## *Application and Deadline*

The deadline to submit CPF requests to our office is Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:59PM. Submissions must be complete, including all required documentation, to be considered. Your application is eligible for consideration as soon as the completed form is submitted. Staff will reach out to you directly for more information if needed. No changes can be made to projects once requests are submitted to the Appropriations Committee. Please submit applications at [mcbride.house.gov/cpf](http://mcbride.house.gov/cpf).

## ***FY27 Community Project Funding Accounts***

All Community Project Funding (CPF) requests must meet applicable eligibility requirements for the program in which the request is made, including applicable underlying statutory and regulatory requirements (e.g., cost share). **If your project does not clearly meet these requirements, please do not apply. If you have questions, do not hesitate to reach out to us.**

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

**New this year: Nonprofits (with the exception of fire stations) are unfortunately not eligible for any of the accounts for Agriculture and Rural Development.** To ensure projects meet eligibility requirements for the Rural Development and Natural Resources Conservation Service accounts, our office will have to consult with the USDA's Rural Development Office. Submission of your project is subject to their approval.

Please review this [guidance](#) from the Committee for more information.

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

### **Natural Resources Conservation Service (Conservation Operations)**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) supports private landowners, conservation districts, and other organizations to conserve, maintain, and improve the Nation's natural resources. Examples of specific objectives include reducing soil erosion, improving soil health, enhancing water supplies, improving water quality, increasing wildlife habitat, and reducing damage caused by floods and other natural disasters. Purchase of land and/or fixed equipment are not eligible activities. Projects must have a direct tie to agriculture and/or farmland.

Only state, local, and Tribal organizations, or public conservation districts are eligible to receive funding under this account. Non-profit recipients will not be considered. Submissions should include details on: the work to be done, including if the project will conduct surveys, investigations, or research, and if there is a plan to publish the results of any such work; and any preventative measures to be taken, including engineering operations, methods of cultivation, or changes in use of land.

## **Department of Agriculture – Research, Education, and Economics**

### **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.

Submissions should include details on the research to be conducted, why the research is a high priority, what modernization is planned and why it is critical to carrying out the research.

## **Department of Agriculture – Rural Development**

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

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).

Submissions should include details on all proposed use of funds, activities that will occur, timeline, and detailed information on the complete service territory.

Such requests are also subject to non-federal cost share requirements specified in 7 CFR 3570.63(b). Please review program regulations carefully. In-kind contributions and other federal formula or grant 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.

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

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

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

The program is intended to serve rural areas with no more than 20,000 residents and requests are subject to all regulations governing the program ([7 CFR 1734](#)), including a 15 percent match that cannot come from another federal source.

Submissions should include details on how the award will be utilized, what equipment of service will be acquired, and any information on population(s) served.

### **Rural Utilities Service (Rural 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 no more than 10,000 residents and Tribal lands in rural areas. The funding is subject to a 25 percent cost share requirement. Submissions should include details on the exact work to be completed and the number of households and businesses served.

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

Please review this [guidance](#) from the Committee for more information.

### **Department of Commerce**

#### **NIST – Scientific and Technical Research**

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

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 [15 U.S.C. 272](#). These funds cannot be used for building construction or renovation projects. Projects with non-profit recipients, such as universities, are eligible recipients.

#### **NOAA – Coastal Zone Management**

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

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.](#)) and is subject to any applicable cost share requirement under the same Act.

### **Department of Justice**

#### **COPS Technology and Equipment**

DOJ Community Oriented Policing Services (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 described in [34 U.S.C. 10381\(b\)\(8\)](#) (the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968). Grants can be used 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. These funds cannot be used for building construction or renovation projects.

Only state, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies are eligible to receive funding under this account. Nonprofits are not eligible.

## **Byrne Justice**

Byrne Justice 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.

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 ([34 U.S.C. 10152](#)).

This funding cannot be used for: any security enhances or equipment to any nongovernmental entity not engaged in criminal justice or public safety; and vehicles, vessels, aircraft (excluding police cruisers, boats, and helicopters), luxury items, real estate, construction projects (other than penal or correctional institutions).

The Committee's Republican majority will also not support 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; and larger projects for the construction or renovation of penal or correctional institutions that will exceed the capability of single-year funding.

The Committee will give priority will be given to projects focused on improving the effectiveness of law enforcement, increasing officer safety, curbing the opioid crisis, and other strategic priorities. Please keep this in mind as you tailor your application to ensure it looks appealing to the Republican majority on the Appropriations Committee.

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.

Learn more about the Byrne JAG Program [here](#).

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.

## **National Aeronautics and Space Administration**

### **Safety, Security, and Mission Services**

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

Funding must be for activities advancing the purposes described in [51 U.S.C. 20102](#) and projects should focus on science, education, research, and technology development related to NASA's mission. These funds cannot be used for medical research, building construction, or renovation projects.

## Energy and Water Development

Projects in the Energy and Water Development accounts must be previously authorized by Congress, as few, if any, new starts will be funded. These projects are authorized either through the Army Corps of Engineers or the Bureau of Reclamation. If you don't know what any of this means, then you probably are not eligible for an Energy & Water project. New water infrastructure projects can be more successful under the Interior & Environment accounts or the Agriculture & Rural Development accounts for rural areas.

Eligible accounts for Army Corps of Engineers projects include: Investigations, Construction, Mississippi River and Tributaries, and Operation and Maintenance.

The only eligible account for Bureau of Reclamation projects is: Water and Related Resources.

Please review this [guidance](#) from the Committee for more information.

## Homeland Security

### **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

#### **Federal Assistance – Emergency Operations Centers**

FEMA's EOC grants improve emergency management and preparedness capabilities by supporting flexible, sustainable, secure, strategically located, and fully interoperable ECOs 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.

Projects must meet requirements detailed in FEMA's most recent [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (NOFO). Submissions should include a detailed project description, budget describing how the funding will be used, and confirm ability to meet the cost share requirement (generally 25 percent of eligible activity costs).

Once projects are approved, 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 receiving entity (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.**

## **Federal Assistance – Pre-Disaster Mitigation**

FEMA’s PDM grants assist state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments with planning and implementing sustainable, cost-effective measures to provide long-term, permanent risk reduction to individuals and property from future natural hazards, [such as floods and wildfires, while reducing reliance on federal funding for future disasters](#). For PDM grant requests, projects must meet requirements detailed in FEMA’s most recent [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#). Applicants must consult with their [State Hazard Mitigation Officers](#) to assist in answering the questions in the application portal.

Submissions should include a detailed project description, budget describing how the funding will be used, and confirm ability to meet the cost share requirement (generally 25 percent of eligible activity costs and as low as 10 percent for small, impoverished communities defined in [42 U.S.C. 5133](#)). Once projects are approved, 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 receiving entity (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.**

Please review this [guidance](#) from the Committee for more information.

## [Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies.](#)

### **Environmental Protection Agency**

#### **STAG – Clean Water State Revolving Fund**

#### **STAG –Drinking Water State Revolving Fund**

The EPA funds grants through either the State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) Clean Water State Revolving Fund or the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

Any portion of the project funded through a STAG infrastructure grant is subject to a minimum 20 percent cost share requirement. Federal funds outside of assistance provided by a SRF generally cannot be used to meet this cost share, with some exceptions. Additionally, non-federal assistance provided by a State Revolving Fund (SRF) can be used as part of the project’s matching requirement.

Projects must be publicly owned or owned by a non-profit entity (to be considered on a limited basis) that are otherwise eligible for the funding from the respective state’s Clean Water or Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF) loan programs.

Below are EPA brochures on eligibility guidelines for the CWSRF and DWSRF program:

- [EPA’s Overview of Clean Water State Revolving Fund Eligibilities](#)

- [EPA's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Eligibility Handbook](#)

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.

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 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.

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

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.

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.

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.

Ongoing operations and maintenance is not an eligible CPF expense and should not be included in the requested project amount.

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.

**For projects that are not generally eligible for STAG grants, clean water and wastewater projects may not include** land purchases (except where land is specifically allowed under eligible land provisions), operations and maintenance costs, non-municipal point source control, acid rain drainage correction, ambient water quality monitoring, flood control projects unless they are otherwise managing, reducing, treating, or recapturing stormwater, or privately owned sewer pipes. Additionally, projects for systems in significant noncompliance are not eligible unless the funding will ensure compliance, and projects primarily intended to serve future growth are also ineligible. **For drinking water projects**, ineligible uses include dams or dam rehabilitation, operations and maintenance costs, most water rights purchases (except in limited consolidation or EPA-approved circumstances), reservoirs other than finished water reservoirs or those integral to the treatment process and located on treatment facility

property, laboratory fees for monitoring, projects needed mainly for fire protection, projects for systems that lack adequate technical, managerial, and financial capability unless assistance will ensure compliance, projects for systems in significant noncompliance unless funding will ensure compliance, and projects primarily intended to serve future growth.

By contrast, **projects that are generally eligible for STAG grants for clean water and wastewater** include wastewater treatment plants and related sludge handling facilities that are upgraded to increase treatment levels or expanded to increase capacity, including biological, mechanical, lagoon, land treatment, or individual on-site systems. Eligible projects also include collector sewers that convey wastewater from residences, commercial establishments, and industrial sites to interceptor sewers; interceptor sewers that carry wastewater directly to treatment facilities; rehabilitation of publicly owned sewer pipes; outfall sewers conveying treated wastewater to receiving waters; stormwater management projects that manage, reduce, treat, or recapture stormwater or subsurface drainage water; combined sewer overflow and sanitary sewer overflow control projects; infiltration and inflow correction projects that prevent surface or groundwater from entering sewer systems; water security projects such as physical security upgrades, cybersecurity measures, safer treatment technologies, and more secure on-site storage; remediation, rehabilitation, removal, or replacement of failing septic tanks; eligible land acquisition or leasing that is integral to municipal or tribal treatment projects or source water protection; water reuse projects involving municipal reuse or recycling of wastewater, stormwater, or subsurface drainage water; and capital nonpoint source pollution control projects such as streambank restoration, agricultural best management practices, and wetlands restoration.

**For drinking water projects**, generally eligible STAG uses include projects that facilitate compliance with national primary drinking water regulations or address serious public health risks, including non-regulated contaminants such as PFAS. Eligible activities also include rehabilitating or developing water sources to replace contaminated sources (excluding reservoirs, dams, dam rehabilitation, and most water rights), installing or upgrading treatment facilities, installing or upgrading storage facilities including finished water reservoirs to prevent microbiological contamination, installing or replacing transmission and distribution pipes to prevent contamination from leaks or breaks or to improve water pressure to safe levels, consolidating water supplies where individual or public systems are contaminated or unable to maintain compliance for financial or managerial reasons, land acquisition that is integral to a project needed to meet or maintain compliance and protect public health, and project planning, design, and other related costs.

Please review this [guidance](#) from the Committee for more information.

## [Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education](#)

### **Department of Health and Human Services**

## **Health Resources and Services Administration**

Eligible recipients include: state, local, and tribal governments or nonprofits that are (1) certified rural health clinics, (2) Federally Qualified Health Centers, (3) designated Critical Access Hospitals; or (4) hospitals located in areas that meet HRSA's definition of rural:

<https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/about-us/definition/index.html>.

### **The Republican majority is not allowing us to submit projects for:**

- Entities that perform or promote abortions, including providing referrals, counseling, lobbying, and training related to abortions; furnish or develop any item intended to procure abortions; or provide financial support for such entities.
- Entities that conduct research using embryonic stem cells (if such tissue is obtained pursuant to an induced abortion) or human germline gene modification.
- Entities that facilitate, promote access to, or refer for psychological, behavioral, or medical interventions performed for the purposes of intentionally changing the body of an individual (including by disrupting the body's development, inhibiting its natural functions, or modifying its appearance) to no longer correspond to the individual's biological sex.

CPF requests within the HRSA-Wide Activities and Program Support account must fall under the following category: Health Facilities Construction and Equipment—CPF requests for the cost of limited-scope construction, renovation, or capital equipment purchase for facilities for health, mental health, or substance use disorder services, training of health professionals, or medical research. In addition to construction and renovation, CPF funding can be used to acquire capital equipment, such as lab equipment, x-ray machines, or telehealth and information technology.

Equipment-only CPF requests not involving construction are permissible. Generally, any equipment having a useful life of more than one year and a unit cost of at least \$5,000 will be eligible as capital equipment. In addition, equipment with lower costs may also be eligible, if it is treated as an item of capital expense under the recipient institution's pre-existing, written accounting policies. Equipment expenses for health information systems and electronic medical records systems are permitted expenditures, software licenses or operating fees are not eligible. The costs of expendable supplies such as pharmaceuticals, lab chemicals, or office paper are not eligible.

HRSA Health Facilities funding cannot be used to acquire land or purchase existing buildings, or to pay salaries or other operating costs. Funding cannot be used to pay for work previously completed. CPF requests can be used for architectural and engineering costs associated with an eligible construction project but cannot be used for general feasibility studies.

If the CPF recipient's construction project is expected to begin imminently, please note that CPF construction projects must adhere to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) / National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requirements prior to initiating any physical preparation, demolition, alteration and renovation, or construction related to the project. CPF recipients should be sure they are accounting for time for application submission and review, award issuance, and resolution of conditions on the award, including NEPA/NHPA requirements, prior to starting the project. CPF requests should not be viewed as continuous funding sources and should be distinct from competitive grant opportunities.

For more information on construction and equipment requests, see:  
<https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/manage-your-grant/training/community-project-fundingcongressionally-directed>.

Please review this [guidance](#) from the Committee for more information.

## Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies.

Funds can only be used for military construction projects. Please contact our staff if you believe you might have an eligible project.

Please review this [guidance](#) from the Committee for more information.

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

### **Department of Housing and Urban Development**

#### **Community Development Fund – Economic and Development Initiative (EDI)**

Unfortunately, nonprofits are NOT eligible for this account in the House. The only eligible recipients for EDI CPFs are government entities and public colleges and universities.

Project requests for the FY27 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) listed below. 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.” If your project doesn’t fit into one of these categories, please do not apply. If you are unsure, please reach out to our office.

**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;

Republicans on the Committee expect to prioritize funding for the below types of projects. If you aren't sure if your project fits into one of these categories, please reach out to us.

- 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 CPF funding:

- 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 [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](#)). If the project will be under construction (or complete) at the time of enactment, the recipient will not likely be able to meet the environmental review requirements.

Reminder on Buy America Preference (BAP): The “Buy America Preference” (BAP), 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 are produced in the United States. If the project will be under construction (or complete) at the time of enactment, the recipient will not likely be able to meet the BABA requirements.

Taxpayer Identification Number/Unique Entity Identifier: We are required to provide a valid Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) and/or Employer Identification Number (EIN) for each potential EDI recipient, as well as the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), which is an entity’s official identifier for conducting business with the federal government. If an entity does not presently have a UEI, they can register for one at SAM.gov. Applicants should have this information readily available to provide to our office when needed.

NOTE: Political subdivisions and school districts/boards may not have their own unique TIN or UEI. In this case, we recommend naming the recipient as the legal entity under which they are formed and naming the political subdivision in the project description (e.g., “City of Wilmington/For the Department of Public Works’ roadway improvements”).

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

Please review this [guidance](#) from the Committee for more information.

## **Department of Transportation**

### **Airport Improvement Program**

Airport Improvement Program (AIP) projects are intended to enhance airport safety, capacity, and security, and environmental concerns. All projects must be: AIP eligible in accordance with [49 U.S.C. 47100 et seq.](#) and FAA policy and guidance; included in the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS); supported broadly by local stakeholders, including residents, businesses, and elected officials; and administered by an airport and/or airport sponsor.

Projects will be subject to various federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and a cost share requirement based on size. The grant covers 75 percent of eligible costs (or 80 percent of noise program implementation) for large and medium primary hub airports and a range of 90-95 percent of eligible costs for small primary, reliever, and general aviation airports. Specific cost share requirements can and should be verified by the FAA Regional District Office.

Please review this [guidance](#) from the Committee for more information.

### **Highway Infrastructure Projects**

Highway Infrastructure Projects are capital projects eligible under [23 U.S.C. 133\(b\)](#). 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, such as by being included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) or Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP); and administered by public or Tribal entities.

Most projects will be subject to various federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and a [cost share requirement](#) on a sliding scale based on activity, location, and other factors. Funding cannot be used for administrative activities, even if they are eligible under the statutory citation. This includes general operating expenses and planning activities.

Please review this [guidance](#) from the Committee for more information.

### **Transit Infrastructure Projects**

Transit Infrastructure Projects are public transportation capital projects eligible under [49 U.S.C. 53](#). Eligible capital projects are described under [49 U.S.C. 5302\(4\)](#). 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, such as by being included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) or Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP); and sponsored by designated recipients, states (including territories and the District of Columbia), local governmental authorities, and/or Indian tribes.

Public transportation or transit is defined in [49 U.S.C. 5302\(15\) and \(22\)](#), 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, charter bus, school bus, sightseeing, courtesy shuttle, or intra-terminal /intra-facility shuttle services.

Most projects will be subject to various federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and generally a 20 percent cost share requirement. Funding cannot be used for administrative activities, even if they are eligible under the statutory citation. This includes general operating expenses, joint development projects, and planning activities. Capital Investment Grants (CIG) projects will not be considered as CPF projects.

The Committee 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.

Please review this [guidance](#) from the Committee for more information.

## **Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements**

Rail infrastructure projects are capital projects eligible under the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program authorized under [49 U.S.C. 22907](#). 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 or Tribal entities.

Projects will be subject to various federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Funding cannot be used for administrative activities, even if they are eligible under the statutory citation. This includes general operating expenses, rail-related research, and workforce activities. Eligibility and viability can and should be verified by the project sponsor (i.e., public agency). Please note that while planning projects are eligible, projects that are solely planning in nature will be highly scrutinized.

Please look over the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) [Capital Project Guidance](#) to ensure the lifecycle stage of the project matches the requirements.

Please review this [guidance](#) from the Committee for more information.

## **Port Infrastructure Development Program**

Port Infrastructure Development Program projects are projects eligible under [46 U.S.C. 54301](#).

Projects may be subject to various federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), reviews/audits from the Department of Transportation, and cost share requirements with potential exceptions for small and rural area ports ([46 U.S.C. 54301\(a\)\(8\) and \(b\)](#)). Eligibility and viability can and should be verified by local port authorities and the Maritime Administration's [Gateway Offices](#).

Please review this [guidance](#) from the Committee for more information.

## *Other Federal Funding Resources*

The Community Project Funding process represents a small fraction of the discretionary funding available through competitive grants, loans, and other opportunities. Please review the resources below to find additional funding sources. You can also reach out to Mackenzie Stamp, the Congresswoman's Deputy State Director & Grants Coordinator, who can assist your organization with federal funding.

### [Grants.gov](#)

Looking for other federal funding opportunities? At Grants.gov, organizations can search and apply for competitive grants from 26 different federal agencies. Grants can be searched by agency, type of applicant, intended purposes, and more.

### [SAM.gov](#)

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

### [GovLoans.gov](#)

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

### [Benefits.gov](#)

This tool will help you determine what government benefits you may be eligible for. It also provides information on how to apply to these programs.

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