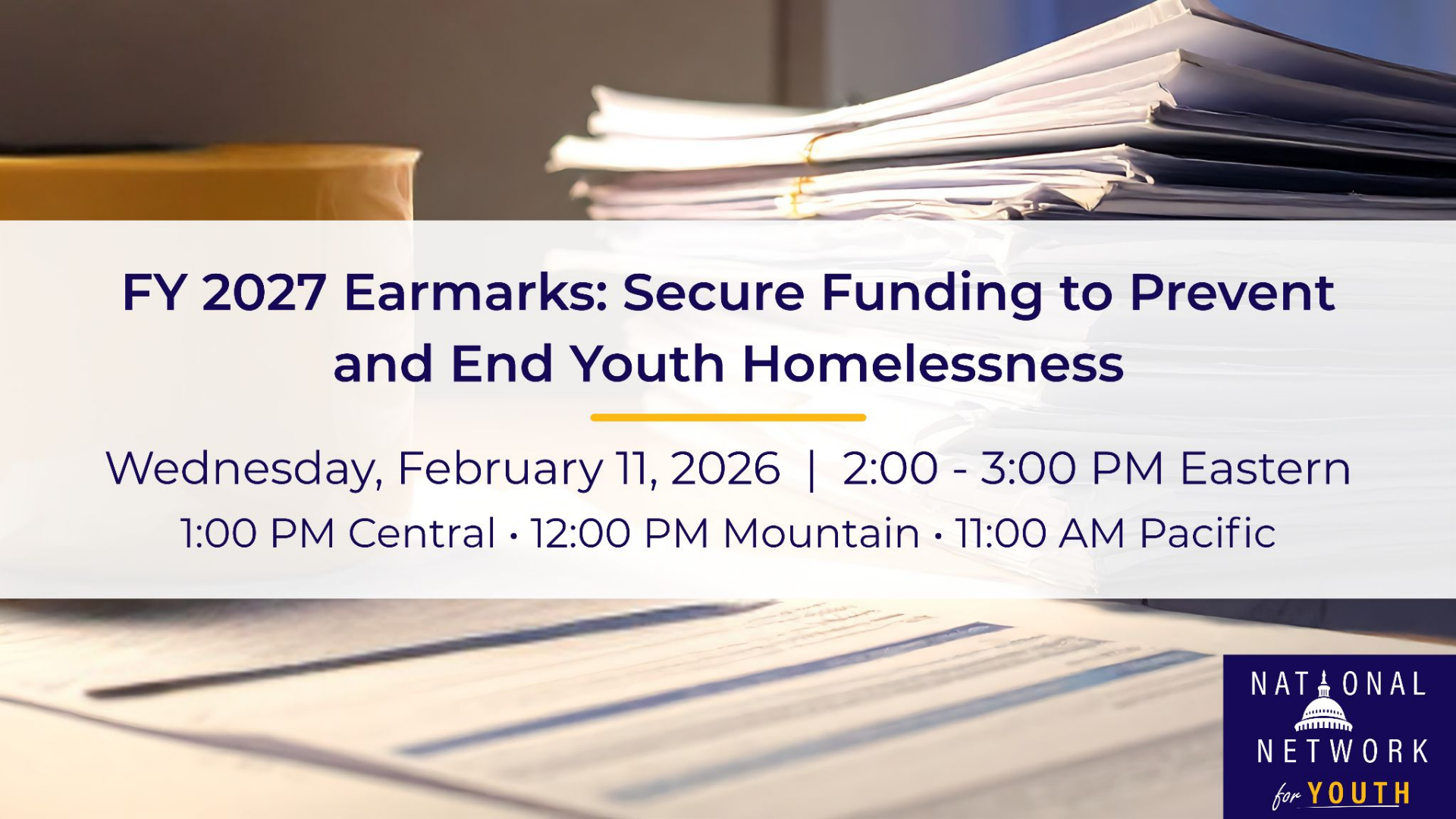




FY 2027 Earmarks: Secure Funding to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 | 2:00 - 3:00 PM Eastern
1:00 PM Central • 12:00 PM Mountain • 11:00 AM Pacific

Welcome!

Webinar Overview

- Introduce yourself in chat: Name, pronouns, organization, location, and an emoji of how your day is going so far. 😊 😄 😭 😬 😡 🙌
- Ask questions in the chat throughout the presentation.
- The webinar slides and a recording will be available on our website.
- Please [complete this survey](#) following the webinar so we can improve for next time.

About National Network for Youth

**NN4Y is on a mission to
transform systems so that no
young person in America
experiences homelessness.**



collaborate • advocate • transform

Join our newsletter: nn4youth.org/subscribe

NN4Y works with youth who have experienced homelessness and youth service providers from across the country to prevent and end youth, young adult, and young parent family homelessness and human trafficking. Together, we envision a future in which all young people have a safe place to call home, with endless opportunities to achieve their fullest potential.

Our Programs

- ★ Federal Policy Advocacy
- ★ Youth + Youth Adult Partnerships
- ★ Community-Based Solutions

Our Speakers

Overview



Josh Selo

Chief Executive Officer
Bill Wilson Center



Josh Louwerse

Senior Director of Legislative Affairs
and Youth Systems Improvement
Covenant House Alaska

Agenda

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Intro to Earmark Funding

2

Provider Perspective

3

Questions and Discussion

What are Earmarks?



- ★ One-time federal funding for eligible entities (nonprofits, schools, local government, etc.).
- ★ During the annual appropriations process, a Member of Congress (U.S. Senator or Representative) requests the funding on behalf of their constituent.
- ★ House: “Community Project Funding”
- ★ Senate: “Congressionally Directed Spending”

Earmarks Process Overview

1. Have **regular conversations** with your lawmaker and their staff.
 - 1.1. If you need contact information, email trinady.maddock@nn4youth.org.
2. Submit an application **with your lawmaker** to request funding for your project.
 - 2.1. House: Search your lawmaker + FY 2027 Community Project Funding application.
 - 2.2. Senate: Search your lawmaker + FY 2027 Congressionally Directed Spending application.
3. If your lawmaker approves the request, it must be **approved in the annual appropriations process** by the Appropriations Committee and the rest of Congress.
4. If your request passes, you will work with the **federal agency** responsible for paying out your earmark to finalize the contract and implementation of your project.

Estimated Timeline



Jan - Feb	Email to your lawmaker's staff expressing your interest in an earmark, asking for more information about the process, when the deadline will be, etc. Be persistent!
Jan - March	Prepare your application. Tip: Invite the lawmaker and their staff for virtual or in-person meetings and site visits to talk about your project. Resource here.
April	Most applications are due (but make sure you check, because some offices have different deadlines). Applications can be found on your lawmakers' websites.
September 30	Deadline for FY 2027 appropriations (although this deadline is often extended).

Ongoing: Build relationships with your Members of Congress and their staff.

Accounts to Consider



[Account Cheat Sheet](#)
[Funded Projects by Account](#)

Earmark funding isn't a single pot of money—Congress designates it through multiple federal agencies and offices, each with its own “accounts.” Your proposed project must align with the account you're applying under.

- ★ **HUD:** Economic Development Initiative
- ★ **ACF:** Child Abuse Prevention or Social Services Research and Demonstration
- ★ **DOL:** Training and Employment Services
- ★ **SAMHSA:** Health Surveillance and Program Support
- ★ **ED:** Innovation and Improvement or Higher Education

Current Availability

Each year, Congress announces which accounts it will fund earmarks for and what entities will be eligible under those accounts.

They also release specific guidance about what kinds of projects will be considered under each account and the deadlines for lawmakers to apply to the Appropriations Committees.

Last Cycle's (FY 2026) Guidance

AGENCY	HOUSE	SENATE
Department of Health and Human Services	Did not fund	Funded with regular eligibility
Department of Housing and Urban Development, EDI	Funded, but non-profits were not eligible	Funded with regular eligibility
Department of Labor	Did not fund	Funded with regular eligibility
Department of Education	Did not fund	Funded with regular eligibility

Tips for a Strong Application

Intro to Earmarks



- ★ Have strong relationships with your lawmaker's staff.
- ★ Demonstrate the need for your project and strong support among community members and other stakeholders.
 - Letters of support.
 - Press articles.
 - Resolutions and community plans.
- ★ Show that your request is feasible and sustainable.
 - Demonstrated capacity to implement the project.
 - Requested amount is appropriate for project.
 - Additional funding to sustain the project.
- ★ Avoid controversial issues.

[Fact Sheet](#)

Resources

Intro to Earmarks



Fact Sheet: Fiscal Year 2027 Earmarks

What You Need to Know

What are earmarks? Earmarks are one-time federal funds for state, local, or tribal government entities and eligible nonprofits to carry out a specific project. U.S. Members of Congress (lawmakers) must request these funds on behalf of projects in their state or district.

What are earmarks called? In the Senate, earmarks are called Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS). In the House, they are called Community Project Funding (CPF). "Earmarks" is a colloquial term that can refer to CDS and/or CPF.

What can earmarks fund? Earmarks can fund a wide variety of one-time projects for state, local, and tribal governments and eligible nonprofits, covering a broad range of eligible activities which are specified every year by House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Historically, earmarks have been able to fund infrastructure, education, in mental health services, and community development. [See example projects here.](#)

How much is earmark funding for? Earmark funding ranges depending on the scope of the project—anywhere from a few hundred thousand dollars to several million.

What is the process to obtain an earmark? The process from initial application to payout takes at least a year, but it is not unusual for it to take longer than that. A more detailed timeline is in the next section, but the condensed version is:

1. Have regular conversations with your lawmaker and their staff, educating them about the work your program does and the needs of your program.
2. Create a detailed outline of the project you want funded—be specific.
3. Submit an application with your lawmaker to request funding for your project.
4. If your lawmaker approves the request, it will need to be approved in the annual appropriations process by the Appropriations Committee and the rest of Congress.
5. If your request passes the appropriations process, you will work with the federal agency responsible for paying out your earmark to finalize the contract and implementation of your project.

nn4youth.org/policy/federal-earmarks/

January 2026 | 1

Fact Sheet: Overview of Earmarks



Earmarks Account Cheat Sheet

Earmark funding isn't a single pot of money—Congress designates it through multiple federal agencies and offices, each with its own "accounts." When submitting an earmark request, your proposed project must align with one of these accounts. Knowing which account your project fits into is critical to crafting a strong proposal. If Congress approves the earmark, the federal agency overseeing that account is the one you will work with to execute a contract and receive funding.

Below are the accounts most relevant to programs serving youth, young adults, and young parent families experiencing homelessness. To see examples of funded projects under these accounts, see [this fact sheet](#).

House and Senate Appropriations Committees determine what accounts are eligible for this funding stream and the House and Senate can differ in what they allow. Be sure to work closely with your lawmaker's office to ensure your project is in line with that guidelines for that Fiscal Year.

Note: In the Senate, earmark funding is called "Congressionally Directed Spending." In the House, earmark funding is called "Community Project Funding."

Account Cheat Sheet: Overview of Accounts

Blog Post



Projects Funded Through Earmarks

Below are some examples of different projects that were funded through earmarks. The array of funded projects should help give you an idea of the different things you can request earmark funding for. To learn more about the different accounts, see [this cheat sheet](#).

Note: In the Senate, earmark funding is called "Congressionally Directed Spending." In the House, earmark funding is called "Community Project Funding."

Abbreviations

ED - Department of Education
DOJ - Department of Justice
DOL - Department of Labor
HHS - Department of Health and Human Services
HUD - Department of Housing and Urban Development
ACF - Administration for Children and Families
EDI - Economic Development Initiative

ETA - Employment and Training Administration
HE - Higher Education
HHS - Health Resources and Services Administration
ISI - Innovation and Improvement
OJP - Office of Justice Programs
SAMHSA - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Projects Funded: Examples of Successful Projects

BILL WILSON CENTER

Josh Selo
Chief Executive Officer





About the project

Project: Transitional Housing & Shelter Improvements

- Sump pump installation (shelter)

- Bathroom renovation (TH)

- Piping replacement (TH)

Sponsor: Representative Ro Khanna,
California District 17

Ask: \$92,000

Award: \$92,000



Community Project Funding Timeline

March 2023

Submit preliminary proposal, obtain support letters, meet with staffers

April 2023

Project selected (1 of 15 selected by Rep Khanna)

July 2023

Draft allocations released by House Appropriations Committee- all of Rep Khanna's projects were funded, but most took a haircut

March 2024

House of Representatives approves FY24 Community Project Funding, signed into law by President Biden

January 2025

Project cohort and technical assistance for application completion begins - turnover of point person (3 times) and multiple govt shutdowns further extended this step in the timeline

February 2026

Work on completing the application continues

No cash in the bank to date!

Key considerations

Alignment with available funding priorities

Funding priorities are determined by which party has the majority in the House

Process is very...very...very...very...very slow

This is not an ideal process for projects needing immediate or short term funding

Size of ask (versus allocated funding)

We were advised that most asks were for projects greater than \$1M, although 53% were funded below \$1M after committee review

Future cost of project

With a potential gap of three years from application to funding, are you accounting for the growing cost of completing your project as part of the proposal

COVENANT HOUSE ALASKA

Josh Louwerse

Senior Director of Legislative Affairs and Youth
Systems Improvement





CHA's Projects



FY22 Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) Community Project: Training to Address Homelessness

Request: \$500,000 Funded: \$500,000

FY23 OPRE Community Project:

Bridge to Success

Request: \$2,000,000 Funded: \$2,000,000

FY24 OPRE Community Project:

Building Capacity in Rural Alaska to Help At-Risk Youth

Request: \$2,000,000 Funded: \$2,000,000

FY25 OPRE Community Project:

Pathways to Independence for Alaskan Youth

Request: \$3,000,000 Funded: \$0

FY26 Economic Development Initiative (EDI) Project:

Dena'ina House Affordable Housing for Youth

Request: \$3,000,000 Funded: \$1,600,000

Sponsor: Senator Lisa Murkowski

CHA's Projects



Statewide Training



Rural Capacity Building



Bridge to Success



Affordable Housing

Covenant House Alaska Congressionally Directed Funding Learnings

Relationships, Relationships, Relationships

know your legislators, know their staff, know community partners, know the young people you serve. Be a bridge.

Have Multiple Funding Strategies for Program Sustainability

Community Project Program funding is one time funding per project. Know what your sustainability plan is.

Build Momentum

Once you have secured Community Project funding develop adjacent opportunities in your next annual request in order to build on the accomplished work from the the previous years funding.

Program Funding is Less Challenging

The OPRE funding reports through ACF's standard grant reporting system and template which is familiar to many. There are less procedural hurdles to overcome than HUD or EDI Capital funding.

Put Your Questions in the Q&A

THE FIGHT TO **END YOUTH** **HOMELESSNESS** TAKES ALL OF US.

Become a member of the National Network for Youth and join the nation's foremost coalition on this issue.

Connect with peers, gain expert guidance, and stay updated on funding and policies affecting **youth homelessness**.

nn4youth.org/membership

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National Summit on Youth Homelessness + Hill Day



March 12-13, 2026 | Washington DC, Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill



Strengthening Organizations, Systems, and Communities: NN4Y's Consulting and Training Services

Thursday, February 26, 2026

2:00 - 3:00 PM Eastern

1:00 PM Central • 12:00 PM Mountain • 11:00 AM Pacific

*Featuring Youth Action
Leadership Certificate FAQs!*

Register Now!

NATIONAL
NETWORK
for **YOUTH**

I AM HERE: Vital Document Legal Hotline for Youth

A free, dedicated state-specific legal assistance hotline for **youth experiencing homelessness** to help obtain:

State ID cards and licenses

Social Security Cards

Birth certificates

Documents needed to obtain an ID and license

**Text or
Call!**

1-888-870-DOCS

*Voicemails and texts are welcome and will be returned.

Every Wednesday

12 to 8 PM Eastern | 11 AM to 7 PM Central

10 AM to 6 PM Mountain | 9 AM to 5 PM Pacific

**Baker
McKenzie.**

NATIONAL

NETWORK
for **YOUTH**



Next Open Cohort: Registration opens February 2026, starts April 2026
2026 NN4Y Members get discounts!



NATIONAL NETWORK
for **YOUTH**

presents...



Sharpen Your Skills in:

-  Youth Advocacy
-  Partnership Development
-  Systems & Funding
-  Administration
-  Project Management
-  Facilitation

Join the open cohort or connect with Sarah (sarah.billings@nn4youth.org) to
bring a customized certificate program to your community!

**Together, we
can end youth
homelessness.**

Contact Us:

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