House Appropriations Committee Guidance

The Committee offers an opportunity for Members to make programmatic requests for specific funding levels for agencies and programs funded through annual appropriations. Members also have an opportunity to request bill language or report language encouraging or directing a specific action by the federal agencies. If a programmatic, bill language, or report language request is for a non-federal entity and is not competitively awarded or narrowly defines a competitive grant so only one entity or geographic area can apply, the request may be an earmark under House rules.

Guidance for Community Project Funding

- ***No Memorials, Museums, or Commemoratives:*** Memorials, museums, and commemoratives (i.e., projects named for an individual or entity) are not eligible for Community Project Funding.

- ***Stewardship Requirements:*** 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.

- ***Ban on For-Profit Recipients:*** Project funding may not 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.

- ***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 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.

- ***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.

Guidance for Programmatic and Language Requests

Program Request: A request to fund a specific program or activity in the bill at a specified level.

Example:
Provide $70,000,000 in the Transportation Security Administration's Procurement, Construction, and Improvements account for the Checkpoint Property Screening System.

Language Request: A request to include specific bill or report language that does not direct funding to a particular entity but encourages, urges, or directs some type of action.

Example:
Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies. — The Committee directs the Secretary to expand eligibility for grants under SAMHSA Prevention Programs of Regional and National Significance and corresponding services provided by the Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies to private, non-profit, regional organizations, including faith-based organizations.