



## **FY27 Appropriations Guidance**

March 2026

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# Introduction to Appropriations and Congressionally Directed Spending

## **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/fy26-submitted-appropriations-projects/>

## **Programmatic Requests**

In addition to CDS, there is another type of appropriations request called Programmatic Requests. These 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.

## FY27 Appropriations Timeline & Dates to Remember

Funding for Congressionally Directed Spending projects hinge on Congress passing annual appropriations bills, which is inherently a political process. As such, Senator Fetterman's office is unable to provide an exact timeline. Below is a rough timeline of the process:

**March 6, 2026** – Senator Fetterman's CDS application portal goes live.

**March 23, 2026** – CDS applications are due to Senator Fetterman's office **by 11:59pm**. **Late submissions will not be accepted or reviewed.**

**April 20, 2026** – Programmatic applications are due **by 11:59pm**. **Late submissions will not be accepted or reviewed.**

**Note:** Deadlines for Programmatic, VAMilcon CDS, or Energy and Water CDS requests are subject to change based on the President's budget being made public.

**April/May 2026** – Senator Fetterman selects which CDS projects to submit to the Senate Appropriations Committee for funding consideration.

**June/July 2026** – Senate Appropriations Committee reviews Senator Fetterman's requests and makes the final determination on project funding.

**Late Summer/Early Fall 2026** – Senate and House Appropriations Committee releases draft FY27 Appropriations bills following subcommittee markups.

**Winter 2026** – Congress passes a funding package, which *should* include funding for Senator Fetterman's CDS 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 2027** – Respective federal agencies will reach out to awardees and before funds can be spent. Some recipients will receive their funds earlier, 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-CDS 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 FY27 CDS funds to reimburse activities that have already been done before the FY27 bill is signed into law. If you get funding included in the bill, in most cases you will need to wait until you sign a grant agreement with the respective agency you are getting funding from before you can spend the funding.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **1. 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 you're applying to, there could be a local match requirement that may need to be satisfied (Ex. USDA Rural Development Community Facilities).

### **2. 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 of 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 March 23rd, 2026 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 after the deadline.

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

Yes, Senator Fetterman's office coordinates with other Pennsylvania Congressional offices, regardless of political party. We try to align our requests as much as possible to yield more CDS funding for Pennsylvania.

### **4. 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 via CDS or other federal grants in his decisions on which applications to support.

**5. 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 any issues your application may have encountered in the past.

**6. 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](https://sam.gov) and having a Unique Entity ID (UEI) number which is required to receive federal funding.

**7. Can I have another organization apply for funding on my behalf?**

No, you must apply on your own behalf. Any application which intends to have funding diverted from a CDS award to another entity that isn't the recipient is considered sub-granting, which is not permitted by Committee rules.

**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 has their own process to disburse CDS funds. For example, some agencies will reimburse the recipient, others provide 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. Does CDS funding expire?**

Yes, when you sign a grant agreement with the federal agency, the amount of time you have to spend the funding is considered the “period of performance” which varies from agency to agency. Generally, you should aim to spend CDS funding within a year of signing the grant agreement.

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

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

**14. 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 by your respective U.S. House Representative – 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.
- **If applying for funding for construction,** remember that if you use CDS funding to even partially cover costs of a construction project, the entire project will need to be compliant with [Build America, Buy America \(BABA\) requirements](#).
- **Align the request with local needs 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.

- **All congressionally directed spending requests should include a project budget broken down by funding type AND component (see samples 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 the 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 – Fire House Construction)

- **\$40,000 for Building Design:** Covered by state funds, no need for CDS 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 the highest priority need for the project; includes stabilization and rehab of first floor, new doors and windows, and demolition of first floor kitchen space. \$250,000 covered by CDS
- **\$500,000 for Second Phase Construction:** No funding yet acquired, lower priority for funding if project must be scaled down; includes new construction of training area on back half of property. \$500,000 covered by CDS
- **\$940,000** is the total project cost, **\$750,000** of which is requested

#### Project Funding by Component (Program 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 you've acquired. If the account requires non-federal funding to 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 infrastructure or USDA Community Facilities project, a budget by funding source could look like the following:

##### Project Funding by Component (Water Main 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 local match*, funding secured.

## CDS Eligible Accounts

### Construction, Housing, and Rehabilitation of Infrastructure

#### Economic Development Initiatives (EDI)

- The EDI program supports projects that are generally eligible for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 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/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 subject to BABA requirements.
- This account is located in the *Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) bill*.

#### 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 but are not limited to: health care facilities, childcare centers, community centers, facilities for EMS personnel, community educational services for museums/libraries/schools; and/or food pantries.
- Only municipalities with populations of 20,000 or less are eligible to compete for this funding source (Population is based on 2020 Census figures)
- 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;
- To be eligible for a Congressional earmark, these requests **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.
- For a full list of eligible entities, uses, and limitations, please reference the Code of Federal Regulations, [7 CFR 3570.62](#) and [7 CFR 3570.63](#).
- This account is located in the *Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Bill*.

#### 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 teachers 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 purposes along with technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment.
- Broadband deployment is **not** an eligible use of DLT funds.
- The maximum grant size is \$1,000,000
- 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% local match requirement.
- This account is located in the *Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Bill*.

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

- The HPF program funds the preservation, rehabilitation, and conservation of nationally significant historic properties.
- HPF funding cannot be used for new construction, reconstruction, and acquisition of historic properties or collections.
- HPF 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.
- The maximum CDS funding amount is \$500,000 for any project requested under HPF.
- This account is in the *Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Bill*.

### 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 non-profit 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% local cost share for earmarked projects.
- This account is in the *Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Bill*.

## U.S. Department of Agriculture Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program

- CDS recipients for WFPO must have a local sponsor. Eligible local sponsors can be any State, political subdivision, soil or water conservation district, flood prevention or control district, or combinations thereof; any irrigation or reservoir company or water users' association; or any Indian tribe or tribal organization.
- Any individual project may not exceed a watershed or sub-watershed size of 250,000 acres. At least 20% of the project's benefits must be directly related to agriculture.
- Projects are required to complete a four-step process including:
  1. Preliminary feasibility study (PIFR)
  2. Watershed Plan development
  3. Implementation of Watershed Plan
  4. Commencement of construction for authorized watershed conservation
- If a project is a "new start," it is eligible only for PIFR funding at a level of \$55,000. Funding cannot be requested for stages 2-4 until the PIFR is completed (this includes projects where the PIFR is in progress).
- Submitted projects funding requests should be nearing the construction stage.

## General Services Administration (GSA) Federal Buildings Fund, Construction and Acquisition or Repairs and Alterations

- Construction projects are typically for new, GSA-owned federal courthouses, federal office buildings, or land ports-of-entry.
- Repair projects must be core GSA-owned courthouses, office buildings, or land ports-of-entry in need of either basic or major repairs or alterations.
- Please note: Eligible projects do not include state or county facilities, DoD facilities, VA facilities, or transportation infrastructure facilities.

## Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

### (FOR MILITARY ENTITIES ONLY)

- The following accounts are eligible for CDS requests:
  - Military Construction, Army
  - Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps
  - Military Construction, Air Force (including Space Force)
  - Military Construction, Defense-Wide
  - Military Construction, Army National Guard
  - Military Construction, Air National Guard
  - Military Construction, Army Reserve

- Military Construction, Navy Reserve
- Military Construction, Air Force Reserve
- Projects funded via this account may include major construction, unspecified minor military construction, and planning and design.
- Only certain major military construction projects within these accounts are eligible for CDS. Eligible projects can be found on three types of lists:
  - Future Years Defense Program (FYDP)
    - Each military department, to include the Guard and Reserve, as well as Defense-Wide agencies, plans its major military construction program five years into the future. FYDPs identify these future planned projects, which are candidates for CDS requests.
  - Unfunded Requirements/Priorities Lists (UFR/UPL)
    - In addition to the annual budget request, and as required by law, each military department submits to the congressional defense committees a document identifying unfunded priorities that could be funded if additional appropriations were provided.
  - Cost-to-Complete (CTC)
    - Variables such as construction market conditions can affect cost estimating throughout the military construction programming process, and as such, DOD can experience cost increases that cannot be sufficiently covered by available appropriated funding.
    - In these cases, the military departments may submit a list of projects -- separate from the budget request -- that have received an authorization and appropriation but require additional funding to be completed.
- Eligible major military construction projects must be:
  - Authorized in the FY2027 or prior year National Defense Authorization Act,
  - At 35% design or higher with a DD 1391 (a form required by the DOD, containing scope and cost estimates, an assessment of the current requirements, justification for the project, and anticipated contracting and construction timelines),
  - Prepared to award a contract in FY2027.

### 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.

- Requested projects must meet the eligibility requirements of the PDM grant program, including the non-federal cost-share requirement, benefit-cost ratio, hazard mitigation plan, and environmental and historic preservation requirements.
- Projects must have a letter of approval from PEMA and a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan (HMP).
- These projects have a cost share of at least 25% non-federal funding.
- This account is located in the *Homeland Security Bill*.

## 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.

### Grants-in-Aid for Airports

- This program supports projects that are eligible to receive funding through the FAA's Airport Improvement Program, under chapter 471 of title 49, United States Code (<https://www.faa.gov/airports/aip/overview>).
- Awards can cover 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 assess project readiness and a link to the airport master plan that includes the project that funds are being requested to support.

- As AIP CDS follows the existing AIP statute, the Federal cost-share requirements still apply to CDS.
  - For large and medium primary hub airports, CDS can cover 75% of eligible costs (or 80% for noise program implementation);
  - For small primary, reliever, and general aviation airports, CDS can cover a range of 90-95% of eligible costs, based on statutory requirements.
- This account is located in the *Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Bill*.

### Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP)

- 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 (TIG)

- 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*.

#### Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI)

- This program provides funding for projects that improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of intercity passenger and freight rail. This includes all rail capital projects eligible under section 22907 of title 49, United States Code.
- Project funding can be requested for rail projects that are not currently on the PA State Rail Plan, but for which a State rail agency or State DOT has provided a letter confirming that:
  - The project is eligible for rail funding under section 22907 of title 49, United States Code;
  - The PA Department of Transportation, or other relevant PA state agency is willing to carry out the project if funding is enacted;
  - The PA Department of Transportation will include the project on the State Rail Plan once funding for the project is enacted.

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

- Applicants may 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*.

## Energy and Water Development

### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Civil Works

- EWD will only consider CDS requests for USACE items in the following accounts
  - Corps of Engineers: Investigations
  - Corps of Engineers: Construction
  - Corps of Engineers: Operation & Maintenance
  - Corps of Engineers: Mississippi Rivers & Tributaries: Investigations
  - Corps of Engineers: Mississippi Rivers & Tributaries: Construction
  - Corps of Engineers: Mississippi Rivers & Tributaries: Operation & Maintenance
- Through the USACE, CDS 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 be approved by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).
- 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.

### DOJ Byrne Discretionary Projects

- This program has a wide range of allowable uses of funds as long as they have a nexus to the criminal justice system, such as providing additional personnel, equipment, training, technical assistance, and information systems for criminal justice systems, violence intervention programs, including development of new Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) programs.
- Police departments, municipalities, and non-profit organizations may apply.
- Funding can **not** be used for land acquisition or construction.

- 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 crimes rather than reacting to them.
- Applicants are advised to consult the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#) for any questions on eligibility.
- This funding cannot be used for construction projects.
- This account is located in the *Commerce, Justice, and Science Bill*.

## **Emergency Operations**

### 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, 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 a project is eligible to receive funding to be considered for CDS funding.
- Please contact our office at [appropriations@fetterman.senate.gov](mailto:appropriations@fetterman.senate.gov) so staff can assist you with steps for securing a letter from PEMA to make the earmark request eligible for consideration.
- These projects maintain the authorized cost-share agreement of 75 percent federal funding, 25% local funding.
- This account is located in the *Homeland Security Bill*.

## 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 non-profit health care providers, to enhance response to pressing health care needs, including construction of facilities or capital equipment purchases.

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

### **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. For example, electrical upgrades to install a new CT scanner should 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 capacity of state and local governments, as well as partner nonprofit health care providers, to provide mental

health, substance abuse treatment, or prevention programs for local residents, such as through crisis stabilization centers.

- SAMHSA funding may not be used for construction projects.
- SAMHSA funding must fall under one of the following categories
  1. **Mental Health:** projects/programs that promote the prevention or treatment of mental health disorders, including rehabilitation, outreach, and other support services.
  2. **Substance Abuse Treatment:** projects/programs that improve access, reduce barriers, and promote high quality, effective treatment and recovery services.
  3. **Substance Abuse Prevention:** projects/programs to prevent the onset of illegal drug use, prescription drug misuse and abuse, alcohol misuse and abuse, and underage alcohol and tobacco use.

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

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

Office of National Drug Control Policy, Administrative Provision (Prevention Grants):

- Applications for this account should focus on evidence-based drug-related projects, such as primary prevention of substance use disorder.
- Preferred prevention programs would include community-based coalitions which, as part of their application, propose data-driven, evidence-based prevention interventions; have established measurable objectives; and proposed implementing a comprehensive mix of strategies.
- Drug-Free Communities (DFC)-funded coalitions recently trained by CDC to implement Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) as part of their substance use prevention efforts are recommended.
- Allowable expenses include building rent and equipment.
- Unallowable expenses include (but are not limited to) real property purchases, and construction or renovation costs.
- Please note: Programs should not be substance specific and treatment programs are not eligible.
- This account is located in the *Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill*.

## 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*.

### Administration for Children and Families Programs

#### **Child Abuse Prevention**

- These funds are for projects that improve prevention, assessment, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect through research, model service improvement, information dissemination, and technical assistance.
- Projects must serve abused and/or neglected children and their families.
- This funding is located in the *Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Bill*.

#### **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*.

## Small Businesses and Workforce Development

### **Small Businesses**

#### U.S. Small Business Administration Administrative Provisions

- 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 training directly to small businesses.
- Funding via the U.S. Small Business Administration is found in the *Financial Services and General Government Bill*.

### **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 ETA is in the *Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Bill*.

## 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.

#### 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 buildings, 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.

### 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 FY26, a total of 10 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).
  - Requests for ARS B&F may only include funding for existing facilities or facilities where funding has been provided in the past.
- 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% of a CDS award 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*.

## General Government Services and Archiving

### USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Salaries and Expenses

- Requests for APHIS S&E must align with APHIS' mission and must meet environmental review requirements (i.e., NEPA and ESA).
- The period of availability for APHIS CDS will be one-year funding (i.e., until the end of the fiscal year).
- This account is located in the *Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Bill*.

### National Archives and Records Administration, National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)

- This account supports projects to help ensure online public discovery and use of historical records collections, encourage public engagement with historical records, strengthen the nation's archival network, or publish documentary editions of historical records.
- This includes initiatives like record digitization, programming, and online availability of records.
- This funding is found in the *Financial Services and General Government Bill*.

### National Archives and Records Administration, Repairs and Restoration

- This account supports projects that dedicate funding for one or more of the 15 presidential libraries established under the Presidential Libraries Act.
- This funding is found in the *Financial Services and General Government Bill*.

### U.S. Forest Service (USFS), State, Private, and Private Forestry, Forest Resource Information and Analysis

- This 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.
- The purchase of equipment must comply with 2 CFR 200.313 and .316, including that the primary recipient is required to manage and track the equipment.
- Funds within this account can **not** be used for general research, capital improvements, or projects on federal land.
- Recipients can **not** receive funding for the same project that has received funding through other Forest Service grants and agreements.
- This account is in the *Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Bill*.

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