

FY26 Congressionally Directed Spending: Additional Background

This document is intended to help inform which Subcommittee & Account you may want to choose for your project. This document highlights advice on the most frequently utilized accounts, and is not a comprehensive guide. The accounts detailed below have been identified by staff as the most commonly utilized accounts under each Subcommittee— it is possible your project is better suited for an account not covered in this document. If none of the below accounts align with your project, or if you have questions about an account that is not included in this document, please reach out to Appropriations@Lujan.Senate.Gov. Full guidance for the Fiscal Year 2026 process has not been released by the Senate Appropriations Committee, so the eligible accounts are subject to change.

Subcommittee: Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Account: Rural Development, Community Facilities Grants: This program typically funds projects that have community-wide benefits and are NOT recreational in nature. Some examples have included city buildings, road equipment, hospital and fire equipment, and infrastructure projects. This program has a match requirement on a sliding scale based on community population size and cover up to 75 percent of the total project costs. Localities with populations over 20,000 are not eligible for this program.

Example: In FY23, the Village of Reserve was awarded funding to build a new fire station. The funding was intended to complete construction of new fire bays to accommodate fire vehicles.

Subcommittee: Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Account: Department of Justice; Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS); COPS Law Enforcement Technology and Equipment: This program funds projects for the development of technologies and automated systems to assist law enforcement agencies in investigating, responding to, and preventing crime. Allowable activities include 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.

Example: In FY23 the Albuquerque Police Department was awarded funding for its Smart Camera Technology Project. Funding is intended for smart camera technology to assist with crime reduction, community policing, and investigations.

Account: Department of Justice; Office on Justice Programs; State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance; Byrne Discretionary: Projects should provide additional personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical assistance, and information systems for criminal justice systems. Examples of eligible criminal justice programs/systems include, but are not limited to: prevention & education programs; drug treatment & enforcement programs; mental health programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams; mental health courts, drug courts, & veterans courts; and extreme risk protection order programs. **Construction projects & land acquisition purchases are ineligible.**

Example: In FY23, the City of Law Cruces Project LIGHT was awarded funding for a team of trauma-informed responders and providers to provide care and navigation services to those experiencing a crisis and/or a behavioral health emergency.

Subcommittee: Energy and Water Development

Account: Corps of Engineers: Construction: For the Army Corps of Engineers, only previously authorized projects and programs will be considered for funding. In this account, the CDS award is given to and administered by the Corps of Engineers. An authorized project or program that has not received funding in prior years is considered a new start, which is challenging to fund under this account.

Example: In FY23, the Corps of Engineers was awarded funding for the repair and rehabilitation of acequias across New Mexico.

Account: Department of Energy: “Energy Projects”: Successful projects will be in line with current Department of Energy missions that focus on transformative science and technology research, development, and demonstration. Projects that are eligible for funding through tax credits or other federal incentives are unlikely to be successful. Projects that include construction costs, vehicle charging, substation repair, or project planning will also be extremely challenging to get funded.

Example: In FY23, the Kit Carson Electric Cooperative was awarded funding to repurpose the Chevron Mine Facility in Questa, New Mexico to produce green hydrogen from the resources available at the mine.

Subcommittee: Financial Services & General Government

Account: Small Business Administration, Administrative Provisions: This program typically funds entrepreneur training, counseling, research & construction or acquisition of facilities. This funding CANNOT be used to make subgrants or loans, or as seed capital for small businesses.

Example: In FY23, the Albuquerque Economic Development Department was awarded funding to hire a Spanish-speaking business advisor to help Spanish-speaking business owners.

Subcommittee: Homeland Security

Account: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Projects: This program is designed to assist states, federally recognized tribes, and local communities implement pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation programs. This includes increasing resilience of power systems or medical facilities; mitigating threats to transportation systems, water systems, and wastewater treatment plants; or increasing community resilience through ecosystem restoration or buffer zones. This program has a 25% cost share requirement that must generally be derived from non-federal sources. All project proposals must be accompanied by a letter of support from the appropriate state agency affirming that it believes the project is eligible.

Example: In FY23, the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs was awarded funding for the Los Luceros Fire Mitigation project which sought to clear dead trees and brush surrounding the multiple historic buildings.

Account: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Operations Center Grant

Program: This program is intended to improve emergency management and preparedness capabilities for Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs). An EOC is defined as a “facility or capability from which direction and control is exercised in an emergency. This type of center or capability is designated to ensure that the capacity exists for leadership to direct and control operations from a centralized facility or capability in the event of an emergency.” Facilities and equipment for Fire Departments is NOT eligible for this program. This program has a 25% cost share requirement that must generally be derived from non-federal sources. All project proposals must be accompanied by a letter of support from the appropriate state agency affirming that it believes the project is eligible.

Example: In FY23, Dona Ana County was awarded funding to build a larger and more modern Emergency Operations Center to replace their existing EOC.

Projects that are solely for Fire Departments to replace equipment or hire personnel are NOT eligible for either of these programs. We recommend small, rural Fire Departments review the Agriculture Subcommittee above to determine if that Subcommittee may be a better fit. Otherwise, our office is happy to assist you with the SAFER or AFG grant programs. This is separate from the Congressionally Directed Spending process.

Subcommittee: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Account: EPA, State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG), Clean Water or Drinking Water: In years past, the majority of CDS requests made to the Interior Subcommittee have been for grants to fund local wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects within the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. This includes construction of, and modifications to, municipal sewage treatment plants and drinking water treatment plants. Privately-owned projects are NOT eligible for water infrastructure grants. In most cases, successful CDS projects are also included on the state’s most recently finalized Clean Water or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan (IUP). There is a minimum 20% cost share requirement for any local or state water infrastructure grant funded under these accounts.

Example: In FY23, the City of Santa Rosa was awarded funding plan, design, construct, and equip improvements to their existing water system.

Account: IHS, Sanitation Facilities Construction, Sanitation Facilities Construction: This program is designed to fund projects that are already on the IHS Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS) list. Projects submitted for CDS should indicate whether they are on the IHS SDS list and, if so, cite their SDS project number. If the project is not on the list, the Committee will consider projects in exceptional circumstances that meet the IHS Sanitation Facilities Construction (SFC) criteria.

Account: BIA, Operation of Indian Programs, Special Initiatives: This funding CANNOT support projects for individual Tribes. However, organizations that serve many Tribes or broad Tribal initiatives have been funded in the past. Construction projects are not eligible.

Subcommittee: Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

Account: Department of Labor—Employment and Training Administration: This program funds direct services to meet the employment and training needs of workers. Projects in this account should have measurable outcomes and demonstrate a linkage with the state or local workforce investment system. Projects funded under this account CANNOT be used for construction or renovation of facilities or the purchase of land or buildings.

Example: In FY23, Southwest Piping Institute was awarded funding for the purchase of workforce training equipment.

Department of Health and Human Services

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA): CDS requests within HRSA must fall under one of the following categories:

Health Facilities Construction and Equipment: CDS requests for the cost of limited-scope construction, renovation, or capital equipment purchase for facilities for health, mental health, or substance abuse services, training of health professionals, or medical research. 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, CDS funding can be used to acquire capital equipment, such as lab equipment, x-ray machines, or telehealth and information technology. Equipment-only CDS requests—that is, requests not involving construction—are permissible. 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.

Rural Health: CDS requests for projects to improve health care in rural areas. 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. CDS funds can be used for services only in areas that meet HRSA’s definition of rural. For lists of eligible rural areas and further information regarding that definition, see: <https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/about-us/definition/index.html>

Example: In FY23, Taos County was awarded funding to design and build an addition to the detox building to double the number of beds provided.

Account: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: CDS requests within SAMHSA should be submitted through the Health Surveillance and Program Support account and must fall under one of the below categories. CDS funding within SAMSHA cannot be used for construction.

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.

Example: In FY23, the New Mexico Human Services Department was awarded funding for staff outreach, training, travel, overhead, and administration for occupation-specific behavioral health outreach and for the enhancement of mental/behavioral health services in public schools.

Department of Education

Account: Fund for the Improvement of Education: This account can fund projects for educational services for children, teachers, and programs from childcare through high school. Childcare projects are only eligible if they include educational services. This account CANNOT fund any construction or renovation projects, including for acquisition of facilities or facilities improvement. Generally, CDS requests intended for individual schools are provided to the applicable school district and not directly to the individual school.

Example: In FY23, Pojoaque Valley School District was awarded funding for technology and broadband upgrades for classrooms, including purchase of equipment.

Account: Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education: This account can fund postsecondary projects, including for increasing university and college partnerships with high schools. However, if your project has components related to K-12 schools or early childhood that are not connected to a university or college initiative, it is recommended that you separate this part of the project and submit under the Fund for the Improvement of Education. This account CANNOT fund any endowments, or construction or renovation projects, including for acquisition of facilities or facilities improvement.

Example: In FY23, the University of New Mexico was awarded funding for an educator career pathways program for rural and Indigenous teachers.

Subcommittee: Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

Military departments are the only eligible recipients for funding under this Subcommittee. There are no accounts under the Department of Veterans Affairs for Congressionally Directed Spending. Please reach out to Appropriations@Lujan.Senate.Gov directly if you have questions about the MilCon-VA Subcommittee, or if you have recommendations for projects you would like the Senator's office to consider.

Subcommittee: Transportation, Housing & Urban Development

Account: Department of Transportation, Highway Infrastructure Programs (HIP): Eligible projects under this account must be on the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). This funding can only be used on federal roads, NOT local or state roads. Please indicate in your application that this project is on the STIP.

Example: In FY23, NMDOT was awarded funding for the design & build of the reconstruction of the I-25 Comanche/Montgomery Interchange.

Account: Housing & Urban Development Department, Economic Development Initiatives (EDI):
This program funds projects that address affordable housing, community services, and economic development. Eligible projects must meet one of three National Objectives for the CDBG Program— 1) benefit low- and moderate-income persons or communities; 2) prevent or eliminate blight; or 3) address existing conditions which post an immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community. Please refer to [this resource](#) if qualifying your project based on objective #1.

Example: In FY23, Santa Fe County Housing Authority was awarded funding to make repairs to their low-income rental units to ensure they can continue to house families in need.