

# Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee Guidance on Submitting Requests for Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS)

CDS should fund local projects that further the missions of CJS agencies by increasing the understanding of the oceans and the atmosphere, protecting our communities, and promoting space- or standards- related science. Funding recipients must be governmental or non-profit entities, and requesting Members must comply with Senate Rules, meet Appropriations Committee transparency requirements, and ensure the recipients are not for-profit companies, as described above.

The CJS Subcommittee will accept CDS in the following accounts:

- “Department of Commerce; National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST); Scientific and Technical Research Services (STRS); External Projects”;
- “Department of Commerce; NIST; Construction of Research Facilities”;
- “Department of Commerce; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); Operations, Research, and Facilities (ORF); Special Projects”;
- “Department of Justice; Office on Justice Programs; State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance; Byrne Discretionary”;
- “Department of Justice; Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS); COPS Law Enforcement Technology”; and
- “National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Safety, Security and Mission Support”.

The Subcommittee recommends that CDS projects create jobs, advance research and development, or save lives. CJS CDS projects should not be viewed as continuous funding sources and should be distinct from competitive grant opportunities at the relevant agencies. CDS projects should be viewed as a way to jump start an activity – not sustain it over time. 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.

All CJS CDS requests must include:

- **Project Name** – Name of the project or program in which it is proposed to be funded (can be the same as project purpose below).
- **Project Purpose** – It should not be the name of an existing program, project, or activity, but rather a description unique to your CDS request.
- **Justification** – This description should provide a brief (250 words or less) summary of the project including its purpose, goals, history, and current status, as well as the justification for the project (i.e., why funding is in the interest of taxpayers). The description should explain how the money will be spent (i.e., \$ -x- for salaries; \$ -x- for programming; \$ -x- for equipment; etc.) Please be specific when describing the activities and expenditures. The justification should also state what performance standards will be used to measure whether this project has achieved its objectives. This description must be complete on its own and may not simply incorporate supporting materials by reference. Senators may make a longer case for proposed CDS spending in the letters sent to the Subcommittee.
- **Project City or County / Project State** – An accurate name for the specific location of the proposed activity. This information will be included in CDS public disclosure tables.
- **Recipient Name / Point of Contact Name, Phone Number, E-mail Address, and Mailing Address** – This information will not appear on public disclosure tables, but will be given to the executing agency.

In addition, Senators may also provide a website for the project in the Project Website field.

**NOAA ORF Special Projects.** The Subcommittee will accept requests for CDS for NOAA ORF. Projects should address fisheries, marine mammals, ocean, climate, weather, and atmospheric research and programs. Construction projects will not be accepted.

**NIST STRS External Projects.** The Subcommittee will accept requests for CDS for NIST STRS. Projects should address standards-related research and technology development. Construction projects will not be accepted.

**DOJ Byrne Discretionary.** The Subcommittee will accept requests for CDS for Byrne Discretionary projects to provide additional personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical assistance, and information systems for criminal justice systems. Awarded grants will be subject to the requirements of 2 CFR Part 200 and the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#). Allowable costs are those costs consistent with the principles set out in the 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E, and those permitted by the grant program's authorizing legislation. To be allowable under Federal awards, costs must be reasonable, allocable, and necessary to the project, and they must also comply with the funding statute and agency requirements. This funding cannot be used for land acquisition or construction. Senators should refrain from specifying brand names for equipment to ensure fair and open competition.

**DOJ COPS Law Enforcement Technology.** The Subcommittee will accept requests for CDS for COPS Law Enforcement Technology projects for the development of technologies and automated systems to assist law enforcement agencies in investigating, responding to, and preventing crime. Recipients shall include State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments and their public agencies (for example, police and/or sheriff's departments). Allowable activities are limited to the statutorily allowable purpose areas under the [COPS Office statute](#), including the procurement of equipment, technology, or support systems, and the development of new technologies to assist recipient entities in reorienting the emphasis of their activities from reacting to crime to preventing crime. Awarded grants will be subject to the requirements of 2 CFR Part 200 and the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#), and the applicable Award Owner's Manual. Senators should refrain from specifying brand names for equipment to ensure fair and open competition. Senators are cautioned against requests for vehicles and vessels that carry with them a high maintenance cost at the conclusion of the grant. Agencies should consider the full range of potential legal, constitutional, and civil liberties and privacy implications associated with generating, acquiring, or using technology or data. For example, agencies who purchase unmanned aircraft systems must be aware of the Federal requirements and best practices for their effective and safe operation that is respectful of civil liberties and maximize the safety of citizens ([see guidance](#)).

**NASA Safety, Security and Mission Support (SSMS).** The Subcommittee will accept CDS for NASA SSMS. Projects should focus on science education, research, and technology development related to NASA's mission. Medical research projects, Space Grant projects (which require a funding match), and projects at NASA-owned Visitor Centers are discouraged. This account does not fund construction but could be used for equipment, research funding, or education programs.

**NIST Construction of Research Facilities.** The Subcommittee will accept CDS for NIST Construction projects for non-Federal research facilities at research institutions and colleges and universities. However, given the significant investments necessary for construction projects, only a very limited number of projects will be able to be supported on an annual basis.