

Congressionally Directed Spending

Eligible Accounts and Requirements

Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

General Guidance

The Subcommittee recommends that CDS projects create jobs, create opportunities, and/or save or improve lives. LHHS CDS projects should not be viewed as continuous funding sources and should be distinct from competitive grant opportunities at the relevant agencies. CDS projects should be viewed as a way to jump start an activity not sustain it over time. Successful projects will match the project to the authorization or mission of an agency or account and have the support of local officials or communities.

Except where specifically authorized and noted, CDS cannot be used for construction (or the acquisition of property) or renovation of buildings. In addition, recipients of CDS may not subgrant to other organizations or agencies.

Department of Labor:

- Employment and Training Administration (ETA)—Training and Employment Services
 - CDS projects funded by ETA (through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) demonstration authority) must be focused on meeting the employment and training needs of workers.
 - Generally these projects should include direct services which could include career services, training services (including work-based training), supportive services, and other permissible services, as they are defined in WIOA. Further projects will be required to report on performance outcomes for participants and should include a meaningful connection to the local workforce development system.
 - CDS funding may be used for the purchase of equipment, but generally only if it is an incidental part of the larger project.
 - A similar standard applies to curriculum development, which should be incidental to the project's emphasis on direct services to individuals.
 - If a larger portion of the CDS funding is expected to be used for equipment or curriculum development, please provide a detailed justification for how such costs relate to meeting the employment and training needs of workers.
 - CDS cannot be used for construction or renovation of facilities.

Department of Health and Human Services:

- **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) — Program Management**
 - CDS within HRSA should be submitted through the Program Management account and must fall under one of the following categories:
 - **Health Facilities Construction and Equipment**—CDS for the cost of construction, renovation, or capital equipment purchase for facilities for health, mental health, or substance abuse services, training of health professionals, or medical research. Examples of eligible facilities include hospitals; health centers and clinics; skilled nursing facilities; mental health

centers; facilities for schools of medicine, nursing, or other health professions; and medical research laboratories. In addition to construction and renovation, funding can be used to acquire capital equipment, such as lab equipment, x-ray machines, or telehealth and information technology. Equipment-only grants—that is, grants not involving construction—are permissible. Generally, any equipment having a useful life of more than one year and a unit cost of at least \$5,000 will be eligible as capital equipment. HRSA Health Facilities funding cannot be used to acquire land or purchase existing buildings, or to pay salaries or other operating costs. Funding cannot be used to pay for work previously completed. CDS can be used for architectural and engineering costs associated with an eligible construction project, but cannot be used for general feasibility studies or planning and design.

- **Rural Health** —CDS for projects to improve health care in rural areas. Examples of eligible activities include medical, dental, or mental health care services; health promotion and education; chronic disease management; telehealth services; and improvements to emergency medical services. Grant funds can be used for services only in areas that meet HRSA’s definition of rural. For lists of eligible areas and further information regarding that definition, see: <https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/about-us/definition/index.html>.

- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration—Health Surveillance and Program Support**

- CDS within SAMHSA should be submitted through the Health Surveillance and Program Support account and must fall under one of the following categories:
 - **Mental Health**—funding to support programs that promote the prevention or treatment of mental health disorders, including rehabilitation, outreach, and other support services.
 - **Substance Abuse Treatment**—funding to support programs that improve access, reduce barriers, and promote high quality, effective treatment and recovery services.
 - **Substance Abuse Prevention**—funding to support programs to prevent the onset of illegal drug use, prescription drug misuse and abuse, alcohol misuse and abuse, and underage alcohol and tobacco use.
- CDS within SAMSHA cannot be used for construction (other than a limited amount of renovation necessary to carry out a funded project).
- Needle Exchange: A General Provision prohibits the award of funding for projects which distribute sterile needles or syringes for I.V. drug injection.
- Use of Illegal Substances: A General Provision prohibits the award of funding for projects which promote the legalization of illegal drugs or substances.

- **Administration for Children and Families— Children and Families Services Programs**

- CDS within ACF should be submitted through the Children and Families Services Programs account and must fall under one of the following categories:
 - **Child Abuse Prevention**—CDS for projects to improve the prevention, assessment, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect through research, model service improvement, information dissemination, and

technical assistance. Projects must serve or target abused and/or neglected children and their families.

- **Social Services Research and Demonstration**—CDS for projects to promote the ability of families to thrive through financial self-sufficiency in order to reduce poverty and to promote the healthy development and greater well-being of children and families. Projects can serve a diverse population including: low-income individuals, children, youth, families, individuals with developmental disabilities, and Native Americans.
- CDS cannot be used for construction or renovation of facilities.
- **Administration for Community Living—Aging and Disability Services Programs**
 - CDS for projects to improve the ability of older adults and individuals of all ages with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in their communities. Generally, CDS should focus on improving access to, or the quality of, education, training, support services, and independent living services for older adults and individuals with disabilities.
 - CDS cannot be used for construction or renovation of facilities.

Department of Education

- **Innovation and Improvement—Fund for the Improvement of Education**
 - Elementary and secondary education CDS can be designated under this heading for a wide variety of elementary and secondary education projects, including instructional services, afterschool centers, curricula development, teacher training, acquisition of books and computers, arts education, social and emotional learning activities, full-service community schools, and early childhood education. In general, the focus of elementary and secondary education CDS should be providing early childhood or K-12 educational services.
 - CDS to provide and improve special education services at the elementary and secondary levels are also eligible under this heading. These CDS may include early intervention services for infants and toddlers, transition services, and postsecondary education services.
 - CDS intended for individual schools is provided to the applicable school district and not directly to the individual school.
 - CDS cannot be used for construction or renovation of school buildings, except in the case of minor remodeling required as part of technology upgrades. Daycare and childcare projects that do not include educational services are also not eligible under this account.
- **Rehabilitation Services—Demonstration and Training**
 - CDS can be designated under this heading for a wide variety of projects that further the purposes of the Rehabilitation Act, including by providing individuals with disabilities with education, training, support services, and independent living services.
 - Generally, CDS should focus on improving access to, or the quality of, such services for individuals with disabilities. Eligible grantees include State vocational rehabilitation agencies, community rehabilitation programs, Indian tribes or tribal organizations, or other public or nonprofit agencies and

organizations.

- CDS cannot be used for construction or renovation of facilities

- **Higher Education—Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education**

- CDS projects funded through FIPSE should primarily be focused on improving access to, or the quality of, postsecondary education. This can include a range of activities as authorized and specified in section 741(a) of the Higher Education Act. Grantees are usually colleges and universities, but may include other public and private nonprofit organizations.
- Examples of the types of projects that can be funded under FIPSE include projects to hire and train faculty, establish and improve degree programs, improve teacher preparation programs, develop and improve curricula, upgrade technology, equipment, and telecommunications, provide student support, and implement university partnerships with school districts.
- If a significant portion of grant funds are expected to be used for the purchase of equipment make sure to note that and include a justification for that use of funds.
- CDS funding cannot be used for construction or renovation of facilities, except in the case of minor remodeling required as part of technology upgrades.