



Navigating Congressional Directed Spending (CDS): FY2026 Guide

Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) allows members of Congress to direct federal funding to specific local projects, primarily benefiting state and local governments or nonprofit organizations. U.S. Senators have set deadlines for FY 2026 earmark applications, with most due by the end of March or early April.

ABMA encourages members with a nonprofit training partner to apply for funding to support workforce development programs. Our government relations team is available to assist with applications and connect members with qualified nonprofit training partners specializing in workforce development for the lumber industry.

Here's what to know:

- **Submission Deadline:** Most Senate offices require CDS requests to be submitted by **March 31, 2026, at 11:59 PM ET.**
- **Eligibility:** Eligible entities include state and local government agencies and non-profit organizations. Note that for-profit entities are not eligible for CDS.
- **Application Process:**
 - Most Senators have online portals for submitting requests.
 - Applicants are encouraged to submit early to allow time for corrections or clarifications.
 - Some senators, such as Senators Warren and Markey, use a [joint application process](#).
- **Project Requirements:**
 - Projects must fall under the eligible accounts as defined by each Senator's office.
 - Funding is limited; not all eligible requests will receive funding.
 - Projects are subject to audits by the Government Accountability Office (GAO).
- **Timeline:** If approved, it may take 18 months or longer from the time of request to the disbursement of funds.
- **Transparency:** Senators are required to publish their CDS requests on their official websites and certify that they have no financial interest in the requested items.

It's important to note that the FY2026 CDS process is still subject to final guidance from the Senate Appropriations Committee. We recommend checking your Senators' websites regularly for the most up-to-date information and specific requirements. **For a practical example**, please refer to [Senator Murkowski's guidance for CDS requests](#).

If you have additional questions or need further resources, please contact:

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