**Congressional earmarks and libraries**

In 2021, Congress revived the practice of including earmarks in its appropriations bills after a 10-year absence. Earmark funding goes directly to the entity designated by Congress for the specified project (separate from regular federal programs). Earmarks were rebranded “Congressionally Directed Spending” in the Senate and “Community Project Funding” in the House.

In the two years of appropriations laws enacted since then, Congress has directed earmarks to more than 100 projects involving libraries, totaling nearly $150 million in funding. These tables provide details about the library projects included in the fiscal year [2022](https://airtable.com/shrBxL3jsxuc6tCza/tblxxrVEM9vmdfhiB) and [2023](https://airtable.com/shrmS3pB2tIHLFaA9) laws.

Interested libraries may submit project requests to their Members of Congress for the upcoming appropriations bills (fiscal year 2024). Here are some points to consider:

**Timing:** An overall request deadline for FY24 has not yet been announced, but deadlines to apply will likely be in March or April 2023. Successful projects would receive funding subsequent to the enactment of the FY24 appropriations law, which generally occurs toward the end of the calendar year.

**Activities:** Projects are typically for specific, one-time activities (and do not fund ongoing activities like annual operating expenses). Most of the library projects in FY22 and FY23 were capital projects, such as building renovation or construction. Other library projects included pilot or discrete activities related to technology, children and youth, and history.

**Recipients:** Library projects in FY22 and FY23 included projects at school, academic, public, Tribal, state, and special libraries.

**Amounts:** The Congressional share of funding for library projects in FY22 and FY23 typically ranged from $50,000 to $2,000,000.

**Process:** Requests are submitted to individual Congressmembers’ offices, each of which establishes their own deadlines and request forms. (Generally, deadlines to apply for FY24 will likely be in March or April 2023.) Libraries with a potential project can reach out to their Congressmembers’ offices to discuss the idea in advance of submitting an application. Applicants can submit the same request to all the Congressmembers who represent the location of the proposed project (i.e., the Representative for that district and both Senators for that state). Note that some Congressmembers do not accept requests.

*Caveat:* Requests are subject to guidelines established by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, which have not yet been released for FY24. Timelines and eligibility may be affected by those guidelines, which are expected to be released in March or April 2023.