



# Community Project Funding

## What You Need to Know to Compete

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Presented in partnership with:



# The Federal Appropriations Process



## Federal Budget and Appropriations Process

- President's Budget Request
  - If it is in the President's budget request, it is not an earmark
- Appropriations Committees
  - Earmarks happen here
  - 12 Subcommittees; 10 are considering earmark requests

## Member Appropriations Requests

- Programmatic Requests
  - \$X to fund a specific program
- Language Requests
  - Bill or report language that directs, encourages a specific action by agency
- Congressionally Directed Spending, Earmarks and Community Project Funding
  - Funding for a specific entity to carry out a specific project or activity

## History of Earmarks

- How much was earmarked?
  - Roughly 1 percent of discretionary spending
  - Far less of overall spending
    - The last year of earmarks about \$16 billion was allocated through earmarks out a \$3.5 trillion annual federal budget
- Where did the money go?
  - Thousands of communities to address gaps in competitive programs
- Deficit spending - earmarks are not the cause



# What is Community Project Funding?



# General House Appropriations Committee Guidance

- Portal open March 29 – April 15
  - Reopen after President's budget request for a few programs
- Project Submission Deadlines
  - Most subcommittee deadlines occur in mid-April
- Cap Community Project Funding at 1% of domestic discretionary funding

# General House Appropriations Committee Guidance

- Member Limit -- Members limited to 10 Community Project Funding requests across all appropriations bills
- Public Transparency
  - Members must post their Community Project Funding requests online and certify they have no financial interest in the requested project
  - Committee will establish one-stop webpage for the public



# General House Appropriations Committee Guidance

- Public agencies and non-profits
  - Ban on direct Community Project Funding to for-profit entities
- Project Specifics/Justification
  - Proposed recipient, contact information
  - Amount of request
  - Explanation of request, purpose and justification – why an appropriate use of taxpayer funds

# Senate Committee Requirements

- No specifics announced yet

# What Funding is Available?



# Agriculture and Rural Development

- Rural Community Facility Grants
  - Grants to purchase, construct, or improve essential community facilities, to purchase equipment, and pay other related project expenses
  - All community support services covered – healthcare, public safety, educational and others
- ReConnect Grants
  - Grants to facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas
  - Covers construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment

# Commerce, Justice, and Science

- Department of Justice
  - Byrne Justice Assistance Grants
    - State, local and tribal law enforcement efforts to prevent crime, improve the criminal justice system, provide victims' services, and other related activities
- COPS Technology and Equipment
  - Community project grants for State, local, and tribal law enforcement to develop and acquire technologies and interoperable communications to assist in investigating, responding to, and preventing crime

# Energy and Water Development

- Corps of Engineers
  - General Investigations
  - Construction
  - Operation and Maintenance
- Bureau of Reclamation
  - Water and Related Resources
    - Certain WIIN Act authorized excluded
- Requests due following submission of the President's budget request



# Financial Services and General Government

- Small Business Administration
  - Small Business Initiatives
    - Funds projects such as entrepreneur training, workforce development, counseling, research, and construction or acquisition of facilities

# Homeland Security

- Federal Emergency Management Agency
  - Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants
    - Covers implementing cost-effective hazard mitigation planning and projects before disasters occur
    - Must meet most recent BRIC NOFA requirements
  - Nonprofit Security Grants (New earmarks account in FY 2022)
    - Must meet most recent NOFA requirements; does not cover construction
    - Covers training, planning and acquisition and installation security equipment to prevent and/or protection against the risk of a terrorist attack
  - Emergency Operations Center Grants
    - Must meet most recent NOFA requirements – FY 2011
    - Centers that provide continuity of operations and continuity of government in major disasters or emergencies caused by any hazard

# Interior and Environment

- Land and Water Conservation Fund
  - Due following President's budget submission
  - Land and water acquisition for land and habitat conservation, outdoor recreation
- Environment Protection Agency
  - State and Tribal Assistance Grants
    - All SRF eligible water projects;
- U.S. Forest Service
  - State and Private Forestry Projects (New earmark account for FY 2022)
    - Urban and community forestry projects
    - Specific fire prevention, disease or pest treatment-related projects

# Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education

- Department of Labor
  - Training and Employment Services
    - Job training; no facilities
- Department of Health and Human Services
  - Health Resources and Services Administration
    - Facilities, rural health outreach and research, and telehealth programs
  - Center for Mental Health Services
  - Center of Substance Abuse Treatment
  - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention

# Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education

- Department of Education
  - Innovation and Improvement
    - Funds for 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
  - Higher Education
    - Hire and train faculty, 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
    - No construction funding allowed

# Transportation and Housing and Urban Development

- Department of Transportation
  - Local Transportation Priorities (New earmark account in FY 2022)
    - Highway and transit capital projects
  - Airport Improvement Program
    - Airport development and planning
      - Enhancing airport safety, capacity, and security, and mitigating environmental concerns
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
  - Economic Development Initiative
    - Economic development; housing rehabilitation; property acquisition; rehabilitation of publicly-owned property; construction, reconstruction, or installation of public facilities; and public works and other site improvements





# How Can My Project Make the Top Ten?

# Choose the Right Project

- Can the project funding be obligated within federal FY 2022 (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023)?
- What is the impact of the project to economic development, COVID recovery, climate resiliency, and environmental justice?
- Is there a local match available?
- Would the federal funding “finish” the project or fill a gap in funding?
- What is the regional, statewide, or national significance of the project?

# Complete the Forms

- Demonstrate local need while also justifying federal investment in the project
- Provide all background materials and answer all questions asked
- Supply as much of a detailed budget as possible
- Ensure you complete forms on time for both your Member AND the appropriate subcommittee

# Project Advocacy

- Focus on high priority projects and issues
- Present projects to Congressional delegation
- Coordinate with your team
- Washington D.C. advocacy trip or virtual meetings
- Consistent communications with congressional delegation and federal agencies
- Engage local, regional, and state stakeholders

# Thank you!



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