

COMPANION GUIDE FOR ALASKA STAKEHOLDERS

How to Submit a Strong FY27 CDS Request

Senator Murkowski — FY27 CDS Application Guide
For Alaska communities, tribes, nonprofits, and project sponsors

What is Congressionally Directed Spending

CDS (Congressionally Directed Spending) allows Senator Murkowski to request direct federal funding for high-priority Alaska projects through the annual appropriations process.

Projects must have:

- A clear public benefit
- A strong federal nexus
- Community support
- Readiness to move toward implementation

FY27 Timeline

Portal Opens: January 26

Portal Closes: February 27

All applicants must reapply each year — prior submissions do not automatically roll forward.

What Makes a Strong FY27 Application?

✓ 1. A clear and specific project

The form will ask for a concise description of the problem and the federal purpose.

✓ 2. A realistic budget

Applicants should upload:

- Total project cost
- Amount requested from CDS
- Budget breakdown (PDF)

✓ 3. Match in hand (preferred)

If your project requires a match (e.g., state, tribal, or local funds), projects with match **secured** or **nearly secured** are more competitive.

✓ 4. Shovel-ready or near shovel-ready

Projects that can obligate funds within 12–24 months tend to perform better with appropriations clerks.

✓ 5. Community support

Letters from:

- Local governments
- Tribal councils
- Regional nonprofit partners
- Utilities
- Community groups

(Up to 5 letters may be uploaded.)

✓ 6. Federal nexus

Applicants must explain *why* CDS funds are appropriate — e.g., national security, transportation safety, environmental compliance, rural health access, federal trust responsibility, etc.

Tips for Completing the Form

You do NOT need to know which subcommittee your project falls into.

The new FY27 form uses simple questions that automatically route projects internally.

Just answer:

- Type of project
- Agency that normally handles similar work
- Whether it is construction or non-construction
- Readiness level

Submit early

Submitting early allows staff to ask follow-up questions if needed.

Be concise, specific, and factual

Avoid buzzwords. Focus on:

- Need
- Impact

- Readiness
- Community benefit

Use accurate cost estimates

Inflated or speculative budgets slow down review.

Questions?

Please contact Senator Murkowski's team at:

Dana_herndon@murkowski.senate.gov