

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Ned Lamont  
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Lt. Governor

### Drinking Water Section

#### DWS Circular Letter #2021-36

TO: Community and Non-Profit Non-Community Public Water Systems  
Municipal Chief Elected Officials  
Local Directors of Health

FROM: Lori J. Mathieu, Public Health Branch Chief   
Environmental Health & Drinking Water Branch

DATE: May 26, 2021

SUBJECT: Congressionally Directed Spending Requests

The Department of Public Health's (DPH) Drinking Water Section (DWS) has recently been informed by Senator Chris Murphy's Office of an opportunity to request Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) for drinking water infrastructure projects. Please note that for-profit entities **are not** eligible for CDS. **Applications may be submitted [on-line](#) and the deadline for these requests is June 6, 2021 at 11:59 pm.**

The DPH is providing the attached guidance on CDS provided by Senator Murphy's Office. The guidance includes on Page 11 the following description of State and Tribal Assistance Grants administered by the federal Environmental Protection Agency that are eligible for CDS.

***State and Tribal Assistance Grants, Water and Wastewater Infrastructure:*** This program funds water infrastructure grants to support local wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects. This includes construction of, and modifications to, municipal sewage treatment plants and drinking water treatment plants. Privately-owned projects are NOT eligible for water infrastructure grants. This program has a 20% cost share requirement and a project cannot use other federal funds to satisfy the 20% match.

The guidance also includes an FAQ section starting on Page 18. As stated in the FAQs, there is no minimum or maximum amount of CDS that can be requested; however, CDS projects generally are provided for projects less than \$2 million. In his preface, Senator Murphy has also indicated his preference for projects that benefit underserved communities.



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If you have any questions about CDS, Senator Murphy has provided a list of staff by Congressional District that can be contacted on Page 2 of the guidance.

Attachment: Senator Murphy CDS Overview

c: Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA, Deputy Commissioner

# 2021 CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING

## MURPHY.SENATE.GOV



Dear Friend,

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, my office will be accepting requests for Congressionally Directed Spending, in addition to programmatic requests, for this Fiscal Year 2022. You can submit programmatic requests [here](#) and you can submit Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) [here](#). In addition, I put together this guide with useful information that I hope will help you navigate this process. While this guide will include information on the traditional programmatic requests, the bulk of this guide is focused on the new Congressionally Directed Spending process.

First, a few words on Congressionally Directed Spending. Through your submissions I am hoping to identify projects that will benefit Connecticut residents, particularly those who live in underserved communities. In addition, I hope to find projects that enjoy widespread community support and where federal funding can help fill an important, unmet need in a community.

There will be a high bar that projects must clear for me to put them forward. First, there are only a handful of federal programs eligible to receive Congressionally Directed Spending awards and your project must fit within the scope of one of those programs to be eligible. Second, these programs have numerous requirements and Congressionally Directed Spending awardees must still meet all these requirements. Third, while the entities' eligibility for projects varies by program, for-profits entities are not eligible for any CDS funding. Fourth, Congressionally Directed Spending should not be viewed as a way to sustain a community's needs in the long-term as awards will most likely be a one-time grant.

It is also important to note that the Senate Appropriations Committee has placed a monetary cap of one percent on the total funding level for all Congressionally Directed Spending awards and, as such, there will be many great projects that won't receive funding this year. While there is no cap on the amount of money you can request, the funding available is finite so projects with large price tags will be harder for the Committee to accommodate.

As a reminder, Congressionally Directed Spending is only a small part of the overall federal budgeting process. As in years past, the Senate Appropriations Committee will also accept programmatic requests and my office is working hard to increase federal funding in programs that benefit Connecticut. If you think your project doesn't fit within the constraints of a Congressionally Directed Spending request, this guide has some helpful information on how to submit programmatic requests.

Finally, I joined the Senate Appropriations Committee so I would be as close to the federal appropriations process as possible and be best positioned to fight for your priorities in Washington. If your organization uses or needs federal money to help carry out its mission or if a federal program is important to your community, I want to hear about it. Your input is a vital part of my work each year and I deeply appreciate your willingness to engage in this process

Thank you for your interest and partnership in this process, and I look forward to working with you to secure funding for important programs in Connecticut.

Every Best Wish,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'B. M.', is located at the bottom of the page.

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## **STAFF CONTACT LIST AND QUICK LINKS**

If you have questions about your Congressionally Directed Spending request, please reach out to any of the staff listed below:

- **District 1:** Britt Foulds, [Brittany\\_Foulds@murphy.senate.gov](mailto:Brittany_Foulds@murphy.senate.gov)
- **District 2:** Brianna DeVivo, [Brianna\\_DeVivo@murphy.senate.gov](mailto:Brianna_DeVivo@murphy.senate.gov)
- **District 3:** Lilly McKenzie, [Lillian\\_McKenzie@murphy.senate.gov](mailto:Lillian_McKenzie@murphy.senate.gov)
- **District 4:** Trayvonn Diaz, [Trayvonn\\_Diaz@murphy.senate.gov](mailto:Trayvonn_Diaz@murphy.senate.gov)
- **District 5:** Zach Dendas, [Zach\\_Dendas@murphy.senate.gov](mailto:Zach_Dendas@murphy.senate.gov) or Trayvonn Diaz, [Trayvonn\\_Diaz@murphy.senate.gov](mailto:Trayvonn_Diaz@murphy.senate.gov)
- **Budget and Appropriations Staff:** Emily Smith, [Emily\\_Smith@murphy.senate.gov](mailto:Emily_Smith@murphy.senate.gov) and Misha Lehrer, [Misha\\_Lehrer@murphy.senate.gov](mailto:Misha_Lehrer@murphy.senate.gov)

If you would like to submit a request for Congressionally Directed Spending through my office, the form can be found here: [murphy.senate.gov/congressionally-directed-spending](https://murphy.senate.gov/congressionally-directed-spending)

If you would like to submit a programmatic request as part of the Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations process, the form can be found here: [murphy.senate.gov/services/appropriations](https://murphy.senate.gov/services/appropriations)

## **THE FEDERAL APPROPRIATION PROCESS AND CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING**

To ensure that we are a good steward of taxpayer dollars, there are standing rules in the Senate that govern Congressionally Directed Spending. In addition to these rules, Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy announced additional transparency and accountability rules to ensure Congressionally Directed Spending this year is free of fraud and abuse. A full list of these rules and reforms can be found [here](#), but here are some highlights:

- Senators are barred from requesting a Congressionally Directed Spending item in which they or a member of their immediate family have a financial interest, and must certify that they have no such financial interest in any requested project in writing. In addition, senators must post all their requests and these financial certification disclosures on their websites.
- The Appropriations Committee must disclose Congressionally Directed Spending items included in the bills passed by the committee in a publicly available, searchable online database. This database must also include the member who requested each item.
- Senators are allowed to raise a point of order on the floor against a provision of the conference report if it includes a Congressionally Directed Spending item that was not included in either the House or Senate bills.
- The total amount of money spent on Congressionally Directed Spending is capped at one percent of all discretionary spending.
- For-profit entities are banned from receiving Congressionally Directed Spending.
- The Government Accountability Office must audit a sample of enacted Congressionally Directed Spending items and report its findings to Congress.

In addition to these broad reforms, any Congressionally Directed Spending requests my office submits must satisfy all the requirements from the Senate Appropriations Committee and meet the requirements of the relevant federal program. As you will see in the submission request form, you will be asked to discuss the project and community support. You will also need to lay out the project budget and, depending on the program, may need to come up with matching dollars.

## AGRICULTURE, FDA, AND RELATED AGENCIES

### *Department of Agriculture*

- ***Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) (S&E):*** APHIS works with state and local agencies and other stakeholders to protect the animal and plant resources of the Nation from diseases and pests. For a list of Congressionally Directed Spending items the Senate included in this account the last time it accepted such requests, please visit page 47 of [this document](#). Please note that projects must meet environmental review standards (NEPA, ESA, etc.) and that some line items within this account have funding-match. The Field Crop and Rangeland Ecosystems Pests line item requires the federal government to pay half of the costs on federal and state lands but 33 percent of the costs on private lands. Next, the cattle health line item requires a 40% state match. Finally, the wildlife services line item has a 50/50 cost sharing requirement.
- ***Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Conservation Operations:*** This account funds four types of activity at NRCS office; (1) Conservation Technical Assistance, which provides assistance to district cooperators and other land users in the planning and application of conservation treatments; (2) Plant Materials Centers, which assemble, test, and encourage increased use of plant species which show promise for use in the treatment of conservation problem areas; (3) Snow Survey and Water Forecasting, which provides estimates of annual water in the Western States and Alaska; and (4) Soil Surveys, which inventory the Nation's basic soil resources and determine land capabilities and conservation treatment needs. For a list of Congressionally Directed Spending items the Senate included in this account the last time it accepted such requests, please visit page 65 of [this document](#).
- ***Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO):*** This account funds projects that prevent erosion, floodwater, and sediment damages in the watersheds or rivers and streams. The program also works to further the conservation and proper utilization of water and land in authorized watersheds. Projects under this account must contain benefits related to agriculture or rural communities that account for at least 20 percent of project benefits. You will also be required to illustrate that you have contacted Connecticut's NRCS office and that your proposal meets the requirements of the program. For a list of Congressionally Directed Spending items the Senate included in this account the last time it accepted such requests, please visit page 66 of [this document](#).
- ***Rural Development, Community Facilities grants:*** This account funds grants for the purchase, construction, or improvement of rural community facilities (i.e. healthcare, public safety, community support services, etc.) or to purchase equipment, and pay other related project expenses. More information on eligible entities and uses can be found in [7 CFR 3570](#). You will be required to comply with all necessary environmental review, i.e. NEPA. The program has a graduated matching requirement based on population and median household income. The USDA has published more information [here](#). Please note, that the USDA runs a Community Facilities Direct Loan and a Community Facilities Grant program, but **only** the grant program is eligible for Congressionally Directed



Spending requests. For this account, you must certify that the matching requirements will be met and that you have contacted the [Connecticut Rural Development office](#) to have them confirm the proposed project meets the program's eligibility requirements.

- ***Rural Development, Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program (DLT) grants:*** This account helps rural communities acquire the technology and training to connect educational and medical professionals with students, teachers, and patients in rural areas. (In general, this means areas with a population less than 20,000 that do not abut an urbanized area with a population of more than 50,000.) More information on the program and eligible entities can be found in [7 CFR Part 1734 Subpart A and B](#) and the USDA has published [an application guide](#) with more information on the program, rural areas, and the maximum and minimum grant amounts. However, please note that while for-profit entities are eligible for this program through the USDA, they are not eligible for Congressionally Directed spending requests. For this account, you must certify that the matching requirements will be met and that you have contacted the [Connecticut Rural Development office](#) to have them confirm the proposed project meets the program's eligibility requirements.

## COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE

### **Department of Commerce:**

- ***National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Scientific and Technical Research Services (STRS)—External Projects:*** This program is an intramural research program made up of laboratories and technical programs and national research facilities. The laboratories and technical programs develop and disseminate measurement techniques, reference data and materials, test methods, standards, and other infrastructural technologies and services required by U.S. industry. The Committee is considering projects through this account that address standards-related research and technology development. Construction projects will not be accepted.
- ***NIST Construction of Research Facilities:*** This account funds the construction of new facilities and the renovation and maintenance of NIST’s current buildings and laboratories to comply with scientific and engineering requirements and to keep pace with Federal, State, and local health and safety regulations. While the Committee will accept these construction project requests at non-Federal research facilities such as colleges and universities, only a very limited number of projects will be funded.

### ***National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration:***

- ***NOAA Operations, Research, and Facilities— Special Projects:*** This account funds projects related to fisheries, marine mammals, ocean, climate, weather, and atmospheric research and programs. This account cannot be used to fund construction projects.

### ***Department of Justice:***

- ***State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance; Byrne Discretionary:*** This account helps states, localities, and tribal law enforcement efforts prevent crime, improve the criminal justice system, and provide victims’ services. The Committee is considering requests to provide additional personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical assistance, and information systems for criminal justice systems.

Awarded grants will be subject to the requirements of [2 CFR Part 200](#) and the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#). This funding cannot be used for land acquisition or construction.

- ***COPS Law Enforcement Technology:*** The committee will consider requests within COPS Law Enforcement Technology projects for funding the development of technologies and automated systems to assist law enforcement agencies in investigating, responding to, and preventing crime. Eligible recipients are states, localities, tribes, and territorial governments and their public agencies. Allowable activities are limited to the statutorily allowable purpose areas under the [COPS Office statute](#), such as purchasing equipment or technology for reacting to or preventing crime. Even though this line funds equipment, please do not specify brand names of equipment you are considering purchasing to ensure fair and open competition.

Awarded grants will be subject to the requirements of [2 CFR Part 200](#) and the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#), and the applicable Award Owner's Manual. Agencies should consider the full range of potential legal, constitutional, and civil liberties and privacy of their request. In addition, if you are looking to purchase unmanned aircraft systems, please review the [federal](#) guidance around safe and legal operation of these devices.

### *National Aeronautics and Space Administration*

- ***Safety, Security and Mission Support:*** This account will support science education, research, and technology development projects related to NASA's mission. Medical research projects, Space Grant projects (which require a funding match), and projects at NASA-owned Visitor Centers are discouraged, although not expressly prohibited. While this account cannot be used to fund construction, it could be used for equipment, research funding, or education programs.

## ENERGY AND WATER

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:** The Senate is accepting Congressionally Directed Spending requests for a number of accounts within USACE. They are only considering requests for authorized projects and programs. However, many authorized projects or programs have not received funding in previous years. These are known as new starts and few, if any, new starts will be funded. If a program or project is in the President's budget request, that project is not considered Congressionally Directed Spending, but my office will likely support any Connecticut project in the President's budget through the programmatic request process.

- **Investigations:** Funding to develop feasibility studies and conduct preconstruction engineering and design to address the Nation's water infrastructure needs.
- **Construction:** Funding for construction, major rehabilitation, and related activities for water resources development projects having navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, water supply, hydroelectric, environmental restoration, etc. This account also uses funding from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to cover the Federal share of the Dredged Material Disposal Facilities Program.
- **Operation & Maintenance:** Funding for operations, maintenance, and related activities at water resource projects that the Corps operates and maintains. These activities include dredging, repair, and operation of structures and other facilities, as authorized in the various river and harbor, flood control, and water resources development acts. Related activities include aquatic plant control, monitoring completed projects, removal of sunken vessels, and the collection of domestic waterborne commerce statistics.
- **Mississippi Rivers & Tributaries:** Funds for planning, construction, and operation and maintenance activities associated with water resource projects located in the lower Mississippi River Valley from Cape Girardeau, Missouri to the Gulf of Mexico.

**Bureau of Reclamation:** Similar to USACE, the Committee will only consider authorized projects and few, if any, new starts will be funded. This program does not provide funding to Connecticut, but a brief description is included below for your reference.

- **Water and Related Resources:** This account supports water and related natural resources needs in the 17 western States. The account includes funds for operating and maintaining existing facilities to obtain the greatest overall level of benefits, to protect public safety, and to conduct studies on ways to improve the use of water and related natural resources.

**Department of Energy:** While the Subcommittee will consider requests in the five Department of Energy accounts listed, there will be very few requests granted.

- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE):
- Office of Electricity (OE)
- Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER)
- Office of Nuclear Energy (NE)
- Office of Fossil Energy (FE)

## FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

### *Small Business Administration*

- ***Administrative Provision:*** This account will fund for initiatives related to small business development and entrepreneurship. This account can fund programmatic and construction activities. For a list of projects the Senate awarded Congressionally Directed Spending awards to the last time it accepted requests, please see page 126 of [this document](#).

### *National Archives and Record Administration (NARA)*

- ***National Historical Publications and Records Commission:*** This is a statutory body that supports activities to preserve, publish, and encourage the use of documentary sources, created in every medium ranging from quill pen to computer, relating to the history of the United States.
- ***Repair and Restoration:*** This account funds the repair, alteration, and improvement of Archives facilities and Presidential libraries nationwide, and provides adequate storage for holdings. Funding enables NARA to maintain its facilities in proper condition for public visitors, researchers, and NARA employees, and also maintain the structural integrity of the buildings.

### *General Services Administration*

- ***Federal Buildings Fund, Construction and Acquisition:*** The Federal Buildings Fund [FBF] finances the activities of the Public Buildings Service, which provides space and services for Federal agencies in a relationship similar to that of landlord and tenant. Congress makes funds available through a process of placing limitations on obligations from the FBF as a way of allocating funds for various FBF activities. The Construction and Acquisition line fund finances the site, design, construction, management, and inspection costs of new Federal facilities.

## HOMELAND SECURITY

### *Federal Emergency Management Agency*

- ***FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Projects (aka BRIC):*** This [program](#) funds states, local communities, tribes and territories to complete hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. In our state, this program has typically funded coastal resiliency projects. Requested projects must meet the eligibility requirements of the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program and more information on program requirements can be found [here](#). In addition, you must submit a letter of support from the appropriate state agency affirming that it believes the project is eligible.
- ***FEMA Emergency Operations Center Grant Program:*** This program provides funding for construction or renovation of an Emergency Operations Center. Requested projects must meet the eligibility requirements of the Emergency Operations Center grant program and more information can be found [here](#). You must submit a letter of support from the state affirming that it believes the project is eligible.

## **INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES**

### ***Environmental Protection Agency***

- ***State and Tribal Assistance Grants, Water and Wastewater Infrastructure:*** This program funds water infrastructure grants to support local wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects. This includes construction of, and modifications to, municipal sewage treatment plants and drinking water treatment plants. Privately-owned projects are NOT eligible for water infrastructure grants. This program has a 20% cost share requirement and a project cannot use other federal funds to satisfy the 20% match.

### ***National Park Service***

- ***Historic Preservation Fund (HPF):*** The HPF helps preserve historical and archaeological sites across the United States. In order to receive funding, grantees must meet standards set by the Secretary of the Interior and comply with the audit requirements. The acquisitions of collections or historic properties are not eligible under the HPF. For more information [click here](#). You may submit requests for nonformula funded activities within HPF as long as they meet qualifications of HPF programs.

### ***U.S. Forest Services***

- ***State and Private Forestry, Forest Resource Information and Analysis:*** This program provides technical and financial assistance grants to non-federal forest landowners, including state, tribal and local governments. Activities within this account include forest health management, cooperative fire protection, wood innovation, and urban and community forestry. Requests must meet USFS eligibility requirements for the appropriate grant program. Project requests should be part of the state's Forest Action Plan, or contribute to meeting the goals of the Forest Action Plan.

In addition to the lines above, you may submit a request under these lines. However, there will be a very high bar for these awards and Congress is expected to award very few awards through these lines. Please note, that if a project is funded in the President's budget or an agency list it is not considered Congressionally Directed Spending and can be supported through a programmatic request.

### ***LWCF: Great American Outdoors Act, Land and Water Conservation Fund***

- BLM, Land Acquisition
- FWS, Land Acquisition
- NPS, Land Acquisition
- USFS, Land Acquisition
- USFS, Forest Legacy

### ***LRF: Great American Outdoors Act, Legacy Restoration Fund***

- BLM, Legacy Restoration Fund
- FWS, Legacy Restoration Fund

- NPS, Legacy Restoration Fund
- BIE, Legacy Restoration Fund
- USFS, Legacy Restoration Fund

***LMCON: Land Management Agencies, Construction***

- BLM, Construction
- FWS, Construction Projects, Line Item Construction
- NPS, Construction, Line Item Construction and Maintenance
- USFS, Capital Improvement and Maintenance, Facilities, Road and Trails

***Land Management Agencies, Local Projects and Research***

- BLM, Management of Land and Resources, Habitat Management Priorities
- NPS, National Recreation and Preservation, Statutory and Contractual Aid
- FWS, Resource Management, Stewardship Priorities
- USGS, Surveys Investigations and Research, Status and Trends

***BIA, Operation of Indian Programs, Special Initiatives***

***EPA, Science and Technology, Research: National Priorities***

***EPA, State and Tribal Assistance Grants, STAG Infrastructure Grants***



## LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES

### *Department of Labor*

- ***Employment and Training Administration—Training and Employment Services:*** Funding for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) demonstrations authority, within Training and Employment Services is the only Department of Labor program that supports Congressional Directed Spending. These projects must meet all [WIOA requirements](#) and, in addition, all projects must: 1) Include direct services to individuals to enhance employment opportunities; 2) Demonstrate evidence of a linkage with the State or local workforce investment system; and 3) Include an evaluation component. Equipment purchases may be included but must be an incidental part of the entire project. A similar standard applies to curriculum development, which should be incidental to the project's emphasis on direct services to individuals. Requests cannot be used for construction or renovation of facilities.

### *Department of Health and Human Services*

- ***Health Resources and Services Administration— Program Management:*** This account can fund:
  - ***Construction and Equipment:*** Funding for the cost of construction, renovation, or capital equipment purchases for health, mental health, or substance abuse services facilities as well as training of health professionals or medical research. Examples of eligible facilities include hospitals; health centers and clinics; skilled nursing facilities; mental health centers; facilities for schools of medicine, nursing, or other health professions; and medical research laboratories.

This funding can be used for construction, architectural and engineering, health information systems and purchasing equipment. However, the costs of expendable supplies (i.e. pharmaceuticals or lab chemicals), land acquisitions, feasibility studies, building purchases, salaries or operating costs are not eligible. In general, any equipment that has a useful life of over a year and is at least \$5,000 will be eligible and lower cost equipment that is a part of capital expenses will generally be eligible.
  - ***Health Professions Education and Workforce Development:*** This account funds projects to improve education and training of health care professionals.
  - ***Rural Health:*** This account funds projects to improve health care in rural areas, [as defined by HRSA](#). Eligible activities include things such as medical, dental, or mental health care services; health promotion and education; chronic disease management; telehealth services; and improvements to emergency medical services.

- ***Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration—Health Surveillance and Program Support:*** Congressionally Directed Spending applications within this program must fall under one of the following categories. For each of these uses, funding cannot be used for construction but can be used to do some renovation that is necessary to complete a project. Finally, funding cannot go towards needle exchange programs or promoting legalization of illegal drugs or substances.
  - ***Mental Health:*** This line supports programs that promote the prevention or treatment of mental health disorders, including rehabilitation, outreach, and other support services.
  - ***Substance Abuse Treatment:*** This line supports programs that improve access, reduce barriers, and promote high quality, effective treatment and recovery services.
  - ***Substance Abuse Prevention:*** This line supports programs that prevent the onset of illegal drug use, prescription drug misuse and abuse, alcohol misuse and abuse, and underage alcohol and tobacco use.
  
- ***Administration for Children and Families— Children and Families Services Programs:*** Congressionally Directed Spending within the Administration for Children and Families must fall under one of the following categories. None of these line items can be used for renovation or construction.
  - ***Child Abuse Prevention:*** This line supports programs that improve the prevention, assessment, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect through research, model service improvement, information dissemination, and technical assistance. This funding must be targeted towards abused and/or neglected children and families.
  - ***Social Services Research and Demonstration:*** This line supports programs that help families gain financial self-sufficiency and to promote the healthy development and greater well-being of children and families.
  
- ***Administration for Community Living—Aging and Disability Services Programs:*** This line supports programs that improve the ability of older adults and individuals of all ages with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in their communities through improving access to or the quality of, education, training, support services, and independent living services. This account cannot be used for construction or renovation of facilities.

### ***Department of Education***

- ***Innovation and Improvement—Fund for the Improvement of Education:*** This line supports programs that fund a wide variety of early, elementary and secondary education projects, including instructional services, afterschool centers, curricula development,

teacher training, acquisition of books and computers, arts education, social and emotional learning activities, full-service community schools, and early childhood education. Eligible grantees are state education agencies, school districts, colleges and universities, and other public and private nonprofit entities. In addition, projects that improve K-12 special education services and early intervention services for infants and toddlers are eligible. This account cannot be used for construction or renovation except in the case of minor remodeling required as part of technology upgrades. Lastly, while early education services are eligible, daycare and childcare facilities that do not have an educational component are not eligible.

- ***Rehabilitation Services—Demonstration and Training:*** This line supports projects under the Rehabilitation Act, including by providing individuals with disabilities with education, training, support services, and independent living services. Generally, projects are focused on improving access to, or the quality of, such services for individuals with disabilities. Eligible grantees include State vocational rehabilitation agencies, community rehabilitation programs, Indian tribes or tribal organizations, or other public or nonprofit agencies and organizations. This account cannot be used for construction or renovation.
- ***Higher Education—Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education:*** This account funds a variety of projects that improve access to, or the quality of, postsecondary education. Examples of the types of projects include hiring and training faculty, establishing and improving degree programs, improving teacher preparation programs, developing and improving curricula, upgrading technology, acquiring laboratory equipment, providing student support services, implementing university partnerships with school districts, and establishing research and training centers. Grantees are usually colleges and universities, but may include other public and private nonprofit organizations. This account cannot be used for construction or renovation, except in the case of minor remodeling required as part of technology upgrades.

## **MILITARY CONSTRUCTION-VETERANS AFFAIRS**

The Committee is accepting requests for specific Military Construction projects in a specific location that were not included in the President's Budget or last years enacted Appropriation Bill (or if it exceeds the level included in either document). Eligible items include major construction, unspecified minor military construction, and planning and design; however, only certain approved military construction projects within these accounts are eligible for CDS.

The Appropriations Committee constrains the type of projects by their own list, projects provided to Congress by the Department of Defense, and projects that contain requirements which have been validated and vetted by the appropriate Service or Agency. These projects generally end up being scheduled for the following appropriations cycle (in this case FY23) and are essentially accelerated forward one year.

The following accounts are eligible:

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

Funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Related Agencies is not eligible.

## TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

### *Department of Transportation*

- ***Transportation Planning, Research, and Development (TPR&D) for transportation research projects eligible under [title 23 or title 49, US Code](#)***: This account funds research activities and studies at the departmental level that supports the planning, research, and development activities needed to assist the Secretary of Transportation in the formulation of national transportation policies. The program is carried out in partnership with other Federal agencies, educational institutions, and research organizations. To see examples of projects the Senate awarded Congressionally Directed Spending toward when they last accepted Congressionally Directed Spending request, see page 16 of [this document](#).
- ***Grants-in-Aid for Airports (Airport Improvement Program) for airport capital projects eligible under [chapter 471 of title 49](#)***: The Airport Improvement Program (AIP) provides grants for the planning and development of public-use airports that are included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS). As a reminder, Congressionally Directed Spending cannot go towards for-profit entities. To see examples of projects the Senate awarded the last time it accepted Congressionally Directed Spending requests, see page 40 of [this document](#).
- ***Highway Infrastructure Program for highway capital projects eligible under [title 23, US Code](#)***: Funding to improve highway safety and efficiency for all Americans through general fund investments in addition to levels authorized in the FAST Act.
- ***Transit Infrastructure Grants for transit capital projects eligible [under chapter 53 of title 49](#)***: Funds projects addressing targeted capital, operating, and state of good repair needs for public transportation providers and services across America.
- ***Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement Grants for rail capital projects eligible under [section 22907 of title 49](#)***: Funds projects that improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of intercity passenger and freight rail.

### *Department of Housing and Urban Development*

- ***Community Development Fund within the line item “Economic Development Initiatives (EDI)” for economic development projects eligible under [chapter 69 of title 42, US Code](#)***: EDI requests may be used for economic and community development activities, including land or site acquisition, demolition or rehabilitation of housing or facilities, construction and capital improvements of public facilities (including water and sewer facilities), and public services. Requests may also include planning and other activities consistent with the underlying authorization for the Community Development Block Grant program within HUD. To see examples of projects the Senate awarded Congressionally Directed Spending toward when they last accepted Congressionally Directed Spending request, see page 204 of [this document](#).

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

The process of requesting and submitting requests for Congressionally Directed Spending can be confusing as different programs have different requirements. Here are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about the process. Please check this section before reaching out to staff.

### **GENERAL QUESTIONS**

#### **What is Congressionally Directed Spending?**

Congressionally Directed Spending is defined in [Senate Rule XLIV](#). Generally speaking, this is funding for a specific project in a specific location. Congressionally Directed Spending is:

- Included primarily at the request of a senator. This means that if an item is in the president's budget requests, it is not Congressionally Directed Spending;
- Provides, authorizes, or recommends a specific amount of discretionary budget authority, credit authority, or funding amount to a specific entity or location other than through a formula-driven or competitive award; and,
- The purpose of the project must meet the objective of a federal program under existing law.

#### **Are Congressionally Directed Spending requests publicly disclosed?**

Yes. All requests for Congressionally Directed Spending requests submitted by my office to the Appropriations Committee for consideration will be listed publicly on my website. Additionally, in the final appropriations bills, the Senate Appropriations Committee will include information on the Congressionally Directed Spending items that secure funding. The final bill will include my name, recipient name, project purpose, project location (City/County, State), and the amount requested.

#### **How many Congressionally Directed Spending requests will my office make?**

There is no cap on the number of requests a Senate office can make. That said, the requests I will submit need to meet the requirements laid out in each account. There is also a monetary cap of one percent on the total funding level for all Congressionally Directed Spending and not all the projects my office requests will be funded.

#### **Are for-profits eligible?**

No. For-profits are not eligible for any Congressionally Directed Spending awards.

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

In general, yes. But please closely check the eligibility for the account you are interested in submitting a Congressionally Directed Spending item under.

## **SUBMITTING A CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING REQUEST**

### **How do I submit a Congressionally Directed Spending Request?**

You can submit a Congressionally Directed Spending request on my [website](#).

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

Yes. The deadline to submit a Congressionally Directed Spending request for our office is 9 am on June 7th. Separately, the deadline for submitting a programmatic request is Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **What if I miss a deadline?**

It is important that you submit your request by the deadline. Unfortunately, requests submitted after the deadline cannot be accommodated. Our office must review a large number of requests in a short amount of time. As a result, the deadline will be strictly enforced. Furthermore, once our office submits requests, we are unable to change or add requests.

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

It depends on your project, needs, and the account from which you are requesting funds. You should not request more funds than you need. While you should request the amount that can be expended in the upcoming Fiscal Year that you need, please remember that projects may not be funded fully due to budgetary restraints.

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

There is no limit to the amount of funding you can request but larger projects are harder to fund. If you look at the projects requested by Members of the House of Representatives, many projects fall below \$2,000,000, with some exceptions. You can view these requests by members of the House of Representatives [here](#). A helpful guide to determine your Congressionally Directed Spending request may be to look at what a typical grantee under each program receives for a one-year allocation of funding. You can usually find this information on the relevant agency websites or at [grants.gov](http://grants.gov).

Finally, please remember that you will need to justify your funding request by the project proposal, budget, and community support.

### **Is there a minimum or maximum funding amount an organization can request through Congressionally Directed Spending?**

No, in the Senate there is no minimum or maximum funding amount you can request.

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

This guide is intended to help you understand what accounts are available and help you evaluate if your project fits within one of these programs. You can also use visit agency websites to find more information about these programs. Please email the staff contacts listed at the beginning of this guide for more information.

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

Yes. The more community support for a project, the better. In some cases, like Congressionally Directed Spending under FEMA, letters of support from the state of Connecticut are required for a project to be considered.

### **USE OF FUNDS**

#### **Are there limitations on what Congressionally Directed Spending can be used for?**

Yes. Federal programs have very specific restrictions on how federal funds can be used. Please read this guide closely and information from relevant agencies to understand eligible uses of funding and any limitations on funds. Generally, funding cannot be used for debt service, recurring or routine expenses, reimbursement of costs, or projects that cannot demonstrate value to the community.

#### **Can I request funding for construction? What about funding for renovation?**

In general, no. Most appropriations accounts that are open to Congressionally Directed Spending prohibit funding on construction and renovations. However, there are some exceptions such as the Economic Development Initiative under the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Health Resources and Services Administration Construction and Equipment line and certain projects under the Military Construction subcommittee.

#### **Are capital projects eligible for Congressionally Directed Spending?**

In certain cases, yes. This will vary by program.

#### **Can Congressionally Directed Spending be used for operating expenses?**

No. Congressionally Directed Spending should be viewed as a one-time infusion of dollars.

### **RECEIVING A CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING AWARD**

#### **When will I know if my project is getting funded?**

The FY 2022 Congressionally Directed Spending process is very competitive and will likely not conclude for a number of months. You should not count on getting this funding and should continue to explore other ways to secure project funding. The information below is a general



overview of the anticipated timing in this process, but please remember these dates are tentative and could change as the process progresses.

First, my office will be making requests of the Senate Appropriations Committee. They will then begin the process of drafting Senate appropriations bills, which will likely continue through the summer and early fall. Separately, the House Appropriations Committee will undergo the same process and is expected to consider their bills in Committee in the summer. As this drafting process goes forward and bills become public, my staff will be sure to be in touch.

Even if your project gets funding in the House or Senate bills, there is no guarantee that you will get that funding. Just like any other law, the Senate and House must conference their bills to work out differences. There could be changes during the conferencing process.

The annual appropriations process can take months and is delayed this year due to the transition between the Trump and Biden administrations.

**If my Congressionally Directed Spending request is signed into law, what happened next and how quickly will I receive funding?**

Even after you receive a Congressionally Directed Spending award, in most cases, you will have to take these additional steps in order to get funding. While I understand the need to get funding out the door quickly, I want to be upfront with applicants that this will likely not be a quick process. You should take that into account.

When Congress passes a final spending bill, it will include a list of Congressionally Directed Spending items. Awarded project recipients will still likely need to apply for the grant with a federal agency.

Federal agencies will manage this process and they will start working with recipients of Congressionally Directed Spending once a spending bill passes. When this will happen varies between departments and agencies and could take several additional months.

In most cases, you will have to submit additional documentation including another application describing your project, budget proposal, and need to that agency. This process further ensures that federal dollars are being used correctly.

Ultimately, the timeline will vary by federal department/agency and because this is a new process there may be delays in implementation. For context, regular competitive grants can take between 6-10 months.

**If my project is funded in the Senate bill, will does that mean I definitely get the all the funding for the project?**

While inclusion in the Senate bill is significant, the Senate bill would need to be conferenced with the House and, in theory, there could be changes during that process. In addition, since you will likely still need to work with relevant agencies to ensure your project meets all the program

requirements, there could be issues that develop there. However, in general, projects that make it into bills are well positioned to ultimately receive funding.

### **How long do recipients have to spend funding awarded through Congressionally Directed Spending?**

Congressionally Directed Spending should be available for the same “period of availability” as other federal funds in the same account. That could be for one-year, two-years, or five-years depending on the project type.

As you will see in our application, we ask for a budget in order to help us determine which projects are ready to receive funds and can utilize funds quickly when they are awarded.

### **If I get a Congressionally Directed Spending award this year does that mean I will get one in the future?**

Not necessarily. Receipt of funds from Congressionally Directed Spending in one Fiscal Year is not a guarantee for Congressionally Directed Spending in future Fiscal Years. Please remember that Congressionally Directed Spending should be viewed as a one-time infusion of dollars, not a way to sustain a project or initiative.

## **TIMING AND THE FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS**

### **When is Fiscal Year 2022?**

Fiscal Year 2022 refers to the federal fiscal year, which runs October 1 to September 30. Fiscal Year 2022 will begin on October 1, 2021. This may be different from your organizations’ fiscal calendar.

### **What is a Continuing Resolution?**

Often times, Congress is not able to complete the appropriations process by September 30<sup>th</sup>. If they don’t pass a full fiscal year appropriations bill, they will usually pass a Continuing Resolution in order to avoid a government shutdown. Continuing resolutions flat fund accounts within the federal budget at the previous year’s levels. Congress can pass a Continuing Resolution that lasts any length of time it chooses. Usually, they will pass a Continuing Resolution that is just a few weeks or months to give themselves more time to pass a full appropriations bill.

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

This will be a long and competitive process. First, my office will publicly post the Congressionally Directed Spending requests I will submit to the Senate Appropriations Committee in late spring. Then, the Senate Appropriations Committee will review and finalize a list of Congressionally Directed Spending requests from across the country. We will be in touch with project requestors as this process progresses.