

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING

Office of U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal

Office of U.S. Senator Chris Murphy

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

- Generally speaking, this is funding requested for a specific project in a specific location.
- **No Member Financial Interest:** Members cannot make requests to further their financial interest (or that of their immediate family), must certify in writing that there is no such interest and make that certification public.
- **Request in Writing:** Members must make CDS requests in writing and include their name, the name and location of the intended recipient, and the purpose of the spending item.
- **Ban on For-Profits:** for-profit entities do not qualify for CDS funding;
- **Notice:** Require senators to post their CDS item requests online, as well as their financial certification disclosures attesting that they do not have any financial interest in any of the items requested
- **Audits:** The Committee will require the Government Accountability Office to audit a sample of enacted CDS items and report its findings to Congress.
- It is also referred to as Community Project Funding (CPF), Earmarks

PROCEDURE

- All entities interested in CDS funding must submit an application.
- On the Senate side, all applications are filed jointly. You will submit 1 application that will go to both Senators Blumenthal and Murphy. Both offices jointly submit the same projects for consideration in order to enhance the number of projects accepted by Committee.
- The House of Representatives has its own procedures. You are welcome to apply through your Representative as well, but that is a separate process. We recommend reaching out to the relevant office for details.
- Senators Blumenthal and Murphy endeavor to submit as many eligible applications to the Senate Appropriations Committee as possible. Once we submit to committee, it is up to them which projects to fund.
- CDS is a long process – you must first apply through our offices, then we must submit your project to committee, which selects projects for their bills. Once a bill passes out of committee, it still needs to be voted on and passed by the full Senate. Then, the Senate and House bills must be reconciled. All told, it will be at least a year before you receive your award, if you are selected.
- To see examples of projects we have submitted in the past, see our websites:
 - Senator Blumenthal: Blumenthal.senate.gov/services/federal-funding
 - Senator Murphy: murphy.senate.gov/services/appropriations

TYPICAL TIMELINE

- Continued Uncertainty for FY2024
- Process for FY2025 and Tentative Deadlines
- What happens after we submit an application?
- What happens when the appropriations bill is signed into law?
- When can I start expending funds?

WILL MY PROJECT HAVE A MATCHING REQUIREMENT?

- Some (but not all) CDS accounts have a matching requirement.
- For example, USDA – Rural Development, Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program Grants has a flat, 15% matching requirement for all projects.
- Prior to applying, it is important to determine if your project requires a match, and whether or not you are able to meet the matching requirement.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- CDS requests may be submitted within the DOJ's Byrne Discretionary Program and the COPS Law Enforcement Program.
 - **DOJ Byrne Discretionary:** Provides additional personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical assistance, and information systems for criminal justice systems. This funding cannot be used for land acquisition or construction. Should refrain from specifying brand names for equipment to ensure fair and open competition.
 - **DOJ COPS Law Enforcement Technology:** Funds 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). Should refrain from specifying brand names for equipment to ensure fair and open competition. Should consider the full range of potential legal, constitutional, and civil liberties and privacy implications associated with generating, acquiring, or using technology or data.

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, climate, weather, and atmospheric research and programs. This account cannot be used to fund construction projects.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE:

- *Byrne Discretionary*: This account helps states, localities, and tribal law enforcement efforts prevent crime, improve the criminal justice system, and provide victims' services. Applicants can submit requests 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 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 the development of technologies and automated systems to assist law enforcement agencies in investigating, responding to, and preventing crime. Eligible recipients are states, localities, tribes, 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