



## **FY26 Appropriations Guidance**

April 2025

## Table of Contents

Introduction to Appropriations and Congressionally Directed Spending .....	- 3
FY26 Appropriations Timeline & Dates to Remember .....	- 4
Information Required for all CDS Applications .....	- 5
Frequently Asked Questions .....	- 6
CDS Request Best Practices .....	- 9
Construction, Housing, and Rehabilitation of Community Infrastructure .....	- 12
Transportation .....	- 15
Criminal Justice and Emergency Operations .....	- 18
Health Care Services and Facilities .....	- 20
Seniors and Children .....	- 22
Small Business and Workforce Development .....	- 23
Education and Research Opportunities .....	- 24
Key Staff Contacts .....	- 28

## Introduction to Appropriations and Congressionally Directed Spending

Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) also known as “earmarks” allow Senators to direct federal funds straight to key projects across in their respective states. The House of Representatives has an identical process which is referred to as Community Project Funding (CPF) requests.

The CDS process was revived in 2021 and is a great opportunity for local governments and non-profits to get one-time grant funding for a specific project in their community. Eligible projects can include the construction of new affordable housing, expanding health care services, or investing in workforce development programming. Funding for CDS projects flows from existing federal competitive grant programs.

If you would like to see examples of projects supported by Senator Fetterman in the past, please visit his website at <https://www.fetterman.senate.gov/fy25-submitted-appropriations-projects/>

### **Programmatic Requests**

In addition to CDS, there is another type of appropriations request called Programmatic Requests. These types of requests are general funding requests for a specific national/regional program and/or bill and report language requests that directs, encourages, or urges an Agency or Department to carry out a specific action. If you are requesting inclusion of specific programmatic funding or language in the bill and/or report as opposed to requesting funding for a specific project, please provide the following:

- Proposed funding level or draft language;
- Specification of the particular agency and appropriations account to which it is directed;
- Brief explanation of and rationale for the funding or language, including its relevance to Pennsylvania constituents;
- Indication of whether it is sought for bill text, report, or both bill and report.

For example, if an entity is requesting a certain overall level of funding for EPA’s Clean Water Revolving Fund program, that would be a programmatic request. If an entity is requesting funding to upgrade a specific wastewater project in Pennsylvania that utilizes the Clean Water Revolving Fund, that would be a Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) request.

## FY26 Appropriations Timeline & Dates to Remember

Note that funding for Congressionally Directed Spending projects hinge on Congress passing annual appropriations bills. Because of this, Senator Fetterman and his office is unable to provide a concrete timeline for this process. Below is a rough timeline, however it is always subject to change.

**April 16<sup>th</sup>** – Senator Fetterman’s CDS application portal goes live.

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Senator Fetterman’s office holds a virtual webinar for prospective FY26 applicants.

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Applications are due to Senator Fetterman’s office **by Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm.** **Late submissions will not be accepted or reviewed.**

**Note:** Deadlines for SAC-D programmatic, VAMilcon CDS, or Energy and Water CDS requests are subject to change depending on timing of the President’s budget being made public.

**Early Summer** – Senator Fetterman selects which CDS projects to submit to the Senate Appropriations Committee for funding consideration.

**Mid-Summer** – Senate Appropriations Committee reviews Senator Fetterman’s requests and makes the final determination on which projects it will fund.

**Late Summer** – Senate and House Appropriations Committees release their draft versions of its bills with CDS projects included.

**Fall/Winter** – Congress passes a funding package, which *should* include funding for Senator Fetterman’s projects.

Note: The end of the federal government’s fiscal year is Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, but Congress has rarely met that deadline lately and would likely pass a bill in the Winter, the following year, or choose to operate on a full year continuing resolution (CR).

**Spring 2026** – Agencies will reach out to those with funded projects and enter a contract with the recipient before funds can be reimbursed. Some recipients will receive their funds, as some agencies take longer than others.

## Information Required for All CDS Applications

If you apply for Congressionally Directed Spending for a project, you will be asked to prepare and submit some basic information about your proposal, including the following:

- **Official Project Name**
  - Ex: "Structural Improvements at RockRaven Food Bank in Braddock"
- **Project Purpose**
  - This is a short (1-2 sentence) description of the request that is made public via congressional disclosures. This should answer the question, "For what purpose will the requested funding be used?"
- **Project Justification**
  - This is a longer explanation to provide more detail on your project, including the community needs to be met or the populations to be served by the project. This section should also outline what new services or opportunities would be made possible with the requested funding. If requesting funds for an ongoing project, please provide the current status or phase. This information is not made public.
- **Project Costs**
  - This should outline the total cost of the project and how funds will be spent, such as on salaries, programming, or equipment, and what parts the earmark dollars would pay for. If the project includes multiple phases, please include a breakdown of costs by phase. (See pages 10-11 for examples)
- **Funding on Hand**
  - Requests should provide a full accounting of the non-earmark funding dedicated to the project, including philanthropic donations; non-federal, public funding such as state, county, or municipal general funds; nonprofit funding; or financing mechanisms, such as loans or tax financing.
- **Timeline to Completion**
  - How long it will take to complete both the CDS-funded portion of your project and how long you expect your entire project will be completed.
    - Note: You cannot use FY26 CDS funds to reimburse activities that have already been done before the FY26 bill is signed into law. If you get funding included in the bill, in most cases you will need to wait to spend funds until you sign a grant agreement with the respective agency you are drawing down funding from.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**1. I applied for CDS funding during the FY25 process and had CDS funding included in the drafted FY25 Appropriations bills which Congress never passed. Will the Senator continue his support of my request in FY26?**

Yes. Any applicants whose FY25 request was supported by Senator Fetterman and had funding included in the draft versions of either the [House](#) or [Senate](#) Appropriations bills are encouraged to re-apply for the FY26 process. Such requests will receive special consideration over other requests.

**2. What do you look for in CDS applications?**

When evaluating projects, many factors are considered including, but not limited to:

- A well-thought out, detailed, and complete application;
- A demonstrated need for funding;
- The capacity of your organization to carry out a federal grant;
- Strong community support, including letters of support from community and state affiliates;
- Access to additional sources of funding beyond CDS funds
  - Depending on what agency account your applying to, there could be a local match requirement that may need to be satisfied (Ex. USDA Rural Development).

**3. Can I reach out to Senator Fetterman's office to discuss a project before the application is due?**

Yes! We encourage you to reach out to our staff prior to submitting your application. Working with our team before submit allows us to provide guidance on the feasibility your project and helps ensure your request is eligible. Given limited time available, you may not be able to secure a meeting time before our May 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline. Rest assured that a staff meeting is not required for your application to be reviewed. You may also receive outreach from a member of staff to clarify certain items in your application.

**4. Do you coordinate with the other Pennsylvania delegation offices?**

Yes, Senator Fetterman and his office coordinates with other Pennsylvania Congressional offices, regardless of political party, and often share projects with

one another. We try to align our requests as much as possible to yield more CDS funding for Pennsylvania.

**5. Is my organization eligible to submit again if it has previously received CDS funds?**

Yes, as long as your organization has a demonstrated need for additional funds. However, Senator Fetterman will factor in past funding awards in his decisions on which applications to support.

**6. If my organization applied for CDS funds in the past, but wasn't successful, can my organization apply again?**

Yes, and we encourage you to speak with our staff before you apply in order so we can talk through some of the issues your application may have encountered in the past.

**7. Do I need to have previous experience working with a federal agency to receive these funds?**

Prior experience is not required, but we do recommend that you familiarize yourself with the process and take appropriate actions including registering on SAM.gov, Unique Entity IDs, and other steps in the federal grant process.

**8. Do I need a lobbyist or consultant to apply for funding?**

No. Any eligible organization is welcome to contact Senator Fetterman's office directly about CDS funding. Many organizations have a grant writer or someone dedicated to fundraising who submits applications, but some smaller organizations or municipal governments complete the applications themselves with no outside help, and are funded.

**9. If my project is submitted by Senator Fetterman, will I receive funding?**

CDS requests are highly competitive and must also be approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee. There is no guarantee of funding even if Senator Fetterman submits your request to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**10. How does my organization receive the funds if approved?**

Each federal agency is different when it comes to disbursing CDS funds to recipients. For example, some agencies will reimburse the recipient, others will give the recipient the full award up front once the grant agreement is signed, and some agencies will ask recipients to request the funds as needed.

**11. How long does the CDS process take?**

This is, at minimum, a yearlong process. Access to congressional funds are contingent upon the Senate and House passing their annual appropriations bills, which historically are not passed at the set deadline.

**12. Is there a way to see what projects Senator Fetterman supported last year?**

Yes! You can view past submitted projects on our website [here](#).

**13. Who can I contact if I have more questions?**

Please email [appropriations@fetterman.senate.gov](mailto:appropriations@fetterman.senate.gov) if you have any questions.



## CDS Request Best Practices

- **It is strongly recommended that all projects submitted to Senator Fetterman are also submitted your respective U.S. House member – if that member is accepting Community Project Funding (CPF) applications.**
- **Communicate the impact of your project.** Strong congressionally directed spending projects should improve livelihoods, create jobs, grow local economies, advance research and development, improve health outcomes, promote inclusivity, improve safety, etc. Communicate the impact of the prospective project as clearly and concisely as you can.
- **Do not view CDS funding as a continuous funding source.** CDS projects should be viewed as a tool to jumpstart an activity or fill a funding gap for a particular project – not sustain it over time. Good applications indicate how organizations plan to sustain the program or effort beyond the term of the CDS award. Funding for activities or services over multiple years will not be funded or considered.
- **Align the request with local need and federal missions.** Successful projects will match the project to the authorization or mission of an agency or account and have the support of local officials or communities. To see federal missions, look at the guidance (see below) for the respective account you are thinking about applying to.
- **Clearly and succinctly title each request.** A good title is 10 or less words long and mentions the location of the project, the organization, and the type of work being done. (Ex. “XYZ Food Bank in Braddock for delivery trucks”)
- **If you are submitting multiple CDS requests,** you must rank them in priority order.
- **The project should have a flexible timeline to receive funding.** The Congressional appropriations process is very unpredictable. It is *strongly* recommended that all CDS requests have a degree of flexibility in funding. Funds are awarded only after the enactment of an annual spending agreement, and that timeline fluctuates from fiscal year to fiscal year.

- **Get buy-in from your local community with Letters of Support.** Letters of support from third parties within the community or communities that would benefit from the request improve the competitiveness of a given application. These letters must clearly communicate the benefits that your request would bring to your community.
- **All congressionally directed spending requests should include a project budget broken down by funding type and component (see sample below).**

### **Sample Congressionally Directed Spending Project Budget**

#### **Project Funding by Component**

For this version of the budget, the total project cost should be broken down into no fewer than two and no more than five component pieces. Miscellaneous costs can be grouped into an "other" category. An example of a component might be "Planning", "Design", "Construction of new facility", "Purchase of new vehicle", etc. Components should be broken out bullet by bullet, with a final bullet for total cost. Each bullet should lead with a bolded dollar amount and name of the component. After that, each bullet should contain a note on the status of funding and comments that indicate which components should receive priority for funding if full amount cannot be funded. Finally, each bullet should close with more detail on the contents of that segment of funding.

#### *Examples*

##### Project Funding by Component (Construction Project – Rural Community Building)

- **\$40,000 for Building Design:** Covered by state funds, no need for funding, included contractor fees for initial design
- **\$400,000 for Construction:** Partially covered by state funds and an EDA grant, remaining \$250,000 unfunded is highest priority need for the project; includes stabilization and rehab of first floor of building, new doors and windows, and demolition of first floor kitchen space.
- **\$500,000 for Second Phase Construction:** No funding yet acquired, lower priority for funding if project must be trimmed; includes new construction of community classroom on back half of property
- **\$940,000** is total project cost, **\$750,000** of which is requested

##### Project Funding by Component (Programmatic Project – STEM Skills Incubator)

- **\$150,000 for Curriculum and Training:** Unfunded, highest priority need; curriculum development and staff training for supplemental math instruction
- **\$200,000 for Supplies and Equipment:** Unfunded, second priority; supplies and equipment for designated math accelerator facilities including ten SmartBoards, one classroom set of 30 grade level math textbooks for grades 7-12, and other classroom equipment including desks and white boards
- **\$350,000** is total project cost, **\$350,000** of which is requested

### **Project Funding by Funding Source**

This second budget should be broken down by funding source and clearly indicate how your requested amount will fit in with other funds. If the account requires a match, you should indicate which portion of the budget acts as that match. In addition, you should accurately characterize whether each funding source is secured, under active consideration for funding, or unfunded.

#### *Examples*

##### **Project Funding by Funding Source (Construction Project – Rural Community Building)**

- **\$40,000** in state funds, used for design, funding secured
- **\$150,000** in EDA grant funds, used for initial construction, funding secured
- **\$750,000** in outstanding funding need, advanced as a congressionally directed spending request, unfunded
- **\$940,000** total project cost

##### **Project Funding by Component (Programmatic Project – STEM Skills Incubator)**

- **\$350,000** in outstanding funding need, used for all components of the project, advanced as a congressionally directed spending request, unfunded
- **\$350,000** total project cost

For projects with a match requirement, such as a water project, a budget by funding source could look like the following:

##### **Project Funding by Component (Watermain Replacement)**

- **\$400,000** in outstanding funding need, used to fund all components of the project, advanced as a congressionally directed spending request, unfunded
- **\$100,000** in funding from the Borough of RockRaven, *provided as required match*, funding secured

## Construction, Housing, and Rehabilitation of Community Infrastructure

### Economic Development Initiatives (EDI)

- The EDI program supports projects that are generally eligible for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Eligible uses of funds include the acquisition of real property, construction of new affordable housing, elimination of blight, and construction, rehabilitation or improvement of public facilities (except buildings for general conduct of government), such as neighborhood centers, parks, and shelters for populations with specific needs such as survivors of domestic violence or the homeless.
- Funding requests must indicate that the project will address one of the National Objectives identified by the CDBG program: (1) benefitting low and moderate income persons or communities; (2) preventing or eliminating slums or blight; or (3) addressing community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community for which other funding is not available.
- Construction projects funded or partially funded with CDS funds are subjected to [Build America, Buy America \(BABA\) requirements](#). If you are requesting EDI funding for a multi-phase construction project, any subsequent construction phases following use of CDS funds would be subjected to BABA requirements.
- This account is located in the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) bill.

*CDS proposed in FY25 under this authority ranged from \$250,000 to \$1.5 million.*

### U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDARD) Community Facilities

- This program can assist with the purchase, construction, or improvement of community facilities in rural communities.
- Eligible uses of funds include health care facilities; public facilities such as town halls, courthouses, or streets; community support services for childcare centers, community centers, or fairgrounds; facilities for emergency personnel, community educational services for museums, libraries or private schools; food systems including community gardens and food pantries; and utility services for telemedicine and distance learning equipment.
- Only municipalities with populations of 20,000 or less are eligible to compete for this funding source.

- The expected non-federal share of project costs increases depending on the population size and median income of the municipality served by a nonprofit organization, and the maximum federal share is 75 percent. Cost share requirements depending on population size are:
  - Maximum of **75 percent** when the proposed project is located in a rural community having a population of **5,000** or fewer;
  - Maximum of **55 percent** when the proposed project is located in a rural community having a population of **12,000** or fewer;
  - Maximum of **35 percent** when the proposed project is located in a rural community having a population of **20,000** or fewer;
- These projects must be reviewed by the Pennsylvania USDA Director's office to verify that the project is eligible to receive earmark funding. Our office can connect you to the appropriate USDA Rural Development personnel for verification.
- This account is located in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Bill.

*CDS proposed in FY25 under this authority ranged from \$55,000 to \$750,000.*

U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development's (USDA RD) Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband (DLT) program

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers the USDA Rural Development, Distance Learning, Telemedicine and Broadband (DLT) program to provide resources for county and municipal governments to assist in connecting teacher and medical service providers with students or patients in another location. Eligible uses of funds include the purchase of capital assets such as broadband facilities, audio, video and interactive video equipment, terminal and data terminal equipment, computer hardware and software, and wiring and infrastructure services necessary for distance learning and telemedicine purpose along with technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment.
- Broadband deployment is not eligible use of funds for DLT.
- Only municipalities with populations of 20,000 or less are eligible to compete for this funding source.
- To be eligible for a Congressional earmark, these projects **will** be vetted by the Pennsylvania USDA Director's office in coordination with Senator Fetterman's office to verify that the request is eligible for funding.
- These projects have a minimum 15 percent local match requirement.

- This account is located in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Bill.

*CDS proposed in FY25 under this authority ranged from about \$100,000 to \$1 million. The maximum grant award for this account is \$1,000,000.*

#### National Park Service's Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) Program

- The HPF program funds the preservation, rehabilitation, and conservation of nationally significant historic properties.
- Eligible properties **must** be listed as a National Historic Landmark or in the National Register of Historic Places
  - Any request should provide the property's National Register listing number(s).
- Note that properties listed as historically significant at the state or local level are not eligible for this program.
- This account is in the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Bill.

*This account has a maximum CDS amount of \$500,000 permitted.*

#### Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

- The STAG program provides funding for the construction and modification of municipal sewage or drinking water treatment plants, replacement of sewer and water pipes, activities to facilitate compliance with primary national drinking water regulations and planning and design work.
- The Appropriations Committee will prioritize awarding projects on the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) State [Intended Use Plan \(IUP\)](#) that have been reviewed by DEP. PENNVEST outlines requirements for projects that received EPA STAG grant funding under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Program, available at: <https://www.pennvest.pa.gov/Information/Funding-Programs/Pages/default.aspx>
- Only publicly-owned or nonprofit entity owned service lines are eligible for funds. A public entity cannot apply for repairs on behalf of a private entity.
- There is a minimum 20 percent local cost share for earmarked projects.
- This account is in the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Bill.

*CDS proposed in FY25 in this account ranged between \$119,000 to \$2 million.*

## Transportation

The U.S. Department of Transportation supports a wide range of projects across all modes of transportation. Most of this funding is provided to states. It is important to note that nearly all transportation projects require coordination with the state and any applicable Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The Appropriations Committee prioritizes projects that are included in either the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), authored by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), or in a Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), authored by an MPO.

Given their cost and complexity, many large-scale transportation projects cannot be supported entirely through Congressionally Directed Spending, although an earmark may advance a component of a project or provide funding for planning. DOT's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is designed to provide direct support to county and municipal transportation priorities, such as the creation or expansion of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and projects funded under this authority are more likely to be fully funded through an earmark. This program, which falls within the Highway Infrastructure Program, may also support projects led by nonprofit organizations that have the support of their local communities.

*CDS proposed in FY25 in these accounts ranged from \$400,000 to around \$3.5 million.*

### Grants-in-Aid for Airports

- This program supports projects that are eligible to receive funding through the FAA's Airport Improvement Program, which awards grants for planning and construction of airport infrastructure including the construction or rehabilitation of runways and taxiways, airfield lighting, signage and drainage and safety improvements.
- Specific information required for these earmarks include listing the status of the planning and environmental work to help the Appropriations Committee address project readiness, a description of all other sources of funding contributing to the total cost of the project and a link to the airport master plan that includes the project that funds are being requested to support.
- This account is located in the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Bill.

### Facilities and Equipment for Terminal Air Traffic Control Facilities

- This account can support projects for the replacement of terminal air traffic control facilities.
- This account is located in the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Bill.

### Highway Infrastructure Program

- This authority covers projects that are eligible for funding under the major federal surface transportation programs, including highway and bridge construction and repair, planning, environmental reviews, design and right-of-way acquisition for eligible highway projects. Additional activities that can be supported with this type of earmark include projects eligible for funding under the Transportation Alternatives Program, which supports local priorities including bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.
- Any project seeking earmark funding will need support from the State and applicable MPO. It also must be included in the STIP or regional TIP.
- Specific information needed for this type of earmark includes the website link to the STIP or TIP where the project is described or listed, the project ID number in the STIP or TIP, all other sources of financing that contribute to the total cost of the project, and status of the planning and environmental work.
- If the project is not included in the STIP or TIP, the Appropriations Committee requires a letter from PennDOT that the project will be included in the STIP once earmark funding is received. If your project is not included in the STIP or TIP, please contact Senator Fetterman's office so staff can assist you on the steps for securing a letter from PennDOT to make the earmark request eligible for consideration.
- Note that any funding via HIP will be directed to PennDOT first and dispersed from there.
- This account is located in the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Bill.

### Transit Infrastructure Grants

- This category of funding includes a range of transit infrastructure projects, including projects that can compete for funding from the Federal Transit Administration's Buses and Bus Facilities Program, the Low or No Emission Vehicle Program, the competitive grant program for ferry services in urbanized areas, technical assistance, and transit workforce.
- Any project seeking earmark funding will need support from the State and applicable MPO and be included in the STIP or regional TIP.



- Specific information needed for this type of earmark includes the website link to the STIP or TIP where the project is located, the project ID number in the STIP or TIP, listing all other sources of financing that contribute to the total cost of the project, and listing the status of the planning and environmental work to help the Appropriations Committee address project readiness.
- If the project is not included in the STIP or TIP, the Appropriations Committee retains the discretion to fund projects that receive a letter from the State that the project will be included in the STIP once earmark funding is received.
- If your project is not included in the STIP or TIP, please contact Senator Fetterman's office so staff can assist you on the steps for securing a letter from PennDOT to make the earmark request eligible for consideration.
- This account is located in the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) bill.

#### Transportation Planning, Research, and Development (TPR&D)

- The applicants can request CDS within the TPR&D account for transportation research projects eligible under title 23 or title 49 of United States Code. Planning for specific local highway, transit, or rail projects that are eligible under HIP, TIG, or CRISI should NOT be included in this account. Applicants are encouraged to use this account for national or regional research and development projects.
- This account is located in the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Bill.

#### Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works

- Through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Congressionally Directed Spending may fund projects to dredge federally authorized waterways and harbors, provide the federal share of environmental studies of large projects, and conduct surveys to identify future dredging needs. To qualify for dredging by USACE, a project must be located in an existing federal channel or have a federal project authorization. It must also have a disposal site for dredged material identified and approved by the state.
- Funding for Army Corps projects available for CDS is located in the Energy and Water Development Bill.

## Criminal Justice and Emergency Operations

### **Criminal Justice**

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) provides funding to local law enforcement agencies for the purchase of modern equipment and a wide range of criminal justice programs including law enforcement training, community relations, planning and evaluation, and other critical areas.

*CDS funding requests in FY25 ranged from \$120,000 to \$2 million.*

#### Department of Justice Byrne JAG Discretionary Projects

- This program has a wide range of allowable uses of funds, such as providing additional personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical assistance, and information systems for criminal justice systems, including the development of new Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) programs. ○ DOJ has published FAQs that provide greater details on eligible activities under the Byrne JAG program at: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/jag/overview>
- This account is located in the Commerce, Justice, and Science Bill.

#### DOJ COPS Law Enforcement Technology

- Eligible uses of funds include the acquisition of equipment, relevant support systems for the new equipment, and development of new technologies aimed at preventing, rather than reacting to crimes.
- This account is located in the Commerce, Justice, and Science Bill.

### **Emergency Operations**

- These projects, funded by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), must include a written letter of support from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) verifying that the project is eligible to receive funding to be considered for CDS funding.
- Please contact our office so staff can assist you with steps for securing a letter from PEMA to make the earmark request eligible for consideration.

### Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Grant Program

- This grant program provides resources to ensure continuity of operations for centers in major disasters, including for construction or renovation needs. ○ Projects must meet the EOC Grant Program's environmental and historic preservation requirements to be considered for funding.
- These projects maintain the authorized cost-share agreement of 75 percent federal funding, 25 percent local funding.
- This account is located in the Homeland Security Bill.

### Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Projects

- This grant program provides resources to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to plan for and implement sustainable cost-effective measures designed to reduce the risk to individuals and property from future natural hazards, while also reducing reliance on federal funding from future disasters.
- Projects must have a letter of approval from PEMA.
- These projects have a cost share of at least 25 percent non-federal funding. ○ This account is located in the Homeland Security Bill.

*CDS funding for this account in FY25 ranged from \$750,000 to \$3 million.*

## Health Care Services and Facilities

### Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) provides funding to state, county, and municipal governments, as well as partner nonprofit health care providers, to enhance the ability of the local community to respond to pressing health care needs, including the construction of facilities, capital equipment purchases, and rural health needs.

These accounts are located in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Bill.

*CDS funding requests under this account in FY25 ranged from \$20,000 to \$3 million.*

### **Health Facilities Construction and Equipment**

- Eligible uses of funding include renovation, or capital equipment purchase for facilities for health, mental health, substance abuse services, training of health professionals, or medical research. Very limited-scope construction necessary to install equipment may also be eligible.
- 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.
- Congressionally Directed Spending cannot be used for previously completed work, the acquisition of land or purchase of existing buildings, or to pay for salaries or operating costs of the health care facilities. General feasibility studies for a health care facility are also prohibited expenses, but architectural and engineering costs with an eligible construction project are permissible uses of funds.
- Funding may also be used to purchase capital equipment involved in patient care, such as lab equipment, x-ray machines, or other equipment with a useful life of more than a year and a unit cost of at least \$5,000.
- The costs of expendable supplies such as pharmaceuticals, lab chemicals, or office paper are not eligible for funding.

### **Rural Health**

- This program funds projects to improve health care in rural areas, including medical, dental, or mental health care services; health promotion and education; chronic disease management; telehealth services; and improvements to emergency medical services.

- Eligible applicants are county, municipal, or partner nonprofit health care providers that serve communities that meet HRSA's definition of a rural community.
- Please see HRSA's Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer to determine the specific eligibility for your project at: <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/rural-health>

### Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) provides a wide range of funding to create or expand the capacity of state, county, and municipal governments, as well as partner nonprofit health care providers to provide mental health or substance abuse treatment or prevention programs for local residents, such as through crisis stabilization centers. Note that no SAMHSA funding may be used for construction projects.

This account is located in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Bill.

#### **Mental Health**

- Eligible SAMHSA Mental Health projects include those to support programs that promote the prevention or treatment of mental health disorders, including rehabilitation, outreach, and other support services.

#### **Substance Abuse Treatment**

- This account provides resources to enhance programs that improve access, reduce barriers, and promote high quality, effective treatment and recovery services.

#### **Substance Abuse Prevention**

- Allowable uses of these SAMHSA funds for this program include projects to prevent the onset of illegal drug use, prescription drug misuse and abuse, alcohol misuse and abuse, and underage alcohol and tobacco use.

**Note:** For FY26 requests, the Senate Appropriations Committee has stipulated that SAMHSA funds cannot be awarded to projects which distribute sterile needles or syringes for I.V. drug injection; or requests which promote the legalization of illegal drugs or substances.

*CDS funding under this account in FY25 ranged from \$160,000 to \$524,000, although higher amounts are considered.*

## Seniors and Children

### Administration for Community Living's Aging and Disability Services Programs

This office provides funding for projects 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. Funds cannot be used for construction or renovation of facilities.

This account is located in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Bill.

*CDS funding under this account in FY25 ranged from \$125,000 to \$1.5 million.*

### Administration for Children and Families Programs

#### **Child Abuse Prevention**

- These funds are for projects that 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.
- This funding is located in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Bill.

*Proposed FY24 earmark projects under these accounts range from \$200,000 to \$1 million.*

#### **Social Services Research and Demonstration**

- Funds are available 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 could serve diverse populations including low-income individuals, children, youth, families, individuals with developmental disabilities, and tribal groups.
- Prior projects supported by Senator Fetterman in this account include diaper/children's clothing distribution and wrap around support for breast and ovarian cancer patients.
- Construction or renovation of facilities are not eligible uses of funds.

- This funding is located in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Bill.

*Proposed FY24 earmark projects under these accounts ranged from \$200,000 to \$650,000 although higher requested amounts are considered.*

## Small Business and Workforce Development

### **Small Business**

#### U.S. Small Business Administration

The majority of programs within the U.S. Small Business Administration may be earmarked for county and municipal governments and their nonprofit partners to receive funding and support local small businesses. These grants can range from delivering services on entrepreneurial development, financial literacy workshops, small business incubators, and support for historically underserved businesses. Funds can also be utilized for the construction or renovation of facilities that will provide these services.

Due to the prohibition on providing earmark dollars to for-profit entities, SBA earmark funding cannot be sub-granted to for-profit small businesses for their own use. Funds must be retained and utilized by the county, municipality, academic institution, or partner nonprofits (including non-profit labor union affiliates) to deliver services or trainings directly to small businesses.

- Funding via the U.S. Small Business Administration is found in the Financial Services and General Government Bill.

*CDS requests in FY25 under this account ranged from \$174,000 to \$1 million.*

### **Workforce Development**

#### Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (ETA)

Under this authority, CDS funds may be used by county, municipal, partner nonprofit organizations, K-12 school systems, or institutions of higher education to enhance Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) eligible activities. Eligible programs for funding include those designed to provide direct services to individuals to enhance their employment opportunities, training for locally available, in-demand jobs, enhancing connections between a State and local workforce investment system; or evaluating existing workforce investment systems for potential future enhancements.

- Funding via the ETA is in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Bill.

*CDS requests in FY25 under this account ranged from \$331,000 to \$1 million although higher request amounts are considered.*

## Education and Research Opportunities

### **Department of Education**

The U.S. Department of Education provides federal funding to enhance K-12, Higher Education and Rehabilitation Services programs provided by nonprofit organizations, local school systems or institutions of higher education. In general, ED earmarks may not be used for the construction or renovation of facilities.

*CDS requests in FY25 under these accounts ranged from \$200,000 to \$1.2 million.*

#### Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE)

- In general, the focus of elementary and secondary education CDS requests should be providing early childhood or K-12 educational services 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.
- In addition, CDS awards to provide and improve special education services at the elementary and secondary levels are also eligible under this program. Eligible projects may include early intervention services for infants and toddlers, transition services and postsecondary education services.
- Eligible grantees are nonprofit organizations, state education agencies, school districts and colleges and universities. Daycare and childcare projects that do not include educational services are not eligible for funding.
- This account is located in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Bill.

#### Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)

- Generally, requests should focus on improving access to, or the quality of, postsecondary education. Examples 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.

- Eligible entities include nonprofit organizations and colleges and universities.
- CDS funding within FIPSE cannot be used for endowments or for the construction or renovation of facilities, except in the case of minor remodeling or minor alterations in previously completed building, for example, as part of technology upgrades.
- This account is located in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Bill.

## **Scientific Research Opportunities**

In addition to the Department of Education, several federal agencies with science and research priorities also offer earmark opportunities to support educational institutions in enhancing their academic missions.

*CDS requests from FY25 under these accounts ranged from \$1 million to \$2,650,000.*

### NOAA Operations, Research, and Facilities (ORF) Special Projects

- Projects seeking funding in this category are expected to address fisheries, marine, mammals, ocean, climate, weather and atmospheric research programs.
- Construction projects will not be accepted.
- This account is located in the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Bill.

### NIST Scientific and Technical Research and Services (STRS) External Projects

- NIST Scientific and Technical Research and Services funding supports projects that address standards-related research and technology development.
- Construction projects will not be accepted.
- This account is located in the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Bill.

### NIST Construction of Research Facilities, Extramural Construction

- NIST Extramural Construction supports non-federal research facilities, including for projects at research institutions and colleges and universities.

- Given the significant investments necessary for construction projects, only a limited number of projects are supported on an annual basis nationwide. (In FY24, a total of 7 projects were funded in this category.)
- If you are interested in pursuing funding in this category, please reach out to my staff.
- This account is located in the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Bill.

#### Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Buildings and Facilities

- This account is used to fund deferred maintenance needs at federal research facilities operated by USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS).
- There are two ARS facilities in Pennsylvania: the Eastern Regional Research Center in Wyndmoor, PA and the University Park Center in State College, PA. Funding requests are limited to these two facilities under this account.
- This account is located in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Bill.

#### National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Research and Facilities Act Program (NIFA RFAP)

- Eligible qualifying institutions (Land Grant Universities, Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture, and other eligible entities as defined in section 7 U.S.C. 6971(f)(1)(C)) may request funds for constructing, purchasing, updating, renovating, or modifying agricultural research buildings to conduct research in the areas of agriculture and food sciences.
- Eligible uses: site design, purchase and installation of permanently affixed equipment for research, as well as for construction or renovation of buildings or sites for agricultural research facilities or other facilities that store agricultural research experimental samples.
- **CDS recipients must provide a 100% non-federal match for any RFAP award.** Recipients cannot move forward without a commitment to match funding before obligation.
- Not more than 3 percent of the CDS funding shall be available to pay for administrative costs.
- Construction projects are subject to requirements under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, and must comply with Build America Buy America (BABA) requirements.
- This account is located in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Bill.

### NASA Safety, Security and Mission Support (SSMS)

- Projects seeking funding in this category should focus on science education, research, and technology development related to NASA's mission.
- Medical research projects and projects at NASA-owned Visitor Centers or a state's designated Space Grant Consortium are not eligible for this funding.
- This category does not fund construction, but it can be used for equipment, research, or education programs.
- This account is located in the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Bill.

## Key Staff Contacts

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