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Senators Collins and Murray Announce the Start of the FY26 Appropriations Process, Releasing Guidance on Programmatic, Language, and Congressionally Directed Spending Requests

Washington, D.C. – Today, U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Patty Murray, Chair and Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, respectively, released guidance for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 programmatic, language, and Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) requests.

The Committee is moving forward with the FY 2026 appropriations process, and will begin hearings later this month.

General guidance for Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations requests is available [HERE](#).

Programmatic/Language Requests:

These requests are (1) general funding requests for national and regional programs and/or (2) bill and report language requests that direct, encourage, or urge an agency or department to carry out an action.

Congressionally Directed Spending Requests:

In addition to programmatic and language requests, the Committee, on a bipartisan basis, will accept requests for CDS items. CDS items can promote economic development, infrastructure, public safety, education, health care initiatives, and other worthy investments in communities across the country.



FY 2026 Appropriations Requests and Congressionally Directed Spending

For the fiscal year 2026 appropriations cycle, the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations (the “Committee”) will again accept requests from Senators reflecting their federal funding priorities. This is an important way that Senators can advocate for programs and projects important to our nation as well as their states and local communities.

General guidance for fiscal year 2026 appropriations requests is available [HERE](#).

In addition to programmatic and language requests, the Committee, on a bipartisan basis, will accept requests for Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) items. CDS items can promote economic development, infrastructure, public safety, education, health care initiatives, and other worthy investments in communities across the country.

In accordance with [Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate](#), Senators who submit requests for CDS must certify that neither they nor their immediate family members have any financial interest in the item(s) requested, and the Committee will post a list of the requests and certifications on its website. To further enhance transparency and accountability, Chair Collins and Vice Chair Murray will [require](#) Senators who submit CDS requests to publish those requests on their official websites, along with the certification mentioned above, for the duration of the fiscal year 2026 appropriations cycle.

The Committee will carefully review CDS requests made by Senators. Only those CDS requests that meet the requirements above and are deemed appropriate for federal support will be considered for funding.

[**FY 2025 Congressionally Directed Spending**](#)

[**FY 2024 Congressionally Directed Spending**](#)

[**FY 2023 Congressionally Directed Spending**](#)

[**FY 2022 Congressionally Directed Spending**](#)



Committee Jurisdiction

The Senate Appropriations Committee is the largest committee in the U.S. Senate, consisting of 29 members in the 118th Congress. Its role is defined by the U.S. Constitution, which requires "appropriations made by law" prior to the expenditure of any money from the Federal treasury.

The Committee, chaired by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), writes the legislation that allocates federal funds to the numerous government agencies, departments, and organizations on an annual basis.

Twelve subcommittees are tasked with drafting legislation to allocate funds to government agencies within their jurisdictions. These subcommittees are responsible for reviewing the President's budget request, hearing testimony from government officials and other witnesses, and drafting the spending plans for the coming fiscal year. Their work is passed on to the full Senate Appropriations Committee, which may review and modify the bills and approve them for consideration by the full Senate.

The Committee is also responsible for supplemental spending bills, which are sometimes needed in the middle of a fiscal year to compensate for emergency expenses.

The Senate Appropriations Committee is located in S-128 of the Capitol, with subcommittee offices located in the Dirksen Senate Office Building.