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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.”*

Department of Health and Human Services

Account: Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

ACF ensures that children, youth, families, and communities are resilient, safe, healthy, and economically secure. ACF earmark projects must fall under Child Abuse Prevention (programming improves the prevention, assessment, identification, and treatment of child abuse) or Social Services Research and Demonstration (programming increases financial self-sufficiency and wellbeing of children, youth, or families).

Funded Projects:

- **Covenant House Alaska (AK)** - \$2,000,000 to implement a statewide training program to address youth, child, and family homelessness in Alaska.
- **The Northern Lighthouse (ME)** - \$510,000 for services and education for homeless youth, including the purchase of a van.

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

HRSA is the primary federal agency providing healthcare to the highest-need individuals in underserved and rural areas across the country. Priorities of HRSA include improving maternal and child health outcomes as well as expanding access to treatment for mental health and substance use disorders in underserved and rural communities.

Funded Projects:

- **Friends of Youth (WA)** - \$1,000,000 to enhance delivery of behavioral health care to youth experiencing homelessness.
- **Beach Cities Health District (CA)** - \$1,000,000 for facilities and equipment for the Youth Wellness Center.

Account: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

SAMHSA supports individuals living with mental health and substance use disorders and ensures that individuals with, affected by, or at risk for mental health and substance use conditions receive care and achieve wellbeing. Increasing youth-focused services is a priority for SAMHSA.

Funded Projects:

- **Youth Rising (OR)** - \$750,000 to support programming critically needed in the tribal region of Oregon for young teenage tribal mothers experiencing housing instability.
- **Youth Shelter Program of Westchester (NY)** - \$1,600,000 to pilot a mental health and educational support program for 150 at-risk youth ages 18 to 24, fostering violence prevention and youth well-being.

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Account: Economic Development Initiative (EDI)

EDI is the primary account for community project earmark funding under HUD (sometimes referred to as the Community Development Fund). Projects under this account cannot be used for programming or service provision—instead, they're used for activities such as rehabilitating/renovating buildings, acquiring new buildings or property, construction projects, or new furnishings.

Funded Projects:

- **Butterfly's Haven (CA)** - \$1.7 million to acquire an additional site, open a youth hub and workforce training center, and, over time, redevelop the space to include housing, creating a centralized and comprehensive community resource.
- **Vita Nova (FL)** - \$750,000 to construct affordable housing, high tech broadband, and a business center with computer access for youth ages 18 to 25.

Department of Labor

Account: Employment and Training Administration (ETA)

ETA supports states and local communities with workforce development and training. Under ETA includes the Offices of Workforce Investment, Apprenticeship, and Job Corps. Projects focused on helping youth and young adults enter the workforce are a match for this account.

Funded Projects:

- **Covenant House Florida (FL)** - \$300,000 for work-based learning and supportive services for homeless youth.
- **St. Joseph Center (CA)** - \$898,053 to expand job training and career development programs for people who are or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

Department of Education

Account: Innovation and Improvement (I&I)

I&I funds innovative educational programs, including teacher training, learning initiatives, mentoring, and arts. Funds are available to nonprofits who work with students as well as schools.

Funded Projects:

- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta (GA)** - \$250,000 for youth mentoring programs.
- **Our Piece of the Pie (CT)** - \$750,000 for youth development, postsecondary education preparation, and workforce readiness training for youth and young adults in foster care.

Account: Higher Education (HE)

HE funding is available to colleges and universities and covers a broad range of projects, from direct service provision to purchasing equipment or renovating facilities.

Funded Projects:

- **Everett Community College (WA)** - \$300,000 for programs for youth experiencing homelessness.
- **Manor College (PA)** - \$1,275,667 for wraparound services, advising, and basic needs support for at-risk student populations, including scholarships.

Department of Justice

Account: Office of Justice Programs (OJP)

OJP oversees many programs, which include Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act programs. These programs can include community-based initiatives to support young people who are or at-risk of becoming justice-involved.

Funded Projects:

- **Huckleberry House (OH)** - \$610,000 to support youth experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness who are victims of crime.
 - **Covenant House California (CA)** - \$653,000 for street outreach to youth victims of crime.
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Resources

- [FY2027 Earmarks Fact Sheet](#)
- [Project Funding History](#)
- [Government Accountability Office's CDS + CPF Tracking Site](#) - Use this to find more information about previously funded projects.
- [House](#) and [Senate](#) Appropriations Websites - Keep an eye on these sites for upcoming earmark guidance.
 - All the [FY2026 House requests](#).
 - All the [FY2026 Senate requests](#).
- **Your Lawmaker's Appropriations Staffer** - Find out which staffer(s) handles your lawmaker's appropriations portfolio. They'll be a good resource as you go through the earmarks process. If you need help finding direct contact information, email trinady.maddock@nn4youth.org.
- **Your Lawmaker's Website** - This is where they will post earmark applications, guidelines, and deadlines.