Office of U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal & Office of U.S. Senator Christopher Murphy

FY 2027 CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING APPLICATION GUIDANCE

<u>TABLE OF CONTENTS:</u>

BACKGROUND

All requests for Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) projects must comply with the requirements of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, which governs CDS. This includes requiring Senators who submit CDS requests to certify that neither they nor their immediate family members have any financial interest in the CDS item(s) being requested.

Additionally, the Committee will continue using the following reforms for CDS requests that were instituted in the 117th Congress:

- Funding for CDS items shall not exceed one percent of discretionary spending.
- For-profit entities are ineligible for CDS items, and Senators must certify that none of the entities for which they have requested CDS is a for-profit entity.
- Senators who submit CDS requests must publish those requests on their websites along with a letter to the Committee certifying that neither they nor their immediate family members have any financial interest in the CDS item(s) being requested. The Committee will provide a link to each Senator's disclosure on the Committee's website.
- The Committee will require the Government Accountability Office to audit a sample of enacted CDS items and report its findings to Congress.

In addition to these broad reforms, any CDS requests must satisfy all the requirements stipulated by our offices and the Senate Appropriations Committee. Successful applicants will also have to meet the requirements of the relevant federal agency from which their funds are awarded. If your award is included in one of the FY 2027 appropriations bills, you will be barred from expending funds before completing required agency paperwork. CDS funding cannot be used to reimburse previously incurred expenses.

Each organization must submit an application for funding to our offices; we have a joint application that goes to both offices. That application will ask you to discuss your project in detail and provide opportunities to highlight community support. You will also need to lay out the project budget and, depending on the program, come up with matching funds. Please be sure to include direct points of contact who are authorized to sign for the grant and who can answer time-sensitive questions. Not all applications will be selected for funding.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If you have additional questions about your project's eligibility, please contact our offices for assistance at *Appropriations_requests@blumenthal.senate.gov* and *Appropriations_requests@murphy.senate.gov*.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

What are Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) requests?

CDS is defined in [Senate Rule XLIV:](#)
- Included primarily at the request of a Senator. This means that if an item is included in the president's annual budget request, it is not a CDS request;
- Provides a specific funding amount to a specific entity or location other than through a formula-driven or competitive award; and,
- The purpose of the project must meet the objective of a federal program under existing law.

Generally speaking, this is a funding request for a specific project in a specific location.

Are Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) requests publicly disclosed?

Yes. All requests for CDS submitted by our offices to the Senate Appropriations Committee for consideration will be publicly listed on both Senator Murphy's and Senator Blumenthal's website. Please note, these public disclosures are not a full list of awards. The final appropriation bills will include basic information on awarded projects including the recipient's name, project purpose, project location (City, County, State), and the award amount.

Will all applications be submitted to the Senate Appropriations Committee for consideration?

For Fiscal Year 2026, the Committee instituted a maximum number of CDS requests a Senator may submit to certain subcommittees and/or accounts for consideration. Our offices are still waiting for FY2027 guidance, but Senators Murphy and Blumenthal will try to submit as many eligible projects as possible within any limits. If you submit multiple projects, please rank them by order of priority.

Are for-profits eligible?

No. For-profits are not eligible for any CDS awards.

HOW TO SUBMIT A CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING REQUEST

How do I submit a Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) Request?

You can submit a CDS request using the applications linked [on Senator Murphy's](#) or [Senator Blumenthal's](#) websites. The applications go to both offices, so you only need to apply once. The

websites also include information on deadlines and other requirements. As a reminder, CDS requests are different than programmatic requests. Please ensure you are submitting the appropriate application.

Additionally, the House of Representatives have their own process for soliciting CDS requests (called Community Project Funding). Please let us know if you apply to a House member's office, but reach out to your Representative for their applications and guidance.

How much money should I request?

It depends on your project, needs, and the account from which you are requesting funds. There is no limit to the amount of funding you can request, but larger projects are harder to fund. You should not request more funds than you need. Furthermore, you should only request the amount that can be expended in the upcoming fiscal year. You can view requests from previous years on Senator Blumenthal's and Senator Murphy's websites.

What if I do not know the appropriate Account or Agency for my project request?

This guide is intended to help you understand what accounts are available and help you evaluate if your project fits within one of these programs. If you have any questions, please reach out to both of our offices for additional guidance.

Do I need to submit letters of support?

The application will ask you about supporting organizations and provide an opportunity to attach letters of support. While this information isn't required, it is helpful to know about community support for your effort. Please note that the application platform limits document submissions, so we recommend consolidating letters of support into a single pdf.

HOW TO USE CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING FUNDS

Are there limitations on what Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) can be used for?

Yes. There are very specific restrictions on how federal funds can be used. Please read this guide, and the information from relevant agencies closely to understand the eligible uses and any existing limitations. Generally, funding cannot be used for debt service, recurring or routine expenses, or reimbursement of costs.

Can I request funding for construction? What about funding for renovation?

The majority of accounts prohibit funding for construction and renovation, but there are some exceptions under the Economic Development Initiative within the Department of Housing and

Urban Development (HUD), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Construction and Equipment program within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), as well as programs at U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

HOW TO ACCESS A CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING AWARD

If my Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) award is signed into law, what happens next?

After you receive a CDS award, you will have to take additional steps in order to receive funding. Awarded project recipients will need to submit information to the relevant federal agency before the grant can be finalized. This process ensures the federal dollars are being used correctly. Federal agencies will start working with grantees shortly after a spending bill passes. The timeline for outreach varies between departments and agencies and could take several months. Please take this timeline into consideration when you submit your application.

If my project is in the Senate bill, does that mean I will get all the funding for the project?

In general, projects that are included in Senate-passed bills are well positioned to ultimately receive funding. However, a Senate bill would need to be reconciled with a House bill before it can be signed into law, and there could be changes to CDS awards during that process. Then, any conferenced bill would need to pass both the House and Senate and be signed by the President.

As a reminder, even after a conferenced appropriations bill that includes your award is signed into law, you will still need to work with relevant agency to ensure your project meets all the program requirements and sign a grant agreement.

How long do recipients have to spend funding awarded through Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS)?

If your CDS award is signed into law, your grant agreement with the agency will stipulate the drawdown requirements. Some agencies offer flexibility while others limit it to a fiscal year.

If I get a Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) award this year does that mean I will get one in the future?

No. Receiving CDS funds in one fiscal year is not a guarantee for CDS funding in future fiscal years. Please remember that CDS should be viewed as a one-time infusion of dollars, not a way to sustain a project or initiative. Conversely, receiving a CDS in the past does not prevent your organization from applying again in the future.

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR THE FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

How long is the Fiscal Year?

Fiscal Year 2027 runs from October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027.

What is a Continuing Resolution?

When Congress is not able to complete the Appropriations process for the upcoming fiscal year before it begins (i.e. before October 1), Congress can pass a Continuing Resolution (CR) in order to avoid a government shutdown. The duration of the resolution can vary. CRs provide funding over the relevant period at the previous Fiscal Year's levels (pro-rated to the length of time over which the CR extends), but they do not include CDS. This can delay the timeline for awards to become final.

When will I be notified about my award?

The CDS process is long and competitive. First, Senators submit CDS requests (based on your application's eligibility) to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Then, the Senate Appropriations Committee reviews requests and finalizes a list of awards. Then, those decisions must be included in legislation and advanced through the legislative process. Senators Murphy and Blumenthal will stay in touch with applicants to keep them apprised of the process.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES

Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities (ARS B&F): Applicants can request funding within ARS B&F for repairs and maintenance to existing ARS facilities. Please note, the facilities must be ARS-owned. Funding for construction of a building will not be considered.

National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Research, and Facilities Act Program (RFAP): Qualifying institutions (Land Grant Universities, Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture, and other eligible entities as defined in section 7 U.S.C. 6971(f)(1)(C)) can requests funding for constructing, purchasing, updating, renovating, or modifying agricultural research buildings to conduct research in the areas of agriculture and food sciences.

Funds may be used to fund site design, purchase and installation of permanently affixed equipment for research, as well as for construction or renovation of buildings or sites for agricultural research facilities or other facilities that store agricultural research experimental samples.

CDS recipients must provide a 100% non-federal match for any RFAP award. Recipients cannot move forward without a commitment to match funding before obligation. Not more than 3% of the CDS funding shall be available to pay for administrative costs. Construction projects are subject to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, and must comply with Build America Buy America requirements. Learn more about RFAP here.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) (Salaries & Expenses): APHIS works with state and local agencies and other stakeholders to protect the animal and plant resources of the Nation from diseases and pests. While the entire S&E account is open for CDS requests, below are the line items within the account that are most compatible with CDS:

- Field Crop & Rangeland Ecosystems Pests
- Pest Detection
- Plant Protection Methods Development
- Specialty Crop Pests
- Tree & Wood Pests
- Wildlife Damage Management
- Wildlife Services Methods Development
- Veterinary Diagnostics
- Equine, Cervid and Small Ruminant Health

Please note that projects must meet environmental review standards (NEPA, ESA, etc.) and that some line items within this account have matching requirements. The Field Crop and Rangeland Ecosystems Pests line item requires the Federal government to pay half of the costs on federal

and state lands but 33% of the costs on private lands. Next, the cattle health line item requires a 40% state match. Finally, the Wildlife Services line item has a 50/50 cost sharing requirement. Additionally, the period of availability of APHIS CDS will be one-year funding (i.e. until the end of the fiscal year)

Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO): This account funds projects that prevent erosion, floodwater, and sediment damages in certain watersheds or rivers. The program also works to further the conservation and proper utilization of water and land in authorized watersheds. There are a few requirements applicants must meet in order to apply through this account:

- WFPO applicants must have a local sponsor. Eligible local sponsors include any state, political subdivision, soil or water conservation district, flood prevention or control district, or combinations thereof; any irrigation or reservoir company or water users' association; or any Indian tribe or tribal organization.
- Each project may not exceed a watershed or sub-watershed size of 250,000 acres.
- At least 20% of the project's benefits must be directly related to agriculture.
- Projects are required to complete a four-step process including:
    o Preliminary feasibility study (PIFR)
    o Watershed Plan development
    o Implementation of Watershed Plan
    o Commencement of construction for authorized watershed conservation
- If a project is a "new start" it is eligible only for Preliminary Investigation Feasibility Report (PIFR) funding at a level of $55,000.
- Funding cannot be requested for stages 2-4 until the PIFR is completed.
- Applicants must illustrate that they have contacted Connecticut's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office and that their proposal meets the requirements of the program.
- Applicants should also indicate for which phase of the project funding is requested.

Rural Development, Community Facilities grants: This account funds grants for the purchase, construction, or improvement of rural community facilities (i.e. healthcare, public safety, community support services, etc.) or to purchase equipment, and pay other related project expenses. Funds are limited to areas under 20,000 people. Both nonprofits and government entities are eligible to apply. More information can be found in 7 CFR 3570.

The following eligibility criteria must be met prior to a CDS request being approved:
- The Community Facilities (CF) Grant program has a match requirement on a sliding scale based on population size. CF Grants can cover up to 75% of the total project costs. Please calculate the respective cost-share into your request.

    The match requirements based on population are as follows:
    o Maximum of 75% when the proposed project is located in a rural community with a population of 5,000 or fewer

- - Maximum of 55% when the proposed project is located in a rural community with a population of 12,000 or fewer
  - Maximum of 35% when the proposed project is located in a rural community with a population of 20,000 or fewer
- The Connecticut Rural Development office must verify your area's population size using the most recent census. In order to determine whether a project is eligible, please contact the Connecticut Rural Development office. Contact information can be found here.
- The match requirements are outlined in the CF regulation: 7 CFR 3570.63(b).
- In general, CF matching funds must come from a non-federal source. However, there are two exceptions: (1) when a Federal source states that it can be used as a match for other Federal Grants and (2) when a Federal source loses its Federal identity -- such as Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds that are distributed through a Governor's office (not the CDBG entitlement funding), a CF project using these funds as a part of the capital stack can be used for applicant required contribution.
- CDS requests will be considered outside of the CF state allocations. Therefore, the sole cap that will determine the maximum grant assistance is the match requirements described above. Note, the average CF CDS project size funded is approximately $1,000,000.
- While an applicant does not need to have its match in hand at the time of submission, applicants must have their match at the time of obligation.
- Funds may not be used for the following activities:
  - To reimburse funds for projects already constructed/acquired or projects that will be completed before the passage of the bill.
  - To pay initial operating expenses or annual recurring costs, including purchases or rentals that are generally considered to be operating and maintenance expenses
  - To fund facilities to be used primarily for recreational purposes
  - To fund facilities to be used primarily for business entrepreneur purposes
- Applicants must meet environmental review requirements (i.e. NEPA).
- The total project cost, not just the Federal cost-share portion, will be subject to Build America Buy America Act (BABAA) requirements
- Applicants must complete a separate CF grant application if the proposal is chosen for a CDS award/included in the final bill.

Rural Development, Distance Learning, and Telemedicine (DLT) grants: This account helps improve telemedicine services and distance learning services in rural areas through the use of telecommunications, computer networks, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents.. More information on the program and eligible entities can be found in 7 CFR Part 1734 Subpart A and B, here is the specific section on approved purposes of the grant.

The following project and applicant eligibility criteria must be met prior to a CDS request being approved:
- There is a flat 15% match (matching funds cannot come from another Federal source).

-
  - The maximum grant size is $1,000,000.
  - Normally for-profit entities are eligible for this program, but they are not eligible for CDS requests.
  - Broadband deployment is not an eligible use of funds for DLT.
  - Applicants must complete a separate DLT grant application if your proposal is chosen and included in the final Appropriations bill.

In order to determine whether a project is eligible, please contact the Connecticut Rural Development office. Contact information can be found here.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY:

- *National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Scientific and Technical Research Services (STRS)—External Projects:* This account funds projects that address scientific, technological, and standards-related research and technology development, limited to equipment and equipment contracting. There must be a clear, demonstrable nexus to the research component of the project and to a NIST research program. This account cannot be used to fund new construction projects, but minor retrofits may be permitted in limited circumstances.

- *NIST Construction of Research Facilities; Extramural Construction:* This account funds the construction of non-Federal research facilities, including at research institutions and colleges and universities. However, given the significant investments necessary for construction projects, only a very limited number of projects are supported on an annual basis.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION:

- *NOAA Operations, Research, and Facilities– Special Projects:* This account funds projects related to fisheries, marine mammals, ocean and coastal issues, climate, weather, atmospheric research, data acquisition, and forecasting programs. This account cannot be used to fund construction projects.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE:

- *Byrne Discretionary:* This account provides funding for additional personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical assistance, and information systems with

a nexus to the criminal justice system. Applicants do not have to be government or law enforcement—nonprofits doing criminal justice-related and victim-serving work are also eligible. Even though this line can be used to fund equipment, please do not specify brand names of equipment you are considering purchasing to ensure fair and open competition.

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 qualify for 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.

- *COPS Law Enforcement Technology and Equipment:* This account provides funding for the development of technologies and automated systems to assist law enforcement agencies in investigating, responding to, and preventing crime. Eligible recipients are 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. Even though this line funds equipment, please do not specify brand names of equipment you are considering purchasing to ensure fair and open competition.

  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. Applicants are cautioned against requests for vehicles and vessels that carry with them a high maintenance cost at the conclusion of the CDS request.

  Applicants should consider the full range of potential implications of their request for legal, constitutional, and civil liberties and privacy. In addition, if applicants are looking to purchase unmanned aircraft systems, please review the federal guidance around safe and legal operation of these devices. Other technologies often carry similar privacy concerns to unmanned aircraft systems.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

- *Safety, Security and Mission Support:* This account funds projects focused on science education, research, and technology development related to NASA's mission. Medical research projects and projects at NASA-owned Visitor Centers or a State's designated Space Grant Consortium will not be funded. This account cannot fund construction but may be used for equipment, research funding, or education programs.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The Senate is accepting CDS requests for a number of accounts within the Army Corps. The Senate Appropriations Committee will only consider requests for authorized projects and programs. However, please note that authorized projects or programs that have not received funding in previous years are considered "new starts" and very few new starts, if any, will be funded. Furthermore, if a program or project is in the President's budget request, that project is not considered eligible for CDS unless the level recommended exceeds the level in the request.

Projects must execute their funding within one year of appropriations, therefore CDS eligibility is further limited by the capability of the agency to obligate the funding. This means that award amounts can change and be reduced throughout the process based on agency capability, as determined by the agency. The Army Corps of Engineers is the recipient for all CDS awards under this account.

- *Investigations:* Funding to develop feasibility studies and conduct preconstruction engineering and design to address the nation's water infrastructure needs.

- *Construction:* Funding for construction, major rehabilitation, and related activities for water resources development projects having navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, water supply, hydroelectric, environmental restoration, etc. This account also uses funding from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to cover the Federal share of the Dredged Material Disposal Facilities Program.

- *Operation & Maintenance:* Funding for operations, maintenance, and related activities at water resource projects that the Corps operates and maintains. These activities include dredging, repair, and operation of structures and other facilities, as authorized in the various river and harbor, flood control, and water resources development acts. Related activities include aquatic plant control, monitoring completed projects, removal of sunken vessels, and the collection of domestic waterborne commerce statistics.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

While the Subcommittee will consider requests in the five areas within the Department of Energy, very few requests are granted. Projects should be in line with current Department of Energy missions that focus on transformative science and technology research, development, and demonstration under the five topic areas listed below:
- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- Electricity

- Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response
- Nuclear Energy
- Fossil Energy and Carbon Management

The Committee will not fund projects for multiple years so the funding requested should reflect a funding amount that can complete the entire project. Successful projects will be in line with current Department of Energy missions that focus on transformative science and technology research, development, and demonstration under the five topic areas listed above. The Committee is more likely to grant requests that are not eligible for funding through tax credits or other federal incentives.

The Committee will **not** fund the following projects:
- Projects that do not follow statutory cost sharing requirements. Statutory cost sharing requirements may apply to these projects, as required by section 988 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. In short, the amount of required cost sharing will depend on the scope and technological maturity of the project:
  - Research or development activities of a basic or fundamental nature: no minimum cost share.
  - Research or development activities of an applied nature: minimum 20% cost share.
  - Demonstration or commercial application: minimum 50% cost share.
  - Some projects may contain elements of more than one of the categories listed above. Therefore, some projects may have a blended cost share.
- Projects that require multiple years of funding.
- Construction of buildings or new facilities (no brick and mortar), even if it will have clean energy associated with it.
- Vehicle charging projects, unless the project is connected to larger clean energy sources (like a battery) or has clean energy applications beyond the charging station.
- Electrical substation replacement or routine grid upgrades that could otherwise be funded under ratepayer contracts or through existing federal incentives.
- Planning studies for a forthcoming project.
- Clean energy projects that do not show transformative or emerging technological solutions.
- Planning studies for NetZero goals.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)

- *Administrative Provision:* This account will fund initiatives related to small business development and entrepreneurship. This includes projects in support of small businesses, including but not limited to entrepreneur training, counseling, and research. SBA CDS

funding cannot be used to provide seed capital for small businesses nor can it be used by the CDS recipient to make grants/loans. Further, CDS funding *cannot* be used for construction and acquisition of facilities.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORD ADMINISTRATION (NARA)

- *National Historical Publications and Records Commission:* This account will fund projects that help ensure online public discovery and use of historical records collections, encourage public engagement with historical records, strengthen the nation's archival network, or publish documentary editions of historical records. This includes initiatives like record digitization, programming, and online availability of records. NARA has very specific eligibility guidelines, please review them here.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

- *Federal Buildings Fund, Construction and Acquisition:* The Federal Buildings Fund (FBF) finances the activities of the Public Buildings Service, which provides space and services for Federal agencies in a relationship similar to that of landlord and tenant. Congress makes funds available through a process of placing limitations on obligations from the FBF as a way of allocating funds for various FBF activities. The Construction and Acquisition program funds the site, design, construction, management, and inspection costs of new Federal facilities. Construction projects typically include federal courthouses, federal buildings, or land ports-of-entry. Eligible projects do not include state or county facilities, DOD facilities, VA facilities, or transportation infrastructure facilities.

- *Federal Buildings Fund, Repairs and Alterations:* This program funds repairs and alterations to federal facilities. Repairs projects must be federally-owned properties in need of repair or alteration and are typically federal buildings or federal courthouses. Eligible projects do not include state or county facilities, DOD facilities, VA facilities, or transportation infrastructure facilities.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

- *Prevention Grants:* This program funds drug prevention programs, not specific treatment programs. This would include data-driven, evidence-based prevention interventions with established measurable objectives; and a comprehensive mix of strategies. Also, Drug-Free Communities -funded coalitions recently trained by CDC to implement Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) as part of their substance use prevention efforts are encouraged. Among other things, allowable expenses include building rent and equipment. Unallowable expenses include, but are not limited to, property purchases, and construction or renovation costs.

<u>HOMELAND SECURITY</u>

The Senate is accepting CDS requests for two Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) accounts. A description of the two accounts is below.

In addition, for any projects that receive CDS funding through the Homeland Security account, the appropriate state administrative agency (SAA) must submit an application to FEMA, and that entity will serve as the administrative agent for the grant. Therefore, all project proposals must be accompanied by a letter of support from the SAA affirming that it believes the project is eligible. In Connecticut, the SAA is the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security in Connecticut (DEMHS). All applicants are encouraged to consult with DEMHS in advance of submitting their CDS application. Additionally, a letter from DEMHS confirming your project's eligibility is required at the time of application. All FEMA CDS awards have a 75/25% cost share.

- *Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Projects*: This account provides funding to states, local communities, tribes and territories to complete hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. Requested projects must meet the eligibility requirements of the PDM program, including the non-federal cost-share requirement, benefit-cost ratio, hazard mitigation plan, and environmental and historic preservation requirements. Full requirements can be found in the Fiscal Year 2024 PDM [Notice of Funding Opportunity.](#)

- *Emergency Operations Center Grant Program*: This account provides funding for construction or renovation of an Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Requested projects must meet the eligibility requirements of the EOC grant program, including the non-federal cost-share requirement and environmental and historic preservation requirements. Full requirements can be found in the Fiscal Year 2024 [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).

<u>INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES</u>

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

- *State and Tribal Assistance Grants, Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds:* This program funds water infrastructure grants to support local wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects. This includes construction of, and modifications to, municipal sewage treatment plants and drinking water treatment plants. Privately-owned projects are not eligible. Projects included in Connecticut's most recently finalized Clean Water or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan (IUP) are most likely to be receive funding, but the Committee may consider projects that are eligible for funding under State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) guidelines, but are not on the state IUP list.
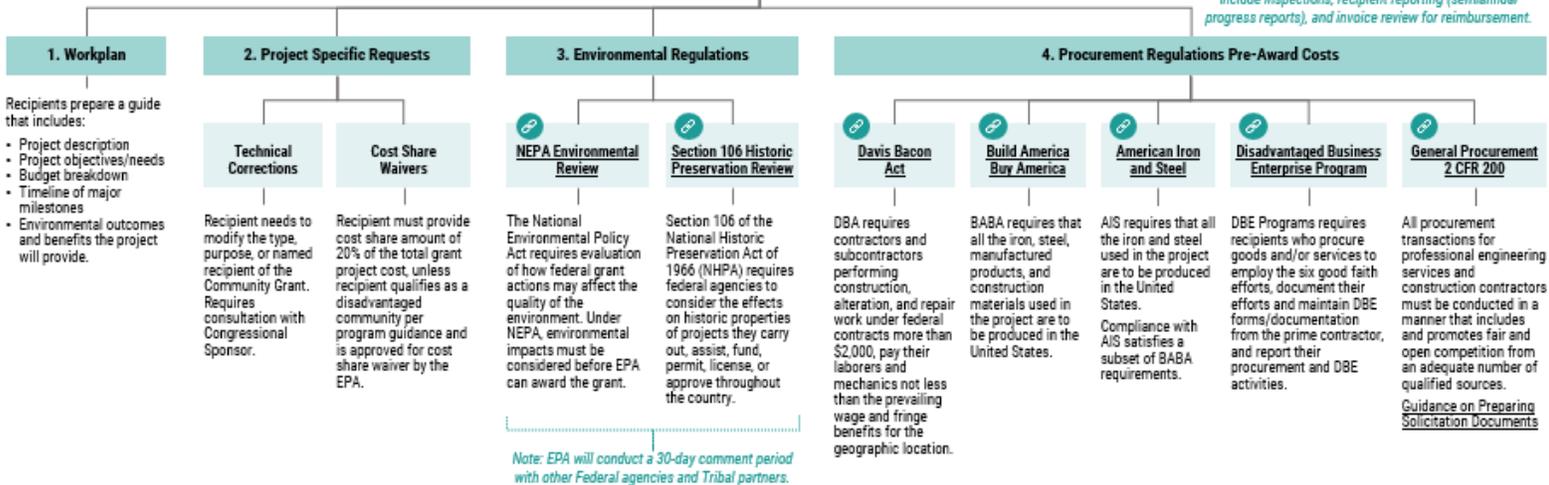
This program has a 20% cost share requirement and a project cannot use other federal funds to satisfy the match. For example, a $1 million dollar project could receive a maximum of $800,000 CDS award, and the grantee is responsible for allocating the remaining $200,000. In almost all cases, other federal funds cannot be used to meet this 20% cost share requirement. Please note that only the non-federal portion of assistance provided by a State Revolving Loan Fund can be applied towards a project's matching requirement.

Potential applicants should be aware of the detailed process that must be followed before EPA can award SRF funding. Please see below for a graphic detailing that process.

Projects generally NOT eligible for SRF funding	
Clean Water / Wastewater	**Drinking Water**
Land, except for projects described in the subsequent table	Dams or rehabilitation of dams
Operations and maintenance costs	Operations and maintenance costs

Non-municipal point source control	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
Flood Control Projects, unless the project is otherwise managing, reducing, treating, or recapturing storm water	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
Ambient water quality monitoring	Laboratory fees for monitoring
Acid drainage correction	Projects needed mainly for fire protection
Privately owned sewer pipes	Projects for systems that lack adequate technical, managerial, and financial capability, unless assistance will ensure compliance
	Projects for systems in significant noncompliance, unless funding will ensure compliance
	Projects primarily intended to serve future growth

Generally eligible projects for SRF funding *Please note: this is not an exhaustive list*	
Clean Water / Wastewater	**Drinking Water**
Wastewater treatment plants, including sludge handling facilities.	Facilitate compliance with national drinking water regulations or address serious risks to public health including non-regulated contaminants (i.e. PFAS).
Collector Sewers - Small sewers that convey wastewater from residences, commercial establishments, and industrial sites.	Rehabilitate or develop water sources (excluding reservoirs, dams, dam rehabilitation and water rights) to replace contaminated sources.

Interceptor Sewers - Large sewers that convey wastewater from collector sewers directly to a wastewater treatment facility.	Install or upgrade treatment facilities.
Sewer Pipes – Rehabilitation is only eligible if the pipes are publicly owned.	Install or upgrade storage facilities, including finished water reservoirs, to prevent microbiological contaminants from entering the water system.
Outfall Sewer - A sewer that conveys treated wastewater from a wastewater treatment facility to the receiving waters.	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.
Storm Water Management – Measures to manage, reduce, treat, or recapture storm water or subsurface drainage water (storm sewers, green infrastructure, etc).	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
Combined sewer overflow (CSO) control and sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) control.	Land is eligible only if it is integral to a project that is needed to meet or maintain compliance and further public health protection.
Infiltration/Inflow Correction - Construction activities that prevent surface water or groundwater from entering the sewer system.	Project planning, design and other related costs.
Water Security - 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.	
Septic Tanks - Remediation, rehabilitation, removal and replacement of failing tanks are eligible, as well as installation of new tanks.	
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. Municipal purchase of land and/or conservation easements for source water protection are also eligible.	

Water Reuse - Projects involving the municipal reuse or recycling of wastewater, stormwater, or subsurface drainage water.	
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.	

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

- *Sanitation Facilities Construction, Sanitation Facilities Construction:* Projects must be included on the Indian Health Services' (IHS) Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS) list to qualify for funding. In exceptional circumstances, the Committee may consider projects that are eligible for funding under the criteria for the Sanitation Facilities Construction Program but are not on the SDS list.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

- *Historic Preservation Fund (HPF):* The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), established to help fund the programs engendered by the National Historic Preservation Act (Public Law 89665; 54 USC 300301 et seq.), was designed to preserve historical and archaeological sites in the United States of America. All HPF applicants must meet standards set by the Secretary of the Interior and comply with the audit requirements, and each successful CDS recipient must complete an application through grants.gov. The Committee will accept CDS requests for non-formula funded activities within HPF that meet the qualifications of HPF programs. Please note that acquisitions of collections or historic properties are not eligible under the HPF. We anticipate the majority of projects will be funded within the Save America's Treasures (SAT) program. The maximum project amount is $500,000, and SAT projects require a 1:1 match with non-federal cash and/or in-kind contributions Please note, all projects are required to be listed as an historic place on the National Register of Historic Places or as a National Historic Landmark. For SAT projects, the listing may be at the national, state, or local level. In addition, a project is eligible if it has received a prior HPF award.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

- *State and Private Forestry, Forest Resource Information and Analysis:* This program provides technical and financial assistance grants to non-federal forest landowners, including state, tribal and local governments. Activities within this account include forest health management, cooperative fire protection, wood innovation, and urban and

community forestry. Requests must meet USFS eligibility requirements for the appropriate grant program. Project requests should be part of the state's Forest Action Plan, or contribute to meeting the goals of the Forest Action Plan.

OTHER PROJECTS

- *Projects on Agency Lists*: This includes funding for various public lands projects that are not in the President's Fiscal Year 2027 budget. Only requests for projects that are not included in the President's Budget or for funding levels that are above the amounts provided in the President's Budget will be eligible. The Committee will have a strong preference for projects included on agency submitted priority lists.

- *LWCF:* Great American Outdoors Act, Land and Water Conservation Fund: Pursuant to the Great American Outdoors Act of 2020 and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, prioritized project lists will accompany the President's budget request in five LWCF accounts. This requirement is delivered in two separate lists:

  1. a list of projects proposed for funding in the President's Budget; and
  2. a supplemental list of projects that are ready but unfunded. There will be a high bar for considering any projects not present on the current year's lists. The grantee for federal acquisition is the federal agency that will eventually manage the land (BLM, FWS, NPS, or USFS), or in the case of the Forest Legacy Program, it is the state.

- *LMCON:* Land Management Agency Construction: The four land management agencies (BLM, FWS, NPS, and USFS) receive annual appropriations for new construction and other capital improvement projects and typically include a short list of specific projects in the President's budget request. There will be a high bar for considering any projects not present on the current year's lists. Note that the Grantee is the federal agency.

The Committee may also consider CDS requests within these accounts, but only on a case-by-case basis.

- *Land Management Agencies, Local Projects and Research*: In order for requests to be considered within this category, they must be relevant to the specified mission area within the bureaus listed below and contribute to responsible stewardship of land, wildlife, and recreation resources or contribute to priority research areas that inform stewardship of those resources. Proposed projects should contribute to local, state, and federal efforts to benefit species, habitat, and/or enhanced stewardship of land and water resources. Project funding is not intended to primarily fund annual operations and maintenance of existing programs at the state, federal, or local level.
  o BLM, Management of Land and Resources, Land Management Priorities – project requests may be considered for activities related to wildlife and aquatic habitat management.

- NPS, National Recreation and Preservation, Statutory and Contractual Aid – project requests may be considered for activities relating to operating, managing, and preserving resources, including as authorized by law.
- FWS, Resource Management, Stewardship Priorities – project requests may be considered for fish and aquatic conservation, habitat conservation, recovery, and restoration activities.
- USGS, Surveys Investigations and Research, Special Initiatives – project requests may be considered for high priority and core science research, and ecosystem and water resources related activities.

- *BIA, Operation of Indian Programs, Special Initiatives*: BIA provides direct services and funding for compacts and contracts for Tribes to provide programs for a wide range of activities. Requests for CDS projects for individual tribes will not be considered but requests from other eligible entities that honor the commitment to invest in Tribal communities, create economic opportunities, foster cultural heritage, promote efficient and effective Tribal governance, and conserve natural resources are allowed.

- *EPA, Science and Technology, Research*: National Priorities: Project requests may be considered for high priority lines of research related to environmental quality and human health.

- *EPA, State and Tribal Assistance Grants, STAG Infrastructure Grants*: Requests will only be considered for projects related to existing funding categories and activities within the STAG account that will result in improvements in environmental quality and/or human health.

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

• *Employment and Training Administration—Training and Employment Services:* This account funds projects that meet the employment and training needs of workers. Generally, these projects should include direct services as defined in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) (generally in 20 CFR § 678.430, 20 CFR § 680.200, and 20 CFR § 680.900), including career services, training services (including work-based training), supportive services, and other permissible services. CDS requests must include a detailed budget that clearly describes how the funds will be used for specific activities to achieve the project's goals. Funding may be used for the purchase of equipment, but generally only if it is an incidental part of the larger project. A similar standard applies to curriculum development, which should be incidental to the project's emphasis on direct services to individuals. If a large portion of the CDS funding will be used for equipment or curriculum development, please provide a detailed justification for

how such costs relate to meeting the employment and training needs of workers. CDS projects will be expected to have measurable outcomes and demonstrate a linkage with the state or local workforce investment system. CDS cannot be used for construction, renovation, the purchase of land or buildings, or for Sub-granting.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- *Health Resources and Services Administration—Construction and Equipment:* supports the cost of construction, renovation, or capital equipment purchase for facilities that provide 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, x-ray machines, or telehealth and information technology, including electronic health records systems.

  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. 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.

  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 previously incurred costs. The costs of expendable supplies such as pharmaceuticals, lab chemicals, or office paper are not eligible. Sub-granting to other organizations or agencies is not permitted.

  Funding can be used for architectural and engineering costs associated with an eligible construction project, but cannot be used for general feasibility studies or planning and design.

- *Health Resources and Services Administration—Rural Health:* supports 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 the Health Resources and Service Administration's definition of rural. For lists of eligible areas and further information regarding that definition see here. If the project address is different than the legal entity's address, please make sure to specify that in your application. Sub-granting to other organizations or agencies is not permitted.

- *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration—Health Surveillance and Program Support:* applications within this program must fall under one of the following categories. Funding cannot be used for construction, but funds can be used to do limited renovation that is necessary to complete a project. Please note, funding cannot go towards needle exchange programs or promoting legalization of illegal drugs or substances. Sub-granting to other organizations or agencies is not permitted

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

- *Administration for Children and Families— Child Abuse Prevention:* supports programs that improve the prevention, assessment, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect through research, model service improvement, information dissemination, and technical assistance. This funding must be targeted towards abused and/or neglected children and families. Cannot be used for construction or renovation of facilities. Sub-granting to other organizations or agencies is not permitted.

- *Administration for Children and Families— Social Services Research and Demonstration:* supports programs that help families gain financial self-sufficiency in order to reduce poverty and 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. Cannot be used for construction or renovation of facilities. Sub-granting to other organizations or agencies is not permitted.

- *Administration for Community Living—Aging and Disability Services Programs:* supports programs that improve the ability of older adults and individuals of all ages with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in their communities through improving access to or the quality of, education, training, support services, and independent living services. This account cannot be used for construction or renovation of facilities nor for the provision of medical care. Sub-granting to other organizations or agencies is not permitted.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- *Innovation and Improvement—Fund for the Improvement of Education*: supports programs that fund a wide variety of early, 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 requests should be providing early childhood or K-12 educational services. In addition, requests 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, awards are provided to the applicable school district and not directly to the individual school. Daycare and childcare projects that do not include educational services are also not eligible under this account.

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

If your project is workforce related, please review the Department of Labor guidance, projects that correlate with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act should be submitted under Labor but projects that align with Career and Technical Education (CTE) could fit under Education.

- *Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)*: supports programs that fund projects primarily focused on improving access to, or the quality of, postsecondary education. This can include a range of activities as authorized and specified in section 741(a) of the Higher Education Act (i.e. the FIPSE authorization). Grantees are usually colleges and universities, but may include other public and private nonprofit organizations. This includes Projects used to hire and train faculty, establish and improve degree programs, improve teacher preparation programs, develop and improve curricula, upgrade technology, equipment, and telecommunications, provide student support, and implement university partnerships with school districts.

  If a significant portion of grant funds are expected to be used for the purchase of equipment make sure to note that and include a justification for that use of funds. CDS funding cannot be used for construction or renovation of facilities, except in the case of minor remodeling required as part of technology upgrades

  If your project is workforce related, please review the Department of Labor guidance, projects that correlate with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act should be submitted under Labor but projects that align with Career and Technical Education (CTE) could fit under Education,

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

In Fiscal Year 2027, there are seven Department of Transportation (DOT) accounts eligible for CDS and one Housing and Urban Development (HUD) account.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- *Transportation Planning, Research, and Development (TPR&D)*: this account funds transportation research projects eligible under title 23 or title 49 of the United States Code. Planning for specific local highway, transit, or rail projects that are eligible under other accounts (namely, the Highway Improvement Program, Transit Infrastructure Grants, or Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement) should not be submitted under this account.

- *Airport Improvement Program (AIP):* this account funds airport capital projects eligible under chapter 471 of title 49 of the United States Code. AIP CDS cannot go to for-profit entities and follow the existing AIP statute, meaning federal cost-share requirements apply to eligible applicants. For large and medium primary hub airports, CDS can cover 75% of eligible costs (or 80% for noise program implementation). For small primary, reliever, and general aviation airports, CDS can cover a range of 90-95% of eligible costs, based on statutory requirements.

- *Highway Infrastructure Program*: this account funds highway capital projects eligible under title 23 of the United States Code. This includes highway and bridge construction projects, planning, environmental review, design, and right-of-way acquisition. Operational expenses are not eligible.

  The project recipient for this program can only be the State Department of Transportation (the Connecticut Department of Transportation [CTDOT]), individual towns and other such entities cannot directly receive grants.

  Projects on the Connecticut Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) will be the most competitive. Please provide the STIP ID number for the project as it appears in the STIP. If a project is not on the Connecticut STIP, the CTDOT must provide the Senate with a letter of support confirming that:

  1. the project is eligible for funding under title 23, U. S. Code;
  2. CTDOT is willing to carry out the project if funding is enacted; and
  3. CT DOT will include the project on the STIP once funding for the project is enacted.

- *Transit Infrastructure Grants*: this account funds transit capital projects eligible under chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code. This includes funding projects addressing targeted capital, operating, and state of good repair needs for public transportation providers and services across America.

  The project recipient for this program can only be federally-recognized transit agency, other entities cannot directly receive grants. All applicants are encouraged to consult with the appropriate local transit agency in advance of submitting their CDS application.

  Projects on the Connecticut Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) will be the most competitive. Please provide the STIP ID number for the project as it appears in the STIP. If a project is not on the Connecticut STIP, the appropriate transit agency must provide a letter confirming that:

  1. the project is eligible for funding under chapter 53 of title 49, U. S. Code;
  2. the transit agency is willing to carry out the project if funding is enacted; and
  3. the transit agency will ensure the project is included on the STIP once funding for the project is enacted.

- *Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement Grants*: this account funds rail capital projects eligible under section 22907 of title 49, United States Code. This includes funding projects that improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of intercity passenger and freight rail.

  The project recipient for this program can only be CTDOT, the State rail agency, or other relevant state agency, other entities cannot directly receive grants.

  Projects on the state rail plan will be the most competitive. If a project is not on the state rail plan, the State rail agency or CTDOT must provide a letter confirming that:

  1. the project is eligible for funding under section 22907 of title 49, U. S. Code;
  2. the State rail agency or CTDOT is willing to carry out the project if funding is enacted; and
  3. such agency will ensure the project is included on the state rail plan once funding for the project is enacted.

- *Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grants*: this account funds port infrastructure projects eligible under section 54301 of title 49, United States Code. All applicants must specifically note which authority in section 54301 the project falls under.

  Additionally, the current National Defense Authorization Act includes a provision that prohibits the Department of Transportation from funding "a grant to purchase fully automated cargo handling equipment that is remotely operated or remotely monitored with or without the exercise of human intervention or control, if the Secretary of

Transportation determines such equipment would result in a net loss of jobs within a port or port terminal." If your project includes such equipment, you must provide information describing any job changes that will result from the project, including supporting evidence demonstrating that the project will not directly result in a net loss of jobs or degradation of job quality.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Fund within the Economic Development Initiatives (EDI): supports projects eligible under section 5305 of chapter 69 of title 42 of United States Code, as well as for affordable housing construction. For more information on types of eligible activities, applicants should review HUD's resources on the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) program here. While there is a range of eligible activities, projects that address affordable housing, community services, and economic development are more likely to be successful. Please note, reimbursements of previously incurred expenses are not allowed.

Examples of eligible EDI projects include, but are not limited to:
- o Acquisition of real property;
- o Construction, rehabilitation, and improvements to affordable housing;
- o Blight removal or remediation; and
- o Construction, rehabilitation, and improvements of public facilities (except buildings for general conduct of government), such as neighborhood centers, parks, and shelter for persons having special needs such as survivors of domestic violence and the homeless, except for buildings for the general conduct of government.

EDIs are subject to other federal requirements including the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 CFR Part 200, Build America Buy America (BABA) Preferences, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), HUD's NEPA-implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 50 or 24 CFR Part 58, and all appropriate federal environmental and historic preservation laws, regulations, and Executive Orders. Your organization must be able to comply with these requirements. The environmental review must be completed by a "Responsible Entity," which is a state, unit of general local government, Indian tribe, or Alaska Native Village. To review HUD's current implementation of the EDI program and the applicable federal requirements, click here.

Applicants should identify which of the three National Objectives of the broader CDBG program the EDI project and its activities meets and include relevant data or a description indicating how it meets such National Objective(s). The three CDBG program National Objectives are:

1. benefit low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons or communities;
2. prevent or eliminate slums or blight; or

3. address community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community for which other funding is not available.

If your projects meet the LMI National Objective, please review this HUD resource and use the "Map Application" tool to provide the necessary data points demonstrating the LMI benefit.