

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT FISCAL YEAR 2026

**Programmatic and language requests are due on Friday, May 2, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. EST.
CPF submission deadline is Friday, May 23, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. EST.
Members must post CPF requests on their websites by Friday, June 13, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.
EST.**

Energy and Water Community Project Funding: BLUF



This BLUF guide is **NOT** exhaustive. It aims to point you in the right direction on basic eligibility in **MOST** situations! Comprehensive guidance begins on the next page.

- Do you know how to contact a Corps District or Reclamation Regional Office? Time to learn! Please [reach out to us](#) and we can connect you with the right person.
- Call/email the Corps District/Reclamation Regional Office, describe your project, and ask them the following two questions:
 - [“Is that work authorized and what is the statutory citation?”](#)
 - [“What is your FY 2026 above-budget capability for that work?”](#) ← *Click this link!*
- If the answers sound a lot like “yes” and “non-zero dollar figure,” that’s a good sign.
- If the answers sound a lot like “no” and “zero,” that’s a bad sign.
- If the answer is too jargon heavy to understand, you’re not alone. In any case, you can always run the answers by us!
- If you don’t do this part, you run the risk of wasting a CPF request.

A Corps of Engineers Gut Check

- Your CPF request might be eligible if it funds a Corps project that (1) already exists; (2) is under construction and not funded to completion; (3) is being studied; (4) is pretty small and your locals are mostly working it out directly with the Corps; or (5) you had to ask for language in a **previous** WRDA if you wanted the Corps to build something eventually.
- Did you just get a brand-new study or project authorized in WRDA and are excited to get it started? **STOP!** We don’t start many new projects/studies each year. We didn’t start anything new in FY 2025. Please [reach out to us](#), we can help you make a plan.

A Bureau of Reclamation Gut Check

- Reclamation is unique and can be hard to navigate. If you plan to request a CPF that hasn’t been funded in Reclamation before, and you are unfamiliar with the terms “Rural Water Project,” “Indian Water Rights Settlement,” and “repayment contract,” please [reach out to](#)

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[us](#) first.

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GUIDANCE ON COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING REQUESTS

The Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies will accept project requests in only the following accounts and only in accordance with existing authorizations:

Army Corps of Engineers (Civil Works)

Investigations

Construction


Mississippi River and Tributaries

Operation and Maintenance

Department of the Interior – Bureau of Reclamation

Water and Related Resources

- ① Not all programs within these accounts will be open for Community Project Funding requests.

 If the project is **not** an individually authorized project or a project under the Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities Program, please contact the subcommittee for further information **prior to** submitting a request.

- ① To support the funding level and scope of a project included in the President's budget request, please do not submit a Community Project Funding request and instead submit a program request. *[Please note that funding for projects in the budget request may not be automatic, and therefore, the Committee strongly recommends Members submit a program request in support of each budget request project the Member supports, especially any new project.]*

- ① **A Community Project Funding request is only necessary to request an increment of funding or scope above and beyond the President's budget request.**

Program request to support the President's budget request of \$10 for Project A.

Community Project Funding request to support \$5 in addition to the President's budget request for Project A.

Program request or Community Project Funding request to support \$15 for Project A.

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GUIDANCE ON COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING REQUESTS (cont'd)

- ① Within the Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation, the Committee will accept program requests for additional funding above the budget request for categories of projects (e.g., navigation maintenance, flood control studies, etc.), but Members should be aware that this funding may be extremely limited in Fiscal Year 2026. For specific projects of particular interest, Members are strongly encouraged to submit Community Project Funding requests for amounts above the budget request.

- ① After the official Community Project Funding requests have been received, the subcommittee will ask the federal agencies for technical assistance on each requested project, including the information described in the suggested questions below. The subcommittee will evaluate project requests based on the information provided to the subcommittee directly from the federal agency.

★ ★ ★ The subcommittee **strongly recommends** that Member offices contact the relevant Corps of Engineers District Office or Bureau of Reclamation Regional Office to ask the following **specific questions** about the project of interest **prior to** submitting a Community Project Funding request. ★ ★ ★

? Is the project authorized? Is the scope of work to be funded within existing authorization?

① If YES, the project may be eligible as a Community Project Funding request in the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill.

? What is the statutory citation?

✓ If the project is an individually authorized project or a project under the Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities Program, include the statutory citation in the statement of federal nexus.

🏛️ If the project is authorized in a manner other than an individual project authorization or under the Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities Program, please contact the subcommittee for further clarification of eligibility prior to submitting a request.

✗ If NO, **STOP** – the project is not eligible as a Community Project Funding request in the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill.

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? What is the official project name?

- Include this name in the “Project Title” field in the electronic system and in the certification of no financial interest.

? What is the Fiscal Year 2026 capability?

- i** This amount is the maximum funding level the subcommittee will consider for inclusion in the appropriations bill. The existence of a capability amount does not guarantee that funding level – or any funding – will be able to be accommodated in the appropriations bill; it simply indicates the maximum amount that can be considered for inclusion.
- i** For Fiscal Year 2026, the Corps will express capability by providing a range that represents a project’s minimum and maximum possible capability.
- i** If the Corps provides a capability range prior to the release of the Fiscal Year 2026 President’s budget request, any funding recommended in the budget request should be deducted from both numbers.
- i** If the Corps can provide only a capability range prior to the CPF submission deadline, Members should consider basing their requests on the higher of the two numbers. Eventually, the true Fiscal Year 2026 capabilities for projects will become known, and the Committee will not exceed those amounts regardless of the amount requested. However, requesting the higher number of the range allows the Committee to consider all funding options as the technical data are refined throughout the Fiscal Year 2026 cycle.
- i** Regular communication with the relevant Corps District is essential. Capability expressions could fluctuate throughout the fiscal year. Corps Districts and Members should be proactive in their outreach with each other to validate capability expressions.

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GUIDANCE ON COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING REQUESTS (cont'd)

? For a Corps of Engineers project, what is the correct appropriations account in which to request funding?

Submit the Community Project Funding request under this account.

? For a Corps of Engineers project, is this project a new start?

i The subcommittee may need to focus Fiscal Year 2026 resources on making progress on ongoing projects, in order to maximize federal benefits. If so, new starts may be very limited, if included at all. While new start requests will be accepted, Members should consider this limitation when making requests.

? For a Corps of Engineers project, is this project an environmental infrastructure (EI) project?

i The subcommittee may need to focus Fiscal Year 2026 resources on projects in the main mission areas of the Corps (navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, environmental restoration), in order to maximize federal benefits. If so, EI projects may be very limited, if included at all. While EI requests will be accepted, Members should consider this limitation when making requests.

? For a Bureau of Reclamation project, is this project authorized **only** under section 4007, 4009(a), or 4009(c) of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–322)?

X If YES, the project is not eligible as a Community Project Funding request in the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill.

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GUIDANCE ON COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING REQUESTS (cont'd)

Additional Guidance for Member Offices

- ☑ Offices must upload a signed Member letter – on official letterhead and addressed to Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro – for each Community Project Funding request certifying that they and their immediate family have no financial interest in the projects they request.
 - ⓘ The template specific to Energy and Water Development requests is attached.
 - ⓘ “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.”
- ☑ Offices must upload a written statement describing the federal nexus for each Community Project Funding request.
 - ⓘ The template specific to Energy and Water Development requests is attached.
- ☑ Offices must upload evidence of the project’s merit and community support.

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GUIDANCE ON COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING REQUESTS (cont'd)

Offices must post every Energy and Water Development Community Project Funding request on the Member's official website, in a searchable format, on **Friday, June 13, 2025**.

① The posted information must include:

- ✓ The name and address of the proposed recipient. *[Please note that for Energy and Water Development project requests, the proposed recipient is either the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.]*
- ✓ A description of the request to include the requested funding amount, the purpose of the funding, and the justification for use of taxpayer funds.
- ✓ The signed Member certification of no financial interest and statement of the project's federal nexus.

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**TEMPLATE FOR MEMBER FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE
CERTIFICATIONS AND FEDERAL NEXUS STATEMENTS**

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the _____ project in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or U.S. Bureau of Reclamation]. The funding would be used for _____.
The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because _____.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section _____ of the _____ Act (Public Law XXX-XXX).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Member of Congress

[Please note that the best way to confirm the project authorization citation for the federal nexus statement is to ask the relevant Corps of Engineers District Office or Bureau of Reclamation Regional Office.]