Guidance for Applying for Fiscal Year 2026 Community Project Funding Requests for Maryland's 8th Congressional District

Overall Guidance for Fiscal Year 2026

The House Appropriations Committee majority has made updates to the Community Project Funding (CPF) process for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026. **Interested applicants should carefully review the Committee's overall guidance, and the requirements and application questions for each CPF account. This information is compiled for your convenience in this guide.**

Key Points

- CPF requests are limited to specific eligible accounts.
- For-profit entities are not eligible for CPF funding – only public entities, such as state and local governments, or 501(c)(3) nonprofits are eligible recipients. Certain accounts have further eligibility restriction – for example, non-profit organizations are no longer eligible recipients for T-HUD Economic Development Initiatives (EDI) projects.
- The final continuing resolution for FY 2025 excluded all CPF funding. You may resubmit projects you previously submitted to our office for FY 2025 for consideration in FY 2026. If you plan to resubmit a project you previously submitted to our office for FY 2025, please ensure all information is up-to-date and accurate.
- CPFs must be for FY 2026 funds only and cannot include requests for multi-year funding.
- Some projects require a state or local funding match. The Committee will not waive these matching requirements for Community Project Funding requests, so it is vitally important that applicants demonstrate their ability to meet matching requirements.

Community Support

When preparing your applications, please enclose materials that illustrate community support for your project. This could include the following (please note this is not an exhaustive list):

- Letters of support from elected community leaders.
- Press articles highlighting the need for the requested community project funding.
- Support from newspaper editorial boards.
- Projects listed in state intended use plans, community development plans, or other publicly available planning documents.
- Resolutions passed by city councils or boards.
- Other compelling evidence of community support

Thank you for your interest in applying for Community Project Funding through the Office of Congressman Jamie Raskin!

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Overall FY 2026 CPF Guidance from House Appropriations Committee

Below is a summary of the [overall guidance](#) that the House Appropriations Committee issued to Members of Congress regarding the CPF process for Fiscal Year 2026. Our office's application for each CPF-eligible account is based on this overall guidance, the relevant Subcommittee's requirements, and the specific account's requirements (all of which are detailed in this guide).

Cap on Overall Funding: The total amount for Community Project Funding in House appropriations bills will not exceed one half of one percent of discretionary spending.

Cap on Member Requests: Members may submit a maximum of 15 requests across bills.

Federal Nexus Requirement: In order to ensure a federal nexus exists for each funded project, the Committee will only fund projects that are tied to a federal authorization law. Members must include a written statement describing the federal nexus for each Community Project Funding request. Subcommittee guidance will include example language Members can use to make the required statement.

No Memorials, Museums, or Commemoratives: Memorials, museums, and commemoratives (i.e., projects named for an individual or entity) are not eligible for Community Project Funding. Many are eligible for competitive grants, and Members can request higher program funding levels.

Stewardship Requirements: Funded projects will follow applicable requirements in the authorized programs that support good stewardship of taxpayer dollars. For example, programs may require a non-federal cost-share and participation in program audits.

Careful Vetting of Projects: Subcommittee chairs are expected to establish additional project criteria to ensure only high-quality projects are requested and funded. They are encouraged to reject any project that does not merit federal taxpayer funding. Funding decisions will depend on the availability of funds, demand for projects, and merit of individual projects.

Ban on For-Profit Recipients: Project funding may not be directed to for-profit recipients. Members may request funding for State, local, or tribal governmental grantees and certain eligible non-profits, as allowed under federal law and subcommittee guidance.

>**HUD Economic Development Initiative ("EDI"):** In FY 2026, only governmental entities and public institutions of higher education will be eligible for EDI projects.

Demonstrations of Project Merit and Support: Members must provide evidence of the project's merit and community support.

All Requests Online: Members are required to post every project funding request online, in a searchable format, with their final submission to the Committee. The final submission date occurs after a 2-week technical assistance period, and the date will be clearly noticed in each subcommittee's guidance. In addition, the Committee will establish an online "onestop" site with links to all House Members' project requests.

Audits and Oversight: The Government Accountability Office (GAO) will conduct an independent audit of a sample of enacted projects and report its findings to Congress.

Early Public Disclosure: House rules require disclosure of Community Project Funding before the bill is on the floor, but the House Appropriations Committee will publish online a list of projects earlier – on the same day as the bill's initial markup.

Committee Reports: When reporting bills containing Community Project Funding, the Committee will identify each item, including the name of each requesting Member, in the corresponding committee report or joint explanatory statement and make it available online in a searchable format

Agriculture Subcommittee

Community Project Funding Request Guidance

The Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Agriculture will only accept Community Project Funding requests from the following accounts:

1. Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Operations
2. Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities
3. Rural Housing Service, Community Facilities
4. Rural Utilities Service, ReConnect Program
5. Rural Utilities Service, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants
6. Rural Utilities Service, Rural Water and Waste Disposal Grants

A description for each of these six accounts follows the list of questions below. **Please carefully review the account description before filling out the application form.** The quality and fullness of your responses will greatly affect the Committee's award decisions.

All CPF requests must meet applicable eligibility requirements for the program in which the request is made, including underlying statutory and regulatory requirements (most notably applicable cost share requirements and eligible activities). Any CPFs that are funded in an appropriations bill will need to apply to USDA for the award. The application will be reviewed for compliance prior to official award. **To ensure your projects meet eligibility requirements for the Rural Development and Natural Resources Conservation Service accounts, you must consult with your respective State Rural Development or State Conservation office, which can be found below. Failure to confirm eligibility with the State Offices may result in a project not being considered.**

- Rural Development: https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/state-offices
- Natural Resources Conservation Services: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservationbasics/conservation-by-state/state-offices

Additional guidance on Community Project Funding requests for eligible accounts follows.

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Community Facilities Grants
Community Project Funding

Rural Development Community Facilities Grant projects purchase, construct, or improve essential community facilities, to purchase equipment, and pay other related project expenses. Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to: medical or dental clinics, healthcare facilities, police or fire departments, and public works vehicles.

Project requests for non-essential facilities such as community gardens or museums will not be considered. Priority will be given to essential projects, such as those focused on public health and safety.

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

The applicant's submission must demonstrate community support. Applicants should ensure that their request provides the most complete description of the project as possible. Submissions should include details on all proposed use of funds, activities that will occur, timeline, and detailed information on the complete service territory.

Such requests are also subject to non-federal cost share requirements specified in 7 CFR 3570.63(b). Please review program regulations carefully. In-kind contributions and other federal formula or grant resources cannot be counted towards match requirements.

Community Facilities grants cannot be used to pay initial operating expenses or annual recurring expenses, refinance existing debt, pay interest, build or repair facilities in non-rural areas, or pay for construction costs of facilities that will be used for commercial rental space.

The State Rural Development Office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility and non-federal cost share requirements. For Fiscal Year 2024, the average Community Facilities CPF award was about $1.2 million.

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, ReConnect Program
Community Project Funding

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

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

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

Applicants are strongly encouraged to include information in their requests, such as the number of households, businesses, or farms will be served in the area, what the performance of the service to be offered will be, and whether healthcare or educational facilities will be served.

Additionally, when submitting a request, applicants are reminded that all policies and procedures apply, including environmental and related reviews and the non-federal cost share requirement of 25% of the overall project cost. Policies and procedures can be found at https://go.usa.gov/xexPT.

USDA's Rural Development office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility. For Fiscal Year 2024, the average ReConnect CPF award was nearly $1.2 million.

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants
Community Project Funding

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

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

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

The State Rural Development Office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility. For fiscal year 2024, the average DLT CPF award was $600,000.

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Waste Disposal Grants
Community Project Funding

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

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

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

The State Rural Development Office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility. For fiscal year 2024, the average Water and Waste CPF award was nearly $1.5 million.

Guidance for Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities
Community Project Funding

Agricultural Research Service projects can be used to repair, renovate, or replace existing ARS laboratories and facilities.

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) owns and operates laboratories and facilities across the United States. Many of these laboratories/facilities are decades old, have outlived their functional lifespan, and are badly in need of major repairs, renovation, or replacement. Requests can assist in the acquisition of land, construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities as necessary to carry out the agricultural research programs of the Department of Agriculture.

Facility requests must be for ARS-owned facilities or for facilities that are already partnering with ARS. Universities seeking new agricultural and/or veterinary facilities or labs are not eligible.

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

Requested funding for new facilities that do not have an existing ARS tie <u>will not</u> be considered.

Guidance for Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Operations Community Project Funding

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

Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide details on the work to be done, including if the project will conduct surveys, investigations, or research, and if there is a plan to publish the results of any such work. Applicants should also describe any preventive measures to be taken, such as engineering operations, methods of cultivation, or changes in use of land.

For FY26, the subcommittee will only consider projects for funding recipients that are state, local, and Tribal organizations, or conservation districts. Non-profit recipients <u>will not</u> be considered.

The State Conservationist is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility. House CPFs in the account averaged about $1.3 million in FY24.

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Community Project Funding Request Guidance

The Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies will only accept Community Project Funding requests from the following accounts:

1. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Scientific and Technical Research
2. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Zone Management
3. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (Byrne Justice Grants)
4. Department of Justice (DOJ) Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Technology and Equipment
5. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Safety, Security and Mission Services

A description for each of these five accounts follows the list of questions below. **Please carefully review the account description before filling out the application form.** The quality and fullness of your responses will greatly affect the Committee's award decisions.

All CPF requests must meet applicable eligibility requirements for the program in which the request is made, including underlying statutory and regulatory requirements (most notably applicable cost share requirements and eligible activities).

Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide a detailed budget breakdown for how the funding is anticipated to be spent (e.g., what types of gear or services the funds will be used to buy; or how research dollars will be spent).

Please do not specify brand names for equipment and technology requests.

If your entity is a non-profit organization, please submit evidence that the recipient is a non-profit organization as described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Guidance for National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Scientific and Technical Research Community Project Funding

NIST Scientific and Technical Research projects support standards-related research and technology development.

Purpose

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

Note: Funding for building construction or renovation projects <u>is not an eligible use of</u> NIST Scientific and Technical Research Community Project Funding.

Non-Profits

Projects with non-profit recipients, such as universities, are eligible recipients.

Guidance for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Zone Management Community Project Funding

NOAA Coastal Zone Management projects support the protection, restoration, and responsible development of our nation's diverse coastal communities and resources.

Purpose

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

Cost-Share Requirements

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

Guidance for Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (Byrne Justice Grants)
Community Project Funding

DOJ Byrne Justice Grants projects assist state, local, and Tribal law enforcement efforts to enforce laws, address violent crime, increase prosecutions, improve the criminal justice system (including the correctional system), provide victims' services, and other related activities.

Purpose

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

Prohibited Uses

34 U.S.C. 10152(d) provides:
(d) Prohibited uses
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, no funds provided under this part may be used, directly or indirectly, to provide any of the following matters:
1. *Any security enhancements or any equipment to any nongovernmental entity that is not engaged in criminal justice or public safety.*
2. *Unless the Attorney General certifies that extraordinary and exigent circumstances exist that make the use of such funds to provide such matters essential to the maintenance of public safety and good order-*
   a. *vehicles (excluding police cruisers), vessels (excluding police boats), or aircraft (excluding police helicopters);*
   b. *luxury items;*
   c. *real estate;*
   d. *construction projects (other than penal or correctional institutions); or*
   e. *any similar matters.*

In addition, the Chairman will not support the use of Byrne Justice Grants Community Project Funding for the following:
- Initiatives that involve the distribution of drug paraphernalia.
- Initiatives that undermine the 2nd Amendment or infringe upon rights guaranteed by the Constitution without due process of law.
- Initiatives that appear to be anti-law enforcement or unrelated to criminal justice.
- Larger projects for the construction or renovation of penal or correctional institutions that will exceed the capability of single-year funding.

Non-Profit Entities

Projects with non-profit recipients may be eligible, so long as the purpose is to carry out work that closely aligns with the purposes of the Byrne Justice Grants program. Such projects will be closely examined.

Requirements

- Awarded grants will be subject to the requirements of 2 CFR Part 200 and the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide.](#)
- Below are the links to the Department's guidance and frequently asked questions regarding the Byrne Justice Grants program, which may help guide you in gauging the eligibility of a proposed Byrne Justice Grants project:
    - https://bja.ojp.gov/program/jag/overview
    - https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/jag-faqs.pdf
- Allowable costs are those costs consistent with the principles set out in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E, and those permitted by the grant program's authorizing legislation.

Guidance for Department of Justice (DOJ) Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Technology and Equipment
Community Project Funding

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

Purpose

Funding must be aligned with the purposes of section 1701(b)(8) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10381(b)(8)). As such, the Chairman will consider projects to develop and/or acquire technologies and equipment, including interoperable communications technologies, modernized criminal record technology, and forensic technology, to assist State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies, including by reorienting the emphasis of their activities from reacting to crime to preventing crime and training law enforcement officers to use such technologies.

Notes:

- Eligible recipients for COPS Technology and Equipment Community Project Funding are State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies.
- Funding for building construction or renovation projects is not an eligible use of COPS Technology and Equipment Community Project Funding.

Guidance for National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Safety, Security and Mission Services
Community Project Funding

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

Purpose

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

Note: The following projects will not be considered for NASA Safety, Security and Mission Services Community Project Funding:
- Building construction or renovation projects.
- Medical research projects.

Energy and Water Community Project Funding Request Guidance

The Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Energy and Water will only accept Community Project Funding requests from the following accounts and only in accordance with existing authorizations:

1. <u>Army Corps of Engineers (Civil Works)</u>
   a. Investigations
   b. Construction
   c. Mississippi River and Tributaries
   d. Operation and Maintenance
2. <u>Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Reclamation</u>
   a. Water and Related Resources

Not all programs within these accounts will be open for Community Project Funding requests.

A description for each of these accounts follows the list of questions below. **Please carefully review the account description before filling out the application form.** The quality and fullness of your responses will greatly affect the Committee's award decisions.

Within the Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation, the Committee will accept program requests for additional funding above the budget request for categories of projects (e.g., navigation maintenance, flood control studies, etc.). If the project is authorized and the scope of work to be funded is within existing authorizations, it may be eligible as a CPF under the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill. **Projects not already authorized are not eligible as CPFs under this bill.**

A CPF Request is only necessary to request an increment of funding or scope above and beyond the President's budget request. For example, a CPF request to support $5 in addition to the President's budget request for Project A. A CPF request to support $15 for Project A would not be acceptable. To support the funding level and scope of a project included in the President's budget request, please submit a program request.

Guidance for Army Corps of Engineers (Civil Works) Services

Community Project Funding

Purpose

The project must fall within one of the following categories in order to be eligible:

- Investigations
- Construction
- Mississippi River Tributaries
- Operation and Maintenance

Focus

The Subcommittee may need to focus fiscal year 2026 resources on making progress on ongoing projects, in order to maximize federal benefits. If so, new starts may be very limited, if included at all. While new start requests will be accepted, entities should consider this limitation when submitting applications.

The Subcommittee may need to focus fiscal year 2026 resources on projects in the main mission areas of the Corps (navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, environmental restoration), in order to maximize federal benefits. If so, environmental infrastructure (EI) projects may be very limited, if included at all.

Guidance for Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Reclamation: Water and Related Resources Community Project Funding

Prohibited Uses

Projects authorized **only** under section 4007, 4009(a), or 4009(c) of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-332) are **not** eligible as CPF requests under the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill.

Homeland Security Funding Request Guidance

The Subcommittee on Homeland Security has sole jurisdiction over funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Prior to submission, please ensure that all CPF, program, and language **requests are germane to DHS and are aligned to the appropriate agency, directorate, or office, and budget account within the database.**

There are two Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant programs within the Subcommittee on Homeland Security's jurisdiction that are open to CPF requests: **Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)** grants and **Emergency Operations Center (EOC)** grants. Please review the purpose and eligibility requirements, including any environmental and historic preservation requirements, for these two grant programs to ensure proper consideration of the applicant's request.

Over the past few funding cycles, FEMA found that many CPF requests lacked the necessary details to determine grant eligibility. **While the database will limit project summaries to 1,000 characters, applicants are highly encouraged to separately upload detailed project descriptions for each PDM or EOC request.** For each project description, please include a detailed budget describing how the requested federal funding will be used and confirm the ability of the requesting entity to meet the cost-share requirement.

While the subcommittee will try to provide the full federal cost share for funded Community Project Funding, overall demand may limit the ability to do so. **Applicants are encouraged to make clear the minimum amount of federal funding for a project required in order for it to move forward.**

Cost-Share Requirements

The PDM and EOC grant programs have cost-share requirements. Federal funding is available for up to 75 percent of the eligible activity costs. The remaining 25 percent of eligible activity costs must generally be derived from non-federal sources. **The non-federal cost-share contribution is calculated based on the total cost of the proposed activity.** For example, if the total cost is $100,000 and the non-federal cost-share is 25 percent, then the non-federal contribution is $25,000. For PDM grants, small, impoverished communities are eligible for up to a 90 percent federal cost-share for their mitigation planning and project sub-applications in accordance with the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. § 5133(a),(h)(2)).

Guidance for Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants
Community Project Funding

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

For PDM grant requests, the application includes specific eligibility questions to ensure the proposed project meets FEMA's requirements as detailed in the most recent Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program. The subcommittee encourages offices to consult with their State Hazard Mitigation Officers when answering the questions in the database. **Applicants must answer <u>all</u> the eligibility questions in the database for a request to be considered**.

For any PDM projects designated for funding in the FY 2026 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, the respective State or Territorial Administrative Agency, or Tribal government, must submit an application to FEMA and serve as the administrative agent for the grant on behalf of the entities responsible for the project (grant subrecipients). **Each project request <u>must</u> be accompanied by a letter from the respective State or Territorial Administrative Agency, or Tribal government, in order to be considered for funding.**

CPF funding in the FY 2024 House bill ranged between $75,000 and $10,000,000 for individual PDM grants.

Guidance for Emergency Operations Center Grants
Community Project Funding

FEMA's EOC grants improve emergency management and preparedness capabilities by supporting flexible, sustainable, secure, strategically located, and fully interoperable EOCs with a focus on addressing identified deficiencies and needs.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, an EOC is defined as a "facility or capability from which direction and control is exercised in an emergency. This type of center or capability is designated to ensure that the capacity exists for leadership to direct and control operations from a centralized facility or capability in the event of an emergency."

Similar to CPF requests for PDM grants, the database includes specific eligibility questions for EOC grants to ensure the proposed project meets FEMA's requirements as detailed in the most recent NOFO for the competitive EOC Grant Program. **Applicants must answer all the eligibility questions in the database for a request to be considered**.

For any EOC projects designated for funding in the FY 2026 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, the respective State or Territorial Administrative Agency, or Tribal government, must submit an application to FEMA and serve as the administrative agent for the grant on behalf of the entities responsible for the project (grant subrecipients). **Each project request must be accompanied by a letter from the respective State or Territorial Administrative Agency, or Tribal government, in order to be considered for funding.**

CPF funding in the FY 2024 House bill ranged between $89,000 and $3,000,000 for individual EOC grants.

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Community Project Funding Request Guidance

For FY 2026, the Interior Subcommittee will only accept Community Project Funding (CPF) requests in the Environmental Protection Agency – State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) account for certain clean water and drinking water infrastructure projects.

Projects must meet the eligibility criteria of the relevant Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) programs, including for the purposes authorized by federal law and all underlying federal requirements pursuant to Title VI of the Clean Water Act (CWSRF) and Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (DWSRF).

There is a minimum 20% cost share requirement for any portion of a project funded through a STAG CPF and the subcommittee will not waive matching requirements.

Below are EPA brochures on eligibility guidelines for the CWSRF and DWSRF programs.

- EPA's Overview of Clean Water State Revolving Fund Eligibilities
- EPA's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Eligibility Handbook

Frequently Asked Questions

What types of entities are eligible to receive EPA CPF funding?

- Public entities should be considered the primary recipients to oversee the completion of a CPF project. State, municipal, local, territorial, or Tribal governmental entities are the most common recipients of CPF funding. For drinking water projects, the recipient must be a public water system.
- The subcommittee does not allow for-profit recipients and privately-owned projects, even if otherwise eligible under the CWSRF and DWSRF programs.
- Non-profits will be considered on a limited basis at the discretion of the Chairman, as non-profit partners with an inherent governmental function are occasionally used to complete water projects.

What types of projects are ineligible?

The subcommittee will not fund projects, or the portion of a project, for the direct benefit of resorts, golf courses, athletic fields, park amenities, gardens, or similar projects.

Are flood control projects eligible?

Projects solely for flood control, including construction or rehabilitation of dams, are not eligible. It is possible for an eligible project to have a flood control benefit, but the project must achieve a water quality benefit, which must be specified by the applicant in their submission. For example, a stormwater pump to direct water to a stormwater treatment plant is eligible, but a stormwater pump to move water to another location without treatment is not eligible.

Are irrigation projects eligible?

Projects for the sole purpose of irrigation are only eligible if the project uses reclaimed water from wastewater, stormwater, or subsurface drainage water.

Are fire suppression projects eligible?

Projects for the sole purpose of fire protection or suppression are not eligible. It is possible for an eligible project to have a fire suppression benefit, as water systems are typically designed to accommodate fire flow demands, but the primary purpose of the project must be for the provision of safe drinking water.

Can a CPF project include road repairs?

The cost of road repairs is eligible in limited circumstances to the extent that such repairs are required to undertake the CPF water quality improvement project. Road construction for transportation improvements or flood mitigation (such as redirecting drainage or channeling flows) is not eligible.

What about projects for the purpose of attracting future economic growth?

Drinking water infrastructure projects must serve the public health needs of the existing population. A project may be sized for a reasonable amount of population growth over the useful life of the project. However, a drinking water project may not be for the purpose of anticipating or attracting future growth or development. Clean water infrastructure projects do not have this restriction.

Is ongoing operation and maintenance an eligible expense for a CPF?

No, ongoing operations and maintenance is not an eligible CPF expense and should not be included in the requested project amount.

Can a CPF be used to reimburse an entity that has already incurred project costs?

Yes, but the costs 1.) Must be for an otherwise eligible clean or drinking water project 2.) Must be in conformance with applicable federal and EPA statutes and regulations (ex: Build America Buy America Act, Davis Bacon Act, environmental reviews) and 3.) Are only eligible for FY 2026 CPF funding if the costs are incurred on or after October 1, 2025. All costs incurred are at

the risk of the entity and EPA will review each reimbursement CPF project on a case-by-case basis to determine whether the incurred project costs are CPF eligible.

Does a project have to be on a state IUP list in order to be eligible for a CPF?

A project is not required to be on a State Intended Use Plan (IUP), but projects already listed on an IUP are usually eligible to receive CPF funding and can be an easy positive identifier of eligibility. Projects that are already on an IUP are typically aware of the applicable SRF requirements.

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

- **One-year funding -** Each project request must only be for FY 2026 funds and only include an amount that the recipient can reasonably obligate within one year (one year from the date the recipient receives the funds, not one year from the enactment of a final bill). Requests cannot include multi-year funding. The same project can receive funding across multiple years in a phased approach but must be requested again in the subsequent year(s).
- **Matching requirements -** There is a minimum 20% cost share requirement for any portion of a project funded through a STAG CPF. For example, if the total amount of a project is $1 million, the entity could receive a maximum of $800,000 from the federal government, with the remaining $200,000 the responsibility of the entity. In this case, the submission for this project should be $800,000.
  - Other federal funds generally cannot be used to meet the 20% cost share requirement, with some exceptions. Additionally, non-federal assistance provided by a SRF can be used as part of the project's matching requirement.
  - It is important that applicants discuss with their State and local officials the ability for localities to meet matching requirements prior to requesting a project. This does not mean that matching funds must be in-hand prior to requesting a project, but that local officials must have a plan to meet such requirements.
- **Project Amounts -** Applicants should use the range of project amounts funded in prior years as a general guide when making requests. In FY 2024, most EPA STAG infrastructure projects funded in the House bill ranged from $100,000 - $5,000,000. The Committee may consider higher or lower project amounts for FY 2026, and any caps will be determined by the Chairman after reviewing the full universe of requests.
- **Contact Information -** The point of contact is the individual who will be primarily applying for, and managing, the project. It is very important to include accurate and complete contact information for the point of contact because it is shared with EPA for outreach and application instructions for projects that receive funding in an enacted bill. Accurate information will help ensure efficiency in awarding funding.
- **Project Description -** The project description is used to evaluate the eligibility of a project. It is not possible to determine eligibility solely with terms such as "wastewater

upgrade" or "water quality improvement project." Please provide as much detail about the project as possible, such as: "upgrade of wastewater treatment plant to tertiary treatment," "extension of wastewater collection system to replace failing household septic systems," "upgrades to filtration and disinfection at drinking water treatment facility", or "extending public water system distribution by 1500 linear feet to serve existing households."

- **Community Support Letters.** Community engagement and support is crucial in determining which projects are worthy of federal funding. Only projects with demonstrated community support will be considered. To demonstrate evidence of community support, applicants must also submit community support letters as part of their requests. Applicants may submit the following:
  - Letters of support from elected community leaders (e.g., mayors or other officials) or newspaper editorial boards;
  - Press articles highlighting the need for the requested Community Project Funding projects;
  - Projects listed on State intended use plans, community development plans, or other publicly available planning documents; or
  - Resolutions passed by city councils or boards.

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

<table>
<tr><th colspan="4">Projects that are NOT generally eligible for STAG Grants</th></tr>
<tr><th colspan="2">Clean Water / Wastewater</th><th colspan="2">Drinking Water</th></tr>
<tr><td>1.</td><td>**Land,** except for projects described in the subsequent table under eligibility #11.</td><td>1.</td><td>**Dams or rehabilitation of dams.**</td></tr>
<tr><td>2.</td><td>**Operations and maintenance costs.**</td><td>2.</td><td>**Operations and maintenance costs.**</td></tr>
<tr><td>3.</td><td>**Non-municipal point source control.**</td><td>3.</td><td>**Water rights,** except if the water rights are owned by a system that is being purchased through consolidation as part of a capacity development strategy or if the water rights purchase is covered by EPA's DWSRF Class Deviation for Water Rights 2019.</td></tr>
</table>

4.	**Acid rain drainage correction.**	**4.**	**Reservoirs,** except for finished water reservoirs and those reservoirs that are part of the treatment process and are located on the property where the treatment facility is located.
5.	**Ambient water quality monitoring.**	**5.**	**Laboratory fees for monitoring.**
6.	**Flood Control Projects**, unless the project is otherwise managing, reducing, treating, or recapturing stormwater.	**6.**	**Projects needed mainly for fire protection.**
7.	**Privately owned sewer pipes.**	**7.**	Projects for systems that lack adequate technical, managerial, and financial capability, unless assistance will ensure compliance.
		8.	Projects for systems in significant noncompliance, unless funding will ensure compliance.
		9.	Projects primarily intended to serve future growth.

Projects that ARE generally eligible for STAG Grants			
	Clean Water / Wastewater		**Drinking Water**
1.	**Wastewater treatment plants, including sludge handling facilities:** Upgraded (increase in treatment level) or expanded (increase in treatment capacity) facilities, including biological facilities, mechanical, a lagoon system, a land treatment system, or individual on-site systems.	**1.**	Facilitate compliance with national primary drinking water regulations or address serious risks to public health including non-regulated contaminants (i.e., PFAS).
2.	**Collector Sewers:** Small sewers that convey wastewater from residences, commercial establishments, and industrial sites to larger interceptor sewers.	**2.**	Rehabilitate or develop water sources (excluding reservoirs, dams, dam rehabilitation and water rights) to replace contaminated sources.

3.	**Interceptor Sewers:** Large sewers that convey wastewater from collector sewers directly to a wastewater treatment facility.	3.	Install or upgrade treatment facilities.
4.	**Sewer Pipes:** Rehabilitation is eligible only if pipes are publicly owned.	4.	Install or upgrade storage facilities, including finished water reservoirs, to prevent microbiological contaminants from entering the water system.
5.	**Outfall Sewer:** A sewer that conveys treated wastewater from a wastewater treatment facility to the receiving waters (i.e., a river, stream, lake, ocean, etc.).	5.	Install or replace transmission and distribution pipes to prevent contamination caused by leaks or breaks in the pipe or improve water pressure to safe levels.
6.	**Storm Water Management:** Measures to manage, reduce, treat, or recapture stormwater or subsurface drainage water (i.e., storm sewers, green infrastructure, etc.).	6.	Projects to consolidate water supplies – for example, when individual homes or other public water supplies have a water supply that is contaminated, or the system is unable to maintain compliance for financial or managerial reasons – are eligible for DWSRF assistance.
7.	**Combined sewer overflow (CSO) control and sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) control:** Combined sewers are sewers that convey both wastewater and storm water and may overflow during periods of heavy rain. The costs to correct CSO and SSO overflow problems are eligible.	7.	Land is eligible only if it is integral to a project that is needed to meet or maintain compliance and further public health protection.
8.	**Infiltration/Inflow Correction:** Construction activities that prevent surface water or groundwater from entering the sewer system.	8.	Project planning, design, and other related costs.
9.	**Water Security:** These projects include installation or upgrade of physical security infrastructure such as lighting, fencing, monitoring and access control. Also, cybersecurity measures, installation of safer treatment technologies, and more secure storage of on-site treatment.		
10.	**Septic Tanks:** Remediation, rehabilitation, removal and replacement of failing tanks are eligible, as well as		

	installation of new tanks where none had previously existed.		
11.	**Land:** The leasing and fee-simple purchase of land, including surface and subsurface easements, needed to locate eligible municipal or tribal projects, and land integral to the treatment process (e.g., land for effluent application or recharge basins), and a place to store equipment and material during POTW construction. Municipal purchase of land and/or conservation easements for source water protection are also eligible.		
12.	**Water Reuse:** Projects involving the municipal reuse or recycling of wastewater, stormwater, or subsurface drainage water. This includes but is not limited to the purchase and installation of treatment equipment sufficient to meet reuse standards, distribution systems to support effluent reuse, recharge transmission lines, injection wells, and equipment to reuse effluent (e.g., gray water, condensate, and wastewater effluent reuse systems).		
13.	**Capital Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects:** E.g., river or streambank restoration, agricultural best management practices (i.e., buffer strips, manure containment structures), wetlands restoration, etc.		

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Guidance

All **Community Project Funding requests** must meet the eligibility requirements for the specific account in which the project is funded. Only certain Department of Defense (DoD) accounts in the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies bill are in this category.

Community Project Funding requests must follow the guidelines included in this section. Each project request must be for fiscal year (FY) 2026 funds only and cannot be for multiyear funding. In addition, requested projects must meet the following criteria:
- Be included on an unfunded requirements/unfunded priorities list (UFR/UPL) from a military service or combatant command or the FY26-FY30 Future Years Defense Program (FYDP).
  - o Projects suggested by an installation or unit commander which are not included in the above documents will not be accepted.
- Have at least 35 percent of its design completed.
  - o For projects that have not reached 35 percent design, planning and design funding can be requested.
- Able to be obligated in FY 2026.
- Submitted to the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) for inclusion in the FY 2026 National Defense Authorization Act or previously authorized.
- Have a DD Form 1391, which is DoD's justification for military construction projects.

Construction and Unspecified Minor Construction – Active Components

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

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

Construction and Unspecified Minor Construction – Reserve Components

Eligible Community Project Funding requests include both construction and unspecified minor military construction projects for Reserve Components in the accounts listed below. An unspecified minor military construction project is a project that has an approved cost equal to or less than $9,000,000. ***Note: Some Reserve Component projects require a State funding match.*** The Committee will not waive match requirements.

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

Sources of Eligible Community Project Funding Projects

Eligible Community Project Funding requests are those that are submitted to Congress by DoD, the Services, and Combatant Commanders.

Sources include:
- **Unfunded Requirements/Unfunded Priorities Lists (UFR/UPL)** – UFRs/UPLs are lists that the Services and Combatant Commanders provide to Congress identifying priority projects that were not included in the President's budget request. UFRs/UPLs are available to Congress within ten days of the release of the President's budget.

- **Future Year Defense Program (FYDP)** – The FYDP is a projection of the forces, resources, and programs needed to support DoD operations over a five-year period. The FYDP is released simultaneously with the President's budget request. The FY26-30 FYDP listing the military construction projects that may be eligible for Community Project Funding in FY 2026 can be obtained through the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) website: https://comptroller.defense.gov/Budget-Materials/. The website will likely become updated following the release of the President's FY2026 Budget.

The Committee may limit the number and amount of any Community Project Funding in FY 2026, based upon the availability of funds. Any caps will be determined by the Chair after reviewing the full universe of requests.

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Guidance

The Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies will only accept Community Project Funding requests from the following accounts:

1. Transit Infrastructure Projects
2. Highway Infrastructure Projects
3. Airport Improvement Program Projects
4. Port Infrastructure Development Program Projects
5. Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Projects
6. Community Development Fund – Economic Development Initiative (EDI)

A description for each of these six accounts follows the list of questions below. **Please carefully review the account description before filling out the application form.** The quality and fullness of your responses will greatly affect the Committee's award decisions.

All CPF requests must meet applicable eligibility requirements for the program in which the request is made, including underlying statutory and regulatory requirements (most notably applicable cost share requirements and eligible activities).

Demonstration of Community Support:
Projects must have substantial evidence of community support to be considered for funding. Community support documentation can include letters from elected officials and community groups, local transportation or community development plans, publications (including news articles), and any other documents that demonstrate public support for the project.

Guidance for Department of the Transportation (DOT) Transit Infrastructure Projects
Community Project Funding

Transit Infrastructure Projects are public transportation capital projects eligible under chapter 53 of title 49 of the United States Code.

All projects must be:

1. Transit capital projects or project-specific planning[1] for a transit capital project;
2. Supported by the state, local governmental authority, or Tribal government that would administer the project. Inclusion in a Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) or Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) would satisfy this requirement; and
3. Sponsored by designated or direct recipients, States (including territories and the District of Columbia), local, or tribal governmental authorities.

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

The Subcommittee will not fund activities that are administrative in nature even if they are eligible expenses under the statutory citation. These include but are not limited to general operating expenses, joint development projects, and planning activities authorized under sections 5303, 5304, and 5305 of title 49, United States Code.

Additionally, most projects will be subject to various Federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Subcommittee will continue to treat the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program as programmatic requests and will not fund CIG projects under Transit Infrastructure Projects.

Any projects for which the sponsor is seeking or will seek a CIG grant will not be considered.

[1] For capital projects, eligible planning expenses are limited to pre-construction activities such as final design, engineering, location surveying, mapping, and acquiring right of way (ROWs).

Guidance for Department of the Transportation (DOT) Highway Infrastructure Projects
Community Project Funding

Highway Infrastructure Projects are capital projects eligible under title 23 of the United States Code. Eligible projects are described under Section 133(b) of title 23, United States Code, as amended by title III of division A of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Tribal and territorial capital projects authorized under chapters 1 and 2 of title 23, United States Code, are also eligible.

All projects must be:
- Capital projects or project-specific design for a capital project.
- Supported by the state or Tribal government that would administer the project. Inclusion in a Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) or Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) would satisfy this requirement.
- Requested by state, local, or Tribal entities.

The Subcommittee will not fund activities that are administrative in nature even if they are eligible expenses under the statutory citation. These include general operating expenses, and planning activities required under sections 134 and 135 of title 23, United States Code.

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

Additionally, most projects will be subject to various Federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, and the National Environmental Policy Act. The Committee strongly encourages potential funding recipients to reach out to their state departments of transportation to determine the eligibility and viability of projects.

Guidance for Department of the Transportation (DOT) Airport Improvement Program (AIP)
Community Project Funding

AIP community project funding requests are intended to enhance airport safety, capacity, and security, and address environmental issues.

All projects must be:
- AIP eligible in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 47100 et seq., and FAA policy and guidance.
- Included in the FAA's National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS).
- Supported broadly by local stakeholders, including residents, businesses, and elected officials.
- Administered by an airport and/or airport sponsor.

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

Cost Share:
For large and medium primary hub airports, the grant covers 75 percent of eligible costs (or 80 percent for noise program implementation). For small primary, reliever, and general aviation airports, the grant covers a range of 90-95 percent of eligible costs, based on statutory requirements. Specific cost share requirements should be understood by the grantee, and verified by the FAA Regional District Office, along with other requirements to receive FAA funding.

Guidance for Department of the Transportation (DOT) Port Infrastructure Development Program
Community Project Funding

Port Infrastructure Development Program projects are projects eligible under [Section 54301 of title 46,](#) United States Code, as amended by title XXXV of division C of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024.

The Subcommittee will only fund projects that meet eligibility criteria and will be administered by eligible applicants, as described by statute. As a reminder, funding may not be directed to forprofit recipients. Due to the limited amount of total CPF funding, priority will be given to projects at small inland river and coastal ports and terminals, as described in 46 U.S.C. 54301(b), and to discrete, smaller-scale projects at larger ports and intermodal connections to ports.

This program has a statutory non-Federal matching requirement, with potential exceptions for small and rural area ports. Applicants should review 46 USC sections 54301(a)(8) and 54301(b) for more information on these cost-share requirements before submitting requests for funding. Note that recipients are also required to comply with reviews and audits from the Department of Transportation.

Additionally, these projects may be subject to various Federal requirements such as Buy America and the National Environmental Policy Act. The Committee strongly encourages potential funding recipients to reach out to their local port authorities to help determine the eligibility and viability of projects.

Guidance for Department of the Transportation (DOT) Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI)

Community Project Funding

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

All projects must be:
- Rail capital projects, systems planning for a rail capital project, or project development for a rail capital project (e.g., NEPA and preliminary engineering);
- Supported by the state, local governmental authority, or Tribal government that would administer the project; and
- Sponsored by State, local, or Tribal entities.

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

Projects will be subject to various Federal requirements such as competition in contracting, non-federal share requirements, Buy America, and the National Environmental Policy Act. For more on 49 U.S.C. 22905(c) Rail Improvement Grant Conditions, see FAQ here.

The Committee also strongly encourages project sponsors to review the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Capital Project Guidance to ensure the lifecycle stage of the project matches the requirements.

Guidance for Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Fund - Economic Development Initiative (EDI) Community Project Funding

==Please note: In a change from some prior years issued by the House Republican Majority, the ONLY eligible recipients for Community Project Funding in the Economic Development Initiative account are the following types of governmental entities and public institutions of higher education. Nonprofit entities are not eligible to apply, and applicants are limited to the following entities:==

- States and the District of Columbia
- Territories
- Tribal governments
- Counties
- Cities, towns, parishes, or other local government entities
- Public colleges and universities, including community colleges, all Historically Black Colleges and Universities defined as a "part B institution" in section 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061), and all Tribal Colleges and Universities as defined in section 316 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c) .

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

Project requests for the FY 2026 Economic Development Initiative program must be consistent with the goals of one or more of the following eligible uses of the Community Development Fund (CDF): 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2), 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(4), and 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(5). These statutory eligibilities focus on land or site acquisition, demolition, or rehabilitation; blight removal; and construction and capital improvements of public facilities, except for "buildings used for the general conduct of government."[1]

Similar to FY 2025, programmatic and operational expenses are <u>not eligible.</u>

> **5305(a)(1)** – the acquisition of real property (including air rights, water rights, and other interests therein) which is (A) blighted, deteriorated, deteriorating, undeveloped, or inappropriately developed from the standpoint of sound community development and

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

growth; (B) appropriate for rehabilitation or conservation activities; (C) appropriate for the preservation or restoration of historic sites, the beautification of urban land, the conservation of open spaces, natural resources, and scenic areas, the provision of recreational opportunities, or the guidance of urban development; (D) to be used for the provision of public works, facilities, and improvements eligible for assistance under this chapter; or (E) to be used for other public purposes;

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

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

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

Given that projects must be consistent with authorized purposes, the Committee expects to prioritize funding for the following types of projects:
- Water or sewer infrastructure projects, which are not otherwise eligible to be funded as CPFs in EPA STAG (Interior bill) or Rural Water and Waste Disposal (Agriculture bill);
- Local road infrastructure, which is not otherwise eligible as a CPF in Highways (in this bill);
- Streetscape improvements;
- Housing rehabilitation or construction, residential conversions, and neighborhood revitalization projects, which would increase housing supply and/or improve housing affordability in the local community;
- Projects with a clear economic development benefit for a community or region, such as workforce training centers; and
- Projects that meet a compelling local need consistent with statutory purposes. For example, food banks in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods, youth and senior centers, and multipurpose community centers would be strong submissions.

All projects will be evaluated based on the individual submissions and will be selected based on the merits of the project relative to other projects and the availability of CPF funding.

The following types of projects are <u>NOT</u> eligible for CPF funding:
- Museums, commemoratives, and memorials;
- Swimming pools, water parks, ski slopes, and golf courses;

- Healthcare facilities;
- Venues strictly for entertainment purposes – e.g., theaters, amphitheaters, fairgrounds, and performing arts centers;
- Strictly research or planning activities; and
- Buildings for the general conduct of government (courthouses, post office, city halls), which are not allowed under the statute.

Demonstration of Community Support: Projects require substantial evidence of community support to be considered for funding. Community support documentation can include letters from elected officials and community groups, local transportation or community development plans, publications including news articles, and any other documents that demonstrate public support for the project.

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

Reminder on Buy America Preference (BAP): The "Buy America Preference" (BAP), in the Build America Buy America (BABA) Act within the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58), requires that all iron and steel, construction materials, and manufactured products used in federally funded infrastructure projects are produced in the United States. Effective February 22, 2024, BAP applies to iron and steel for all EDI grantees, and effective August 23, 2024, this will extend to construction and manufacturing materials as well.

In addition to meeting the above eligibility criteria, all projects must meet these Committee requirements:
- Projects submitted under 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1)(C) will be disfavored if the only or primary purpose of the project is "beautification" or historic preservation, without evidence of other community development or economic development benefits.
- Applicants are required to provide a valid Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) and/or Employer Identification Number (EIN) for each potential EDI recipient, as well as the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), which is an entity's official identifier for conducting business with the federal government. If an entity does not presently have a UEI, they can register for one at SAM.gov.

NOTE: Political subdivisions and school districts/boards may not have their own unique TIN or UEI. In this case, we recommend naming the recipient as the legal entity under which they are formed and naming the political subdivision in the project description (e.g., "City of Alexandria/For the Department of Public Works' roadway improvements").

Planning and administrative costs: These costs can be incurred after the date of final enactment. However, if the recipient incurs soft costs after enactment, but before the grant agreement is executed, they do so at their own risk. If the project is found to be ineligible by HUD or the grant agreement is never signed, HUD cannot reimburse for those soft costs. Hard costs (construction activities) can **only** be incurred after the successful completion of the required environmental review.