FY27 Earmark Informational Webinar for Local Govts

Offices of Senator Chris Van Hollen
and Senator Angela Alsobrooks

1/22/26

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

Senate

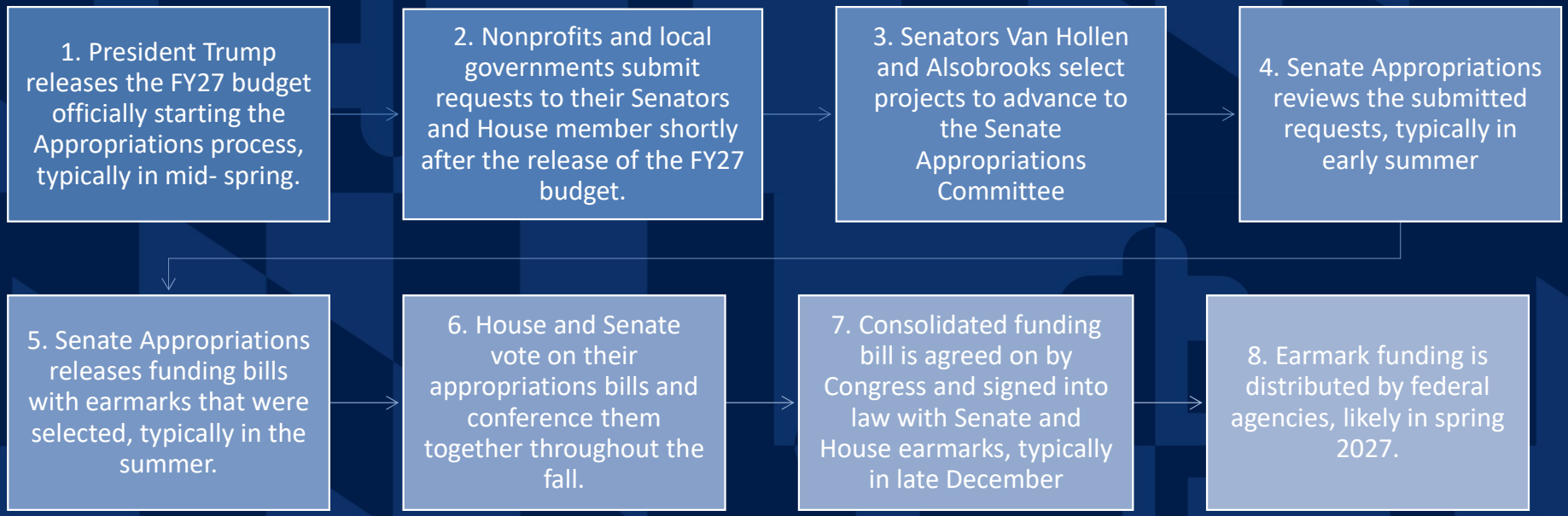
- Limits per committee on number of requests per office
- Some accounts differ from House
- 2 Letters of support required by our offices

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



Earmark Project Categories – Local Governments

Community Infrastructure

- HUD Economic Development Initiatives (EDI)
- USDA Rural Development Community Facilities
- USDA RD Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband (DLT)
- National Park Services Save America's Treasures (SAT)
- EPA STAG for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure
- Department of Energy, Energy Projects

Transportation and Dredging

- DOT Grants-in-Aid for Airports
- DOT Facilities and Equipment for Terminal ATC Facilities
- DOT Highway Infrastructure Program
- DOT Transit Infrastructure Grants
- DOT Transportation Planning, Research and Development
- US Army Corps of Engineers Dredging

Criminal Justice and Emergency Operations

- Department of Justice Byrne JAG Discretionary Projects
- DOJ COPS Law Enforcement Technology
- FEMA Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Grant Program
- FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Projects

Dark blue indicates categories only open to local government applicants (not nonprofit organizations)

Earmark Project Categories – Local Governments

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

Seniors and Children

- Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Child Abuse Prevention
- ACF Social Services Research and Demonstration

Small Business and Workforce Development

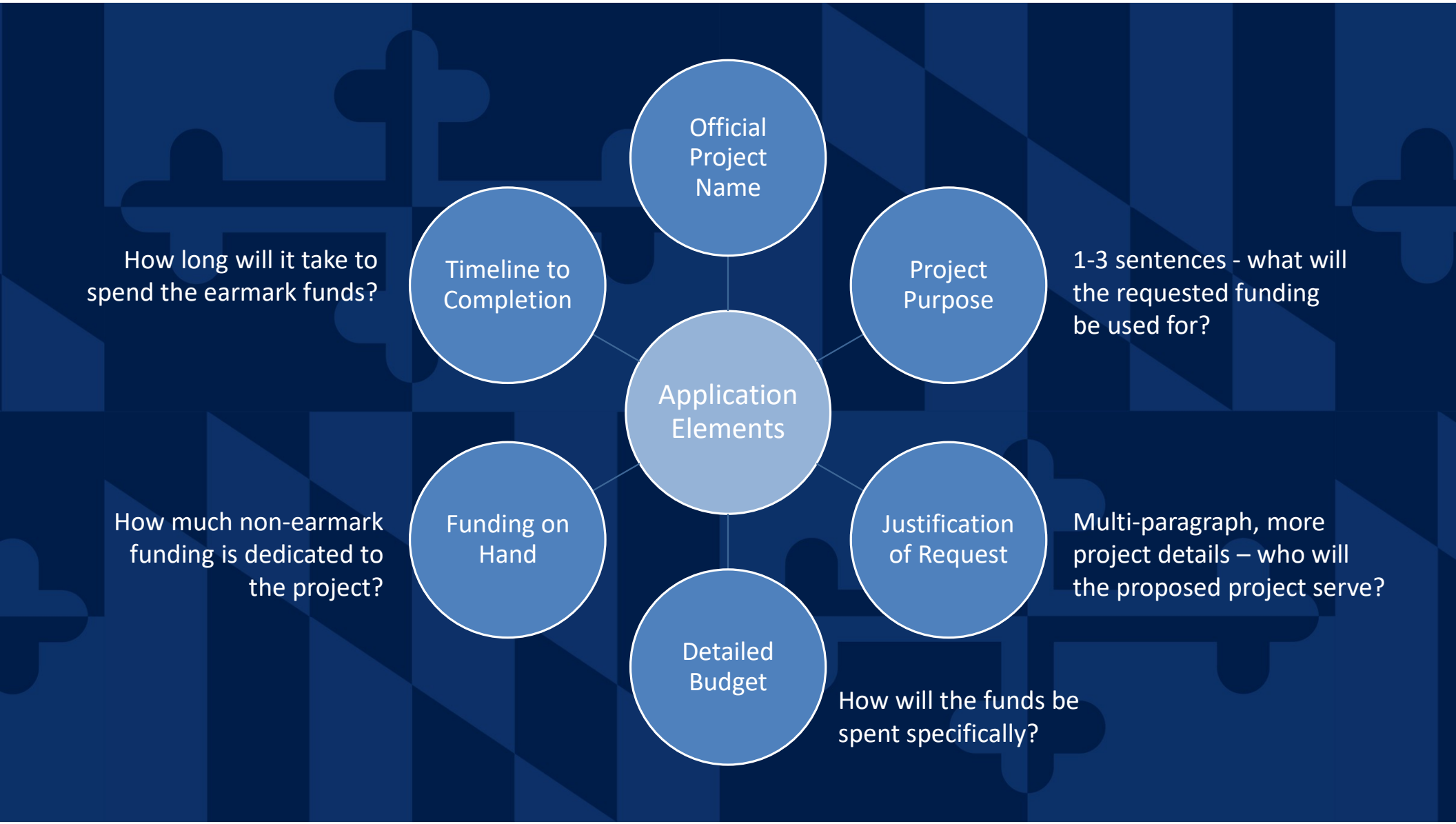
- Small Business Administration (SBA)
- Department of Labor (DOL) Employment and Training Administration, Workforce Development

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)
- USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Buildings and Facilities

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


Official Project Name
Timeline to Completion
How long will it take to spend the earmark funds?
Project Purpose
1-3 sentences - what will the requested funding be used for?
Application Elements
Funding on Hand
How much non-earmark funding is dedicated to the project?
Justification of Request
Multi-paragraph, more project details – who will the proposed project serve?
Detailed Budget
How will the funds be spent specifically?

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

Coordinating with State Agencies

For accounts with state agency approval requirements, start outreach early

Before applying for earmark funds, discuss with the relevant state agency the cost-share requirements and possible administrative costs associated with your proposed project.

Transportation projects that are not in the CTP or STIP require a letter from MDOT confirming that, should your project be funded, MDOT will amend the STIP to include your project.

Water infrastructure projects will have to be reviewed by MDE and Emergency Operations Center projects will have to be reviewed by MDEM.

Sample Project & Application:

Request Information

Applicant Name: Baltimore City DOT

Name of Proposal: Fort Avenue Pedestrian Bridge

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

County/Counties Where Project Is Located: Baltimore City

Congressionally Directed Spending Request: $1,000,000

Total Cost of the Project: $1,500,000

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

Specific Account: THUD, FHWA Highway Infrastructure Program

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

Sample Project & Application:

Project Purpose

Funds will support construction of a new pedestrian bridge to connect the east and west sides of the Shaw neighborhood in Baltimore City. Several old train tracks divide the community and create an access barrier to community facilities on each side of the tracks.

Justification of Request

This funding would enable construction of a pedestrian bridge to better connect the east and west sides of the community. New rowhomes and businesses have been built on both sides of the train tracks but are physically separated. The pedestrian bridge will allow for more access to the benefits of both communities. The median household income in this area is $34,041, compared to the City median of $52,318. A lack of investment in the area is attributed to the difficulty of community members and visitors to reach businesses and community facilities on both sides of the tracks.

Sample Project & Application:

Project Budget

Pedestrian Bridge Project Expenses

Preliminary Engineering and Design: $500,000

Hard Costs Construction: $1,000,000 – **(CDS request)**

Total Expenses: $1,500,000

Source of Funds

Federal Congressional Earmark: $1,000,000

Baltimore City: $250,000

State of Maryland: $250,000

Total Sources: $1,500,000

Van Hollen Staff by Region

Staff Contact	Counties
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Questions?

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

www.vanhollen.senate.gov
www.alsobrooks.senate.gov

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