

# **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](https://blumenthal.senate.gov/services/federal-funding)
  - Senator Murphy: [murphy.senate.gov/services/appropriations](https://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?



# DO YOU NEED TO BUILD OR RENOVATE A FACILITY?

- Federal programs have specific restrictions on how funds can be used, and there are only a few CDS accounts that allow recipients to use funds on facility construction or renovation.
- These accounts are:
  - HUD – Economic Development Initiatives
  - HRSA – Construction and Equipment
  - USDA – Community Facilities
  - SBA – Administrative Provision

# 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.



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

# DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- CDS awards through USDA are available in the following accounts:
  - Agricultural Research Service, Building and Facilities
  - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Salaries and Expenses
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service, Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations
  - Rural Development, Community Facilities grants
    - These grants can fund a variety of projects in rural communities, such as the construction or improvement of facilities including: fire, rescue, and public safety; health services; community or cultural services; transportation facilities, etc.
    - One of the few CDS accounts that can be used for construction.
  - Rural Development, Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program grants

*\*For both rural development accounts, applicants must contact the Southern New England USDA Rural Development office to confirm their project meets eligibility requirements*



**COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND  
RELATED AGENCIES**

# DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- CDS awards through the Department of Commerce are available in the following accounts:
  - National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST); Scientific and Technical Research Services; External Projects
    - Projects should address standards-related research and technology development.
  - NIST Construction of Research Facilities; Extramural Construction
    - To support construction projects at research institutions and colleges and universities. Very few of these projects are selected by committee.
  - National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Safety, Security and Mission Support
    - Projects should focus on science education, research, and technology development related to NASA's mission
  - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Operations, Research, and Facilities; Special Projects
    - Projects should address fisheries, marine mammals, ocean, coastal issues, climate, weather, atmospheric research, data acquisition, and forecasting programs.



# 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.

# **ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT**



# DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

- Department of Energy CDS projects include the following topic areas:
  - Renewable and Clean Energy
  - Electricity and Energy Resiliency
  - Cybersecurity and Energy Security
  - Nuclear Energy
  - Fossil Energy or Carbon Management
- 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 topics listed above.
- The committee is more likely to grant requests that are not eligible for funding through tax credits and other incentives.

# U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

- CDS funding is available for authorized projects only in the following accounts:
  - Corps of Engineers: Investigations
  - Corps of Engineers: Construction
  - Corps of Engineers: Operation & Maintenance



**FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL  
GOVERNMENT**

# FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

- CDS funding is available in the following accounts:
  - Small Business Administration, Administrative Provision
    - Cannot go to for-profit businesses
    - In general, this has funded colleges or non-profits that assist small businesses or small business resources centers at town agencies.
  - National Archives and Records Administration, National Historical Publications and Records Commission
    - Projects that help ensure online public discovery and use of historical records collections and encourage public engagement with historical records. Includes initiatives like record digitization, programming, and online availability of records.
  - National Archives and Records Administration, Repairs and Restoration
    - Projects that direct spending for presidential libraries or new archival facilities.
  - General Services Administration, Federal Buildings Fund, Construction and Acquisition
    - Construction projects typically including federal courthouses, federal buildings, or land ports-of-entry.
  - General Services Administration, Federal Buildings Fund, Repairs and Alterations
    - Repairs must be on federally-owned properties.
  - Office of National Drug Control Policy, Prevention Grants
    - Projects should not be substance specific, this account does not fund treatment programs



# **HOMELAND SECURITY**

# FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

- **Pre-Disaster Mitigation Projects (aka Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities [BRIC] Grants)**: Must be requirements of most recent BRIC grant Notice of Funding Opportunity. All project proposals must be accompanied by a letter of support from the appropriate state agency affirming that it believes the project is eligible.
- **Emergency Operations Center Grant Program**: Generally funds construction, equipment, and renovation projects for emergency operations centers.



**INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND  
RELATED AGENCIES**

# DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

- **EPA, State and Tribal Assistance Grants, Water and Wastewater Infrastructure:** Construction of and modifications to municipal sewage treatment plants and drinking water treatment plants that are publicly-owned or owned by a non-profit. Could be used for lead pipe replacement. Dams or rehabilitations of dams are not eligible for this funding.
- **National Park Service, Historic Preservation Fund:** Preserve historical and archeological sites in the United States.
- **State and Private Forestry:** 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.
- **Projects on Agency Lists:** Requests for location-specific projects on federal lands that are not included in the FY25 President's Budget Request or the FY24 enacted bill, or for location-specific funding above the President's request or the FY24 enacted level. The subcommittee has a strong preference for projects included on agency-submitted priority lists.
- Other\*\*



**LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES**

# DEPARTMENT OF LABOR – EMPLOYMENT TRAINING ADMINISTRATION

- You can only submit CDS requests for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) demonstrations authority within Training and Employment Services.
- These projects must:
  - Include direct services to individuals to enhance employment opportunities;
  - Demonstrate evidence of a linkage with the state or local workforce investment system; and
  - Include an evaluation component.
- Equipment purchases and curriculum development can be included but must be an incidental part of the entire project.
- CDS within this program **cannot** be used for construction or renovation of facilities.



# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES – SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

- CDS can be requested within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to fund:
  - **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 that distribute sterile needles or syringes for I.V. drug injection.
- **Use of Illegal Substances**: A general provision prohibits the award of funding for projects that promote the legalization of illegal drugs or substances.

*\*In addition to the SAMHSA programs, you can submit projects around rural health, education and training healthcare professionals, and certain construction and equipment purchasing within health facilities.*



# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES – HEALTH RESOURCES SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

- CDS can be requested within the Health Facilities Construction and Equipment account for the cost of construction, renovation, or capital equipment purchase for facilities for health, mental health, or substance abuse services.
  - Eligible facilities include: hospitals, health centers and clinics, skilled nursing facilities, mental health centers, facilities for schools of medicine or nursing, and medical research laboratories.
  - 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.
  - The costs of expendable supplies such as pharmaceuticals, lab chemicals, or office paper **are not** eligible.
  - **Cannot** be used to acquire land or purchase existing buildings, or to pay salaries or other operating costs.



# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – K-12 PROGRAMS

- CDS can be used 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.
  - The focus of elementary and secondary education CDS should be providing early childhood or K-12 educational services.
  - CDS to provide and improve special education services at the elementary and secondary levels are also eligible under this heading. These projects 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. 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 not** eligible.

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – HIGHER EDUCATION

- Generally, requests should focus on improving access to, or the quality of, postsecondary education. Examples of the types of projects that can be funded 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.



# **OTHER PROGRAMS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION, LABOR, AND HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

- Under the Administration for Children and Families, you can also submit CDS requests for projects dealing with child abuse prevention, aging and disability services, research projects on financial self-sufficiency, and healthy development of children and families.
- These funds are for research and demonstration projects so there should be some learning built in to show whether this use of funds was effective and can be duplicated elsewhere. The purpose is to conduct projects with an eye on expansion or duplication.

**TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES**



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- CDS can be requested for a variety of transportation projects. In general, projects on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program are prioritized by the committee. Projects on Connecticut's Transportation Infrastructure Plan include:
  - Airport Improvement Program
  - Transportation Planning, Research, and Development
  - Highway Improvement Program
  - Transit Infrastructure Grant
    - Must go to a transit district
  - Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement

# **DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (EDI)**

- You can submit requests for the Economic Development Fund within the Community Development Fund account eligible under Chapter 69 of Title 42, U.S. Code. This generally includes economic and community development activities, including: land or site acquisition, demolition or rehabilitation of housing or facilities, construction and improvements of public facilities, assistance to nonprofits, and public services. Requests may also include planning and other activities consistent with the underlying authorization for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program within HUD.
- Generally, these projects benefit primarily low- and moderate-income persons or communities. Successful projects are typically within the housing space.
- All EDI projects must meet 1 of the 3 National Objectives of the CDBG Program. The objectives are:
  - 1) Benefit low- and moderate-income persons or communities.
  - 2) Prevent or eliminate slums or blight.
  - 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.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- How many requests can an office make? How many requests get funded?
- Are there maximum or minimum funding amounts an organization can request?
- Are there limitations on what CDS can be used for?
- When will I know if my project is getting funded?
- If my CDS request is signed into law, what happens next and how quickly will I receive funding?
- Does my project have to be in both the House and Senate bills to get funded?

# THANK YOU!

- Thanks for attending this webinar! We will stick around for a few minutes if you'd like to ask any additional questions.
- Contact information:
  - Senator Blumenthal's office:
    - Kasandra Navarro, [Kasandra\\_Navarro@Blumenthal.senate.gov](mailto:Kasandra_Navarro@Blumenthal.senate.gov)
    - Ashley Law, [Ashley\\_Law@Blumenthal.senate.gov](mailto:Ashley_Law@Blumenthal.senate.gov)
  - Senator Murphy's office:
    - Jacob Ecke, [Jacob\\_Ecke@Murphy.senate.gov](mailto:Jacob_Ecke@Murphy.senate.gov)