



# FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

**119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS**

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# I. Introduction and Purpose

The Strategic and Legislative Affairs (SLA) Team serves the liaison function for the City of El Paso's coordination with federal, state, international, and local governmental entities. The El Paso City Council approved the City's first Federal Legislative Agenda in recent years given the growing role of federal funding for the City of El Paso and policy and rulemaking changes from the Federal Government. SLA is committed to fostering strong partnerships and advocating on behalf of the City of El Paso with all branches of the federal government.

Our collaboration with agencies and federal entities is crucial to ensure success in advocating for our City's Legislative Priorities. SLA collaborates with federal partners to bolster advocacy for our region via:

1. Coordination with Congressional Offices
2. Coordination with Federal Agencies
3. Participation in National League of Cities (NLC)
4. Role as applicant or collaborator for Federal Grant opportunities
5. Oversee Lobbyist contract

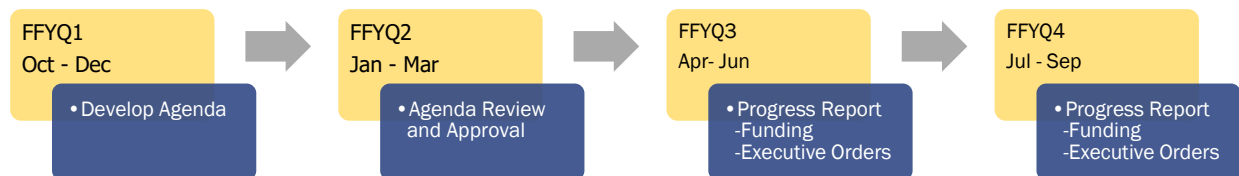
## SLA Programs

1. Strategic Partnerships
2. Funding and Grants Management
3. State Legislative Affairs
4. Federal Legislative Affairs
5. Military and Veterans Affairs
6. Climate

## Agenda Implementation Process

### Agenda Implementation Cycle

The Federal Affairs section of SLA conducts quarterly visits to Washington DC as part of the legislative agenda implementation.



### Implementation Actions

SLA will support City Departments in developing **Position Statements**:

- Advancing City Council directives
- Prioritizing grant funding opportunities
- Commenting on legislation impacting City programs
- Responding to changes in federal rulemaking via the Federal Register
- Participating in the federal public comment process

SLA and the Office of the Comptroller will maintain a **Rapid Response Program** in response to Executive Orders:

- Analyzing impacts on City Departments and operations
- Risk management analysis (160+ grants)
- Tracking appropriations and projecting funding cuts
- Legislative tracking and analysis via Litigation Tracker
- Communicating changes to City Leadership

SLA will support City Departments to **Adapt to the New Federal Funding Landscape**:

- Accessing increased funding for Police, Fire, and Veterans Services
- Accessing increased funding for critical infrastructure
- Capturing federal funding and incentives combined with private-sector investments in advanced manufacturing, aerospace and defense

SLA will support the City of El Paso in **Advancing Legislation**:

- Capturing value via Foreign Trade Zone and responding to changes in tariffs
- Securing a Presidential Permit for the Ysleta-Zaragoza Port of Entry
- Advancing Department-led funding and program improvements

# II. City of El Paso Federal Legislative Agenda

## General Positions

### 1. Maximize Federal Resources

- Support federal legislation that funds, expands, and supports City programs
- Advocate for sustainability of federal funds and restore funds that were rescinded or eliminated
- Reduce or waive required match requirements for federal programs
- Streamline grant application process: award, management, and implementation of federal funds

### 2. Minimize Legal and Financial Burden

- Oppose legislation that creates undue burden, increases costs of public services, results in revenue loss, shifts cost to the City, claw backs from existing programs, and/or unfunded mandates

### 3. Uphold Local Authority

- Oppose preemption and actions diminishing the City's authority to regulate development or municipal ordinance-making authority

### 4. Strengthen Local-Federal Partnerships

- Request support from local governments including El Paso County, the City of Socorro, and Ciudad Juarez, nonprofit, and business partners to advance the City's legislative and funding priorities
- Support local governments and community organizations in El Paso County with resources and information. Partner with these organizations when their legislative and funding priorities align with the City of El Paso
- Work with National League of Cities to amplify the City's legislative and funding priorities

## Federal Legislative Priorities

### 5. Critical Infrastructure

- Support transportation and aviation infrastructure and operations
- Support programs and tax incentives supporting energy efficiency and alternative energy generation
- Expand international ports of entry, including bridge infrastructure, multimodal transportation access, inspections, facilities, staffing, equipment, and Intelligent Transportation Systems

### 6. Public Safety

- Increase funding for existing operations, public safety personnel, equipment and facilities
- Increase funding for community-based violence intervention programs
- Advance legislation that supports the City's authority to enforce local laws and ordinances
- Establish dedicated federal funding streams (e.g., DOJ's COPS grants, DHS preparedness grants) to enhance cybersecurity, emergency response, and cross-jurisdictional coordination near military installations
- Establish joint training exercises between Fort Bliss and local first responders to improve readiness for regional threats or incidents.

### 7. Veterans and Military Affairs

- Promote investments for Fort Bliss in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)
- Expand federal support for joint land use planning between military installations and defense communities
- Partner with Fort Bliss to co-develop infrastructure, housing, or transportation projects benefiting both civilian and military communities
- Expand program support for transitioning families, veterans, military spouses, survivors, and dependents

## **8. Critical Public Services**

### **Housing and Community Development**

- Support the DCHD program, including anti-displacement projects, street outreach, rapid rehousing, emergency shelter, housing and utility assistance
- Eliminate public services cap for CDBG to enable flexibility for local govt to allocate funding
- Expand eligibility criteria for CDBG; funding eligibility for volunteer programs, especially to youth and veterans; Streamline program enrollment (e.g. SNAP); Revise regulation or increase flexibility to make program funds more viable

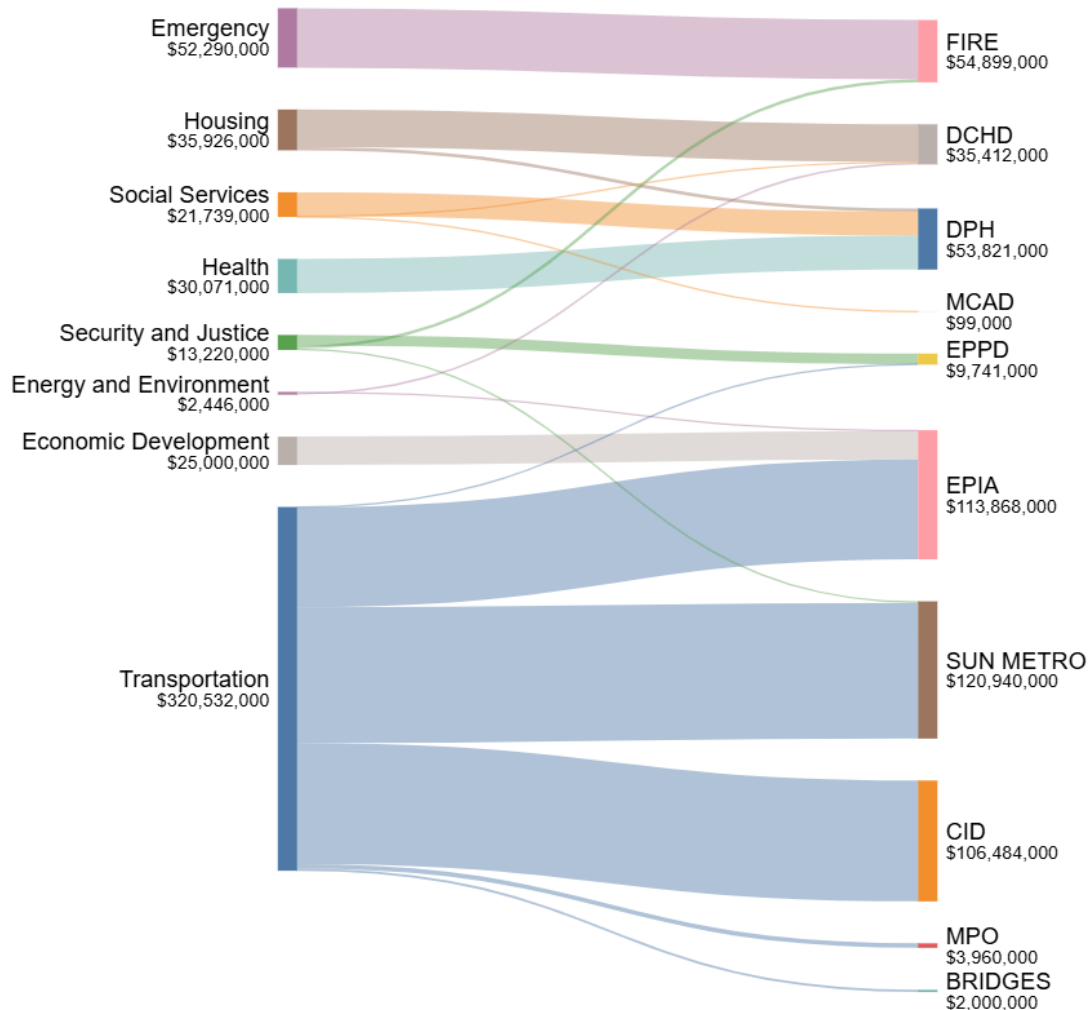
### **Public Health**

- Secure additional funding for public health programs including Tuberculosis control, STDs, childhood immunization
- Oppose legislation limiting implementation of local health priorities and programs and access to immunization resources

# Appendix I. Federal Grant Funds

The City obtained \$505 million in federal grant funds over the past three fiscal years for crucial City services and major infrastructure projects. Citywide grants are tracked via Monday.com:

<https://view.monday.com/8392800355-c6833ebbb26b0c8f84ab01ddc586733b?r=use1>



*\*Note: Other Not Shown, Includes The Treasury And Other Federal Programs Amounting To \$4,115,299*

## Funding Agencies

- Emergency: FEMA
- Housing: HUD
- Social Services: CNCS, DHHS, DOA
- Health: CDC, DOS
- Security And Justice: DHS, DOJ, ONDCPC
- Energy And Environment: DOE, EPA
- Transportation And Aviation: DOT, FAA, FHWA, FTA