House Appropriations Committee

Guidance for Community Project Funding

- <u>Cap on Overall Funding</u>: The total amount for Community Project Funding in House appropriations bills will not exceed one half of one percent of discretionary spending.

- <u>Cap on Member Requests</u>: Members may submit a maximum of 20 requests across bills.

- <u>Federal Nexus Requirement</u>: In order to ensure a federal nexus exists for each funded project, the Committee will only fund projects that are tied to a federal authorization law. Members must include a written statement describing the federal nexus for each Community Project Funding request. Subcommittee guidance will include example language Members can use to make the required statement.

- <u>No Memorials, Museums, or Commemoratives</u>: Memorials, museums, and commemoratives (i.e., projects named for an individual or entity) are not eligible for Community Project Funding. Many are eligible for competitive grants, and Members can request higher program funding levels.

- <u>Stewardship Requirements</u>: Funded projects will follow applicable requirements in the authorized programs that support good stewardship of taxpayer dollars. For example, programs may require a non-federal cost-share and participation in program audits.

- <u>Careful Vetting of Projects</u>: Subcommittee chairs are expected to establish additional project criteria to ensure only high-quality projects are requested and funded. They are encouraged to reject any project that does not merit federal taxpayer funding. Funding decisions will depend on the availability of funds, demand for projects, and merit of individual projects. Please review subcommittee specific guidance carefully to determine eligibility and compliance with subcommittee requirements.

- <u>Ban on For-Profit Recipients</u>: Project funding may <u>not</u> be directed to for-profit recipients. Members may request funding for state, local, or tribal governmental grantees and certain eligible non-profits, as allowed under federal law and subcommittee guidance.

- <u>Request in Writing</u>: Any Member requesting project funding must do so in writing by the deadlines established in subcommittees' guidance, using the electronic portal at: https://AppropriationsSubmissions.house.gov. Requests must include the Member's name, name and location of the intended recipient, purpose of the requested funding, statement of federal nexus, and certification of no financial interest.

- <u>No Financial Interest</u>: Members must publicly certify that they and their immediate family have no financial interest in the projects they request. "Immediate family" for this purpose includes a father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, husband, wife, father-in-law, or mother-in-law. *Please contact the House Committee on Ethics with questions on what constitutes a "financial interest."*

- **Demonstrations of Project Merit and Support**: Members must provide evidence of the project's merit and community support.

- **All Requests Online**: Members are required to post every project funding request online, in a searchable format, with their final submission to the Committee. The final submission date typically occurs after a 2-week or 3-week technical assistance period, and the date will be clearly noticed in each subcommittee's guidance. In addition, the Committee will establish an online "one-stop" site with links to all House Members' project requests. Please see the website for exact dates for each subcommittee.

- **Audits and Oversight**: The Government Accountability Office (GAO) will conduct an independent audit of a sample of enacted projects and report its findings to Congress.

- **Early Public Disclosure**: House rules require disclosure of Community Project Funding before the bill is on the floor, but the House Appropriations Committee will publish online a list of projects earlier – on the same day as the bill's initial markup.

- **Committee Reports**: When reporting bills containing Community Project Funding, the Committee will identify each item, including the name of each requesting Member, in the corresponding committee report or joint explanatory statement and make it available online in a searchable format.