

U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley
Oregon Fiscal Year 2027 Community-initiated Project Guidance

At this time, it is our understanding that the Senate Appropriations Committee will be accepting requests from Senators for community-initiated projects (CIPs) – also known as congressionally directed spending (CDS) requests or community project funding (CPF) - for the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) appropriations process. A CIP is a type of federal grant, with the primary difference being that the recipients, amounts, and purposes are specifically listed in the annual appropriations bills. **The normal rules associated with receiving a federal grant also apply to CIPs, including matching requirements, procurement regulations, environmental compliance, etc.** It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure compliance with these requirements. Please note that the Senate Appropriations Committee considers community-initiated project requests for only specific accounts and maintains a highly selective process for approving requests.

Please also note that the House of Representatives refers to CIP requests as “community project funding” (CPF) requests and maintains a different submission procedure than the Senate, with different available accounts. For more information, please contact your relevant federal representative. We encourage you to submit your project in both processes, if applicable. For those who participated in this process last year, please note that Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) requests do not carry over to FY27. Projects submitted for consideration in FY26 may be resubmitted for FY27.

Disclaimer: As of January 30, 2026, the Senate Appropriations Committee has not released updated guidance for FY27. Further, Congressional Leadership has not formally agreed to accept CIPs for FY27; however, our offices remain hopeful that the Committee will continue to include them. Should this change or if there are specific account eligibility changes, applicants will be contacted with updated information about the status of their application.

Disclosure: Senate rules require Senators to publicly disclose and provide a description of all CIP requests they choose to submit on their official website. Submission of a request does not guarantee the award of federal funding. The requesting entity must comply with any request presented to them by the Government Accountability Office or any other federal entity performing an audit, investigation, or oversight function. Any funding award associated with the request does not guarantee support or funding in future fiscal years.

Submission Process: Both Senate offices will be using a shared [online webform](#) to collect CIP requests. The deadline for submitting is **11:59PM PST on Wednesday, February 25, 2026.**

Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden are only accepting requests from Oregon-based eligible entities for projects in Oregon. Only non-profits (501(c)3s), federal, state, local or Tribal governments, or public institutions are eligible to receive funds. Construction projects for museums, pools, and parking lots are **not** eligible.

Submission Requirements

Complete requests must include a complete application and the required checklist items.

- The application form requires a description detailing the following elements:
 - This description should provide a brief (250 words or less) summary of the project including its purpose, goals, history, and current status, as well as the justification for the project (i.e., why funding is in the interest of taxpayers).
 - The description should explain how the money will be spent (i.e., \$ -x- for salaries; \$ -x- for programming; \$ -x- for equipment; etc.). Please be specific when describing the activities and expenditures.
 - The justification should also state what performance standards will be used to measure whether this project has achieved its objectives.
- The check list items required are:
 - At least three letters of support – These can come from state agencies, state and local elected officials, community leaders, project partners, etc.
 - A document detailing the budget for the project. A template can be found [here](#).
 - Additionally, your request may require specific technical letters from state agencies or local federal offices certifying eligibility. Please refer to the chart below.

Agency Contacts

<i>Account</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Point of Contact</i>
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Clean Water Projects	Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)	Chris Marko (chris.marko@deq.oregon.gov)
EPA, Drinking Water Projects	Oregon Health Authority	Adam DeSemples (adam.desemples@oha.oregon.gov)
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Oregon Department of Emergency Management	EOC (eocgpadmin@oem.oregon.gov) Stephen Richardson (Stephen.j.richardson@oem.oregon.gov)
Department of Transportation (This does not apply to AIP projects.)	Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)	Bob Estabrook (bob.estabrook@odot.oregon.gov)
U.S. Forest Service, State, Private, and Tribal Forestry	Oregon Department of Forestry	Derrick Wheeler (Derrick.wheeler@odf.oregon.gov)

<p>USDA, Rural Development, Community Facilities</p>	<p>Oregon’s Rural Development State Office</p>	<p>Drew Davis (drew.davis@usda.gov)</p> <p>Include the following: 1) Name of applicant/project owner; 2) Facility address; 3) Service area; 4) What funds will be spent on (equipment, construction, etc.); 5) Total project cost; and 6) Amount of grant requested.</p>
<p>USDA, Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (Formal letter not required, but confirmation of eligibility is.)</p>	<p>Oregon’s NRCS State Conservationist</p>	<p>Gary Diridoni (gary.diridoni@usda.gov)</p>

Fiscal Year 2026 Subcommittees & Accounts

Note: Given that the Senate Appropriations Committee has not yet released updated instructions or guidance for the FY27 appropriations process, this application adheres to the available accounts and information for the FY26 process. These accounts are subject to change as additional information is released from the committee. Should you submit an application under an account that becomes unavailable or has changes to their eligibility requirements, staff will contact you directly to discuss.

The following subcommittees are accepting applications for CIPs. Information about available accounts and other account-specific eligibility is on the identified page:

- **Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies** – *see page 5*
- **Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies** – *see page 7*
- **Energy and Water Development** – *see page 8*
- **Financial Services and General Government** – *see page 9*
- **Homeland Security** – *see page 10*
- **Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies** – *see page 11*
- **Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies** – *see page 13*
- **Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies** – *see page 15*

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration
Eligible Accounts and Account-specific Guidance

Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Building and Facilities

- Projects are limited to funding for ARS-owned existing facilities.

National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Research and Facilities Act Program

- Recipients are limited to land grant universities and other eligible entities as defined in section [7 U.S.C. 6971\(f\)\(1\)\(C\)](#).
- Recipients must provide a 100% non-federal match.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Salaries and Expenses

- Projects must fit into APHIS' current programs and mission, which can be found [here](#).
- Projects must meet environmental review requirements, including under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- Many programs under APHIS require specific cost-shares.
 - Generally, programs require a 25% cost share.
 - The Grasshopper/Mormon Cricket program requires a 50% cost share on state land and 33% percent of the cost on private land.
 - The Brucellosis program requires a 40% match by the state.
 - The Wildlife Services program requires a 50% cost share.

Natural Resources Conservation Service, Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO)

- Projects must have a local sponsor and be for one of four steps in the program's process (Preliminary feasibility study (PIFR), Watershed Plan development, Implementation of Watershed Plan, or Commencement of construction for authorized watershed conservation).
- Projects require a technical review from Oregon's NRCS State Conservationist (*see contact information on page 2*).
- Generally, projects require a 25% cost share.

Rural Development, Community Facilities Grants

- Projects require a technical review from Oregon's RD State office (*see contact information on page 2*).
- A full list of eligible entities, uses, and limitations can be found in 7 CFR Part 3570.
- Projects must meet environmental review requirements, including under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- This grant will fund up to 75% of total project costs. The minimum 25% cost share can come from other federal sources. Match requirements are outlined in 7 CFR 3570.63(b). The cost share obligation is determined by population as follows:
 - 25% cost share for projects in a rural community with a population of 5,000 or fewer;
 - 45% cost share for projects in a rural community having a population of 12,000 or fewer;
 - 65% cost share for projects in a rural community having a population of 20,000 or fewer.
- Towns with populations over 20,000 are not eligible for this program.
- This program is subject to the Build America Buy America Act requirements which will apply to the total project cost, not just the federal cost-share portion.

Rural Development, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

- Grants are capped at \$1 million and require a 15% non-federal cost share.
- A full list of eligible entities, uses, and limitations can be found in 7 CFR Part 1734 Subpart A [and B](#). Broadband deployment is **not** an eligible use.

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Eligible Accounts and Account-specific Guidance

Department of Commerce; National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST); Scientific and Technical Research Services (STRS); External Projects

- Construction projects are **not** eligible.

Department of Commerce; NIST; Construction of Research Facilities; Extramural Construction

- Projects are limited to non-Federal research facilities, including research institutions and colleges and universities.

Department of Commerce; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); Operations, Research, and Facilities (ORF); Special Projects

- Construction projects are **not** eligible.

Department of Justice; Office on Justice Programs; State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance; Byrne Discretionary

- Projects must have a specific criminal justice nexus and provide additional personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical assistance, and information systems for criminal justice systems.
- Land acquisition or construction project are **not** eligible.
- For additional eligibility guidance, please see requirements of 2 CFR Part 200 and the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#).

Department of Justice; Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS); COPS Law Enforcement Technology and Equipment

- Projects must have a specific law enforcement nexus and support the development of technologies and automated systems to assist law enforcement agencies in investigating, responding to, and preventing crime.
- For additional eligibility guidance, please see the activities allowed under the COPS Office statute, the requirements of 2 CFR Part 200 and the DOJ Grants Financial Guide, and the applicable Award Owner's Manual.

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.
- Medical research projects and projects at NASA-owned Visitor Centers or a State's designated Space Grant Consortium will not be funded.
- This account cannot fund construction but may be used for equipment, research funding, or education programs.

Energy and Water Development *Eligible Accounts and Account-specific Guidance*

Corps of Engineers: Investigations

- Applicants to Corps of Engineers accounts should proactively reach out to our offices prior to submission.
- Projects should have capability identified for FY26.

Corps of Engineers: Construction

- Applicants to Corps of Engineers accounts should proactively reach out to our offices prior to submission.
- Projects should have capability identified for FY26.

Corps of Engineers: Operation & Maintenance

- Applicants to Corps of Engineers accounts should proactively reach out to our offices prior to submission.
- Projects should have capability identified for FY26.

Bureau of Reclamation: Water and Related Resources

- Projects are limited by agency capability to execute the project in the year in which it is appropriated.

Department of Energy: Energy Projects

- Projects should fall within the following areas: Renewable and Clean Energy, Electricity and Energy Resiliency, Cybersecurity and Energy Security, Nuclear Energy, and Fossil Energy or Carbon Management.
- The following projects are **not** eligible:
 - Projects that require multiple years of funding.
 - Construction of buildings or new facilities.
 - Vehicle charging stations, unless the project is connected to larger clean energy sources (i.e. a battery) or has clean energy applications beyond the charging station.
 - Electrical substation replacement or routine grid upgrades.
 - Planning studies.
 - Clean energy projects that do not show transformative or emerging technological solutions (i.e. solar panels, battery storage, or light bulb upgrades without any associated transformative technology or integrated energy system).
 - Planning studies.
- Projects are subject to cost share requirements, required by section 988 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. In general, the following cost shares apply:
 - Research or development activities of a basic or fundamental nature: no minimum cost share.
 - Research or development activities of an applied nature: minimum 20% cost share.
 - Demonstration or commercial application: minimum 50% cost share.
 - Projects that contain elements of more than one of these categories may have a blended cost share.

Financial Services and General Government *Eligible Accounts and Account-specific Guidance*

Small Business Administration, Administrative Provision

- Projects should support small businesses and encompass entrepreneur training, counseling, and research. Projects should contemplate using an incubator model with a graduation component; however, this is not a formal requirement.
- Funding **cannot** be used for the provision of seed capital for small businesses, nor for sub-grants or loans, or the construction or acquisition of facilities.

National Archives and Records Administration, National Historical Publications and Records Commission

- Projects should help ensure online public discovery and use of historical records collections, encourage public engagement with historical records, strengthen the nation's archival network, or publish documentary editions of historical records.
- This includes initiatives like record digitization, programming, and online availability of records.

General Services Administration, Federal Buildings Fund, Construction and Acquisition

- Construction projects typically include federal courthouses, federal buildings, or land ports-of-entry.
- State or county facilities, DOD facilities, VA facilities, or transportation infrastructure facilities are not eligible.

General Services Administration, Federal Buildings Fund, Repairs and Alterations

- Repairs projects must be federally-owned properties in need of major repairs or alterations and are typically federal buildings or federal courthouses.

Office of National Drug Control Policy, Administrative Provision (Prevention Grants)

- Preferred prevention programs would include community-based coalitions which, as part of their application, propose data-driven, evidence-based prevention interventions; have established measurable objectives; and proposed implementing a comprehensive mix of strategies.
- Property purchases, construction, and renovation projects are **not** eligible.
- Programs should **not** be substance specific. Treatment programs are **not** eligible.

Homeland Security
Eligible Accounts and Account-specific Guidance

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Projects

- Full requirements and eligibility will likely mirror previous year’s funding opportunities and can be located [here](#).
- All proposals must be accompanied by a letter of support from the Oregon Office of Emergency Management affirming that it believes the project is eligible.
- Please note that the Oregon Office of Emergency Management—as the state agency responsible for administering mitigation grants in Oregon—is expected to submit an application to the FEMA for requests and serve as the administrative agent for the grant.
- Projects that have previously received Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) funding will not be eligible for PDM funding.

FEMA, Emergency Operations Center Grant Program

- Full requirements and eligibility will likely mirror previous year’s funding opportunities and can be located [here](#).
- All proposals must be accompanied by a letter of support from the Oregon Office of Emergency Management affirming that it believes the project is eligible.

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies *Eligible Accounts and Account-specific Guidance*

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG), Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF)

- All clean water projects, with the exception of tribal water projects, are required to provide an agency letter confirming the project is eligible.
- Projects have a 20% non-federal cost share requirement.
- Projects must have completed environmental review requirements, including under NEPA.
- Applicants must indicate in their justification whether they have ever received state or federal funding for any water infrastructure projects.

EPA, STAG, Drinking Water SRF

- All drinking water projects, with the exception of tribal water projects, are required to provide an agency letter confirming the project is eligible.
- Projects have a 20% non-federal cost share requirement.
- Projects must have completed environmental review requirements, including under NEPA.
- Applicants must indicate in their justification whether they have ever received state or federal funding for any water infrastructure projects.

Indian Health Service, Sanitation Facilities Construction

- Applicant must indicate a date that the project is anticipated to be ready to proceed to construction.

National Park Service (NPS), Historic Preservation Fund Projects

- If the project is appropriated, funds must be obligated within two years.

U.S. Forest Service (USFS), State, Private, and Tribal Forestry, Forest Resource Information and Analysis

- All State and Private Forestry projects require a letter confirming the project is consistent with the State Forest Action Plan.
- Projects for general research, capital improvements, or projects on federal land are **not** eligible.

Please note: The committee will consider projects for the following accounts on a case-by-case basis. However, CIP funding in these accounts is not common.

- Projects on Agency Lists - Additional subcategories are as follows:
 - Great American Outdoors Act, Land and Water Conservation Fund - Projects must fall into one of the following categories: (1) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Land Acquisition, (2) Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Land Acquisition, (3) NPS Land Acquisition, (4) USFS Land Acquisition, or (5) USFS Forest Legacy
 - Great American Outdoors Act, Legacy Restoration Fund - Projects must fall into one of the following agencies: BLM, FWS, NPS, Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), USFS
- Land Management Agencies, Construction - Projects must fall into one of the following categories: (1) BLM Construction, (2) FWS Construction Projects, (3) NPS Construction, or (4) USFS Capital Improvement and Maintenance, Facilities, Road and Trails

- Land Management Agencies, Local Projects and Research - Projects must fall into one of the following categories: (1) BLM, Management of Land and Resources, Land Management Priorities, (2) NPS, National Recreation and Preservation, Statutory and Contractual Aid, (3) FWS, Resource Management, Stewardship Priorities, or (4) U.S. Geological Service, Surveys Investigations and Research, Special Initiatives
- Bureau of Indian Affairs, Operation of Indian Programs, Special Initiatives
- EPA, Science and Technology, Research: National Priorities
- EPA, State and Tribal Assistance Grants, STAG Infrastructure Grants

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Eligible Accounts and Account-specific Guidance

Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Training and Employment Services

- Projects must provide direct services to individuals to enhance employment opportunities and include an evaluation component.
- Projects must have measurable outcomes and demonstrate a linkage with the state or local workforce investment system.
- Projects must meet all Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requirements.
- Projects for construction, renovation, or acquisition of land or buildings are **not** eligible.
- Funding **cannot** be used for sub-granting.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Program Management – Projects are accepted for the following:

- Health Facilities Construction and Equipment
 - Projects are limited to limited-scope construction, renovation, or capital equipment purchase for facilities for health, mental health, or substance use disorder services, training of health professionals, or medical research.
 - Funding cannot be used to reimburse expenses, to acquire land or purchase existing buildings, or to pay salaries or other operating costs.
- Rural Health
 - Funds can be used for services only in areas that meet HRSA’s definition of [rural](#).
 - Funds **cannot** be used for sub-granting in either category.

HHS, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Health Surveillance and Program Support

- Projects are accepted for the following: (1) Mental Health, (2) Substance Abuse Treatment, or (3) Substance Abuse Prevention.
- Projects for needle exchange distribution or promotion of legalization of illegal drugs or substances are **not** eligible.
- Funding **cannot** be used for construction (other than a limited amount of renovation necessary to carry out a funded project) or sub-granting.

HHS, Administration for Children and Families, Children and Families Services Programs

- Projects are accepted for the following: (1) Child Abuse Prevention, or (2) Social Services Research and Demonstration.
- Funding cannot be used for construction, renovation, or sub-granting.

HHS, Administration for Community Living, Aging and Disability Services Programs

Funding **cannot** be used for construction, renovation, or sub-granting.

Department of Education (DOE), Innovation and Improvement, Fund for the Improvement of Education

- Funding intended for individual schools is provided to the applicable school district and not directly to the individual school.

- Daycare or childcare projects must include the provision of education services.
- Funding **cannot** be used for construction or renovation (other than a limited amount of renovation necessary to carry out a funded project).

DOE, Higher Education, Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education

- Projects must meet an eligible activity as specified in section 741(a) of the Higher Education Act ([20 U.S.C. 1138\(a\)](#)).
- Funding **cannot** be used for endowments or construction or renovation (other than a limited amount of renovation necessary to carry out a funded project).

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Eligible Accounts and Account-specific Guidance

Please note: Projects for operational expenses or administrative salaries and benefits are not eligible for any of the below accounts. All accounts require a non-Federal cost share.

Department of Transportation (DOT), Transportation Planning, Research, and Development (TPR&D)

- Funding for transportation research projects eligible under title 23 or title 49, United States Code (not for project-specific planning that is eligible for funding under HIP, TIG, or CRISI).

DOT, Grants-in-Aid for Airports, Airport Improvement Program (AIP)

- Funding for airport projects eligible under chapter 471 of title 49, United States Code.
- Applications must include a link to the airport master plan.

DOT, Highway Infrastructure Programs (HIP)

- Funding for highway projects eligible under title 23, United States Code.
- All funds will be provided to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).
- Recipient must coordinate with ODOT for a letter of support.

DOT, Transit Infrastructure Grants (TIG)

- Funding for transit projects eligible under chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code.
- Applications must include a link to Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) or Transportation Improvement Plan and indicate the page number that the project appears.
- Recipient must coordinate with the relevant transit agency or ODOT for a letter of support or to indicate that the project will be added to the STIP.

DOT, Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grants

- Funding for rail projects eligible under section 22907 of title 49, United States Code.
- Applications must include a link to the State Rail Plan.
- Recipient must coordinate with ODOT for a letter of support.

Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grants

- Funding for port projects eligible under section 54301 of title 46, United States Code. Further, the project description must denote whether:
 - The project is eligible under 46 USC 54301, specifically which eligible use;
 - The recipient is eligible under 46 USC 54301, specifically (A) through (F);
 - The project is at a small port as described under 46 USC 54301(b); and
 - The project is in a rural area as described under 46 USC 54301(a)(12).
- Application must include a link to the relevant planning document for the project.
- Fully automated cargo handling equipment to be remotely operated or monitored, with or without the exercise of human intervention or control is **not** eligible.

Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Community Development Fund, Economic Development Initiatives (EDI)

- Funding for activities eligible under section 5305 of chapter 69 of title 42, United States Code, as well as for affordable housing construction.
- Application must articulate how the project meets 1 of the 3 National Objectives for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. If using the Objective of “benefits low- and moderate-income persons or communities”, the applicant must demonstrate compliance using (1) area benefit, (2) limited clientele, (3) housing, or (4) jobs.
- Applications must include a link to the project website, if available, or a link to the HUD five-year Consolidated Plan or Annual Action Plan, if the project is included or complements planned or current projects within these required plans.
- Projects must meet environmental review requirements, including under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and historic preservation laws.
- The environmental review must be completed by a “Responsible Entity” (RE), which is a state, unit of general local government, Indian tribe or Alaska Native Village. Nonprofits will need the RE for where the project is located to conduct the environmental review on their behalf.
- EDI projects are subject to Build America, Buy America requirements and will be required to comply with Build America Preference for iron, steel, construction materials, and manufactured projects.
- Operational expenses and administrative salaries and benefits are **not** eligible for funding.
- To review HUD’s current implementation of the EDI program and the applicable Federal requirements, please see [HUD’s EDI landing page](#).