Congressionally Directed Spending
Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know which Subcommittee to apply under?

Applicants should carefully review the FY26 guidance and determine which subcommittee best aligns with their project's scope, purpose, and eligibility criteria. Subcommittee jurisdiction is based on subject matter and funding authority.

The FY26 guidance is available on our website.

If you remain uncertain after reviewing the guidance, we recommend discussing your project with your Regional Manager prior to submission.

When will I hear back about my project?

Applicants typically receive an update on the status of their project by mid-May.
Please note that timelines are contingent upon the release and structure of future appropriations guidance, including FY27 guidance, which has not yet been issued. Our office will provide updates as information becomes available.

Can I add documents to my application after I submit?

Yes. Additional documentation may be submitted after your initial application by emailing Slotkin_CDS@Slotkin.Senate.Gov . Please ensure that any supplemental materials clearly reference your project name and sponsoring entity so they can be properly matched to your submission.

How many letters of support do I need?

While there is no strict numerical requirement, strong applications typically include multiple letters of support demonstrating community backing, stakeholder engagement, and project readiness.

Letters from local governments, community partners, nonprofit organizations, and other impacted stakeholders are particularly helpful.

Can I save my application and return to it later?

Sadly, no. The application system does not allow you to save and return to edit later.
For this reason, we strongly recommend reviewing the application in full and gathering all required information and supporting documentation before beginning your submission.

Should I travel to Washington, DC to advocate for my project?

Travel to Washington, DC, is neither required nor of benefit to your application. Senator Slotkin has a full in-state team available to discuss your project. If you would like to schedule a Zoom meeting or request a site visit, please contact your Regional Manager or reach out to Slotkin_CDS@Slotkin.Senate.Gov. Our team is available to ensure your project is clearly understood and properly considered.

Does it matter how much funding I request?

Yes. Funding strategy is an important component of a competitive application.
In FY26, the committees generally preferred projects in the $500,000 to $2 million range. Additionally, projects that clearly identified a minimum funding threshold necessary to proceed, even if below the requested amount, performed well.

Our recommendation is to clearly state the lowest amount of funding required to move your project forward. For projects selected by our office, Senator Slotkin will submit the full requested amount to the Committee and advocate for the highest possible funding level. However, projects exceeding $2 million, particularly within flexible and high-demand programs such as U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Economic Development Initiatives (HUD EDI) and Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Subcommittee accounts are unlikely to be funded at their full request. Flexibility in total award amount can significantly strengthen an application.

If my project is signed into law, how long will it take to receive funding?

The CDS process involves multiple stages:
1. Acceptance by our office
2. Submission to the Committee
3. Committee selection decisions
4. Inclusion in a final appropriations package
5. Passage by Congress and signed into law

Please note that the Committee does not provide feedback explaining why certain projects are selected over others.

Even after a project is signed into law, it may take up to one year for the awarding agency to distribute funds. Timing depends on agency implementation processes, grant agreement

finalization, and federal administrative procedures. From the date of submission, the timeline of receiving funds could be upwards to 18 months.