



COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING
Reforms for Transparency and Accountability

New Reforms

In addition to adhering to the House Rules (House Rules XXI and XXIII), the House Appropriations Committee is enforcing a series of important reforms to guarantee that Community Project Funding is dedicated to genuine need and not subject to abuse. These include:

Public Transparency and Accountability

- **All Requests Online**: Members are required to post every Community Project Funding request online 15-20 days following the Committee's submission deadlines. Providing 15 days between the submission deadline and posting will allow Committee staff to review the requests and make sure they are properly categorized as a Community Project Funding request. The website must be searchable. The House Appropriations Committee will establish an online "one-stop" link to all House Members' project requests.
- **Early Public Disclosure**: To facilitate public scrutiny of Community Project Funding, the Committee will release a list of projects funded the same day as the Subcommittee markup, or 24 hours before full committee consideration if there was no Subcommittee markup.
- **No Financial Interest**: Members must certify to the Committee that they, their spouse, and their immediate family have no financial interest in the projects they request. *This is an expansion beyond the underlying requirements in House Rules in order to cover immediate families of Members.*

Limited Approach

- **Ban on For-Profit Recipients**: There is a ban on directing Community Project Funding to for-profit grantees. Members may request funding for State or local governmental grantees and for eligible non-profits.
- **Cap on Overall Funding**: The Committee will limit Community Project Funding to no more than 1 percent of discretionary spending, a recommendation of the bipartisan House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.
- **Member Requests Capped**: The Committee will accept a maximum of 15 community project requests from each member.

Rigorous Vetting

- **Mandatory Audit**: The Committee will require the Government Accountability Office to audit a sample of enacted community project funding and report its findings to Congress.

Community Support

- **Demonstrations of Community Engagement**: Members must provide evidence of community support that were compelling factors in their decision to select the requested projects. This policy was recommended by the bipartisan House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

Existing Standards

These reforms build on the requirements for accountability and transparency that are part of Rule XXI, clause 9 and Rule XXIII, clauses 16 and 17 of the Rules of the House. Those existing rules require the following:

- **No Member Financial Interest**: The rules forbid any Member from pursuing Community Project Funding to further his or her financial interest, or that of his or her spouse. Each Member requesting Community Project Funding must certify in writing that there is no such interest and make that certification available to the public. *As noted above, the new Committee reforms will expand this requirement beyond existing House Rules.*
- **Request in Writing**: Any Member requesting Community Project Funding must do so in writing, including the Member's name, the name and location of the intended recipient, and the purpose of the spending item.
- **Committee Consideration**: When reporting legislation containing Community Project Funding, the Committee is required to identify each item (including the name of each Member requesting the item) in the corresponding committee report or joint explanatory statement, and make it publicly available online in a searchable format.
- **Disclosure Before Floor Consideration**: The rules prohibit a vote on a bill or a vote on adoption of a conference report, unless the chair of the committee, certifies that a complete list of Community Project Funding has been publicly available for at least 48 hours.
- **Point of Order Against New Projects in Conference Reports**: A point of order may be raised against a provision of the conference report if it includes Community Project Funding that was not included in either the House or Senate bills.