

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee Guidance on Submitting Requests for Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS)

The LHHS Subcommittee will accept requests for CDS. CDS should fund local projects that further the missions of LHHS agencies.

The LHHS Subcommittee will accept CDS requests in the following accounts:

- Department of Labor—Employment and Training Administration—Training and Employment Services
- Department of Health and Human Services—Health Resources and Services Administration—Program Management
- Department of Health and Human Services—Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration—Health Surveillance and Program Support
- Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Children and Families Services Programs
- Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Community Living—Aging and Disability Services Programs
- Department of Education—Innovation and Improvement—Fund for the Improvement of Education
- Department of Education—Rehabilitation Services—Demonstration and Training
- Department of Education—Higher Education—Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education

The LHHS Subcommittee will accept CDS requests for the following activities:

Department of Labor

Employment and Training Administration

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) demonstrations authority, within Training and Employment Services, is the only Department of Labor program that supports CDS. These projects must meet all WIOA requirements, except that they are exempt from the requirement to compete. In addition, all projects must: 1) Include direct services to individuals to enhance employment opportunities; 2) Demonstrate evidence of a linkage with the State or local workforce investment system; and 3) Include an evaluation component.

Equipment purchases may be included within congressionally directed funding only as an incidental part of the entire project. A similar standard applies to curriculum development, which should be incidental to the project's emphasis on direct services to individuals.

CDS cannot be used for construction or renovation of facilities.

Department of Health and Human Services

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

CDS within HRSA should be submitted through the Program Management account and must fall under one of the following categories:

- **Health Facilities Construction and Equipment**—CDS for the cost of construction, renovation, or capital equipment purchase for facilities for health, mental health, or substance abuse services, training of health professionals, or medical research. Examples of 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. In addition to construction and renovation, funding can be used to acquire capital equipment, such as lab equipment or x-ray machines. Equipment-only grants—that is, grants not involving construction—are permissible. Generally, any equipment having a useful life of more than one year and a unit cost of at least \$5,000 will be eligible as capital equipment.

In addition, equipment with lower costs may also be eligible, provided that it is treated as an item of capital expense under the recipient institution's pre-existing, written accounting policies. Equipment expenses for health information systems and electronic medical records systems are permitted expenditures. The costs of expendable supplies such as pharmaceuticals, lab chemicals, or office paper are not eligible.

HRSA Health Facilities funding cannot be used to acquire land or purchase existing buildings, or to pay salaries or other operating costs. Funding cannot be used to pay for work previously completed. CDS can be used for architectural and engineering costs associated with an eligible construction project, but cannot be used for general feasibility studies.

- **Health Professions Education and Workforce Development**—CDS for projects to improve education and training of health care professionals.
- **Rural Health** —CDS for projects to improve health care in rural areas. Examples of eligible activities include medical, dental, or mental health care services; health promotion and education; chronic disease management; telehealth services; and improvements to emergency medical services. Grant funds can be used for services only in areas that meet HRSA's definition of rural. For lists of eligible areas and further information regarding that definition, see: <https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/about-us/definition/index.html>.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

CDS within SAMHSA should be submitted through the Health Surveillance and Program Support account and must fall under one of the following categories:

- **Mental Health**—funding to support programs that promote the prevention or treatment of mental health disorders, including rehabilitation, outreach, and other support services.
- **Substance Abuse Treatment**—funding to support programs that improve access, reduce barriers, and promote high quality, effective treatment and recovery services.
- **Substance Abuse Prevention**—funding to support programs to prevent the onset of illegal drug use, prescription drug misuse and abuse, alcohol misuse and abuse, and underage alcohol and tobacco use.

CDS within SAMSHA cannot be used for construction (other than a limited amount of renovation necessary to carry out a funded project).

Needle Exchange: A General Provision prohibits the award of funding for projects which distribute sterile

needles or syringes for I.V. drug injection.

Use of Illegal Substances: A General Provision prohibits the award of funding for projects which promote the legalization of illegal drugs or substances.

Administration for Children and Families

CDS within ACF should be submitted through the Children and Families Services Programs account and must fall under one of the following categories:

- **Child Abuse Prevention**—CDS for projects to improve the prevention, assessment, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect through research, model service improvement, information dissemination, and technical assistance. Projects must serve or target abused and/or neglected children and their families.
- **Social Services Research and Demonstration**—CDS for projects 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 can serve a diverse population including: low-income individuals, children, youth, families, individuals with developmental disabilities, and Native Americans.

CDS cannot be used for construction or renovation of facilities.

Administration for Community Living

Aging and Disability Services Programs—CDS 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, CDS 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.

CDS cannot be used for construction or renovation of facilities.

Department of Education

Innovation and Improvement

Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE)—elementary and secondary education CDS can be designated under this heading for a wide variety of elementary and secondary education projects, 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 general, the focus of elementary and secondary education CDS should be providing early childhood or K-12 educational services. Requests must specify the purpose of the CDS.

In addition, CDS to provide and improve special education services at the elementary and secondary levels are also eligible under this heading. These CDS may include early intervention services for infants and toddlers, transition services, and postsecondary education services.

Eligible grantees are state education agencies, school districts, colleges and universities, and other public and private nonprofit entities. Generally, CDS intended for individual schools is provided to the applicable school district and not directly to the individual school.

CDS cannot be used for construction or renovation of school buildings, except in the case of minor remodeling required as part of technology upgrades. Daycare and childcare projects that do not include educational services are also not eligible.

Rehabilitation Services

Demonstration and Training—CDS can be designated under this heading for a wide variety of projects that further the purposes of the Rehabilitation Act, including by providing individuals with disabilities with education, training, support services, and independent living services. Generally, CDS should focus on improving access to, or the quality of, such services for individuals with disabilities. Eligible grantees include State vocational rehabilitation agencies, community rehabilitation programs, Indian tribes or tribal organizations, or other public or nonprofit agencies and organizations.

CDS cannot be used for construction or renovation of facilities.

Higher Education

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)—CDS can be designated under this heading for a wide variety of higher education projects. Generally, requests should focus on improving access to, or the quality of, postsecondary education.

Examples of the types 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.

Grantees are usually colleges and universities, but may include other public and private nonprofit organizations.

CDS cannot be used for construction or renovation of academic buildings, except in the case of minor remodeling required as part of technology upgrades.