

LEGAL UPDATES

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Community Project Funding Deadlines Near

Services

- Academic Medicine
- Healthcare Real Estate
- Higher Education
- K-12 Education
- Nonprofit Organizations & Religious Institutions
- Public Policy, Regulatory, & Government Affairs

Industries

- Education
- Healthcare

Professionals

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On February 25, the House Appropriations Committee opened its portal for members of Congress to submit Community Project Funding requests for Fiscal Year 2027.

Commonly known as “earmarks” Community Project Funding bypasses the traditional competitive grant process to provide an opportunity for public and private nonprofit institutions of higher education to fund specific, local projects targeting infrastructure, community development, education, health services, and public safety initiatives. Institutions across the country have used earmarks to fund critical IT infrastructure improvements for the institution and the surrounding community, telehealth advancement for rural patients of the university hospital system, natural science research labs, and more.

A federal appropriation is a law that authorizes a federal agency to spend funds from the U.S. Treasury. Within appropriations legislation, an earmark designates a specific amount of federal funding for a particular project, program, or organization. These requests are typically submitted by individual members of Congress to support needs within their districts, states, or local communities.

Public and non-profit organizations—including public and nonprofit colleges, universities, and hospital systems—may apply.

Examples of Community Project Funding recipients in FY 2026:

- \$3.1 million to fund a lab developing innovative neurological treatments.
- \$2.1 million to create a facility for fortifying the semiconductor supply chain.
- \$1 million for a university to develop a natural resources prediction model.

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\$1 million for a university to modernize critical IT infrastructure impacting public safety.

\$1 million for an institution to construct a joint emergency operations facility.

\$850,000 for an artificial turf field to be utilized for K-12 sports teams.

\$1 million to rehabilitate and make capital improvements to a university building.

If your organization is considering submitting a Community Project Funding request, Husch Blackwell's Public Policy, Regulatory, and Government Affairs group is ready to assist with identifying promising funding opportunities for FY 2027 and coordinating the communications necessary to advance the opportunity through Congress. By examining historical earmark data for your state and industry and working with our connections across Capitol Hill, we can help prepare a strong Community Project Funding request for submission to the appropriate members of Congress and advocate effectively to increase the likelihood that your project is included in the final funding bill.

There is a limit of **20 projects per member** in FY 2027, and while deadlines vary by committee, all request submissions are due in March, so we encourage those interested to move quickly to ensure a seat at the table.

Contact us

If you have questions pertaining to Earmarks in Federal Appropriations for Nonprofit and Public Higher Education Institutions or seek more information, please contact Elliot Doomes, Ryan Tyler Spraker, Kyle Gilster, or your Husch Blackwell attorney.