

CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

GUIDELINES FOR FY2022 COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING

Source: Committee on Appropriations

1. What is required for requesting Community Project Funding?

Community Support. Community engagement and support is crucial in determining which projects are worthy of Federal funding. Only projects with demonstrated community support will be considered. This recommendation builds on past Committee reforms, and applicants will be required to present evidence of community support that were compelling factors in their decision to submit the request. Examples of these include, but are not limited to:

1. Letters of support from elected community leaders (e.g. mayors or other officials);
2. Press articles highlighting the need for the requested Community Project Funding;
3. Support from newspaper editorial boards;
4. Projects listed on State intended use plans, community development plans, or other publicly available planning documents; or
5. Resolutions passed by city councils or boards.

2. What criteria will be used to evaluate Community Project Funding requests?

Subcommittees will consider requests with the following in mind:

- **Ban on For-Profit recipients.** The Committee is imposing a ban on directing Community Project Funding to for-profit entities.
- **Matching requirements.** Several Federal programs eligible for Community Project Funding requests require a State or local match for projects either by statute or according to longstanding policy. The Committee will not waive these matching requirements for Community Project Funding requests, so 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. Note: 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 in order for such a project to be viable.

- **One-year funding.** Each project request must be for fiscal year 2022 funds only and cannot include a **request for multiyear funding**. However, the performance period for a project funded with amounts provided in fiscal year 2022 will depend on the appropriations account from which it is funded and may be longer than one year.

Note: For infrastructure projects, many States have established lists or intended use plans with projects that have already been vetted by governmental officials (e.g. drinking water, wastewater and highways).

- **Non-profits as grantees.** If funding is directed to a non-profit organization, there must be evidence that the recipient is a non-profit organization by either supplying the Employer Identification Number or an IRS determination letter. Further, many water projects often partner with non-profit entities to complete projects. Therefore, projects may also be directed to non-profits with an inherently governmental function.

3. What is the definition of “Earmark”?

The Appropriations Committee uses the definition of “earmark” found in House rule XXI.

A “Congressional earmark” is defined as:

“a provision or report language included primarily at the request of a Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, or Senator providing, authorizing or recommending a specific amount of discretionary budget authority, credit authority, or other spending authority for a contract, loan, loan guarantee, grant, loan authority, or other expenditure with or to an entity, or targeted to a specific State, locality or Congressional district, other than through a statutory or administrative formula driven or competitive award process.” (Clause 9 of House rule XXI)