# Data & Insights on How to Secure a Congressional Earmark

By Steve Taylor & Geoff Paul September 12, 2023

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- What is an earmark?
- Data
  - FY 2022 & 2023 Trends (Bipartisan Policy Center)
  - Geographic Data FY2022 with Examples (Government Accountability Office)
  - Preliminary House data for FY2024
- Earmark Timeline and First Steps
- Questions
- Final advice on earmarks in context of contracts and grants



# **Annual Federal Appropriations Bills**

#### Recap:

- Earmarks Properly known as:
  - Senate "Congressionally Directed Spending"
  - House "Community Project Funding" (Requests)
- Congress funds government through 12 Appropriations bills Earmarks are line-item funding in some of these bills.
- Federal Fiscal Year October 1 September 30



#### **Combined Senate/House Funding CDS/CPF: Congressional Lawmakers Warming to Earmarks**

Number of CDS/CPF Items:

- FY2022 5,763
- FY2023 8,852

**Total Dollars for Community Project Funding:** 

- FY2022 \$9.9 billion\* FY2023 \$16.7 billion\*
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FY2024 – \$19.4 billion in <u>House</u> requests\*\*, up from \$12.4 billion in requests in **FY2023** 

> \*Zach Courser, Ph.D, Fellow, Bipartisan Policy Center **\*\***Daniel Schuman, Demand Progress Education Fund



#### **Observations from FY2022 to FY2024**

# 107%

Increase in funding (FY22-FY23)

57%

Increase in Requests (FY22-FY23)

#### 16 of 50 $\rightarrow$ 17 of 49

Increase in Senate Republican Participation (FY23-FY24)

Watch for Republican changes in FY25/FY26 if GOP flips the Senate

# $\mathbf{110} \rightarrow \mathbf{123} \rightarrow \mathbf{152}$

Increase in House Republican Participation (FY22-FY24)



#### **The CDF/CPS Process**

#### Engage with your Member

#### Apply with your Member

#### Committee review

Agency disburses funding

Build a relationship with your Member of Congress to enhance your request's chances of success. Submit your application to your Member of Congress.

Each office may have different guidelines for submissions.

Your Member of Congress will decide which requests to submit to the Appropriations Committee. The Committee then decides which requests to include in the final appropriations bill(s). Once the appropriations bill(s) is signed into law, you will work with the appropriate federal agency to access the funds.



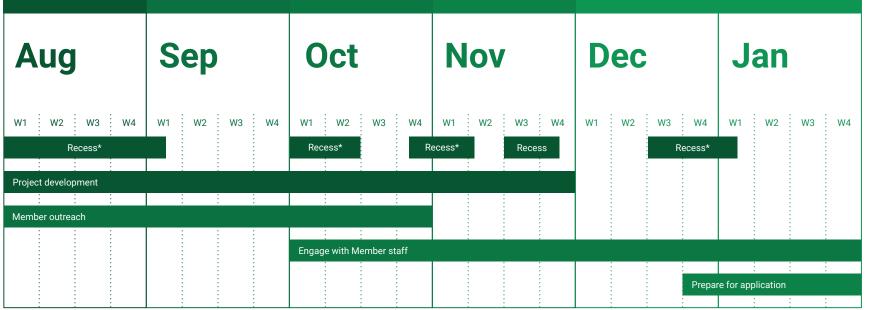
## Your to-do list: Immediate steps to position yourself for a successful earmark request

Establish or build a relationship with your Senators and Representatives Expose your federal reps to your work first hand Identify and connect with your rep's key staff Shore-up your community leaders to support your application earmarks

- Ensure your federal representatives know:
- Who you are your team and leadership
- Who you help
- How you help them
- Invite them to tour your facilities
- Host them at a community event
- Invite them to a meeting
- State or District Director
- Appropriations staffer(s) in DC
- In 2022, the House began requiring two letters of support from community leaders
- Community support was a leading indicator of successful



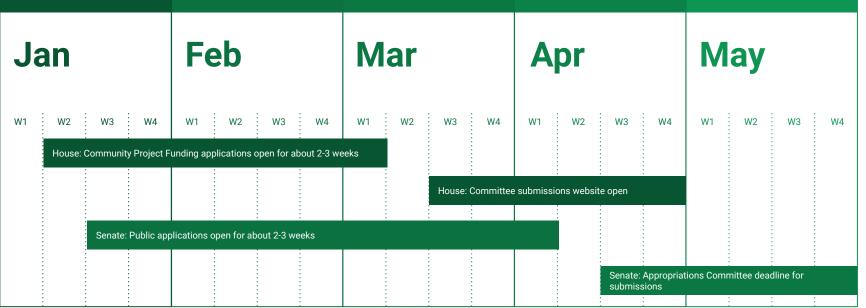
# Your Earmark Timeline: Laying the Foundation



\*Based on calendar years 2022 and 2023



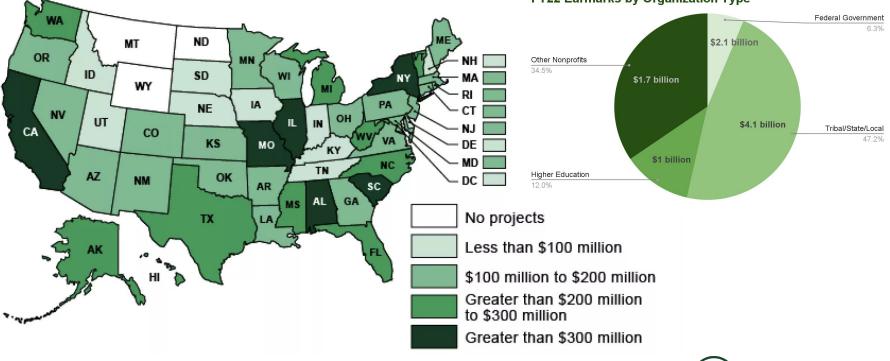
### **Congress' Typical Earmark Timeline**



\*Based on calendar years 2022 and 2023



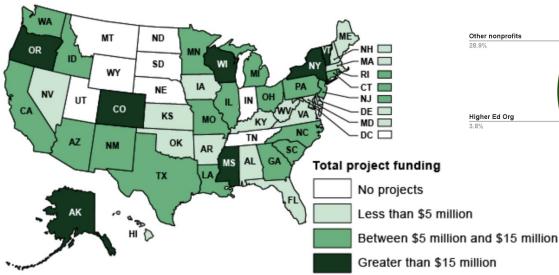
#### GAO: Non-Federal Governmental Entities Received \$4.1 billion - FY2022



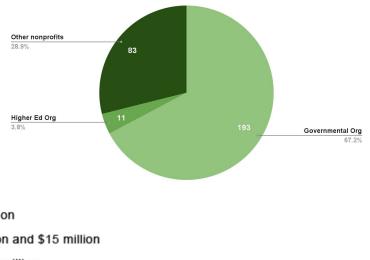


## **Department of Agriculture**

USDA: Where did the FY 2022 funding go?



Project Breakdown



Sources: GAO analysis of Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 and accompanying joint explanatory statement; and information provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture; Map Resources (map). | GAO-23-105913



# **Department of Agriculture**

Nicholas County, KY

- Request submitted for **\$1,768,841** to construct a new facility to house Nicholas County EMS assets. This appropriation will cover the following construction costs: EMS facility, storm shelter, site development, and non-construction costs.
- Rep. Andy Barr (R)

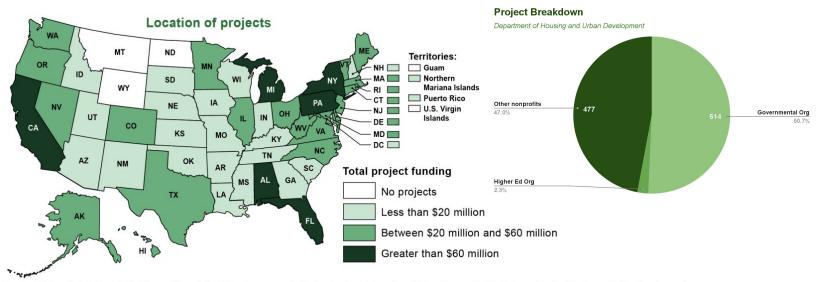
Tillamook County, OR

- Request submitted for **\$3,091,500** to build 7.24 miles of middle-mile fiber optic broadband infrastructure to expand access to 332 homes.
- Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D)

Harrison County, MO

- Request submitted for \$3,307,000 to construct two new wells and transmission line to provide 9,300 area residents with more reliable access to clean drinking water. Demand has increased 700 percent in the last 20 years.
- Rep. Sam Graves(R)

## **Department of Housing and Urban Development**



Sources: GAO analysis of Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 and accompanying joint explanatory statement; and information provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; Map Resources (map). | GAO-23-105902



## **Department of Housing and Urban Development**

Graves County, KY

- Request submitted for **\$1,000,000** to extend water, sewer, gas, and electric utilities and widen the entryway to an industrial site in a community recovering from a devastating tornado.
- Rep. James Comer (R)

Lander County, NV

- Request submitted for **\$2,843,000** to install ADA compliant access facilities for public schools that would extend and enhance the safety of residents and the county's student body.
- Rep. Mark Amodei (R)

#### Franklin County, VA

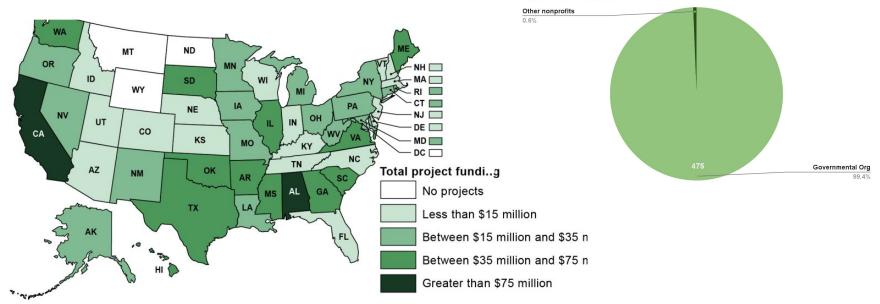
- Request submitted for **\$1,841,848** to repair the County-owned building used by the Franklin County Family YMCA. Funds will enable the YMCA to continue operating. Without federal assistance, the County may be required to raise taxes or take on additional debt to pay for the facility repairs.
- Rep. Morgan Griffith (R)



#### **Department of Transportation**

#### **Project Breakdown**

Department of Transportation





## **Department of Transportation**

Leflore County, MS

- Request submitted for **\$2,000,000** to acquire funding to upgrade surveillance equipment. Additionally, the funds will be used to purchase additional vehicles for the sheriff's department and the construction or renovation of a Leflore County Volunteer Fire Fighters facility.
- Rep. Bennie Thompson (D)

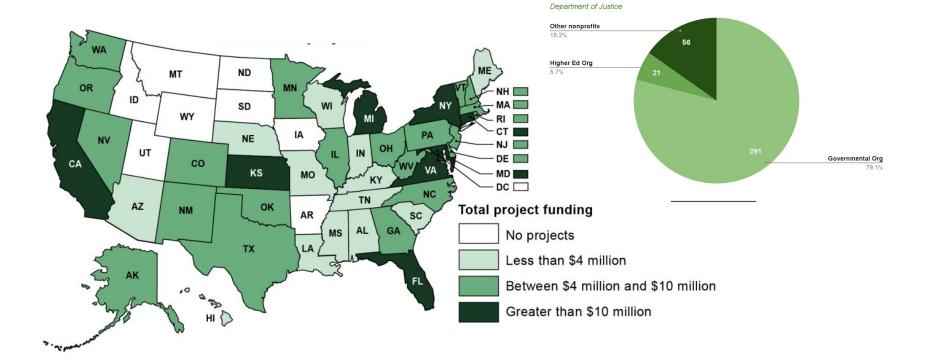
Coshocton County, OH

- Request submitted for **\$255,000** to repave County Road 16 in Coshocton. This is one of the busiest roads in Coshocton County, directly connecting the two largest municipalities in the county. It is also the most direct route to the Coshocton regional Medical Center for citizens in the eastern part of the county.
- Rep. Troy Balderson (R)

Bryan County, GA

- Request submitted for **\$5,980,000** to widen Belfast Keller Road from a two-lane rural road to a four-lane industrial-commercial road.
- Rep. Buddy Carter (R)

### **Department of Justice**



**Project Breakdown** 

# **Department of Justice**

Karnes County, TX

- Request submitted for **\$1,000,000** to improve the county's radio system to work indoors at school campuses, providing emergency communications to first responders.
- Rep. Monica De La Cruz (R)

Rio Arriba County, NM

- Request submitted for **\$1,000,000** to purchase police units, transport vehicles and license plate recognition systems.
- Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez (D)

Madison County, NC

- Request submitted for \$1,500,000 to replace communications equipment in Madison County's network of emergency dispatch infrastructure to allow for seamless interoperability between the county's sheriff's department, other emergency response departments in the area, and state and federal partners.
- Rep. Chuck Edwards (R)



# Keep in Mind: Rural Counties Have Some Comparative Advantages

But you have to leverage them during your engagement and in your application!





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#### Why CPF/CDS exist:



Rep. Mike Kelly 🤣 @MikeKellyPA

The team at @GannonU has been instrumental in developing the IHACK program. Building and preparing a strong workforce is essential to any community. I am proud to present them with \$500,000 in federal funding in support of this wonderful program.

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