Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Fiscal Year 2027 Member Request Guidance

Request Deadline – 6:00 PM EST on Friday, March 20, 2026
Deadline for Members to post CPF requests on their websites – Friday, April 17, 2026

General Guidance – All Requests

This document provides guidance on submitting Community Project Funding (CPF), programmatic, and language requests for Fiscal Year 2027 for the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies.

Offices must use the House Appropriations Committee's [database](#) for all Community Project Funding, programmatic, and language requests. Please ensure that all field entries are complete and accurate. **Printed materials will not be accepted.** Each office is responsible only for its requests and cannot submit requests on behalf of another office.

If you encounter general problems with the database or have technical questions, please email the Committee's IT office at Approp.ITMemberRequest@mail.house.gov. For questions regarding this guidance, please email the Interior Subcommittee staff at IN.MemberRequests@mail.house.gov.

Member Request Letters

Offices must upload a single, signed Member letter addressed to **Interior Chairman Mike Simpson and Ranking Member Chellie Pingree** that includes all Community Project Funding, programmatic, and language requests for the FY 2027 Interior Appropriations bill ranked in priority order.

Member letters should provide enough information to clearly identify each request entered in the database, but all other pertinent details should be included with the online submission. Members' letters must include a priority ranking of CPF, programmatic, and language requests in the Interior bill consistent with the priority ranking you entered in the database. In addition, the database allows Members to separately rank their top 1-10 requests, across all subcommittees, as well as their CPF requests across all subcommittees. The Committee strongly encourages Members to make those rankings as well.

Please note that requests entered into the database must match the signed Member letter. If a Member signs a multi-Member or delegation request letter, that request must be entered into the online database for each signee and be included in the Member's signed letter to be considered. This requirement applies to all requests.

Programmatic and Language Requests

For non-Community Project Funding requests (i.e., programmatic and language requests), insert the appropriate information in each text field in the online database. If the character limit of a text field prevents the user from entering in all the proposed text, please insert a summary that describes the purpose and effect of the proposed language and upload a document containing the full text. **Do not insert "refer to attachment" or anything similar without also inserting a summary directly into the text field.**

If the programmatic, bill, or report language request is for a specific non-governmental entity and not competitively awarded, or narrowly defines a competitive grant to the extent that only one entity or geographic area can apply, the request may be a Community Project Funding request. Please refer to the Community Project Funding guidance in this document or email the Interior Subcommittee staff at IN.MemberRequests@mail.house.gov if you have questions regarding the proper categorization of a request.

- **Programmatic Request**: A request to fund a specific program or activity in the Interior bill at a specified level—Example: *Provide $100,000,000 within the National Park Service -Operation of the National Park System account for Park Support.*

- **Language Request**: A request to include specific Interior bill or report language that does not direct funding to a particular entity but *encourages*, *urges*, or *directs* some type of action by an agency funded in the Interior bill. Example: "*The Committee directs the National Park Service to fully account for park needs across the country when including funding in future budget submissions for Park Support.*"

Community Project Funding Requests

Environmental Protection Agency – State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

For FY 2027, the Interior Subcommittee will only accept Community Project Funding (CPF) requests in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) account for certain clean water and drinking water infrastructure projects.

Projects must meet the eligibility criteria of the relevant Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) programs, including for the purposes authorized by federal law and all underlying federal requirements pursuant to Title VI of the Clean Water Act (CWSRF) and Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (DWSRF).

There is a minimum 20% cost share requirement for any portion of a project funded through a STAG CPF and the subcommittee will not waive matching requirements.

Below are EPA brochures on eligibility guidelines for the CWSRF and DWSRF programs. The subcommittee encourages offices to review and share these brochures with prospective recipients to better evaluate project eligibility prior to submitting CPF requests into the database.

- **EPA's Overview of Clean Water State Revolving Fund Eligibilities**

- **EPA's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Eligibility Handbook**

Financial Disclosure Certifications and Federal Nexus Statements

Members must certify that they and their "immediate family" (defined as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, husband, wife, father-in-law, or mother-in-law) do not have a financial interest in the requested project. Members also must include a statement regarding the project's federal nexus. Letter templates are included below:

To comply with House rule XXIII, clause 17, and Committee guidance, below is suggested text for a statement of federal nexus and a financial disclosure certification to accompany **each** Community Project Funding request:

> Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:
>
> "I am requesting funding for ___[project]___ in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is _____ located at____[address including street name, city, state, and zip code]___. 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 ___[Title VI of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C 1381 et seq. (Clean Water Projects) **OR** Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300j-12. (Drinking Water Projects)].
>
> I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family."
>
> > Sincerely,
> >
> > Member of Congress

These statements must be on letterhead and must be signed by the Member. **Members must post these letters for Interior Community Project Funding requests publicly on their websites on Friday, April 17, 2026, following the end of the Committee's technical assistance review period.** Please prepare the certification on letterhead and upload a PDF of the signed document to the request database.

The posted information must also include: (1) the name and address of the proposed recipient; (2) the amount requested; and (3) a description of the request to include the purpose of the funding and justification for use of taxpayer funds. Members must provide the Committee with a link to the Member's webpage containing this information when they enter the request into the Members' Request database system. The Committee will include links from all Members submitting Community Project Funding requests in a single location on its website to use as a "one-stop" online database.

Community Support Letters

Community engagement and support are crucial in determining which projects are worthy of federal funding. Only projects with demonstrated community support will be considered. To demonstrate evidence of community support, Members must also submit community support letters into the database as part of their requests. Members may submit the following:

- Letters of support from elected community leaders (e.g., mayors or other officials) or newspaper editorial boards;

- Press articles highlighting the need for the requested Community Project Funding projects;

- Projects listed on State intended use plans, community development plans, or other publicly available planning documents; or

- Resolutions passed by city councils or boards.

Guidance for Entering a STAG CPF Project in the Member Database

REQUEST

- **Project Title**: The format for a requested CPF project title is:

    [Recipient legal name] for [primary project purpose]

Examples include:

- City of North for Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades

- North County for Sewer Main Replacement

- Town of North for Water Transmission Line Expansion

Please note that the subcommittee may modify a requested project title for any requested CPF project.

- **Project Description:** The project description is used to evaluate the eligibility of a project. It is not possible to determine eligibility solely with terms such as "wastewater upgrade" or "water quality improvement project". Please provide as much detail about the project as possible, such as: "upgrade of wastewater treatment plant to tertiary treatment," "extension of wastewater collection system to replace failing household septic systems," "upgrades to filtration and disinfection at drinking water treatment facility", or "extending public water system distribution by 1,500 linear feet to serve existing households".

REQUEST INFORMATION

- **Amount Requested for FY27:** Each project request must only be for FY 2027 funds and only include an amount that the recipient can reasonably obligate within one year (one year from the date the recipient receives the funds, not one year from the enactment of a final bill). Requests

cannot include multi-year funding. The same project can receive funding across multiple years in a phased approach but must be requested again in the subsequent year(s).

There is a minimum 20% cost share requirement for any project, or portion of a project, funded through a STAG CPF. For example, if the total amount of a project is $1,000,000, the amount requested in the database under "Amount Requested for FY27" cannot exceed $800,000, and the remaining $200,000 is the responsibility of the entity (see FAQ below for more information on matching requirements).

- **Total Project Cost:** This is a required field for all STAG CPF projects. The "Amount Requested for FY27" must not exceed 80% of the amount entered for "Total Project Cost". In the above example, the total cost of the project is $1,000,000.

PROJECT/RECIPIENT INFORMATION

- **Recipient Point of Contact:** The point of contact is the individual who will be primarily applying for, and managing, the project. It is very important to include accurate and complete contact information for the point of contact because it is shared with EPA for outreach and application instructions for projects that receive funding in an enacted bill.

- **Recipient Legal Name:** The recipient legal name is the legal name of the prospective entity that will submit the application to EPA for CPF project funding, if enacted. The recipient legal name entered into the database must match the entity name on the Member's signed disclosure of financial interest certification letter.

DISCLOSURE AND TRANSPARENCY

- **Project Information URL:** Please submit the link to the page on your Member's website that will have the posted list of CPF projects that your Member requested.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION

- **State Intended Use Plan (IUP):** A project is not required to be on a State Intended Use Plan (IUP) in order to be eligible for a STAG CPF, but projects already listed on an IUP are usually eligible to receive CPF funding and can be an easy positive identifier of CPF eligibility. Projects that are already on an IUP are typically aware of the applicable SRF requirements.

- **Federal Nexus:** Choose from the list of eligible projects and activities associated with the relevant statutory authority:

  o For clean water projects, the list of project options is found within the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1383(c) (Section 603(c) of the Clean Water Act), and is also detailed in EPA's CWSRF Eligibility Handbook.

  o For drinking water projects, the statutory authority is found within Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act and the list of project options is found within 40 CFR 35.3520(b)(2)(i-vi). EPA's DWSRF Eligibility Handbook includes additional information about the eligible project categories.

Frequently Asked Questions

What types of entities are eligible to receive EPA CPF funding?

- Public entities should be considered the primary recipients to oversee the completion of a CPF project. State, municipal, local, territorial, or Tribal governmental entities are the most common recipients of CPF funding. For drinking water projects, the recipient must be a public water system.

- The subcommittee does not allow for-profit recipients and privately-owned projects, even if otherwise eligible under the CWSRF and DWSRF programs.

- The subcommittee will only accept non-profits as eligible recipients if:

    o The non-profit provides water or wastewater utility services or

    o The non-profit is a university

What types of projects are ineligible?

The subcommittee will not fund projects, or the portion of a project, for the direct benefit of resorts, golf courses, athletic fields, park amenities, gardens, or similar projects.

Are flood control projects eligible?

Projects solely for flood control, including construction or rehabilitation of dams, are not eligible. It is possible for an eligible project to have a flood control benefit, but the project must achieve a water quality benefit, which must be specified in the project description of the Member office submission. For example, a stormwater pump to direct water to a stormwater treatment plant is eligible, but a stormwater pump to move water to another location without treatment is not eligible.

Are irrigation projects eligible?

Projects for the sole purpose of irrigation are only eligible if the project uses reclaimed water from wastewater, stormwater, or subsurface drainage water.

Are fire suppression projects eligible?

Projects for the sole purpose of fire protection or suppression are not eligible. It is possible for an eligible project to have an ancillary benefit of fire suppression, as water systems are typically designed to accommodate fire flow demands, but the primary purpose of the project must be for the provision of safe drinking water.

Can a CPF project include road repairs?

The cost of road repairs is eligible in limited circumstances to the extent that such repairs are required to undertake the CPF water quality improvement project. Road construction for transportation improvements or flood mitigation (such as redirecting drainage or channeling

flows) is not eligible.

What about projects for the purpose of attracting future economic growth?

Drinking water infrastructure projects must serve the public health needs of the existing population. A project may be sized for a reasonable amount of population growth over the useful life of the project. However, a drinking water project may not be for the purpose of anticipating or attracting future growth or development. Clean water infrastructure projects do not have this restriction.

Are ongoing operations and maintenance an eligible expense for a CPF?

No, ongoing operations and maintenance is not an eligible CPF expense and should not be included in the requested project amount.

Can a CPF be used to reimburse an entity that has already incurred project costs?

Yes, but the costs 1.) Must be for an otherwise eligible clean or drinking water project 2.) Must be in conformance with applicable federal and EPA statutes and regulations (ex: Build America Buy America Act, Davis Bacon Act, environmental reviews) and 3.) Are only eligible for FY 2027 CPF funding if the costs are incurred on or after October 1, 2026. All costs incurred are at the risk of the entity and EPA will review each reimbursement CPF project on a case-by-case basis to determine whether the incurred project costs are CPF eligible.

Is there a matching requirement for STAG CPF projects?

There is a minimum 20% cost share requirement for any project, or portion of a project, funded through a STAG CPF. For example, if the total amount of a project is $1 million, the entity could receive a maximum of $800,000 from the federal government, with the remaining $200,000 the responsibility of the entity.

- Other federal funds generally cannot be used to meet the 20% cost share requirement, with some exceptions (for reference, the exceptions for FY 2026 CPFs included federal funds from the following programs: HUD Community Development Block Grant Program, USDA Rural Development Program, Appalachian Regional Commission grants, and Delta Regional Authority grants). Additionally, non-federal assistance provided by a SRF can be used as part of the project's matching requirement.

- It is important that Member offices discuss with the prospective recipient the ability to meet the matching requirement prior to requesting a project. This does not mean that matching funds must be in-hand prior to requesting a project, but the prospective recipient must have a plan to meet such requirements.

What is a reasonable amount to request for each STAG CPF project?

Members should use the range of project amounts funded in prior years as a general guide when making requests. In FY 2026, most House EPA STAG CPFs received around $1,000,000. The Committee may consider higher or lower project amounts for FY 2027, and

any caps will be determined by the Chairman after reviewing the full universe of requests.

STAG projects have very specific eligibility requirements, and the Committee will not consider projects that do not meet those requirements. The following lists some of the project types that are ineligible and eligible for STAG funding:

Projects that are NOT generally eligible for STAG Grants			
Clean Water / Wastewater		Drinking Water	
1.	**Land,** except for projects described in the subsequent table under eligibility #11.	1.	**Dams or rehabilitation of dams.**
2.	**Operations and maintenance costs.**	2.	**Operations and maintenance costs.**
3.	**Non-municipal point source control.**	3.	**Water rights,** except if the water rights are owned by a system that is being purchased through consolidation as part of a capacity development strategy or if the water rights purchase is covered by EPA's DWSRF Class Deviation for Water Rights 2019.
4.	**Acid rain drainage correction.**	4.	**Reservoirs,** except for finished water reservoirs and those reservoirs that are part of the treatment process and are located on the property where the treatment facility is located.
5.	**Ambient water quality monitoring.**	5.	**Laboratory fees for monitoring.**
6.	**Flood Control Projects**, unless the project is otherwise managing, reducing, treating, or recapturing stormwater.	6.	**Projects needed mainly for fire protection.**
7.	**Privately owned sewer pipes.**	7.	Projects for systems that lack adequate technical, managerial, and financial capability, unless assistance will ensure compliance.
		8.	Projects for systems in significant non-compliance, unless funding will ensure compliance.
		9.	Projects primarily intended to serve future growth.

Projects that ARE generally eligible for STAG Grants

	Clean Water / Wastewater		Drinking Water
1.	**Wastewater treatment plants, including sludge handling facilities:** Upgraded (increase in treatment level) or expanded (increase in treatment capacity) facilities, including biological facilities, mechanical, a lagoon system, a land treatment system, or individual on-site systems.	1.	Facilitate compliance with national primary drinking water regulations or address serious risks to public health including non-regulated contaminants (i.e., PFAS).
2.	**Collector Sewers:** Small sewers that convey wastewater from residences, commercial establishments, and industrial sites to larger interceptor sewers.	2.	Rehabilitate or develop water sources (excluding reservoirs, dams, dam rehabilitation and water rights) to replace contaminated sources.
3.	**Interceptor Sewers:** Large sewers that convey wastewater from collector sewers directly to a wastewater treatment facility.	3.	Install or upgrade treatment facilities.
4.	**Sewer Pipes:** Rehabilitation is eligible only if pipes are publicly owned.	4.	Install or upgrade storage facilities, including finished water reservoirs, to prevent microbiological contaminants from entering the water system.
5.	**Outfall Sewer:** A sewer that conveys treated wastewater from a wastewater treatment facility to the receiving waters (i.e., a river, stream, lake, ocean, etc.).	5.	Install or replace transmission and distribution pipes to prevent contamination caused by leaks or breaks in the pipe or improve water pressure to safe levels.
6.	**Storm Water Management:** Measures to manage, reduce, treat, or recapture stormwater or subsurface drainage water (i.e., storm sewers, green infrastructure, etc.).	6.	Projects to consolidate water supplies – for example, when individual homes or other public water supplies have a water supply that is contaminated, or the system is unable to maintain compliance for financial or managerial reasons – are eligible for DWSRF assistance.
7.	**Combined sewer overflow (CSO) control and sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) control:** Combined sewers are sewers that convey both wastewater and storm water and may overflow during periods of heavy rain. The costs to correct CSO and SSO overflow problems are eligible.	7.	Land is eligible only if it is integral to a project that is needed to meet or maintain compliance and further public health protection.
8.	**Infiltration/Inflow Correction:** Construction activities that prevent surface water or groundwater from entering the sewer system.	8.	Project planning, design, and other related costs.

9.	**Water Security:** These projects include installation or upgrade of physical security infrastructure such as lighting, fencing, monitoring and access control. Also, cybersecurity measures, installation of safer treatment technologies, and more secure storage of on-site treatment.		
10.	**Septic Tanks:** Remediation, rehabilitation, removal and replacement of failing tanks are eligible, as well as installation of new tanks where none had previously existed.		
11.	**Land:** The leasing and fee-simple purchase of land, including surface and subsurface easements, needed to locate eligible municipal or tribal projects, and land integral to the treatment process (e.g., land for effluent application or recharge basins), and a place to store equipment and material during POTW construction. Municipal purchase of land and/or conservation easements for source water protection are also eligible.		
12.	**Water Reuse:** Projects involving the municipal reuse or recycling of wastewater, stormwater, or subsurface drainage water. This includes but is not limited to the purchase and installation of treatment equipment sufficient to meet reuse standards, distribution systems to support effluent reuse, recharge transmission lines, injection wells, and equipment to reuse effluent (e.g., gray water, condensate, and wastewater effluent reuse systems).		
13.	**Capital Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects:** E.g., river or streambank restoration, agricultural best management practices (i.e., buffer strips, manure containment structures), wetlands restoration, etc.		