



**Appropriations & Community Project
Funding Resource Guide**

Fiscal Year 2024



Dear Friend,

I am happy to share this resource guide regarding how to properly request Community Project Funding through the annual Appropriations process. This guide will answer questions you and your organization may have to ensure you are able to put together a strong application for federal funding. As your representative in Congress, my office and I are committed to creating an equitable and transparent process to deliver federal funding for important projects and programs in New Mexico.

While New Mexico's 2nd District was unfortunately left out of the Community Project Process in previous years, I know that the Community Project Funding process can produce real results and fund impactful projects in our communities, and I'm looking forward to supporting local projects in FY24.

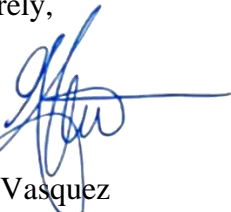
In this guide, you will find an overview of the Appropriations process, including Community Project Funding, answers to frequently asked questions, and contact information for my staff.

My team and I are looking for your recommendations on Community Project Funding requests that will benefit residents of New Mexico's 2nd Congressional district. These projects should fill a clear and present need in the community, be administered by local government or eligible nonprofit leadership, and enjoy significant support from the community.

As you prepare your requests, please keep in mind that my office will receive far more Community Project Funding requests than the fifteen projects I am able to submit to the Appropriations Committee. As a result, many deserving, and qualified projects will not be provided direct federal assistance in FY24. If your organization needs federal grant funding, I encourage you to pursue other grant and federal/state/local funding opportunities, where available.

Thank you again for your interest in this year's Community Project Funding process. My staff are ready to assist you if issues arise. I look forward to working with you to bring needed federal resources to New Mexico's 2nd Congressional district.

Sincerely,



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress

Table of Contents

Staff Contact List	5
Overview of the Appropriations Process	6
Overview of the Community Project Funding Process	7
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies	8
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Community Facilities Grants	8
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, ReConnect Program	9
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants	9
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Waste Disposal Grants	10
Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities	10
Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Operations	11
Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies	12
Department of Commerce – NIST – Scientific & Technical Research	12
Department of Commerce – NOAA – Coastal Zone Management	12
DOJ – Office of Justice Programs – Byrne JAG	12
DOJ – COPS Technology and Equipment	13
NASA Safety, Security, and Mission Services	13
Energy and Water Development	15
Homeland Security	16
Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants	16
Emergency Operations Center Grants	16
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies	18
Environmental Protection Agency – State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)	18
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies	23
Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies	24
Construction and Unspecified Minor Construction – Active Components	24
Construction and Unspecified Minor Construction – Reserve Components	24
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies	26
Department of Transportation – Transit Infrastructure Projects	26
Department of Transportation – Highway Infrastructure Projects	27
Department of Transportation – Airport Improvement Program	27

Department of Transportation – Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grants 28

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) – Community Development Fund - Economic Development Initiative (EDI) 28

Frequently Asked Questions 31

Additional Federal Resources 33

Staff Contact List

To submit an FY24 programmatic or language request, please use this form:

<https://forms.gle/j9XzZ2C6377ERudK8>

- Deadline March 17th

To submit an FY24 Community Project Funding request, please visit my website at <https://vasquez.house.gov/services/fy24-appropriations-requests> to access the request form and supplemental questions document.

For specific questions, please contact my staff below:

Austin Yager, Legislative Director

- Austin.Yager@mail.house.gov

Cynthia Hull, District Director

- Cynthia.Hull@mail.house.gov

Tyler Hinkle, Military Legislative Assistant

- Tyler.Hinkle@mail.house.gov

Matt Capodanno, Legislative Aide

- Matt.Capodanno@mail.house.gov

Overview of the Appropriations Process

Each year, the United States Congress considers and enacts annual appropriations bills, which provide the federal government with the funding it needs to operate. These bills fund numerous activities, including government operations, medical research, national defense, infrastructure, and education.

As your representative in Congress, I want to ensure that the federal government invests in the policies and programs that help our communities thrive. That's why it's important I hear directly from you about what our federal budget should prioritize.

You or your organization may submit **programmatic** or **language** requests.

- **Programmatic requests** include funding for specific federal programs that are important to you or your organization.
- **Language requests** include specific policy directives to federal agencies.

The deadline for submissions to my office is March 17th, 2023.

As you develop your request, please feel free to contact my staff and use this resource guide to ensure your project request meets all requirements.

To submit a request, please use this form: <https://forms.gle/HLFZey6MD5HJqQt9> or request a Community Project by visiting <https://vasquez.house.gov/services/fy24-appropriations-requests>. My office cannot guarantee that requests submitted after the deadline will be considered. If you have problems or questions while completing these forms, please feel free to contact my staff.

My staff are unable to forward request forms to other Congressional or Senate offices.

My team will review each request. The entire appropriations process can take the majority of the calendar year. Appropriations bills approved by the House Appropriations Committees must be agreed to by both houses of Congress and signed into law by the President before the end of the fiscal year on September 30th; however, the process often extends beyond this date.

Your patience during this lengthy process is greatly appreciated.

Overview of the Community Project Funding Process

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2021, the House Appropriations began accepting Community Project Funding requests to directly appropriate federal funding to specific projects in local communities that fit certain criteria. In FY22 and FY23, the office of New Mexico's 2nd district did not accept any CPF requests, but for FY24, I am proud to work with community partners to bring home federal funding for projects.

My staff and I are looking forward to recommending important local projects for federal funding this year, but it is critical that applicants understand how this process will work.

First, I expect to receive hundreds of requests for funding and while it would be my goal to fund as many projects as possible, **Members of Congress may only submit fifteen requests total.** As a result, many qualified and excellent projects will not receive funding.

Second, it is important that each project meets **every requirement** laid out by the House Appropriations Committee. Most importantly, each project must demonstrate community support, including:

- ✓ Letters of support from elected community leaders
- ✓ Press articles highlighting the need for a project
- ✓ Local government resolutions
- ✓ Projects listed on state intended use plans, community development plans, or other government planning documents
- ✓ Support from editorial boards

Additional requirements include:

- ✓ No funds may be used for for-profit recipients
- ✓ Matching funds (where applicable) must be available
- ✓ Projects can obligate federal funding in the time allotted for the project

Expected timeline:

- March 3, 2023 – Submissions open at <https://vasquez.house.gov/services/fy24-appropriations-requests>.
- March 17, 2023 – Rep. Vasquez deadline for submissions.
- April 10, 2023 – All projects posted publicly online.
- Summer 2023 – Appropriations bills voted on by the House.
- Fall 2023 – Appropriations bills signed into law.

In the interest of transparency, all Members are required to post all CPF requests submitted to the Appropriations Committee on their public website. This post will include the name of the recipient, their address, the amount of the request, an explanation of the public benefit of the project and the justification for the use of taxpayer funds.

To submit a request, please use the links provided in this document under the program you wish to apply for. The deadline for submissions is March 17, 2023, at 5:00 pm MT.

Application Form: <https://forms.gle/M2L1kzf3Kc9Y5cGu6>

Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies

Any Community Projects that are funded by this account will need to apply to USDA to receive the award. The application will be reviewed for compliance prior to official award. To ensure your projects meet eligibility requirements for the Rural Development and Natural Resources Conservation Service accounts, you must consult with your respective State Rural Development or State Conservation office which can be found here:

- Rural Development: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/nm>
- NRCS: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/state-office-contacts/new-mexico-state-office>

General Guidance: There are five programs within the Agriculture Subcommittee's jurisdiction that are open to CPF requests:

- Rural Development, Community Facilities Grants
- Rural Development, ReConnect Program
- Rural Development, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants
- Rural Development, Water and Waste Disposal Grants
- Agricultural Research, Buildings and Facilities Grants
- Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Operations

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Community Facilities Grants

Grants to purchase, construct, or improve essential community facilities, to purchase equipment, and pay other related project expenses. Examples of eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- medical or dental clinics,
- healthcare facilities,
- police or fire departments,
- and public works vehicles.

Any project **must serve a rural area as specified in 7 CFR 3570.53** (rural areas including cities, villages, townships and Federally Recognized Tribal lands with no more than 20,000 residents).

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

- Please review the cost share requirements specified in 7 CFR 3570.63(b). Please review program regulations carefully.

Community Facilities grants cannot be used to:

- ⊗ pay initial operating expenses or annual recurring expenses,
- ⊗ refinance existing debt,
- ⊗ pay interest,
- ⊗ build or repair facilities in non-rural areas,
- ⊗ or pay for construction costs of facilities that will be used for commercial rental space.

The State Rural Development Office linked above is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility and non-federal cost share requirements.

- For fiscal year 2023, the average Community Facilities CPF award was \$1.3 million.

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, ReConnect Program

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

The area must be rural and lack sufficient access to broadband service.

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

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

Please include information in your requests, such as:

- ✓ the number of households, businesses, or farms that will be served in the area,
- ✓ what the performance of the service to be offered will be,
- ✓ and whether healthcare or educational facilities will be served.

All policies and procedures apply, including environmental and related reviews and the non-federal cost share requirement of 25% of the overall project cost. Policies and procedures can be found at <https://go.usa.gov/xexPT>.

USDA's Rural Development office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility.

- For fiscal year 2023, the average ReConnect CPF award was nearly \$1.2 million.

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

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

Grants may be used for:

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

Any requests are subject to all regulations governing the program which can be found at 7 CFR Part 1734. The program requires a 15% match that cannot come from another Federal source. Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide as much detail as possible on how the award will be utilized, what equipment of service will be acquired and any information on population(s) served. The program is intended to serve rural areas with populations of 20,000 or less.

The State Rural Development Office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility.

[Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Waste Disposal Grants](#)

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

Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide details on the number of households and businesses served and details of the exact work to be completed.

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

The State Rural Development Office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility.

[Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities](#)

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

Requests can assist in the acquisition of land, construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities as necessary to carry out the agricultural research programs of the Department of Agriculture.

- Requests must be for ARS-owned or operated facilities.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide details on the research to be conducted, why the research is a high priority, as well as details on the modernization and why it is critical in carrying out the research.

Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Operations

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

Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide 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. Applicants should also describe any preventive measures to be taken, such as engineering operations, methods of cultivation, or changes in use of land.

For FY24, the Subcommittee will only consider projects for funding recipients that are State, local, and Tribal organizations, or public conservation districts.

- Non-profit recipients will not be considered.

The State Conservationist is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility.

- House CPFs in the account averaged about \$1.3 million in FY23.

Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

General Guidance: There are five programs within the CJS Subcommittee’s jurisdiction that are open to CPF requests:

- Department of Commerce – NIST – Scientific and Technical Research
- Department of Commerce – NOAA – Coastal Zone Management
- DOJ – OJP – Byrne JAG
- DOJ – COPS Technology and Equipment
- NASA – Safety, Security, and Mission Services

Department of Commerce – NIST – Scientific & Technical Research

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

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

Department of Commerce – NOAA – Coastal Zone Management

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

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

DOJ – Office of Justice Programs – Byrne JAG

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

Funding will not be permitted for:

- ⊗ Any security enhancements or any equipment to any non-governmental entity that is not engaged in criminal justice or public safety.
- ⊗ Vehicles.
- ⊗ Luxury items.
- ⊗ Real estate.
- ⊗ Construction projects.
- ⊗ Initiatives that involved distribution of drug paraphernalia.

The Appropriations Committee has stated that they will prioritize projects that increase officer safety, curb the opioid crisis or improve law enforcement effectiveness.

Awarded grants will be subject to the requirements of 2 CFR Part 200 and the DOJ Grants Financial Guide.

Below are the links to the Department's guidance and frequently asked questions regarding the Byrne-JAG program, which may help guide you in gauging the eligibility of a proposed Byrne project:

- <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/jag/overview>
- <https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/jag-faqs.pdf>

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.

DOJ – COPS Technology and Equipment

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

Funding must be aligned with the purposes of section 1701(b)(8) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10381(b)(8)).

Eligible projects include those that develop and/or acquire technologies and equipment, including interoperable communications technologies, modernized criminal record technology, and forensic technology to assist State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies, including by reorienting the emphasis of their activities from reacting to crime to preventing crime and training law enforcement officers to use such technologies.

Eligible recipients for COPS Technology and Equipment Community Project Funding are State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies.

Funding for building construction or renovation projects is not an eligible use of COPS Technology and Equipment Community Project Funding.

NASA Safety, Security, and Mission Services

NASA Safety, Security and Mission Services projects support science education, research, and technology development related to NASA's mission.

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

The following projects will not be considered for NASA Safety, Security and Mission Services Community Project Funding:

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

Energy and Water Development

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

- Army Corps of Engineers (Civil Works)
 - Investigations
 - Construction
 - Mississippi River and Tributaries
 - Operation and Maintenance
- Department of the Interior – Bureau of Reclamation
 - Water and Related Resources

A CPF request is only necessary to request an increment of funding or scope above and beyond the President's budget.

The following information will be required of applicants:

- Is the project authorized? Is the scope of work to be funded within existing authorization?
- The official project name.
- A description of the FY24 capability.
- For a Corps of Engineers project, what is the appropriations account you are requesting from?
- Is this a new start request?
- For Bureau of Reclamation projects, is the project authorized **only** under section 4007, 4009(a), 4009(c) of the WIIN Act of 2016 (PL 114-322)?

Homeland Security

General Guidance: There are two Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant programs within the Subcommittee on Homeland Security’s jurisdiction that are open to CPF requests:

- Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grants
- Emergency Operations Center (EOC) grants.

Please review the purpose and eligibility requirements, including any environmental and historic preservation requirements, for these two grant programs: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools/environmental-historic>

Cost-Share Requirements: The PDM and EOC grant programs have cost-share requirements. Federal funding is available for up to 75 percent of the eligible activity costs. The remaining 25 percent of eligible activity costs must generally be derived from non-federal sources.

The non-federal cost-share contribution is calculated based on the total cost of the proposed activity. For example, if the total cost is \$100,000 and the non-federal cost-share is 25 percent, then the non-federal contribution is \$25,000.

- For PDM grants, small, impoverished communities are eligible for up to a 90 percent federal cost-share for their mitigation planning and project sub-applications in accordance with the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. § 5133(a),(h)(2)).

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants

FEMA’s PDM grants assist state, local, tribal, and territorial governments with planning and implementing sustainable, cost-effective measures to provide long-term, permanent risk reduction to individuals and property from future natural hazards, such as floods and wildfires, while reducing reliance on federal funding for future disasters.

Please refer to FEMA’s most recent Notice of Funding Opportunity for this program to determine eligibility: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=340685>

In addition, the New Mexico Homeland Security Bureau can assist with eligibility question: <https://www.nmdhsem.org/homeland-security/>

For any PDM projects designated for funding in the FY 2024 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, the respective State or Territorial Administrative Agency, or Tribal government, must submit an application to FEMA and serve as the administrative agent for the grant on behalf of the entities responsible for the project (grant subrecipients).

- CPF funding in the FY 2023 House bill ranged between \$320,482 and \$10,000,000 for individual PDM grants.

Emergency Operations Center Grants

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

Please refer to FEMA’s most recent Notice of Funding Opportunity for this program to determine eligibility: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/emergency-operations-center>

For any EOC projects designated for funding in the FY 2024 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, the respective State or Territorial Administrative Agency, or Tribal government, must submit an application to FEMA and serve as the administrative agent for the grant on behalf of the entities responsible for the project (grant subrecipients).

- CPF funding in the FY 2023 House bill ranged between \$158,176 and \$3,000,000 for individual EOC grants.

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

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

General Guidance STAG projects are the only eligible projects under this bill. These projects include construction of and modifications to municipal sewage treatment plants and drinking water treatment plants.

Eligible projects are those that are publicly owned or owned by a non-profit entity or that are otherwise eligible for the funding from New Mexico's Clean Water or Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF) loan programs.

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

- **Ban on for-profit recipients and privately-owned projects.** The Appropriations Committee will not fund projects to for-profit entities and privately-owned projects are NOT eligible for infrastructure grants, even if they are otherwise eligible for assistance under a SRF program.
- **State, municipal, local, territorial, or Tribal governmental entities as grantees.** Public entities should be considered as the primary grantees to oversee the completion of the project. For STAG water infrastructure projects, states have Intended Use Plans (IUPs) with drinking water and wastewater projects that have already been vetted by governmental officials.
- **Non-profits as grantees.** Non-profits will be considered on a limited basis at the discretion of the Chairman. Non-profit's must provide proof of status as described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
- **Federal Nexus.** The Committee will only fund projects with purposes authorized by Federal law:
 - Clean water/wastewater projects: Title VI of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C 1381 et seq.
 - Drinking water projects: Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300j12. 5
- **Matching requirements.** There is a minimum 20% cost share requirement for any portion of a project funded through a STAG infrastructure grant and the Committee will not waive matching requirements:
 - For example, a \$1 million project could receive a maximum of \$800,000 from the Federal government, with the remaining \$200,000 the responsibility of the grantee.
 - In almost all cases, other Federal funds cannot be used to meet this 20% cost share. However, assistance provided by a SRF does count towards the project's matching requirement.
 - It is important that applicants can prove the ability to meet matching fund requirements at the time of submitting the request. Projects without this ability will not be considered.

- **One-year funding:** Each project request must be for FY 2024 funds only and cannot include a request for multiyear funding.
- **Project Amounts:** Members should use the range of project amounts funded in FY 2023 as a general guide when making requests. In FY 2023, most EPA STAG infrastructure projects funded in the House bill ranged from \$45,000 - \$5,000,000. Note that the Committee may consider higher project amounts for fiscal year 2024, and any caps will be determined by the Chairman after reviewing the full universe of requests.
- **Eligibility Questions:** Applicants must answer all the eligibility questions in their application including the below supplemental questions:
 - Is this a Clean Water SRF project or a Drinking Water SRF project?
 - Is the project on your State's most recently finalized Clean Water/Drinking Water SRF Intended Use Plan (IUP)?
 - Has the project received Federal funds previously? If so, please describe.
 - Does the project have (or expects to have within 12 months) its 20% cost share requirement?
 - Given the Federal nexus requirement, does the project help meet or maintain Clean Water Act/Safe Drinking Water Act standards? If so, please describe.

STAG projects have very specific eligibility requirements, and the Committee will not consider projects that do not meet those requirements. The following lists some of the project types that are ineligible for STAG funding:

Projects that are NOT generally eligible for STAG Grants

Clean Water / Wastewater		Drinking Water	
1.	Land , except for projects described in the subsequent table under eligibility #11.	1.	Dams or rehabilitation of dams.
2.	Operations and maintenance costs.	2.	Operations and maintenance costs.
3.	Non-municipal point source control.	3.	Water rights , except if the water rights are owned by a system that is being purchased through consolidation as part of a capacity development strategy or if the water rights purchase is covered by EPA’s DWSRF Class Deviation for Water Rights 2019.
4.	Acid rain drainage correction.	4.	Reservoirs , except for finished water reservoirs and those reservoirs that are part of the treatment process and are located on the property where the treatment facility is located.
5.	Ambient water quality monitoring.	5.	Laboratory fees for monitoring.
6.	Flood Control Projects , unless the project is otherwise managing, reducing, treating, or recapturing stormwater.	6.	Projects needed mainly for fire protection.
7.	Privately owned sewer pipes.	7.	Projects for systems that lack adequate technical, managerial, and financial capability, unless assistance will ensure compliance.
		8.	Projects for systems in significant non-compliance, unless funding will ensure compliance.
		9.	Projects primarily intended to serve future growth.

The following list provides some examples of the types of projects that are eligible for STAG grant funding, and which are most frequently funded:

Projects that ARE generally eligible for STAG Grants	
Clean Water / Wastewater	Drinking Water
<p>1. Wastewater treatment plants, including sludge handling facilities: Upgraded (increase in treatment level) or expanded (increase in treatment capacity) facilities, including biological facilities, mechanical, a lagoon system, a land treatment system, or individual on-site systems.</p>	<p>1. Facilitate compliance with national primary drinking water regulations or address serious risks to public health including non-regulated contaminants (i.e., PFAS).</p>
<p>2. Collector Sewers: Small sewers that convey wastewater from residences, commercial establishments, and industrial sites to larger interceptor sewers.</p>	<p>2. Rehabilitate or develop water sources (excluding reservoirs, dams, dam rehabilitation and water rights) to replace contaminated sources.</p>
<p>3. Interceptor Sewers: Large sewers that convey wastewater from collector sewers directly to a wastewater treatment facility.</p>	<p>3. Install or upgrade treatment facilities.</p>
<p>4. Sewer Pipes: Rehabilitation is eligible only if pipes are publicly owned.</p>	<p>4. Install or upgrade storage facilities, including finished water reservoirs, to prevent microbiological contaminants from entering the water system.</p>
<p>5. Outfall Sewer: A sewer that conveys treated wastewater from a wastewater treatment facility to the receiving waters (i.e., a river, stream, lake, ocean, etc.).</p>	<p>5. Install or replace transmission and distribution pipes to prevent contamination caused by leaks or breaks in the pipe or improve water pressure to safe levels.</p>
<p>6. Storm Water Management: Measures to manage, reduce, treat, or recapture stormwater or subsurface drainage water (i.e., storm sewers, green infrastructure, etc.).</p>	<p>6. Projects to consolidate water supplies – for example, when individual homes or other public water supplies have a water supply that is contaminated, or the system is unable to maintain compliance for financial or managerial reasons – are eligible for DWSRF assistance.</p>
<p>7. Combined sewer overflow (CSO) control and sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) control: Combined sewers are sewers that convey both wastewater and storm water and may overflow during periods of heavy rain. The costs to correct CSO and SSO overflow problems are eligible.</p>	<p>7. Land is eligible only if it is integral to a project that is needed to meet or maintain compliance and further public health protection.</p>

<p>8. Infiltration/Inflow Correction: Construction activities that prevent surface water or groundwater from entering the sewer system.</p>	<p>8. Project planning, design, and other related costs.</p>
<p>9. Water Security: These projects include installation or upgrade of physical security infrastructure such as lighting, fencing, monitoring and access control. Also, cybersecurity measures, installation of safer treatment technologies, and more secure storage of on-site treatment.</p>	
<p>10. Septic Tanks: Remediation, rehabilitation, removal and replacement of failing tanks are eligible, as well as installation of new tanks where none had previously existed.</p>	
<p>11. Land: The leasing and fee-simple purchase of land, including surface and subsurface easements, needed to locate eligible municipal or tribal projects, and land integral to the treatment process (e.g., land for effluent application or recharge basins), and a place to store equipment and material during POTW construction. Municipal purchase of land and/or conservation easements for source water protection are also eligible.</p>	
<p>12. Water Reuse: Projects involving the municipal reuse or recycling of wastewater, stormwater, or subsurface drainage water. This includes but is not limited to the purchase and installation of treatment equipment sufficient to meet reuse standards, distribution systems to support effluent reuse, recharge transmission lines, injection wells, and equipment to reuse effluent (e.g., gray water, condensate, and wastewater effluent reuse systems).</p>	
<p>13. Capital Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects: E.g., river or streambank restoration, agricultural best management practices (i.e., buffer strips, manure containment structures), wetlands restoration, etc.</p>	

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

In a disappointing change from Fiscal Year 2023, Republican Appropriations Chair Granger has elected to ban CPF request from the Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies bill.

Unfortunately, this means Rep. Vasquez is unable to submit the following projects: facilities and equipment needs for local health care clinics; behavioral health services; violence prevention and food assistance for children and families in poverty; afterschool programs for elementary and secondary school students; postsecondary school programs for college students; and job training programs

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

General Guidance: Community Project Funding requests must follow the guidelines included in this section. Each project request must be for fiscal year (FY) 2024 funds only and cannot be for multiyear funding.

Requested projects must meet the following criteria:

- Be included on an unfunded requirements/unfunded priorities list (UFR/UPL) from a military service or combatant command or the FY24-FY28 Future Years Defense Program (FYDP).
 - Projects suggested by an installation or unit commander will not be accepted.
- Have at least 35% of design completed.
 - Without 35% design, planning and design funding can be requested.
- Able to be obligated in FY24.
- Submitted to the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) for inclusion in the FY24 National Defense Authorization Act or previously authorized.
- Have a DD Form 1391, which is DoD's justification for military construction projects.

There are two programs within the MilConVA Subcommittee's jurisdiction that are open to CPF requests:

- Construction and Unspecific Minor Construction – Active Components
- Construction and Unspecific Minor Construction – Reserve Components

Construction and Unspecified Minor Construction – Active Components

Eligible Community Project Funding requests include both construction and unspecified minor military construction projects for active components in the accounts listed below. An unspecified minor military construction project is a project that has an approved cost equal to or less than \$9,000,000.

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

Construction and Unspecified Minor Construction – Reserve Components

Eligible Community Project Funding requests include both construction and unspecified minor military construction projects for Reserve Components in the accounts listed below. An unspecified minor military construction project is a project that has an approved cost equal to or less than \$9,000,000.

Some Reserve Component projects require a State funding match. Requesting offices must determine whether the proposed project requires such a match and if so, confirm that the project has current State matching funds. The Committee will not waive match requirements.

- Army National Guard
- Air National Guard
- Army Reserve
- Navy Reserve
- Air Force Reserve

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

General Guidance: There are five programs within the THUD Subcommittee's jurisdiction that are open to CPF requests:

- DOT – Transit Infrastructure Projects
- DOT – Highway Infrastructure Projects
- DOT – Airport Improvement Program
- DOT – Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement Grants
- HUD – Community Development Fund – Economic Development Initiatives

Department of Transportation – Transit Infrastructure Projects

Transit Infrastructure Projects are public transportation capital projects eligible under chapter 53 of title 49 of the United States Code. Eligible capital projects are described under section 5302(4) of title 49, United States Code.

All projects must be:

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

Projects are **highly encouraged** to be listed on the STIP or TIP.

Public transportation or transit is defined in section 5302(15) and (22) of title 49, United States Code, as regular, continuing shared-ride surface transportation that is open to the general public or open to a segment of the general public defined by age, disability, or low income, and does not include intercity passenger rail transportation, intercity bus service, charter bus service, school bus service, sightseeing service, courtesy shuttle service for patrons of one or more specific establishments, or intra-terminal or intra-facility shuttle services.

Activities that are administrative in nature are ineligible 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.

Federal Requirements: Projects will be subject to various Federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program requests should be submitted as programmatic requests as the Appropriations Committee will not fund CIG projects under Transit Infrastructure Projects. Any projects for which the sponsor is seeking or will seek a CIG grant is not eligible.

Cost Share Requirements: The cost-share requirements are defined in statute. In general, transit capital projects typically require 20 percent non-federal share.

Department of Transportation – Highway Infrastructure Projects

Highway Infrastructure Projects are capital projects eligible under title 23 of the United States Code. Eligible projects are described under Section 133(b) of title 23, United States Code, (Surface Transportation Block Grant Program) as amended by title III of division A of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Tribal and territorial capital projects (Tribal Transportation Program) authorized under chapters 1 and 2 of title 23, United States Code, are also eligible.

All projects must be:

- Capital projects or project-specific design for a capital project.
- Supported by the state or Tribal government that would administer the project. Inclusion on a Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) or Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) would satisfy this requirement.
- Administered by public entities or Tribal entities.

Projects are **highly encouraged** to be listed on the STIP or TIP.

Activities that are administrative in nature are ineligible even if they are eligible expenses under the statutory citation. These include general operating expenses, and planning activities required under sections 134 and 135 of title 23, United States Code.

Cost Share Requirements: Applicants should be aware that Highway Infrastructure Projects have a non-Federal cost share calculated on a sliding scale. The cost-share requirements are defined in statute and vary based on activity, location, and other factors.

Federal Requirements: Projects will be subject to various Federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

Department of Transportation – Airport Improvement Program

AIP Community Project Funding requests 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 FAA's National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS).

- Supported broadly by local stakeholders, including residents, businesses, and elected officials.
- Administered by an airport and/or airport sponsor.

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

Cost Share: For large and medium primary hub airports, the grant covers 75 percent of eligible costs (or 80 percent for noise program implementation). For small primary, reliever, and general aviation airports, the grant covers a range of 90-95 percent of eligible costs, based on statutory requirements.

Specific cost share requirements should be verified by the FAA Regional District Office, along with other requirements to receive FAA funding: <https://www.faa.gov/airports/southwest>

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

Rail infrastructure projects are capital projects eligible under the CRISI program authorized in section 22907 of title 49, United States Code. CRISI provides grants to assist in financing the cost of improving passenger and freight rail transportation systems.

All projects must be:

- Rail capital projects or systems planning for a rail capital project;
- Supported by the state, local governmental authority, or Tribal government that would administer the project; and
- Sponsored by public entities or Tribal entities.

This is a new Community Project Funding account for Fiscal Year 2024.

Activities that are administrative in nature are ineligible even if they are eligible expenses under the statutory citation. These include but are not limited to general operating expenses, rail-related research, and workforce activities.

Applicants must prove the eligibility and viability of their projects.

Federal Requirements: Projects will be subject to various Federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

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

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

Project requests for the FY24 Economic Development Initiative program **must be eligible under one or more of the following criteria of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program:** 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), 5305(a)(5); which are as follows—but not limited to:

- land or site acquisition,
- demolition or rehabilitation;
- blight removal; and
- construction and capital improvements of public facilities, except for “buildings used for the general conduct of government.”¹

Programmatic and operational expenses are not eligible.

5305(a)(1) – the acquisition of real property (including air rights, water rights, and other interests therein) which is (A) blighted, deteriorated, deteriorating, undeveloped, or inappropriately developed from the standpoint of sound community development and growth; (B) appropriate for rehabilitation or conservation activities; (C) appropriate for the preservation or restoration of historic sites, the beautification of urban land, the conservation of open spaces, natural resources, and scenic areas, the provision of recreational opportunities, or the guidance of urban development; (D) to be used for the provision of public works, facilities, and improvements eligible for assistance under this chapter; or (E) to be used for other public purposes;

5305(a)(2) – the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, or installation (including design features and improvements with respect to such construction, reconstruction, or installation that promote energy efficiency) of public works, facilities (except for buildings for the general conduct of government), and site or other improvements;

5305(a)(4) – clearance, demolition, removal, reconstruction, and rehabilitation (including rehabilitation which promotes energy efficiency) of buildings and improvements (including interim assistance, and financing public or private acquisition for reconstruction or rehabilitation, and reconstruction or rehabilitation, of privately owned properties, and including the renovation of closed school buildings);

5305(a)(5) – special projects directed to the removal of material and architectural barriers which restrict the mobility and accessibility of elderly and handicapped persons;

¹ 42 U.S.C. 5302(a)(21) provides: “The term ‘buildings for the general conduct of government’ means city halls, county administrative buildings, State capitol or office buildings, or other facilities in which the legislative or general administrative affairs of the government are conducted. Such term does not include such facilities as neighborhood service centers or special purpose buildings located in low- and moderate-income areas that house various non-legislative functions or services provided by government at decentralized locations.”

Given that projects must meet these authorized purposes of the CDBG program, examples of projects include:

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

The following types of projects are not eligible for CPF funding:

- ⊗ Museums, commemoratives, memorials;
- ⊗ Swimming pools, water parks, golf courses;
- ⊗ Healthcare facilities;
- ⊗ Venues strictly for entertainment purposes – e.g., theaters and performing arts venues;
- ⊗ Courthouses and town halls, and other buildings for the general use of government.

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

Appropriations Committee Requirements:

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

Frequently Asked Questions

The process for requesting and receiving a Community Project Funding grant can be challenging. Below are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions:

Can I submit projects after the deadline?

The deadline for submissions to Rep. Vasquez is March 17th at 7:00 pm eastern. Unfortunately, this date is non-negotiable as the office must be able to review and vet dozens of requests before the deadline to submit to the House Appropriations Committee. Once those projects are submitted, the office is unable to change them.

Will my request become public?

Members of Congress are required to post each of the projects they submit on their website by April 10th, 2023. This information will include the applicant's name, address, amount requested, and a description of how the project is a good use of taxpayer funds.

What if my project doesn't meet one of the requirements?

The office will prioritize projects that meet all guidelines and requirements laid out by the Appropriations Committee as the Committee will not fund ineligible projects. To give your project the best chance at being funded, ensure your project meets all criteria and include robust public support, including letters of support from local officials and organizations.

Should I submit projects to Senators Heinrich and Lujan?

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their projects to all federal representatives.

How much funding should I request?

For accounts available in previous years, this guide includes an estimate of previous years' funding amounts. However, it should be noted that the Republican Majority intends to only make ½ the total amount of funding available from FY23 in F24. In addition, applicants should only request funding they can reasonable obligate in FY24.

How can I show community support?

Community support is incredibly important to the success of your project. This can include letters of support from local elected officials, op-eds in local newspapers, articles about the need for your project, or endorsements from non-profit organizations.

How will I know if my project is accepted?

Rep. Vasquez will submit projects to the Appropriations Committee between March 24 and March 31, at which point staff will notify applicants of the status of their submission. Since

Members are only permitted to submit 15 projects, the office will be unable to submit many highly qualified, deserving projects.

The Appropriations Committee typically makes their bills public in late May or June at which point the list of approved Community Projects will be available.

If my project is approved, how does my organization go about receiving funding?

Once a project is included in the House Appropriations, it still must be signed into law before any funding can be allocated. For FY23, these projects were signed into law in December of 2022.

In general, recipients of CPF will be contacted by the agency in charge of their project and this typically within 30-60 days of the appropriations bill being signed into law.

In most cases, agencies will require recipients to submit supplemental information including a formal application to the program to receive funding.

Please take this timeline into account as you consider projects to submit for funding. A project submitted for an FY24 CPF will likely receive funding in 10-12 months.

Additional Federal Resources

Because of the highly competitive nature of the Community Project Funding process, we acknowledge that many qualified projects will not be funded by the Appropriations Committee. If your organization is seeking federal funding to support a project or initiative, Rep. Vasquez encourages you to use the resources below to access grants and other assistance. Please contact our office if you need assistance.

www.grants.gov

This website allows organizations to search and apply for competitive grants from 26 different federal agencies. Grants can be searched by agency, type of applicant, intended purposes, and more.

www.SAM.gov

This is the official website for people who make, receive, and manage federal awards.

www.govloans.gov

This website can assist applicants in finding loans and other benefits they may be eligible for. You can learn more about federal loans, interest rates, and how different types of loans may help your organization.

www.benefits.gov

This website includes information on all government benefits, eligibility, and how to apply.

www.usa.gov

The official guide to U.S. government information and services.