

United States Senate

May 6, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chairwoman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Hoeven
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chair Baldwin, and Ranking Member Hoeven,

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending items that I have requested in the Fiscal Year 2023 Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Sincerely,



Tina Smith
United States Senator

**Smith, Tina(D-MN) Agriculture
Congressionally Directed Spending Requests**

Recipient Name	Project Purpose	Project Location	Amount Requested (\$000)
Virginia, MN	The City of Virginia proposes to construct a new facility that will be a combined Regional Public Safety facility approximately 59,700 sq. ft. in size that will provide space for Fire and Police operations in a shared facility. Currently housed in facilities that are over 100 years old, both departments have grown out of their current spaces. A new facility will greatly enhance the Fire Department and Police Department capabilities, enhance departmental efficiency, and provide adequate space for the departments to properly serve the community. A well designed and equipped facility enable fire and law enforcement to more effectively provide services to the city. These operations are all heavily facility dependent and will be greatly improved by a proper facility solution. Funds received through Rural Development Community Funding will be used for construction of the facility. The facility will include offices, training rooms, evidence storage, and vehicle storage.	100 Block of 8th Street South, Virginia MN	\$1,000
Vermilion Housing Corporation	Adequate and safe and affordable housing for low to moderate income people of the community and surrounding areas are in short supply. The physical condition of the interior and exterior buildings after 50 years of use is in need of upgrades.	101 thru 105 Cedar Avenue, Tower MN	\$2,000
City of Audubon	Demolish the existing 5,472 square foot fire/community hall and erect a new 14,214 square foot fire/community/city hall.	420 Eagle Street, Audubon Minnesota 56511 MN	\$2,380
Balkan Township	Funds will be used to design, engineer and construct a fiber network over two square miles connecting 330 households, a population of 808, to high-speed Internet service.	Balkan Township MN	\$5,313
Bird Island Cultural Centre	The Chalkboard Collective Community's vision is to repurpose the vacated BOLD Elementary School in Bird Island and create a 65,985 square foot multi-purpose property that will foster school sports, student learning, business expansion, community wellness, a deep winter greenhouse, and arts programs for Central Renville County. To achieve this vision, Chalkboard Community Collective needs to demolish parts of the school and prepare the site for occupancy. The original school building was erected in 1917 and was expanded in 1937 and 1956. The original 1917 building and part of the 1956 addition are unusable due to deferred maintenance. As a result, 41,340 square feet of the property, or 42%, needs to be demolished and made weather tight and usable in its existing condition.	Bird Island MN	\$2,239
Brainerd Family YMCA	To fully renovate the property at 703 Oak St., Brainerd, Minnesota, which is located in an 'opportunity zone' census tract where 27% of families fall below the poverty level, into a licensed childcare center which will provide infant and toddler spots to a minimum of 74 working families in the community. Funds will be used to fund renovation expenses along with start-up furniture, fixtures and equipment necessary for opening and operation.	Brainerd MN	\$900
Consolidated Telephone Company (CTC)	Funding support would be used to connect 316 establishments to a Gigabit of symmetrical internet and voice services over a fiber-to-the-premise network. Specifically, funding will be used for detailed engineering, construction of the fiber network, electronics, and installation of broadband services within homes and businesses within the project area.	Brainerd MN	\$1,391
City of Chisholm	The funding will be used to expand the current City owned Chisholm Iron Trail Campground to accommodate the need of an influx of tourism to the area. The existing campground is within a mile of the Minnesota Discovery Center, St. Louis County Fairgrounds, Redhead Mountain Bike Park, and various other trails. Given the popularity of these attractions, the City of Chisholm needs to expand the existing campground to accommodate the increased number of visitors to the area. The proposed expansion area will accommodate 17 full RV hookup sites, 21 tent sites, 2 outhouses and 1 shower/restroom/shelter facility.	Chisholm MN	\$2,500

United Way of Northeastern Minnesota	The funds will be used to help build two new childcare facilities, one in Chisholm and one in Ely. These facilities are estimated to serve 240 children across the Iron Range. The lack of childcare availability is severely impacting workforce recruitment and retention in our region.	Chisholm, Ely MN	\$1,200
Lake of the Woods County	The Federal funds requested would go to the 911 and Emergency Operations portion of a new public safety center. This project will provide a 22,000 square foot Public Safety and Emergency Operation Center for Lake of the Woods County in Baudette, Minnesota. The single story, steel framed structure will consist of insulated precast wall panels and metal stud framing on the exterior walls. Metal roof decking will cover the non-secure side of the building, whereas precast plank will cover the detention side. CMU interior walls will be prevalent in the detention area along with ten prefabricated steel cell and toilet modules.	City of Baudette in Lake of the Woods County MN	\$3,500
City of Cromwell	Funding would be used for community facility improvements to city streets and accessibility improvements to parking lots and the community recreation facility. The project includes the reconstruction of Railroad Street, Burnett Street, Clark Avenue, Elm Street, Lake Hill Drive, and rural gravel roads within the city limits. Parking lot reconstruction and ADA access improvement for three city parking lots, lighting improvements along Trunk Hwy 210, and improvements to the City Recreation Facility.	City of Cromwell MN	\$325
City of Dassel	Construction of a new fire hall and training facility.	City of Dassel MN	\$3,000
Grant County	The construction of a standalone Law Enforcement Center.	City of Elbow Lake MN	\$5,850
City of Fairmont	The City of Fairmont Economic Development Authority (EDA) holds an option to purchase land near the intersection of County Road 39 and Interstate 90 in Fairmont. The parcel includes 37.61 acres that is currently utilized as agriculture land that is zoned for industrial development. The City intends to utilize the land for additional industrial development as the current industrial park has two lots remaining both of which have wetlands that make building prohibitive. The City has completed a preliminary geotechnical report on the property and has recently completed a utility extension to the property line to support the development of the land as an industrial park. The EDA has had numerous businesses interested in the land for possible business development and growth, but without a major business interested in purchasing a sizeable portion of the land, the EDA is not in the position to be able to exercise the option to purchase.	City of Fairmont MN	\$398
City of Garrison	This proposed improvement project will remodel existing space as it is less expensive than building new. High priority needs will be addressed including removing and replacing compromised insulation that is causing mold growth, replacing broken windows, and replacing stairways with proper depth treads and ADA compliance handrails. ADA accessibility improvements are a substantial need including new doors, proper swing areas, grab bars and clearances for mobility. Serious electrical issues will be corrected, and safety LED lighting will be added to the entrances of the building. Essential improvements to the facility have been identified in a facility study conducted in January 2022 which is included with this request.	City of Garrison MN	\$705
Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association DBA	Utilization of funds to deploy quality fiber broadband and VoIP services to 735 residential dwellings, and 74 businesses in the City of Paynesville. The requested funds will cover 20% of the total project cost to design, construct and install the businesses and residents with fiber. Currently these homes and business do not have access to fiber fed broadband, and in most cases are below the 100/20Mbps threshold. The fiber network will be designed and constructed to allow for scalability to meet future bandwidth demands.	City of Paynesville, Stearns County MN	\$2,616
Ag Innovation Campus	The funds will be leveraged with other funds to complete construction of the education and research center. Part of the funding will also be used to purchase laboratory equipment and help in subsidizing the professionals needed to staff the areas of the Ag Innovation Campus dedicated to commercialization of new technologies including new types of crops.	Crookston MN	\$4,530

National Loon Center Foundation	The National Loon Center Foundation (NLCF) is building a world-class, net-zero energy facility that will create dozens of permanent jobs, stimulate the local and regional economy, and position Minnesota as a national leader in loon and freshwater conservation. The NLCF would use congressionally directed spending funds to begin construction of the National Loon Center (NLC) in 2023 and open it to the public in 2024. The design and installation of high-tech, immersive exhibits and the completion of both interior and exterior features would be included among uses for these funds. The NLC will be an interactive and family-friendly destination projected to attract 200,000 visitors annually.	Crosslake MN	\$3,500
City of Edgerton	This phase of the project will cover some of the oldest infrastructure in Edgerton that is roughly 100 years old. Edgerton is currently working with USDA on a city wide 7 phase sewer and water project. The monies requested will help cover the non-eligible costs of phase 1.	Edgerton MN	\$411
City of Ely	In addition to the joint ambulance service the City of Ely is planning to build a fire and first responder apparatus storage garage. The historic City Hall /Fire Hall is beyond its capacity and an auxiliary facility is required to store the newer, larger equipment. With the ongoing, increasing threat of wild fire the city also has wild land firefighting equipment that requires storage space. Currently this equipment is stored in make shift facilities that are scheduled for future demolition or outside. The apparatus storage facility will be 3,600 square feet.	Ely MN	\$2,200
Embarrass Township	If awarded the funds would be used towards a new roof on the town hall that is desperately needed, the weather station part of what Embarrass is known for is falling apart and needs the patio area replaced as the pavers have crumbled, the temperature gauge has broken and the pole that stands with our record temperature is rotting and falling. All these would be replaced. Embarrass Cemetery needs clearing and landscaping to add new lots, because there is not many remaining. The Heritage Park Campground is a beautiful and small campground that is turning away camping patrons because of the electrical upgrades to 50 amp that are needed. The water lines also need replacing as every year the spring a leak somewhere along the lines, also to possibly add 5 sites. The Nelimark Museum which a big part of Embarrass History needs a new roof on the garage and a few new windows on the house along with some maintenance with the ramp leading into the house. Any remaining funds would be used around the township to spruce up the welcoming areas along the roadways and a few new signs as some of the current ones are quite weathered.	Embarrass MN	\$100
County of Martin, MN	Martin County is seeking Congressional-Directed funds to assist in the construction of a new, 71,000 square foot facility to house co-located county sheriff and city police, law enforcement operations, including dispatch and emergency management services. The new public safety facility will also include: state courtrooms, a multi-county drug court, court services, victim-witness services, the county attorney's office, a mental health services unit, and jail facilities. Without federal funds and state bonding, funding the entire facility could require up to a 5-6 % property tax increase on county residents.	Fairmont MN	\$3,500
Apple Tree Dental	Apple Tree Dental, a nationally recognized for its geriatric and special needs expertise, is requesting funding to support telehealth in West Central Minnesota with additional digital x-ray sensors to expand mobile on-site dentistry in the region at its Fergus Falls Center for Dental Health and to also create and launch Minnesota's first rural dental residency program.	Fergus Falls MN	\$183
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	The project will provide an excellent opportunity for the Fond du Lac Band to continue and build upon previous work done to sustain and preserve the Ojibwe language and culture. The goals of the project would be: Protect traditional Anishinaabe culture. Protect the Ojibwe language. A community space to hold traditional funerals. Increase the number of people speaking the Ojibwe language. Increase interest in the Ojibwe language and culture by providing a place to "learn while doing". Strengthen individual and community identity, confidence, and self-esteem.	Fond du Lac Reservation MN	\$3,500

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	A Public Works Administrative Office and Maintenance Facility will provide essential services for the Band incorporating administrative offices for department and administrative staff, and further housing an attached maintenance facility to provide a central location for the Highway, Water/Wastewater, Waste Management, General Maintenance, and Graves Registrar Departments; the Band is proposing to construct a 90' x 175' (15,750 sqft) maintenance facility with attached office space of 80' x 45' (3600 sqft).	Fond du Lac Reservation MN	\$3,800
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	The Band is proposing to develop a larger facility at a new site. Constructing a larger Waste Transfer Station for adequate materials collection, compost collection and distribution, a household hazardous waste collection building, and office building, all within a single, larger site is necessary to manage the solid waste needs on the Reservation.	Fond du Lac Reservation MN	\$4,550
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	A Public Works Administrative Office and Maintenance Facility will provide essential services for the Band incorporating administrative offices for department and administrative staff, and further housing an attached maintenance facility to provide a central location for the Highway, Water/Wastewater, Waste Management, General Maintenance, and Graves Registrar Departments; the Band is proposing to construct a 90' x 175' (15,750 sqft) maintenance facility with attached office space of 80' x 45' (3600 sqft).	Fond du Lac Reservation MN	\$3,800
Goodhue County	Provide broadband coverage to multiple unserved and under-served areas within Goodhue County.	Goodhue County MN	\$7,918
Bois de Sioux Watershed District (LGU)	Funds will be used to cover construction costs for the project, consisting of the rehabilitation of 5 miles of the historically channelized and straightened Mustinka River. The rehabilitated Mustinka River corridor will provide flood reduction and water quality benefits, while creating over 8 miles of restored aquatic and native upland habitat. A 260-acre floodplain corridor approximately 300 feet wide will be created adjacent to the river, which will be modified from a straight, eroding channel, to an 8-mile long meandering channel that mimics a natural stream, designed to use natural vegetation to stabilize the river bank and create pools and rock riffles for fish migration. Approximately 34 acres of wetland and 226 acres of native upland areas will be created along the stream channel and associated floodplain.	Grant, Traverse, Big Stone, Wilkin, Ottertail, and Stevens Counties MN	\$900
Fraser	Our strategic vision is 35/35, which means no family should have to travel more than 35 minutes or 35 miles to receive autism or mental health treatment in Minnesota. For some therapies, in person care delivery is the best option, but for many services, Fraser is able to provide the same high level of care through telehealth. The continued growth of telehealth allowed Fraser to serve more than 1,000 individuals and families from outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area again in 2021. Last year, 638 of telehealth clients lived more than 50 miles from a Fraser clinic. This model of service delivery will not replace in person visits, but it will mean your zip code will not determine the quality of care one is able to access.	Hennepin MN	\$50
Howard Lake Library and Senior Center	The City of Howard Lake is seeking financial assistance to construct a 7,000 square foot library/senior center.	Howard Lake MN	\$3,700
City of Karlstad	Funds received would be used to pay for repainting of the city water tower.	Karlstad MN	\$210
City of Lake City	The City of Lake City is proposing to use funds from the Congressionally-Directed Spending to replace the existing retaining wall that resides in Ohuta Park, alongside Lake Pepin and the Mississippi River. The retaining seawall that is currently in place is being undermined, allowing lake water to seep under the base of the wall, eroding soil from the park. Funds would go towards the construction of a 600 lineal foot seawall, and the addition off riprap, to preserve the Mississippi shoreline and prevent further soil erosion.	Lake City MN	\$1,000
Le Sueur County	Le Sueur County is looking to secure funding for three storage projects on a water system that will help with flooding and sediment from going into the Minnesota River. This will also help take the burden off the the landowners with cost and flooding and sediment issues in the water system.	Le Center MN	\$528

Apple Tree Dental	Our dental team is operating with mobile dental equipment "borrowed" from another of our Dental Centers. Over five years, this dedicated team has provided tens of thousands of patient visits within a refurbished, former dialysis clinic, using curtains instead of walls to separate patients and care givers, both during treatments and while waiting for care. This has been the situation for five years due to lack of funding. Therefore the mobile dental equipment, which was not created for ongoing daily use, is wearing out.	Little Falls MN	\$2,629
City of Luverne	The funds will be used for the one-time capital investment to establish a childcare center. The funds are specifically requested to acquire property, design, renovate, construct, equip, and furnish a facility for a? childcare center. The goal is to transform an existing 30,000-square-foot facility into a childcare center licensed for 186 childcare slots (24 Infants, 42 Toddlers, 60 Preschoolers, and 60 School Age).	Luverne MN	\$2,608
City of Madison	The City of Madison is in need of a new fire hall. The current structure is 50 years old, and is too small to house the equipment.	Madison MN	\$525
City of Madison	Repair and/or replace windows and doors: It has been determined that the existing windows are likely original to the building. The repair work will protect and restore these elements so they are not lost and can continue to function properly. Replacement items will be sensitive to the historic character of the building and only be used when repair is non-feasible. The window and door work also include repair of original decorative elements over and around the doors. These original decorative elements provide much of the character and charm of the building.	Madison MN	\$275
City of Argyle	The Argyle Volunteer Fire Department/Rescue Squad's equipment has exceeded the space of their current Fire Hall. With the harsh winter temperatures, the equipment needs to be stored in a heated building out of the elements. With the size of equipment increasing, there just is no solution to this problem other than construct a new Fire Hall.	Marshall MN	\$500
West Central Initiative	The purpose of this project is to renovate a space in south Moorhead to open a 70-slot, multi-cultural child care center, staffed with culturally competent teachers. This will be the second location for the Jasmin Child Care and Preschool Center, with their first located in Fargo, North Dakota. The Jasmin Child Care and Preschool is working with a local church to renovate the church's underutilized space for a child care center. The church is located within a neighborhood where a high concentration of New Americans resides and near public transportation hubs. The church already serves the community through other mission-based initiatives, such as community gardens and meeting/gathering space. The Christian based church is open-minded about other religions and has created a welcoming space and attitude for their New American neighbors.	Moorhead MN	\$500
Barnes Aastad	Funding is sought for 2023 to fully support two Agricultural Research Scientist positions for climate change mitigation research at the USDA-Agricultural Research Service in Morris, Minnesota situated at the divide between the Red River of the North and the Mississippi watersheds. These new positions will help to advance economically vibrant climate resilient agricultural systems to achieve net-zero agriculture thereby, mitigating climate change impacts.	Morris MN	\$1,500
Barnes Aastad	Funding is sought for 2023 to fully support Agricultural Research for climate change mitigation research at the USDA-Agricultural Research Service in Morris, Specifically, funding will be used on infrastructure of phase 2 and 3 as well as scientific equipment.	Morris MN	\$1,500
Le Sueur County	These funds would provide the resources to build fiber to all residences, farms, and businesses along all of the rural roads in the Le Sueur County, along 79 miles state roads, 310 miles township roads, and 486 miles county roads. The County has a significant amount of middle-mile fiber that passes through to connect the larger communities surrounding us. What's missing in 12 of our 14 townships is last-mile fiber to bring better broadband. Residents are frustrated that fiber passes by them and doesn't connect to anybody. The rural parts of the County have long driveways and lanes, many a mile long, and we don't believe commercial ISPs will make the investments to reach these residents.	New Prague MN	\$11,977

Oslo Region Joint Powers Board	<p>For the 3-Phase project to be successfully implemented, the river flow dictates the first phase of the project must be the replacement of the 1905 built railroad bridge and highway bridge, built in its shadow in the 1950s at Oslo and the water flow restrictions at the Hwy 17/317. A smaller bridge project on ND 54 at the Grand Marais also protects highway access. These bridges cannot accommodate the present-day water flow rates of a high water event. This phase is the highest cost of the project, and appropriately cost-shared from four CDS cost accounts, including Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP), Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement Program (CRISI), FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM), and Watershed Flood Preventions Operations (WFPO).</p> <p>The second phase of the project is reductions to the overbank upstream from Oslo to remove blockages in the river channel. Modified road elevations upstream at the Oslo area protect I-29 and Hwy 1 because it maintains water flow in the natural river channel. The second phase of the project includes costs shared through HIP, FEMA and WFPO.</p> <p>In the third phase of the project, FEAM and WFPO share the cost of removing additional water flow restrictions downstream, such as unused approaches and driveways that divert water away from the river channel.</p>	Red River Valley 6 miles south of Oslo to Hwy 317 MN	\$29,429
Hmong American Farmers Association	<p>Federal funds would be used for Phase II of our Capital Campaign project, which focuses on building a 6000 square feet year-round training, office, and wash, rinse, cooling and curing facility on the HAFA incubator farm. We expect to finalize the construction plan by the end of FY2022 and start construction in FY2023.</p> <p>This facility would make it possible for HAFA to consolidate operations, bring our office and support personnel into one space, and host training programs on the farm instead of renting space at other facilities, providing farmers with hands-on opportunities to deepen farmers' knowledge of training material content. This facility will also greatly expand the capacity of HAFA's farmers and of HAFA's Food Hub, as the facility will provide multiple temperature control cooling spaces to enhance best practices for post-harvest handling, establish curing rooms that will support root crops and extend the shelf life of the produce into the off-season months, allowing a continuous supply of local produce that will align with the school year as well as minimize the gap to access local food.</p>	Saint Paul MN	\$2,775
Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Stearns CTY	<p>The funds would be used to complete the remaining items on the rehabilitation list that had to be cut due to the lack of funding.</p> <p>Air-source heat pumps for each tenants unit, remove and replace all concrete sidewalks, curb and gutter and replace with new, remove bituminous parking lot and replace with new, replace site lighting with new LED fixtures, replace electrical posts at each parking spot so that vehicles can be plugged in during the winter and landscaping.</p>	St. Martin MN	\$406
City of Ellendale	<p>The Ellendale Community Hall is in need of a new roof and wall repair/restoration. Several water leaks through the roof have caused damage to the concrete block. Structural Engineer recommends trimming out the entire building outside walls with steel siding to protect and preserve the structure. The roof is in need of replacement due to continuous leaks developing because degraded roof material.</p>	Steele County MN	\$150
Greenwood Township	<p>To construct a fiber to the home broadband project to serve 1,370 HH/passings in Greenwood & Lake Vermillion Townships in rural NE MN.</p>	Tower MN	\$5,000
Bois Forte Tribal Government	<p>The proposed project will utilize congressionally-directed spending funds to overbuild the Greenwood township and Echo Point land areas that are physically adjacent to the Vermilion sector of the Bois Forte Reservation with a fiber to the home buildout. These locations have been completely engineered, showing the exact routes, miles needed for construction and equipment needed to support an area this size. CNS engineering out of Menahga has performed the pre-engineering study necessary for engineering certification of this project. If funded. Bois Forte will contract with CTC communications to overlook the entire buildout of this project, assuring that the buildout is in compliance with the State of Minnesota minimal bandwidth requirements and assuring Bois Forte that the project follows best industry standards.</p>	Tower MN	\$6,400

Wabana Township Recreational Committee (WTRC)	With the city of Grand Rapids being 15 - 20 miles away, many of the township residents and many summer visitors use our facilities because of the proximity to their homes. Wabana township is located on a chain of 4 lakes (with several surrounding lakes) and attracts many summer visitors. The recreational facilities are all 25 - 30 years old and beyond repair and need replacement and upgrading to current safety codes, standards, and recreational uses. The use of the facilities is very apparent when you drive by at night and see the hockey rink used every night in the winter and cars in the parking lot during the summer for the swings and playground equipment. Because the tennis court is in poor condition, this venue is not used much, but the Comprehensive Plan survey indicates a great desire to repair this court and incorporate a pickleball court.	Wabana Township, Grand Rapids MN	\$15
Wabasha County	Wabasha County is seeking proposals from qualified firms to assist the county in implementing the county's vision for broadband: All residents have access to adequate and affordable broadband. To help progress in that vision that County Board is considering using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to establish a grant program for existing Broadband vendors to expand services within the County.	Wabasha County MN	\$75
Tri County Health Care	This funding would be used for the development of rural based cancer program for larger broader scope of cancer treatment options and services in underserved region of Minnesota.	Wadena MN	\$2,100
Minnesota State Community and Technical College	The project would install a new 39KW solar system at our training field. Solar technology is the way our industry is starting gain momentum. This would provide our current and future electrical technology students with a hands-on educational approach to solar energy.	Wadena MN	\$2,000
City of Warren	The proposed use of the congressionally-directed spending funds would go toward the building of a new child care facility.	Warren MN	\$400
MN Agricultural Interpretive Center - Farmamerica	The Minnesota Agricultural Interpretive Center (Farmamerica) is expanding and renovating existing facilities to upgrade classroom space, add year-round agriculture literacy opportunities, remodel the 22-year-old Visitor Center with interactive exhibits and experiences about agriculture's impact on everyday life, and build an inclusive outdoor playground.	Waseca MN	\$400