

Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Senators Kaine and Warner are accepting applications for programs and projects to secure in the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) government funding bills that will benefit the Commonwealth.

Q: What is the deadline for submitting appropriations requests to Senators Kaine and Warner?

A: A deadline will be announced at a future time. Please make every effort to submit your request as soon as possible.

Q: What is the difference between Programmatic and Congressionally Directed Spending requests?

A: As allowed by the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Senators accept two types of appropriations requests: programmatic and Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) projects.

Programmatic requests are requests for Congress to fund a federal program at a specific amount or to include language directing a federal agency to execute a federal program in a specific way.

CDS requests are requests to fund a specific project or program carried out by a non-federal organization. CDS is designed to provide one-time funding to accomplish project milestones such as to start or complete a specific project.

For example, requesting an increase in funding for the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program is a programmatic request. Requesting funding from the EPA's State and Tribal Assistant Grant Program for a local waterline replacement would be a CDS request.

Please note that Senator Kaine and Senator Warner will be accepting CDS requests jointly under a single application, available However, the Senators will be accepting programmatic requests separately. To make a programmatic request with Senator Kaine, click [here](#).

Q: Who do I contact if I have questions?

A: Please email Kaine_Approps@kaine.senate.gov and approps_@warner.senate.gov with questions.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who is eligible to submit a CDS request?

A: State and local government entities and nonprofit organizations are eligible. For-profit companies are not eligible. Applicants will be asked to provide their EIN numbers. Applicants and their projects need to be located in Virginia and have a direct impact on local communities.

Q: Which agency and account should I select for my CDS project?

A: The Appropriations Subcommittees make funding for projects available under multiple accounts. To determine if your project is eligible for funding under any of the accounts, please review the list of previously requested CDS projects [here](#) and the guidance on eligibility provided [here](#). Applicants for CDS projects included in appropriations bills passed by Congress and signed by the President will be asked by the relevant executive branch agency to prove eligibility before funds are dispersed. The list will help you determine if your project is similar to those funded in

the past, and the guidance will explain the requirements you need to meet in order to be eligible for funding.

Q: What happens after I submit my CDS request?

A: CDS funds cannot be used retroactively or for reimbursements of completed work. Consider the length and complexity of the CDS process in determining whether CDS is the best funding source for your project. After you submit your request, the Senators' staff will review your request and may reach out to the point of contact(s) with clarifying questions or feedback. Please note that a request to the committee by Senators Kaine and Warner does not guarantee funding. After Senators Kaine and Warner review and submit requests to the Senate Appropriations Committee, the committee will determine which projects will be included in spending bills. To become law, these bills then need to pass the House and Senate and be signed by the President.

After the bill is signed into law, agencies will reach out to the point of contact and provide a follow-up application. This application needs to be completed before funds are distributed. **Even if a project is requested by the Senators and selected by the Appropriations Committee, funding is not guaranteed until the FY26 appropriations bills are enacted.**

Q: What do I need to include in my CDS request?

A: For all requests, applicants will be asked to provide a point of contact, your organization's Employer Identification Number (EIN), and details about other current and previous requests your organization has made to the Senators. The application also requires a detailed description of the project, an explanation of how the project meets eligibility requirements and how the project will benefit the Commonwealth and an itemized budget. Thorough and concise project descriptions and detailed budgets are especially important factors in considering applications. An individual point of contact, including direct phone number and email, is also essential.

Any additional information needed from applicants depends on the account through which the applicant is requesting funding. [Be sure to carefully review the guidance on eligibility provided here to determine what additional information you will need to provide.](#) Please note that for some accounts, the Appropriations Committee requires letters of recommendation from Virginia officials, matched funds from local and Virginia agencies, and/or advance inclusion in commonwealth planning documents like the VDOT Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

Q: What is the difference between a funding level and report language in a programmatic request?

A: A language request is a request for bill or report language that does not direct funding to a particular entity but encourages, urges, or directs some type of action by an agency. For example: *The Committee encourages the National Cancer Institute to support research to develop diagnostic tests for early detection of kidney cancer.*