Today's Agenda

- What is earmarking?

- What kind of funding is available?

- How do I submit a project?

- Questions

What is Earmarking?

An Overview of Congressionally Directed Spending

NSDC
NATIONAL SPECIAL DISTRICTS COALITION

History of Earmarks

- How much was earmarked?
  - Roughly 1 percent of discretionary spending
  - Far less of overall spending
    - The last year of earmarks prior to their return about $16 billion was allocated through earmarks out a $3.5 trillion annual federal budget
- Where did the money go?
  - Thousands of communities to address gaps in competitive programs
- Deficit spending - earmarks are not the cause!

The Federal Budget and Appropriations Process

President's Budget Request

- Recommended funding levels for federal programs.
- Generally released in February.

Appropriations Committees

- 12 Appropriations Subcommittees (10 subcommittees include Member priorities).
- Normally starts in the Spring.

What's in a Name?

House: "Community Project Funding" (CPF)

AKA – Earmark

Senate: "Congressionally Directed Spending"

The Federal Appropriations Process
How Members of Congress Participate

Programmatic Requests

$100 million to fund DOJ's COPS Hiring Program

Language Requests

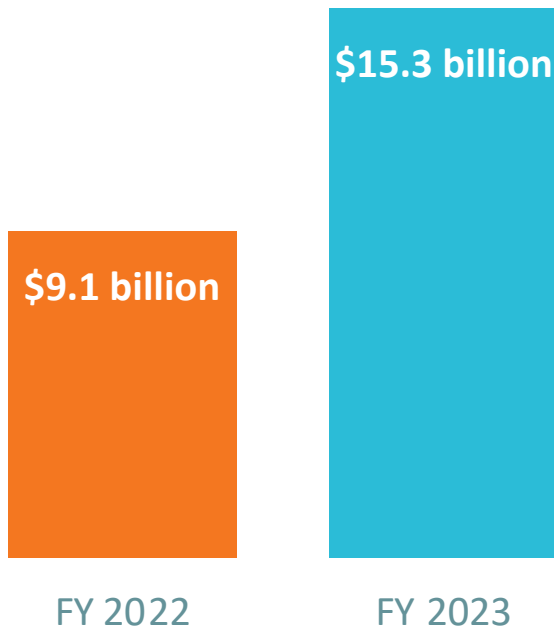Allow COPS Hiring funds to hire mental health co-responders

Earmarks

$1 million community to hire 7 officers
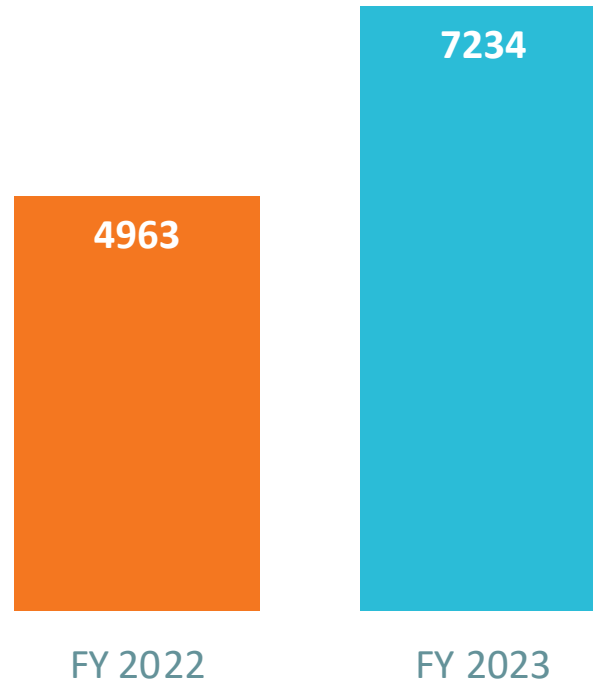
What Kind of Funding Is Available?

Programs open for earmarking by Congress

Overall Earmarked Funding

Total Amount Earmarked
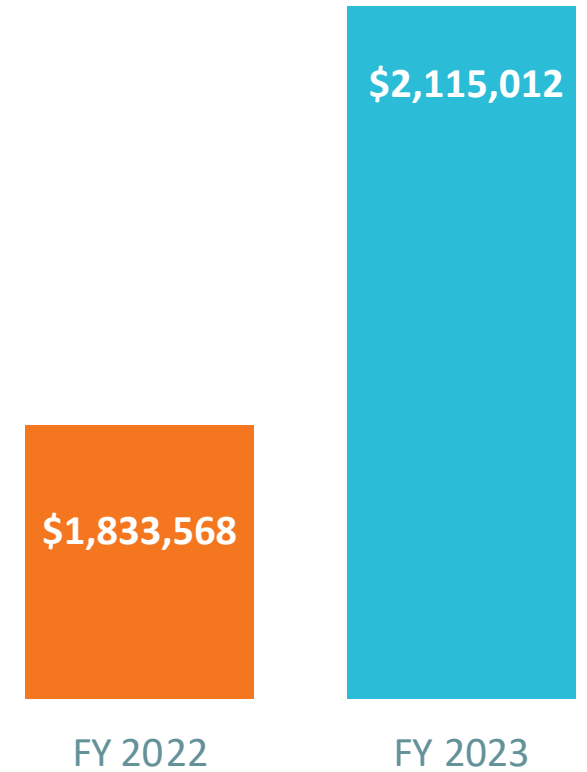
- FY 2022: **$9.1 billion**
- FY 2023: **$15.3 billion**

Number of Projects Earmarked

- FY 2022: **4963**
- FY 2023: **7234**

Average Earmark

- FY 2022: **$1,833,568**
- FY 2023: **$2,115,012**

* Data based on GAO and CQ Roll Call.

Earmark Program Highlights

Agriculture and Rural Development

⭐ **Rural Community Facilities**

- Funding to purchase, construct, or improve essential community facilities including the purchase of equipment in communities with less than 50,000 population
- All community support services covered – healthcare, public safety, educational, and others

- **ReConnect Grants**
  - Funding to facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas including construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment

⭐ **Rural Water and Waste Disposal Grants**

- Funding to for drinking water, sewer, solid waste, and stormwater projects in communities with less than 10,000 population.

Commerce, Justice, and Science

- Byrne Justice Assistance Grants
  - State, local and tribal law enforcement efforts to prevent crime, improve the criminal justice system, provide victims' services, and other related activities
- ⭐ COPS Technology and Equipment
  - Community project grants for State, local, and tribal law enforcement to develop and acquire technologies and interoperable communications to assist in investigating, responding to, and preventing crime

Earmark Program Highlights

Earmark Program Highlights

Energy and Water Development

- Corps of Engineers
  - General Investigations
  - Construction
  - Operation and Maintenance

- Bureau of Reclamation
  - Water and Related Resources

- Department of Energy
  - Funding for the deployment of advanced, renewable, and resilient energy technologies for commercial, residential, community, and research purposes

Earmark Program Highlights

Financial Services and General Government

- Small Business Administration
  - Small Business Initiatives
    - Funds projects such as entrepreneur training, workforce development, counseling, research, and construction or acquisition of facilities

Earmark Program Highlights

Homeland Security

- Federal Emergency Management Agency
  - ⭐ **Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants**
    - Covers implementing cost-effective hazard mitigation planning and projects before disasters occur
    - Must meet most recent BRIC NOFA requirements
  - Nonprofit Security Grants
    - Must meet most recent NOFA requirements; does not cover construction
    - Covers training, planning and acquisition and installation security equipment to prevent and/or protection against the risk of a terrorist attack
  - Emergency Operations Center Grants
    - Must meet most recent NOFA requirements – FY 2011
    - Centers that provide continuity of operations and continuity of government in major disasters or emergencies caused by any hazard

Program Highlights

Interior and Environment

- Land and Water Conservation Fund
  - Due following President's budget submission
  - Land and water acquisition for land and habitat conservation, outdoor recreation

- Environment Protection Agency
  - ★ State and Tribal Assistance Grants
    - All SRF eligible water projects;

- U.S. Forest Service
  - State and Private Forestry Projects (New earmark account for FY 2022)
    - Urban and community forestry projects
    - Specific fire prevention, disease or pest treatment-related projects

Program Highlights

Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education

- Department of Labor
  - Training and Employment Services
    - Job training; no facilities

- Department of Health and Human Services
  - ⭐ Health Resources and Services Administration
    - Facilities, health outreach and research, and telehealth programs for disadvantaged, underserved, and special populations
  - Center for Mental Health Services
  - Center of Substance Abuse Treatment
  - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention

Earmark Program Highlights

Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education

- Department of Education
  - Innovation and Improvement
    - Funds for instructional services, afterschool centers, curricula development, teacher training, acquisition of books and computers, arts education, social and emotional learning activities, full-service community schools, and early childhood education
  - Higher Education
    - Hire and train faculty, develop and improve curricula, upgrade technology and telecommunications, acquire science laboratory equipment, provide student support, implement university partnerships with school districts, and establish research and training centers
    - No construction funding allowed

Earmark Program Highlights

Transportation and Housing and Urban Development

- Department of Transportation
  - Local Transportation Priorities
    - Highway and transit capital projects
  - Airport Improvement Program
    - Airport development and planning
      - Enhancing airport safety, capacity, and security, and mitigating environmental concerns

- Department of Housing and Urban Development
  - ★Economic Development Initiative
    - Economic development; housing rehabilitation; property acquisition; rehabilitation of publicly-owned property; construction, reconstruction, or installation of public facilities; and public works and other site improvements

How do I submit a project?

Tips to help get your project on the list

General Appropriations Committee Guidance

- **Request Limits**
  - **House:** In FY 2024, House Members were limited to 15 CPF requests per member
  - **Senate:** No limit.

- **Public Transparency**
  - Members of Congress must post their earmark requests online and certify they have no financial interest in the requested project.

- **Eligible Recipients**
  - Public agencies (including special districts)
  - Non-profits
  - For-profit entities prohibited

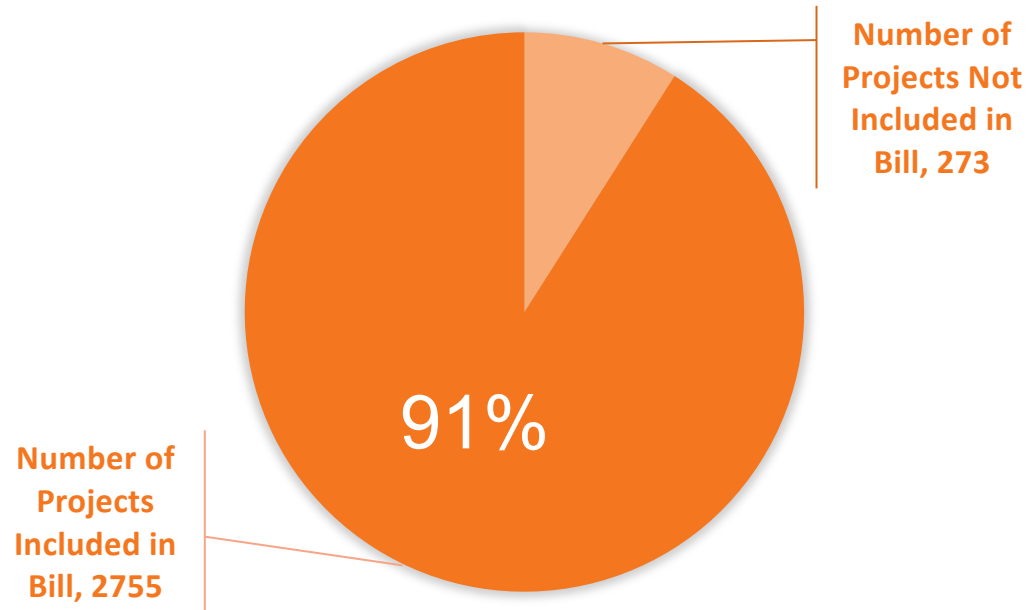**General Appropriations Committee Guidance**

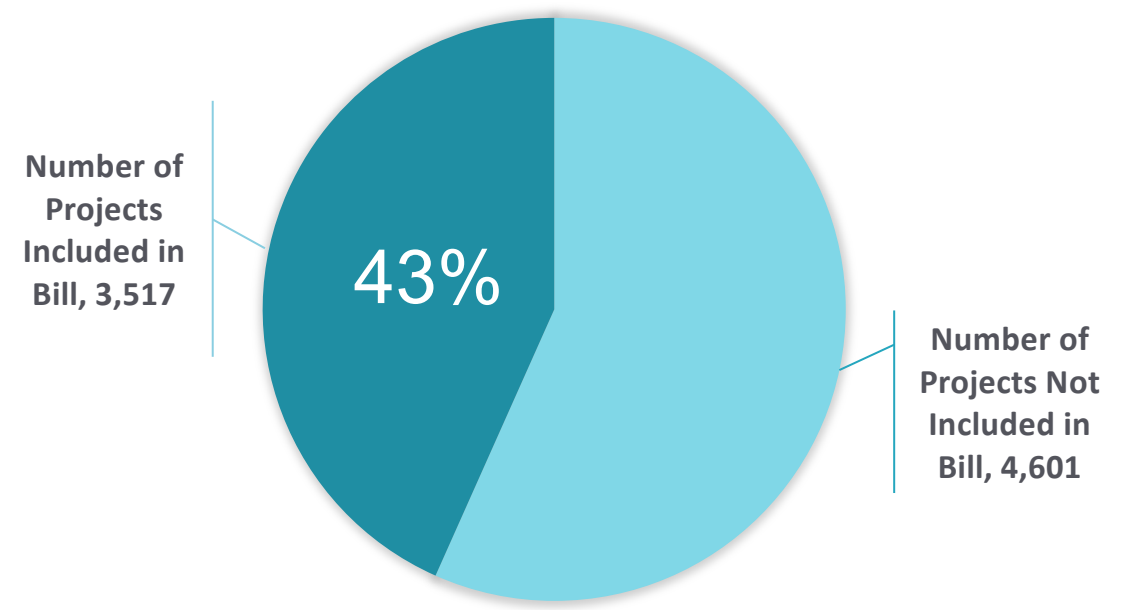- House Appropriations Committee

  🌐 https://appropriations.house.gov/

- Senate Appropriations Committee

  🌐 https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/

FY 2022 Snapshot

OVERALL HOUSE PROJECT REQUESTS

Number of Projects Not Included in Bill, 273

91%

Number of Projects Included in Bill, 2755

OVERALL SENATE PROJECT REQUESTS

Number of Projects Included in Bill, 3,517

43%

Number of Projects Not Included in Bill, 4,601

	House	Senate
Requested	$6,072,363,766	$26,686,720,000
Included in Bill	**$4,378,643,492**	**$8,407,003,632**
Average Earmark	$1,446,529	$2,390,391

* Data based on House and Senate approved bills.

FY 2023 Snapshot

OVERALL HOUSE PROJECT REQUESTS

Number of Projects Included in Billl, 4124, 87%

Number of Projects Not Included in Bill, 637, 13%

87%

OVERALL SENATE PROJECT REQUESTS

Number of Projects Included in Billl, 2862

Number of Projects Not Included in Bill, 10395

28%
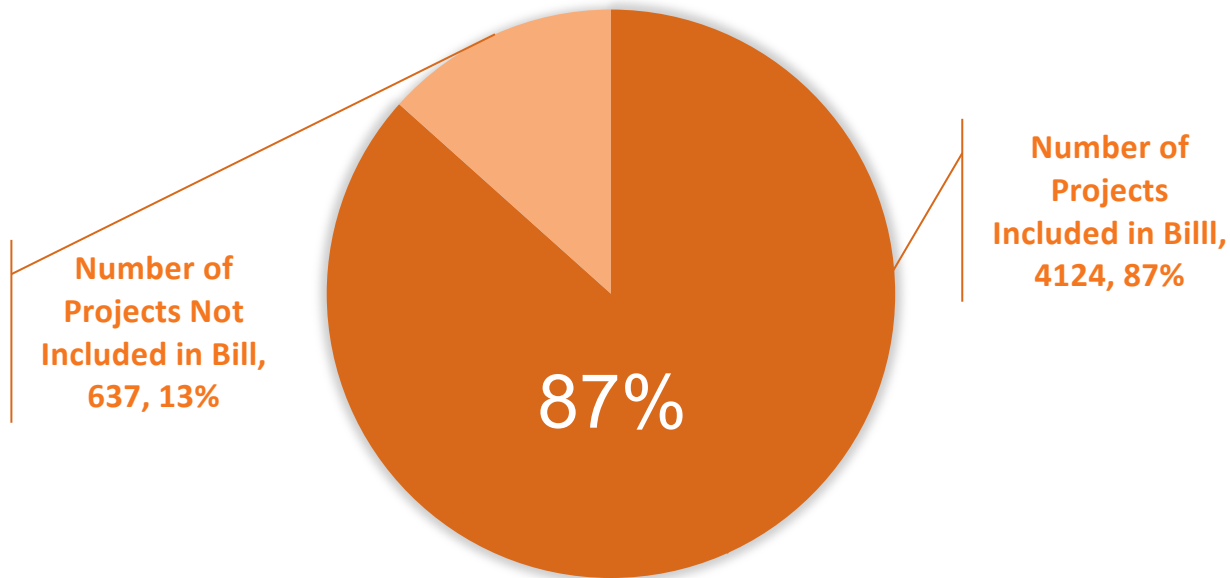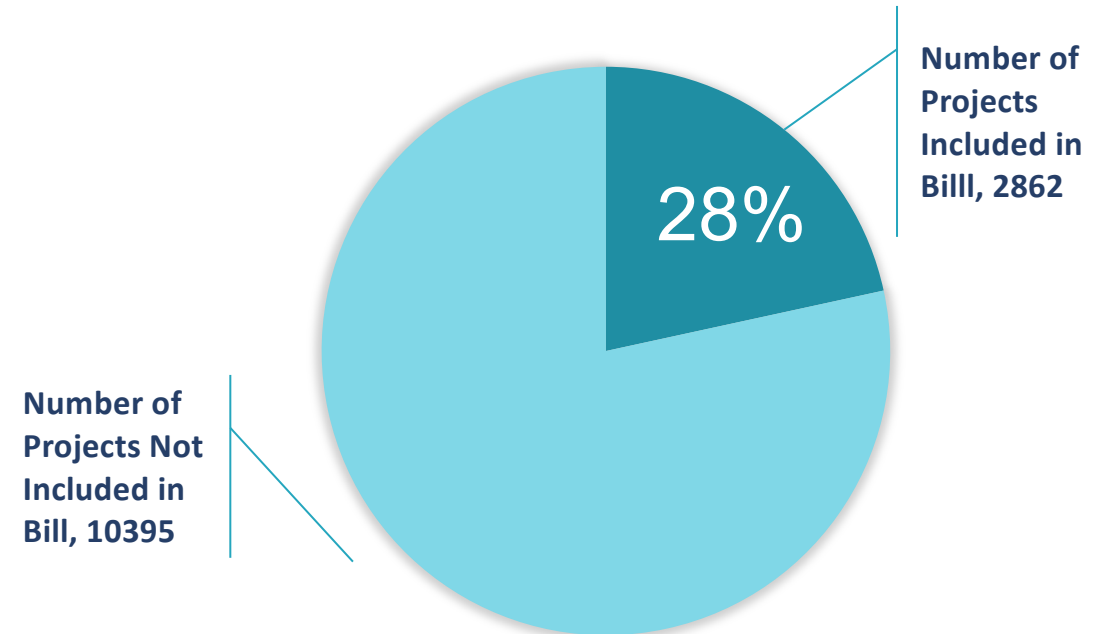
	House	Senate	Joint
Requested	$12,403,115,530	$38,362,430,000	???
Included in Bill	**$7,553,760,403**	**$6,991,849,000**	**$782,702,384**
Average Earmark	$1,831,659	$2,443,851	$3,156,058

* Data based on House and Senate approved bills and compiled with data from BGOV and CQ Roll Call.

Things to Consider

Choose the Right Project

- **Demonstrate** local, regional, state benefit(s) of the project
  - Would the federal funding "finish" the project or fill a gap in funding?

- **Project purpose and justification** (i.e., why is this a good use of taxpayer dollars)
  - Think about Administration's priorities and priorities of your delegation

- **Funding request**, total project cost, cost breakdown
  - Including all funding sources and non-federal match

- **Project timeline** (start and end dates)
  - Can the project funding be obligated within the federal fiscal year (October 1 – September 31)?

- **Project readiness** (environmental risk and permitting; technical feasibility and capacity; funding and financial readiness)
  - Be sure you can obligate funds in a reasonable time

! If submitting more than one request, be prepared to rank.

Things to Consider

Complete the Forms

- Demonstrate local need while also justifying federal investment in the project

- Provide all background materials and answer all questions asked

- Supply as much of a detailed budget as possible

- Ensure you complete forms on time for both your Member AND the appropriate subcommittee

Things to Consider

NSDC — NATIONAL SPECIAL DISTRICTS COALITION

Project Advocacy

- Focus on high priority projects and issues
- Present projects to Congressional delegation
- Coordinate with your team
- Washington D.C. advocacy trip or virtual meetings
- Consistent communications with congressional delegation and federal agencies
- Engage local, regional, and state stakeholders

NSDC
NATIONAL SPECIAL DISTRICTS COALITION

FY2025 Appropriations Process

- Guidelines for the FY2025 appropriations process have not yet been released.

- Details are expected in February with deadlines most likely in March… some could be as early as February.

- Start preparing now!

! Check with your Members about deadlines and expectations.

NSDC Resources

- Check out NSDC's "Getting Ready for FY 2024 Appropriations" Special Report for more background information on all programs eligible for earmarking.

CLICK HERE

- Watch for information on the FY 2025 earmark process.

Questions? Email NSDCGrants@tfgnet.com.

Thank you!

Cole Arreola-Karr

Federal Advocacy Coordinator
National Special Districts Coalition
colek@nationalspecialdistricts.org

Kristi More

Managing Partner of Strategic Development
TFG
kmore@tfgnet.com

Hasan Sarsour

Senior Associate
Paragon Government Relations
hs@paragonlobbying.com