

FY 23 Community Project Funding



Senator Cortez Masto Staff Presentation

The Appropriations Process

- Congress annually considers appropriations measures, which provide funding for the federal government's discretionary programs.
- In the Senate, appropriations bills are under the jurisdiction of the Senate Committee on Appropriations.
- The Committee on Appropriations is made up of 12 subcommittees, each with jurisdiction over funding for certain federal departments and programs.
- Each Spring, the 12 subcommittees initiate a formal request process in which all Senators may submit requests programmatic funding levels, reports, and community project funding.

Introduction to Community Project Funding

Programmatic Funding: Language included in an appropriations bill that funds a federal program at a certain level. (ex: \$56.5 billion for CDBG)

Community Project Funding: Language included in an appropriations bill that directs funds from a specific federal program be spent on a specific project. (ex: \$2 million in CDBG funds shall be used for a housing development in Las Vegas)

- Community Project Funding was prohibited under Congressional rules in 2011, but returned with transparency reforms in 2021.
 - Only some federal programs (accounts) are eligible, this is determined by the Appropriations Committee.
 - Like applying for a grant, the project and applicant ***must*** be eligible under the program rules to be considered for community project funding.
 - The language must be included, pass both houses of congress, and be signed into law by the President.
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**Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug Administration,
and Related Agencies**

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) [programs](#) protect the health of U.S. agriculture and natural resources against invasive pests and diseases, regulates genetically engineered crops, and helps people and wildlife coexist.

- Must meet environmental review requirements (i.e. NEPA and ESA).
- Most relevant project themes:
 - Field Crop & Rangeland Ecosystems Pests
 - Pest Detection
 - Plant Protection Methods Development
 - Specialty Crop Pests
 - Tree & Wood Pests
 - Wildlife Damage Management
 - Wildlife Services Methods Development
 - Veterinary Diagnostics
 - Equine, Cervid and Small Ruminant Health
- Check Program Matching Requirements, as some APHIS Programs have required contributions.

Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations

The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention [Program](#) helps units of federal, state, local and tribal of government protect and restore watersheds up to 250,000 acres.

- Each project must contain benefits directly related to agriculture, including rural communities, that account for at least 20 percent of the total benefits of the project.
- There are several financial and programmatic requirements in WFPO.
- An applicant must certify that they have contacted their Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) state office and the proposal meets all program requirements, including financial requirements.

Community Facilities Grants

This [program](#) provides funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a rural area.

- Rural areas including cities, villages, townships and towns including Federally Recognized Tribal Lands with no more than 20,000 residents according to the latest U.S. Census Data are eligible for this program.
- Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and / or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment and pay related project expenses.
- Matching requirements based on community size and income levels, but maximum federal share is 75% for smallest communities.
- Must meet environmental review requirements (i.e., NEPA, though most do not need NEPA review).

Distance Learning and Telemedicine

This [program](#) provides funding for broadband facilities, audio/video equipment, terminal equipment, computer hardware and software, wiring, instructional programming, and technical assistance to expand distance learning or telemedicine.

- There is a flat 15 percent match (matching funds cannot come from another Federal source).
- USDA will establish the maximum and minimum amounts of a grant to be made available to an individual recipient for each fiscal year in the RUS DLT Program Application Guide. For FY 2021, the grant award floor is \$50,000 and the ceiling is \$1,000,000.
- Even though for-profit entities are eligible for this program, they are not eligible for Community Project Funding.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

NOAA Operations, Research, Facilities (ORF)

The NOAA ORF [Account](#) is one of two accounts that fund nearly all operations at NOAA, such as the National Ocean Service, National Weather Service, Atmospheric Research, etc.

- Projects should address fisheries, marine mammals, ocean, climate, weather, and atmospheric research and programs.
- Construction projects will not be accepted.
- Applicants should review NOAA Programs to ensure this account applies to their project.

NIST STRS External Projects

NIST's Scientific and Technical Research and Services (STRS) [activities](#) provide industry, academia and other federal agencies with world-class research capabilities in measurement science that form the foundation of the global system of weights and measures and enable innovation. They supply basic and applied measurements, calibrations and standards that impact things from the accuracy of airplane altimeters to the reliability of clinical measurements and the strength of the encryption technologies.

- Projects should address standards-related research and technology development.
- Construction projects will not be accepted.

DOJ Byrne JAG Discretionary

The Justice Assistance Grants [program](#) is the leading source of federal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. Byrne Discretionary projects may provide additional personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical assistance, and information systems for criminal justice systems.

- Allowable costs are those costs consistent with the principles set out in the 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E, and those permitted by the grant program's authorizing legislation.
- Costs must be reasonable, allocable, and necessary to the project, and they must also comply with the funding statute and agency requirements.
- This funding cannot be used for land acquisition or construction.

DOJ COPS Law Enforcement Technology

COPS Law Enforcement Technology [projects](#) support the development of technologies and automated systems to assist law enforcement agencies in investigating, responding to, and preventing crime.

- Allowable activities are limited to the statutorily allowable purpose areas under the COPS Office statute, including the procurement of equipment, technology, or support systems, and the development of new technologies to assist recipient entities in reorienting the emphasis of their activities from reacting to crime to preventing crime.
- Applicants should not specify brand names and ensure open competition.
- Agencies should consider the [full range](#) of potential legal, constitutional, and civil liberties and privacy implications associated with generating, acquiring, or using technology or data.

NASA Safety, Security, and Mission Support

SSMS programs manage the administration of the Agency; operates and maintains NASA Centers and facilities, including Headquarters; and provides oversight to reduce risk to life and mission for all NASA programs.

- Projects should focus on science education, research, and technology development related to NASA's mission.
- This account does not fund construction but could be used for equipment, research funding, or education programs.

NIST Construction of Research Facilities

NIST Construction [projects](#) fund non-Federal research facilities at research institutions and colleges and universities.

- Extremely competitive account given robust construction needs at Universities across the country.
- Applicants should work closely with our staff at the beginning of the project so we can work with the subcommittee staff to best position the project for success given the competitiveness of this account.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

Bureau of Reclamation: Water and Related Resources

Reclamation's Water and Related Resources account funds most agency activities, including construction, operation and maintenance, dam safety, ecosystem restoration, Indian water rights settlements, and most programmatic and grant authorities.

- BOR Community Projects are unique in that they are carried out by the federal agency itself and must be authorized by law. Applicants must provide a citation.
- Many BOR projects are requested as part of the President's Budget Request. A project that needs only the level of funding requested by the President is a *programmatic request*, not a community project.

Army Corps of Engineers Projects

The [United States Army Corps of Engineers](#) is an engineer formation of the United States Army that has three primary mission areas: engineer regiment, military construction, and civil works.

- Army Corps Community Projects are unique in that they are carried out by the federal agency itself and must be authorized by law. Applicants must provide a citation.
- Many Army Corp projects are requested as part of the President's Budget Request. A project that needs only the level of funding requested by the President is a *programmatic request*, not a community project.
- Four sub-accounts available:
 - Investigations.
 - Construction.
 - Operation & Maintenance.
 - Mississippi River.

Department of Energy Programs

The Department of Energy accounts can fund energy related projects that fall under various programs within five energy related offices:

- 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)
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- Applicants should review programs under each office to determine which applies to their needs.
 - EERE is the most lucrative sub-account, with the vast majority of successful FY21 requests under DOE.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

Small Business Administration, Administrative Provisions

The Small Business Administration (SBA) administers several types of [programs](#) to support small businesses. For the purposes of this account, technical assistance training programs to assist small business formation and expansion is most relevant.

- This account is primarily to assist or expand the SBA's network of nonprofit small business centers and technical assistance programs, such as:
 - Small Business Development Centers
 - Women's Business Centers
 - SCORE
- Other initiatives, such as workforce training aimed at small businesses, can also be eligible.

Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Pre-Disaster Mitigation

FEMA provides Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) [Program](#) grants to help plan and direct hazard mitigation projects before a disaster

- Requested projects must meet the eligibility requirements of the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program, including the cost-share requirement, benefit cost ratio, and environmental and historic preservation requirements.
- All project proposals must be accompanied by a letter of support from the appropriate state agency (Nevada Dept of Emergency Management) affirming that it believes the project is eligible.
- The Committee prioritizes requests for eligible projects that are important to states and local communities but which may not receive adequate attention under the larger BRIC program.

Emergency Operations Centers

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Emergency Operations Center (EOC) [Program](#) is intended to improve emergency management and preparedness capabilities by supporting flexible, sustainable, secure, strategically located, and fully interoperable EOCs.

- Requested projects must meet the eligibility requirements of the Emergency Operations Center grant program, including the cost-share requirement and environmental and historic preservation requirements.
- All project proposals must be accompanied by a letter of support from the appropriate state agency (Nevada Dept of Emergency Management) affirming that it believes the project is eligible.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

EPA, State and Tribal Assistance Grants, Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

This program includes construction of, and modifications to, [municipal sewage treatment plants](#) and [drinking water treatment plants](#).

- There is a minimum 20% cost share requirement for any state or local water infrastructure funded.
- For State and Local Grants for Drinking or Clean Water Projects, applicants must confirm this status with the state before finalizing your submission:
 - Is the project on the state's most recently finalized Clean Water or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan?
 - If the answer to the question above is NO, is the project eligible under SRF guidelines?
- SRF projects have very specific eligibility requirements and the subcommittee will not consider projects that do not meet those requirements.
- For tribal projects, our office will accept requests for projects included on the Indian Health Services' (IHS) Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS) list.

National Park Service, Historic Preservation Fund

The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), which was established to help fund the [programs](#) engendered by the National Historic Preservation Act, was designed to preserve historical and archaeological sites in the United States of America.

- The subcommittee accepts requests for non-formula funded activities within HPF that meet the qualifications of HPF programs, including eligible entities and activities.
- All HPF grantees must meet standards set by the Secretary of the Interior and comply with the audit requirements.
- Other qualifications exist, including requirements that the property is listed as an historic place on the National Register of Historic Places at the national level (properties listed at the state or local significance are not eligible for SAT) or as a National Historic Landmark.
- Matching requirements vary by program.

USFS, State & Private Forestry

The State & Private Forestry [account](#) 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.

- Project requests should be part of the state's Forest Action Plan, or contribute to meeting the goals of the Forest Action Plan.
- Projects must meet matching requirements of relevant program.
- Applicants must describe how the project will conserve and steward working forests or open space, protect forest health from insects and disease, meet urban and community forestry goals, create opportunities for innovative wood use, improve fire mitigation efforts, or otherwise benefit communities and forested lands.

Projects on Agency Lists

Requests for any location-specific project that is included in the President's request or the fiscal year 2022 enacted Interior bill, and for which the request for funding is at or below the level in those documents, should be submitted as a programmatic request. Requests for location-specific projects that are not included in the President's request or the FY22 enacted bill, or for location-specific project funding above the President's request or the FY22 enacted level (whichever is higher), will be considered community projects. Lists are as follows:

- LWCF: Great American Outdoors Act, Land and Water Conservation Fund
- LRF: Great American Outdoors Act, Legacy Restoration Fund
- LMCON: Land Management Agencies, Construction

Other Accounts in Interior

The subcommittee may also consider requests within these accounts, but only on a case-by-case basis.

- Land Management Agencies, Local Projects and Research: In order for requests to be considered within this category, they must be relevant to the specified mission area within the bureaus listed below and contribute to responsible stewardship of land, wildlife, and recreation resources or contribute to priority research areas that inform stewardship of those resources.
- BIA, Operation of Indian Programs, Special Initiatives: BIA provides direct services and funding for compacts and contracts for tribes to provide programs for a wide range of activities. Within this account, requests may be considered that honor the commitment to invest in tribal communities, create economic opportunities, foster cultural heritage, promote efficient and effective tribal governance, and conserve natural resources.
- EPA, Science and Technology, Research: National Priorities: Project requests may be considered for high priority lines of research related to environmental quality and human health.
- EPA, State and Tribal Assistance Grants, STAG Infrastructure Grants: Requests will only be considered for projects related to existing funding categories and activities within the STAG account that will result in improvements in environmental quality and/or human health.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education

Department of Labor Programs

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) demonstrations authority, within Training and Employment Services, is the only Department of Labor program allowed to use CPF.

- Projects must meet all requirements under WIOA.
- 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 only as 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.
- No construction allowed.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), provides health care to people who are geographically isolated, and/or economically or medically vulnerable. Three Accounts are available:

- Health Facilities Construction and Equipment—Funds for the cost of construction, renovation, or capital equipment purchase for facilities for health. 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.
- Health Professions Education and Workforce Development—Projects to improve education and training of health care professionals.
- Rural Health —Funds for projects to improve health care in rural areas. Examples of eligible activities include medical, dental, or mental health care services; health promotion and education; chronic disease management; telehealth services; and improvements to emergency medical services. Grant funds can be used for services only in areas that meet HRSA's definition of rural.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

SAMHSA is charged with improving the quality and availability of treatment and rehabilitative services in order to reduce illness, death, disability, and the cost to society resulting from substance abuse and mental illnesses.

The following [categories](#) are eligible:

- Mental Health—funding to support programs that promote the prevention or treatment of mental health disorders, including rehabilitation, outreach, and other support services.
- Substance Abuse Treatment—funding to support programs that improve access, reduce barriers, and promote high quality, effective treatment and recovery services.
- Substance Abuse Prevention—funding to support programs to prevent the onset of illegal drug use, prescription drug misuse and abuse, alcohol misuse and abuse, and underage alcohol and tobacco use.
- Funds within SAMHSA cannot be used for construction or needle exchange.

Administration for Children and Families

ACF provides [services](#) related to child support enforcement, adoption assistance, foster care, child care, and child abuse. Projects should be submitted through the Children and Families Services Programs account and must fall under one of the following categories:

- Child Abuse Prevention—funding for projects to improve the prevention, assessment, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect through research, model service improvement, information dissemination, and technical assistance. Projects must serve or target abused and/or neglected children and their families.
- Social Services Research and Demonstration—funding for projects to promote the ability of families to thrive through financial self-sufficiency, and to promote the healthy development and greater well-being of children and families. Projects can serve a diverse population including: low-income individuals, children, youth, families, individuals with developmental disabilities, and Native Americans.
- Cannot be used for construction or renovation of facilities.

Administration for Community Living

ACL provides services to improve the ability of older adults and individuals of all ages with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in their communities.

- Generally, projects should focus on improving access to, or the quality of, education, training, support services, and independent living services for older adults and individuals with disabilities.
- Projects cannot be used for construction or renovation of facilities.

Department of Education Programs

The U.S. Department of Education is the agency of the federal government that establishes policy for, administers and coordinates most federal assistance to education. Projects may fall within three accounts:

- [Fund for the Improvement of Education \(FIE\)](#)—covers a wide variety of 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.
- [Demonstration and Training](#)—covers wide variety of projects that further the purposes of the Rehabilitation Act, including by providing individuals with disabilities with education, training, support services, and independent living services. Generally, should focus on improving access to, or the quality of, such services for individuals with disabilities.
- [Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education \(FIPSE\)](#)—supports a wide variety of higher education projects. Generally, requests should focus on improving access to, or the quality of, postsecondary education. Examples of the types of projects that can be funded under FIPSE include projects to hire and train faculty, establish and improve degree programs, improve teacher preparation programs, develop and improve curricula, upgrade technology and telecommunications, acquire science laboratory equipment, provide student support, implement university partnerships with school districts, and establish research and training centers.

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development

Transportation Programs

The programs available under the Department of Transportation's accounts include research, rail, air, and highway funding. These are available under the following programs:

- [Transportation Planning, Research, and Development \(TPR&D\)](#) - for transportation research projects eligible under title 23 or title 49, United States Code.
- [Grants-in-Aid for Airports \(Airport Improvement Program or AIP\)](#) - for airport capital projects eligible under chapter 471 of title 49, United States Code. Applicants must provide the status of the planning and environmental work and a description of all other sources of funding contributing to the total cost of the project.
- [Highway Infrastructure Program \(HIP\)](#) - for highway capital projects eligible under title 23, United States Code. Applicants are required to provide the status of the planning and environmental work and a link to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) or Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) that includes the requested project.
- [Transit Infrastructure Grants \(TIG\)](#) - for transit capital projects eligible under chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code. Applicants are required to provide the status of the planning and environmental work and a link to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) or Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) that includes the requested project.
- [Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement \(CRISI\) Grants](#) - for rail capital projects eligible under section 22907 of title 49, United States Code. Applicants must provide environmental review statuses and provide a link to the State Rail Plan that includes the requested project.

Economic Development Initiatives

Applicants can request funding for EDIs within the Community Development Fund [account](#) eligible under chapter 69 of title 42, United States Code. This funding flows from the Community Development Block Grant Program.

- Must provide the current status of the project, a description of all other sources of funding contributing to the total cost of the project, and the status of the planning and environmental review work.
- MUST include relevant data on how activities or projects benefit primarily low- and moderate-income persons or communities to meet program requirements.
- Must provide a link to the project website if available or a link to the HUD five year Consolidated Plan or Annual Action Plan if the project is included or complements planned or current projects within these required plans.

General Tips

- Be Ready to Proceed - Applicants should demonstrate that the projects can spend the requested money in the fiscal year. It is useful to consider projects that are underway or nearly underway that can get a “boost” through CPF.
- Talk to the Agency - For many accounts, the subcommittee staff will consult with the relevant agency about eligibility and other questions. Talking to the agency on the front end, or having gone through a grant applications process for the program, is helpful in ensuring eligibility and other criteria are met.
- Keep Budget in Mind - Each subcommittee is only able to allocate 1% of the total suballocation it receives to CPF, so lower requests are more likely to have success. Most projects that received funding in FY21 are less than \$4 million, and many are less than \$2 million.
- Consider Local Match - Many accounts require a local match, but even for programs with no requirements it can be helpful to show the committee local dollars are supporting the project.

A Note on Grants

WHAT WE DO

Identifying Grant Opportunities

We are here to help constituents find the appropriate funding sources to meet their needs. If you are interested in receiving our newsletter with updates from my office about new funding opportunities, please email grants@cortezmasto.senate.gov.

Letters Of Support

Some federal grant applications require letters of support. If you are applying for a federal grant and need a letter of support, please contact us.

Tracking Grant Awards

If you have applied for a federal grant and need to inquire about the status about the application, we can help you get more information about specific grants.

General Assistance

There is no one-size-fits-all approach for grant applications. If you have any issues or problems that arise during the grant application process, my staff is happy to help troubleshoot, brainstorm ideas, and answer any questions that you may have.

Questions and Discussion of Local Priorities

Contact: Appropriations@cortezmasto.senate.gov