FY27 Earmark Informational Webinar for Nonprofits

Offices of Senator Chris Van Hollen and Senator Angela Alsobrooks

1/21/26

What is an Earmark?

- One-time grant funding for local community projects
- Only nonprofit entities and units of local government are eligible
- Funding comes from existing federal grant program authorities

Colloquial Term	Earmark
Senate Term	Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS)
House Term	Community Project Funding (CPF)

Senate

- Limits per committee on number of requests per office
- Some accounts differ from House
- 2 Letters of support required by our offices

House

- 15 requests per office
- Some accounts differ from Senate
- Two letters of support required for each request by committee

Note that deadlines may be different for House and Senate

FY27 Senate Earmark Consideration Timeline

1. President Trump releases the FY27 budget officially starting the Appropriations process, typically in mid- spring.

2. Nonprofits and local governments submit requests to their Senators and House member shortly after the release of the FY27 budget.

3. Senators Van Hollen and Alsobrooks select projects to advance to the Senate Appropriations Committee

4. Senate Appropriations reviews the submitted requests, typically in early summer

5. Senate Appropriations releases funding bills with earmarks that were selected, typically in the summer.

6. House and Senate vote on their appropriations bills and conference them together throughout the fall.

7. Consolidated funding bill is agreed on by Congress and signed into law with Senate and House earmarks, typically in late December

8. Earmark funding is distributed by federal agencies, likely in spring 2027.

Earmark Project Categories – Nonprofits

Community Infrastructure

- HUD Economic Development Initiatives (EDI)
- USDA Rural Development Community Facilities
- National Park Services Save America's Treasures (SAT)
- Department of Energy, Energy Projects

Transportation

- Department of Transportation Highway Infrastructure Program

Criminal Justice

- Department of Justice Byrne JAG Discretionary Projects
- DOJ COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Health Care Services and Facilities

- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Health Facilities Construction and Equipment
- HRSA Rural Health
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Mental Health
- SAMHSA Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention

Earmark Project Categories – Nonprofits

Seniors and Children

Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Child Abuse Prevention

ACF Social Services Research and Demonstration

Small Business and Workforce Development

Small Business Administration (SBA)

Department of Labor (DOL) Employment and Training Administration, Workforce Development

Education and Research

Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Education

ED Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)

NOAA Operations, Research and Facilities (ORF) Special Projects

NIST Scientific and Technical Research and Services (STRS)

NIST Construction of Research Facilities, Extramural Construction
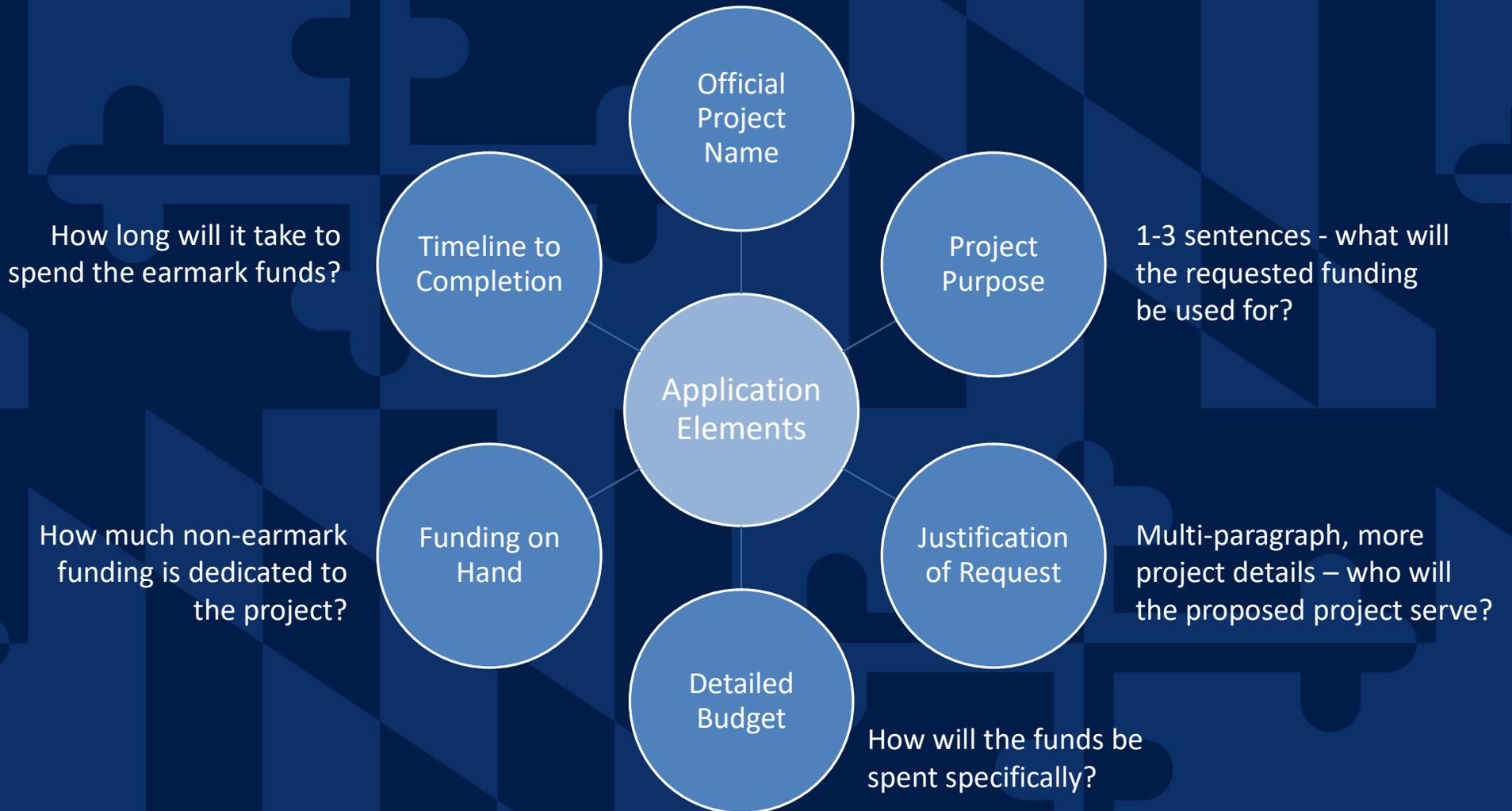
NASA Safety, Security and Mission Support (SSMS)

Previously funded projects can be found at:

Senator Van Hollen's Website	Senator Alsobrooks' Website
• FY 2022 • FY 2023 • FY 2024 • FY 2026 (will be updated as the bills pass)	• FY 2026

Tips for a Strong Application

Reach out to both your Senate and House Delegation members to maximize our ability to support you

If seeking letters of support from state legislators, start early to avoid the height of the General Assembly session

Explain clearly how your project advances equity and addresses unmet community needs

If requesting multiple projects, provide a ranked priority list

Communicate with delegation staff throughout process, including project idea development

Include any information on the scalability of your project, especially for large requests

If relevant, consider inviting field staff to visit your project to learn more about your needs

Explain how your project will become self-sustaining without the need for further earmark funding

Sample Project & Application:

Request Information

Applicant Name: South Baltimore Serves All

Name of Proposal: Fort Avenue Community Center and Food Pantry

Specific Location in Maryland: 12345 Fort Avenue, Baltimore City, Maryland 21215

County/Counties Where Project Is Located: Baltimore City

Congressionally Directed Spending Request: $1,500,000

Total Cost of the Project: $5,000,000

Relevant Appropriations Bill: Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD)

Specific Account: THUD, Economic Development Initiatives (EDI)

Applicants will complete ONE application through the joint Van Hollen/Alsobrooks portal

Sample Project & Application:

Project Purpose	Funds will support construction of a facility in the Shaw neighborhood in Baltimore City with a commercial kitchen and food pantry, afterschool tutoring, and job training to serve local families. The Shaw Community has experienced major disinvestment, which is part of the reason for the family poverty and lack of growth.
Justification of Request	This funding would enable construction of a larger food pantry facility to distribute healthy food to residents of Shaw without adding to their household budgets. The median household income in this area is $34,041, compared to the City median of $52,318. The City Health Department, in a study with Johns Hopkins Public Health, determined that this neighborhood was one of the poorest in the City and considered to be a Healthy Food Priority Area for increasing access to healthy foods. The funds being requested are needed to subsidize the costs of constructing a state-of-the- art food pantry and community center that will support the overall transformation of this community.

Sample Project & Application:

Project Budget

Community Center Project Expenses

Design: $200,000

Hard Costs Construction: $4,000,000 – **(CDS request will cover a portion)**

Furniture and Equipment: $500,000

Soft Costs: $100,000

Developer Fees, Overhead, and grant administration: $200,000

Total Expenses: $5,000,000

Source of Funds

Federal Congressional Earmark: $1,500,000

New Markets Tax Credits: $1,000,000

Commercial Loan: $2,200,000

Baltimore City Projects Grant: $100,000

Large Foundation Grant: $100,000

Other Foundations: $100,000

Total Sources: $5,000,000

Van Hollen Staff by Region

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Questions?

These presentation slides and the earmark guide packet will be available on both senators' websites:

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www.alsobrooks.senate.gov

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