

## **FY23 COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING REQUESTS**

*Guidance from Campaign for Trauma-Informed Policy and Practice*

**Community Project Funding Requests (CPFs):** Requests from Members of Congress to direct funds to a specific state or local government or eligible non-profit recipient through the annual appropriations legislation. Formerly known as, “earmarks”.

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

#### **Requirements**

- Limit of 15 CPF requests per Member
- Demonstrated Community Support, such as letters of support from elected community leaders (e.g. mayors or other officials), press articles highlighting the need for the requested Community Project Funding, support from newspaper editorial boards, projects listed on State intended use plans, community development plans, or other publicly available planning documents, or resolutions passed by city councils or boards.
- Financial Disclosure Statement: Members must not have a financial interest
- Member requirements to post all requests and certifications online

#### **Evaluation Criteria**

- Ban on For-Profit recipients
- Matching requirements
- One-year funding
- Members are encouraged to consider public entities (state, local, or Tribal governmental entities) as grantees) to oversee completion of the project
  - Nonprofits as grantees: If a Member requests that funding be directed to a non-profit organization, the Member will need to provide evidence that the recipient is a nonprofit organization by either supplying the Employer Identification Number or an IRS determination letter.
- Request amounts: The Committee will limit Community Project Funding to no more than 1 percent of discretionary spending. Typical ranges are included in the “FY23 COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING ELIGIBLE ACCOUNTS” section below.

#### **Suggestions**

- Research your Members’ priorities and tailor your language accordingly
- If they chose to submit, review your Members’ requests from FY22 (listed on their website)
- If you do not have a project eligible for a CPF, reach out to nonprofit partners or your municipality and state government partners to advocate for them to apply for CPF. Offer to provide evidence of community support.
- Questions? Attend CTIPP Government Affairs Office Hours with Jen, Mondays 12-2PM EST ([jen@traumacampaign.org](mailto:jen@traumacampaign.org))

**A SELECTION OF RELEVANT FY22 FUNDED COMMUNITY PROJECTS (AS EXAMPLES):**

Full lists of funded CPFs can be found [here](#).

Agency & Account	Description	Requesting Member	Amount
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) & SAMHSA	All Star Children’s Foundation, Sarasota, FL for child welfare and trauma services program and associated support services	Buchanan (R)	1,500,000
HHS & SAMHSA	Boys & Girls Clubs in Colorado, Inc., CO, to provide mental health services to promote social emotional well-being among youth, including those exposed to trauma.	Bennett (D), Hickenlooper (D)	2,000,000
HHS & SAMHSA	Charter Oak Cultural Center, CT, for adverse childhood experiences training to reduce trauma experienced by youth.	Blumenthal (D), Murphy (D)	47,000
HHS & SAMHSA	Children’s Fund, Inc., San Bernardino, CA for trauma-informed mental health care for children	Aguilar (D)	100,000
HHS & SAMHSA	City of St. Louis Mental Health Board of Trustees, St. Louis, MO for behavioral health and trauma prevention services for people impacted by gun violence	Bush (D)	600,000
HHS & SAMHSA	Gads Hill Center, Chicago, IL for trauma-informed mental and behavioral health services	Jesus G. “Chuy” Garcia (D)	350,000
HHS & SAMHSA	Garden State Equality, Asbury Park, NJ to address the impacts of trauma on mental health for LGBTQ and BIPOC youth	Norcross (D)	175,000
HHS & SAMHSA	Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA for mental health services and other supports for children who have experienced trauma	Williams (D), Ossoff (D), Warnock (D)	200,000
HHS & SAMHSA	Lourie Center for Infants and Young Children, Inc., MD, to provide services to children experiencing trauma.	Van Hollen (D)	970,000
HHS & SAMHSA	Mental Health Partners, Lafayette, CO to provide community mental health and well-being services to mitigate the long term impacts of trauma	Neguse (D)	275,000
HHS & SAMHSA	Office of the Mayor-President, City of Baton Rouge, LA for a resource and service center for recovery from trauma	Troy A. Carter (D)	1,000,000
HHS & SAMHSA	Path with Art, Seattle, WA for mental health and trauma recovery programming	Jayapal (D)	210,000

HHS & SAMHSA	Reaching HOPE, CO, to provide mental health services to trauma survivors.	Hickenlooper (D)	321,000
HHS & SAMHSA	Sankofa Safe Child Initiative, Chicago, IL for mental health services for teens who have experienced trauma	Danny K. Davis (D)	275,000
HHS & SAMHSA	Santa Clara County Office of Education, San Jose, CA for prevention and early intervention services to address student mental health and trauma	Khanna (D)	300,000
HHS & SAMHSA	The Martinsburg Initiative, Inc., WV, for trauma awareness and substance use prevention services.	Capito (R)	500,000
HHS & SAMHSA	UCAN, IL, for trauma-informed violence prevention and mental health services.	Durbin (D)	750,000
HHS & SAMHSA	UCHealth Trauma Services, Aurora, CO for an at risk intervention and mentoring violence prevention program, including mental health treatment and other services	Crow (D)	450,000
HHS & SAMHSA	YWCA NH, Manchester, NH for mental health care and support services for children and families exposed to trauma	Pappas (D), Shaheen (D)	750,000
HHS & SAMHSA	City of Augusta, ME for Project Recovery, to increase access to substance use treatment, recovery, and supportive services.	Pingree (D), Collins (R), King (I)	265,000
Department of Education & Elementary & Secondary Education	Futures Without Violence, San Francisco, CA for trauma-informed social and emotional learning programs	Pelosi (D), Padilla (D)	1,000,000
HHS & Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)	Aroostook Mental Health Services, Inc., ME, for facilities and equipment	Collins (R)	1,000,000
HHS & HRSA	Bucks County Department of Mental Health: Developmental Programs, Doylestown, PA for facilities	Fitzpatrick (R)	500,000
HHS & HRSA	ComWell, Red Bud, IL for rural mental health and psychiatric care	Bost (R)	250,000
HHS & HRSA	Delaware-Morrow Mental Health & Recovery Services Board, Delaware, OH for facilities	Balderson (R)	750,000
HHS & HRSA	Hill Country Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Centers, Kerrville, TX for facilities and equipment	Tony Gonzalez (R)	2,000,000
HHS & HRSA	Wellington Fire Protection District, CO, for mental health training.	Hickenlooper (D)	18,000

## **FY23 COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING ELIGIBLE ACCOUNTS (full list):**

*For the sake of brevity, the below list includes only the 12 accounts most closely related to the trauma-informed work happening in our network. This is not the full list of available accounts. The remaining accounts can be found on the House Appropriations Committee website [here](#).*

### **House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Labor-Health, Human Services -Education**

#### **1. Department of Labor—Employment and Training Administration:**

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act demonstration program is the only Labor Department program that supports community project funding. Community project funding is designated under Training and Employment Services. These projects must meet all statutorily mandated requirements, except that they are exempt from the requirement to compete. In addition, all projects must:

1. Include direct services to individuals to enhance employment opportunities;
2. Demonstrate evidence of a linkage with the State or local workforce investment system; and
3. Include an evaluation component.

Equipment purchases may be included within community project funding only as an incidental part of the entire project. A similar standard applies to curriculum development, which should be incidental to the project's emphasis on direct services to individuals. Community project funding cannot be used for construction or renovation of facilities.

House project amounts in this account were funded between \$100,000 and \$2,000,000 in FY 2022. The Committee may consider slightly higher project amounts for FY 2023. Any caps will be determined by the Chair after reviewing the full universe of requests.

#### **2. Department of Health and Human Services—Health Resources and Services Administration—Health Facilities Construction and Equipment:**

Grants to help with the cost of construction, renovation, or capital equipment for facilities for provision of health, 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, grants can be used to acquire capital equipment, such as lab equipment, x-ray machines, and telehealth and information technology equipment. Equipment-only grants—that is, grants not involving construction—are permissible (and commonly done). 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. In addition, 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. One-time equipment expenses for health information systems and electronic medical records systems are permitted expenditures. The costs of expendable supplies such as pharmaceuticals, lab chemicals, or office paper are not eligible.

HRSA Health Facilities grants cannot be used to acquire land or purchase existing buildings, or to pay salaries or other operating or ongoing costs. They cannot be used to pay for work previously completed. Grants can be used for architectural and engineering costs associated with an eligible construction project, but cannot be used for general feasibility studies.

House project amounts in this account were funded between \$100,000 and \$2,000,000 (or up to \$4,000,000 for projects jointly submitted by multiple Members) in FY 2022. Note that the Committee may consider slightly higher project amounts for FY 2023. Any caps will be determined by the Chair after reviewing the full universe of requests.

**3. Department of Health and Human Services—Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration—Health Surveillance and Program Support:**

Community project funding through SAMHSA provides resources for substance use and/or mental health services — including prevention, harm reduction, treatment, or recovery support services. Generally, SAMHSA projects cover:

- Evidence-based substance use disorder and/or mental health treatment services.
- Evidence-based harm reduction activities.
- Crisis services, including 24-hour mobile crisis teams.
- Suicide prevention activities including awareness training, screening, referral to treatment, as well as postvention activities.
- Recovery support services, which includes case management, outreach, peer recovery mentors, peer support specialists, childcare, training, transportation, and housing, as well as helping individuals to navigate these various services.
- Screening and assessment of individuals, including the presence of co-occurring mental and substance use disorders and referral to treatment.
- Referral and access to treatment services.
- Educational materials on substance misuse, HIV prevention, hepatitis prevention, and mental health promotion.
- Practitioners or community members training on evidence-based behavioral health practices.
- FDA-approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorders in combination with comprehensive psychosocial services, including counseling, behavioral therapies, recovery support services, and other clinically appropriate services.
- Projects that support the hiring of behavioral health providers.
- Limited indirect costs that are directly related to the projects.

Note: This is not an exhaustive list of the types of programs and services that SAMHSA funds. A listing of SAMHSA NOFO's can be found at:

<https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grantannouncements-2022>.

SAMHSA project funds cannot be used for:

- Inpatient treatment or hospital-based detoxification services.
- Direct payments to individuals to enter treatment or continue to participate in prevention or treatment services.
- Meals and food.

- Research projects (e.g., scientific, academic, clinical trials, studies, development of research technology).
- Construction (other than a limited amount of renovation necessary to carry out a funded project).

More information on allowable or unallowable costs can be found on the HHS Webpage at: <https://www.hhs.gov/grants/grants/index.html>. House project amounts in this account were funded between \$100,000 and \$2,000,000 in FY 2022. The Committee may consider slightly higher project amounts for FY 2023. Any caps will be determined by the Chair after reviewing the full universe of requests.

**4. [NEW ACCOUNT] Department of Health and Human Services – Administration for Children and Families:**

Community project funding within ACF should be submitted through the Children and Families Services Programs account and must fall under one of the following categories:

- Child Abuse Prevention — Community project funding may be used for projects to improve the prevention, assessment, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect through research, model service improvement, information dissemination, and technical assistance. Projects must serve or target children and families who are at risk or who have experienced child abuse and neglect.
- Social Services Research and Demonstration — Community project funding may be used for projects to promote the ability of families to thrive through financial self-sufficiency in order to prevent and reduce poverty and to 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.

ACF community project funding cannot be used for construction or renovation of facilities. The House LHHS bill did not include projects in this account in FY 2022. The Committee expects to consider project amounts in this account between \$100,000 and \$2,000,000 for FY 2023. Any caps will be determined by the Chair after reviewing the full universe of requests.

**5. [NEW ACCOUNT] Department of Health and Human Services – Administration for Community Living:**

Community project funding within ACL should be submitted through the Aging and Disability Services Programs account. Community project funding may be used for projects to improve or create new opportunities for older adults, individuals of all ages with disabilities, and their eligible family caregivers, to live independently and participate fully in their communities. Generally, community project funding should focus on improving access to, or the quality of, education, health services, training, support services, and independent living services for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and eligible family caregivers. ACL community project funding cannot be used for construction or renovation of facilities.

The House LHHS bill did not include projects in this account in FY 2022. The Committee expects to consider project amounts in this account between \$100,000 and \$2,000,000 for FY 2023. Any caps will be determined by the Chair after reviewing the full universe of requests.

**6. Department of Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Innovation and Improvement:**

Community project funding for elementary and secondary education should be submitted through the Innovation and Improvement account. Elementary and secondary education community project funding includes 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 community project funding should be providing early childhood or K-12 educational services.

Community project funding to provide and improve special education services at the elementary and secondary levels are also eligible under elementary and secondary education. Community project funding 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, community project funding intended for individual schools is provided to the applicable school district and not directly to the individual school.

Community project funding 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 also not eligible.

House project amounts in this account were funded between \$100,000 and \$2,000,000 in FY 2022. The Committee may consider slightly higher project amounts for FY 2023. Any caps will be determined by the Chair after reviewing the full universe of requests.

**7. Department of Education, Postsecondary Education, Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education:**

Community project funding can be designated under this heading for a wide variety of higher education projects. Generally, community project funding should focus on improving access to, or the quality of, postsecondary education. Community project funding cannot be used for construction or renovation of academic buildings, except in the case of minor remodeling required as part of technology upgrades.

Examples of the types of projects that can be funded under FIPSE 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.

House project amounts in this account were funded between \$100,000 and \$2,000,000 in FY 2022. The Committee may consider slightly higher project amounts for FY 2023. Any caps will be determined by the Chair after reviewing the full universe of requests.

Again, except where specifically authorized, community project funding cannot be used for construction (or the acquisition of property) or renovation of buildings. In addition, grantees may not restrict participants based on race, ethnicity, or gender. Any project that appears to target services toward a particular race, ethnicity, or gender must have a description that makes clear that it will be operated in a race/ethnicity-neutral and gender-neutral manner.

Additional guidance with specific information about these accounts is [attached](#).

## **House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Agriculture-FDA**

### **8. Department of Agriculture Community Facilities Grants:**

Grants to purchase, construct, or improve essential community facilities, to purchase equipment, and pay other related project expenses. Essential community facilities include, but are not limited to, healthcare facilities, public facilities, public safety measures, educational services, or other community support services. Examples of eligible projects include medical or dental clinics, towns halls, courthouses, childcare centers, police or fire departments, public works vehicles, or distance learning equipment. Any project must serve a rural area as specified in 7 CFR 3570.53 (rural areas including cities, villages, townships and Federally Recognized Tribal lands with no more than 20,000 residents), and the Member's request must demonstrate community support. Members should ensure that their request provides the fullest description of the project as possible. Submissions should include details on all proposed uses of funds, activities that will occur, timeline, and detailed information on the complete service territory, including median household income of the proposed project. Please review all program regulations carefully, most notably:

- Cost share requirements. The Community Facilities program has a cost share calculated on a graduated scale. The applicant should be aware of any cost share as documented in 7 CFR 3570.63(b).
- Credit Elsewhere Test. Applicant shall certify they cannot finance the project from their own resources and credit is not otherwise available on reasonable terms from non-Federal sources.

Community Facilities grants generally cannot be used to pay initial operating expenses or annual recurring expenses, refinance existing debt, pay interest, build or repair facilities in non-rural areas, or pay for construction costs of facilities that will be used for commercial rental space.

The State Rural Development Office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility.

For fiscal year 2022, the average CPF funding level was just over \$1 million. Please note that the Committee will consider higher project requests for fiscal year 2023. However, projects requesting significantly more than that average may be more difficult to fund and funding will depend on program demand and other variables. Any future potential project caps will be determined by the Chair after reviewing the full universe of requests.

### **9. Department of Agriculture ReConnect Program:**



ReConnect broadband pilot grants facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas. Grants funds can be used for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service to rural areas without sufficient broadband access.

The area must be rural and lack sufficient access to broadband service. A rural area is any area which is not located within a city, town, or incorporated area that has a population of greater than 20,000 inhabitants. Sufficient access to broadband is defined as greater than 90% of any rural area in which households have fixed, terrestrial broadband service delivering at least 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream. Mobile and satellite services will not be considered in making the determination of sufficient access to broadband.

Stand-alone middle-mile projects are not eligible under the ReConnect Program. However, middle-mile facilities are eligible if they are needed to bring sufficient broadband service to all premises in the area.

Members are strongly encouraged to include information in their requests, such as the number of households, businesses, or farms will be served in the area, what the performance of the service to be offered will be, and whether healthcare or educational facilities will be served.

USDA's Rural Development is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility.

For fiscal year 2022, the average ReConnect CPF award was nearly \$2 million. Please note the subcommittee will consider higher project requests for fiscal year 2023. However, projects requesting significantly more than that average may be more difficult to fund and funding will depend on program demand and other variables. Any future potential project caps will be determined by the Chair after reviewing the full universe of requests.

Additionally, when submitting a request, Members are reminded that all policies and procedures apply, including environmental and related reviews and the cost share requirement of 25% of the overall project cost. Policies and procedures can be found at <https://go.usa.gov/xexPT>.

## **10. [NEW ACCOUNT] Department of Agriculture Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants:**

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine program (DLT) helps rural residents better utilize the enormous potential of modern telecommunications and the internet for education and healthcare, two critical components of economic and community development. The DLT program helps rural communities acquire the technology and training necessary to connect educational and medical professionals with students, teachers, and patients in rural areas.

Grants may be used for audio and video equipment, broadband facilities that support distance learning or telemedicine (not actual broadband), computer hardware or network components/software, and acquisition of instructional programming.

All requests are subject to all the regulations governing the program which can be found at 7 CFR Part 1734. **The program requires a 15% match** that cannot come from another federal source.

The State Rural Development Office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility.

Competitive awards typically range from \$50,000 to \$1,000,000 and the Committee will consider projects in this range. This a new account for the fiscal 2023 House process; in fiscal year 2022, the average Senate CPF in this account was \$359,000. Members are strongly encouraged to provide as much detail as possible on how the award will be utilized, what equipment of service will be acquired and any information on population(s) served. The program is intended to serve rural areas with populations of 20,000 or less.

### **House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Commerce-Justice-Science ("CJS")**

#### **11. Department of Justice Byrne Justice Assistance Grants:**

Office of Justice Programs, Byrne JAG Grants assist state, local, and tribal law enforcement efforts to prevent crime, improve the criminal justice system, provide victims' services, and other related activities. Community projects funded under this category must comply with the requirements cited in JAG statutes and be consistent with Justice Department guidance for the program. Below are the links to the Department's guidance and frequently asked questions regarding Byrne-JAG:

- <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/jag/overview>
- <https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/jag-faqs.pdf>

The Committee encourages community project funding designed to help improve police-community relations. Historically, the Committee has not funded building construction or renovation as part of community project funding under this account. The median award in this account for FY 22 was \$500,000. Note the Committee may consider similar or higher project amounts for FY 23. Any caps will be determined after reviewing the full universe of requests, and while there are no guarantees, projects of a modest size are more likely to receive full funding.

### **House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs ("MilCon-VA")**

#### **12. [NEW ACCOUNT] Department of Veterans Affairs Minor Construction Program**

VA's Minor Construction program includes capital projects with costs equal to or less than \$20,000,000, particularly projects that construct new space instead of renovating existing space. Examples may include expanding existing facility square footage to provide additional healthcare capacity, construction of specialty care buildings or clinics, building of parking structures, or expanding gravesite space at cemeteries.

The Committee will only consider projects that appear on VA's Integrated Department-wide Priority List for 2023 Construction Projects (2023 Construction SCIP List). This list will be included in the FY 2023 President's Budget submission.

The yearly Construction SCIP List includes projects that have been reviewed by VA and are determined to be at an advanced enough stage to receive funds. This will ensure that Federal dollars are not set aside for projects that are not yet ready to spend them. Please note that while this list includes both Major Construction and Minor Construction projects, only Minor Construction projects will be considered for Member requests.

The subcommittee strongly encourages member offices to familiarize themselves with VA's process for identifying and prioritizing construction needs at its facilities. As part of the annual President's Budget submission, VA submits four volumes of additional detail. Volume IV details the Construction and the Long Range Capital Plan. For your reference, the prior year 2022 Construction Strategic Capital Investment Planning Process Project (SCIP) List can be found in Table 5-1 within the FY 2022 VA budget submission, available at: <https://www.va.gov/budget/docs/summary/fy2022VAbudgetVolumeIVconstructionAndLongRangePlan.pdf>

A discussion of the FY 2022 list begins on page 281 in the linked document, and the list itself begins on page 282. While VA may change this list from year to year, this will enable you to become familiar with VA's project identification process.

Criteria for VA Community Project Funding (CPF):

- The subcommittee will consider supporting Community Project Funding only for VA Minor Construction projects that are equal to or less than \$20,000,000 in total estimated project cost, and they must be included in the 2023 Construction SCIP List (this list will be included in the FY 2023 President's Budget submission materials).
- Projects must be listed as unfunded on VA's 2023 Construction SCIP List with \$0 in the 2023 Request column. Projects with a dollar amount in the 2023 Request column are requested in the President's budget request, and if requested, should be submitted as programmatic requests.
- Funding for a CPF project will be capped at 10 percent of the total estimated cost of the project to support planning and design that can be executed within twelve months of receiving funding. (Similar projects on the FY 2022 list would generally have been in the range of \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000.)
- Exceptions to the 10 percent cap may be made for projects where construction is ready to be supported in year one, and only applies to some National Cemetery Administration (NCA) Minor Construction projects. Please consult with the subcommittee and VA to determine if the full scope of an NCA project can be executable in one year.
- Final decision on funding caps will be determined by the Chair after reviewing the full universe of requests.

Additional guidance with specific information about these accounts is [attached](#).