



Congresswoman

VERONICA ESCOBAR

Texas' 16th Congressional District

Constituent Services and Federal Funding Opportunities

915-541-1400

www.Escobar.House.Gov

Government Offices & Services Available

- Representatives often offer casework services, along with other community resources.
- Although every office will encompass different services, it is good to remember that your representatives can point you in the right direction and at least provide guidance.
- A great resource to use is the website called **My Reps** to get more information on who are your representatives at all levels of government.

How Can Our Office Assist You?

- Navigating and understanding government agencies can be confusing so we are here to help.
- If your issue is regarding a Federal Agency, we can assist by requesting status updates, submitting requests and at times filling gaps that may be holding your case up.
- It is important to us that our constituents are informed of what is going on with their cases, regardless of the agency. But it is important to note that we do not have the authority to change the agency's decision.
- How do I know if my issue or concern is Federal?

Federal, State & Local Government Agencies

Federal	State	City	County
Department of State	Office of Attorney General	El Paso Police Department	Jail Annex
Department of Homeland Security	TX Dept. of Transportation	Evictions / Tenant Problems	Sheriffs' office
Department of Treasury	TX Dept of Public Safety	Infrastructure (commercial/ residential)	Parks & Recs [Ascarate Park]
U.S Small Business Administration	Dept. of Family Protective Services	El Paso Fire Department	Constables
Department of Defense	Dept. Health Human Services	Utilities	
Department of Veteran's Affairs	TX Workforce Commission	Sun Metro	
U.S Social Security Administration	TX Education Administration	Code Enforcement [311]	
Department of Justice		Parks & Recs	
Department of Labor			
U.S Postal Services			

Process to Receive Assistance

- **Step 1** – Provide a **Privacy Release Form** in which you outline your issues and concerns. Properly filling this form out is essential to our office aiding you. You can access this digital form on our website at www.escobar.house.gov and clicking on “Help with a Federal Agency”.
- **Step 2** – Allow the agency adequate time to provide our office with an update or formal response to your inquiry. Agency responses can take up to 30-60 days.
- **Step 3** – Our office will provide the agency response to you; per house ethics rules we are not able to intervene in any established processes or ongoing investigations.

Digital Privacy Release Form



Veronica Escobar Digital Privacy Release Form

Complete the form below to request help with a Federal Agency. When complete, click Submit to send to our office for assistance.

Fields marked with * are required

Please Provide Applicable Identifying Information

Agency Involved

Prefix First Name

MI Last Name

Social Security Number

DOB

Email Address

Phone Number

Street Address Line 1

Street Address Line 2

City

State Zip Code

Agency Case Number

Mortgage Loan Number

RankMilitary Rank

Have you contacted any other elected official regarding this case?

If Yes, Officials Name?

Please explain the problem and the resolution/outcome you are seeking:

Constituent Authorization

To be able to assist you, we must have a signed privacy release form that clearly outlines your problem and the remedy you are seeking. By checking the box below you are giving our office permission to look into the matter on your behalf. Please make sure to attach below any relevant identifying information and supporting documents which relate to your inquiry.

I hereby request the assistance of the Veronica Escobar to resolve the matter described below. I authorize the Veronica

Escobar to receive any information that they might need to provide this assistance. The information I have provided to the Veronica Escobar is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. The assistance I have requested from the Veronica Escobar is in no way an attempt to evade or violate any federal, state, or local law.

Date/Time

* Signature

Manual Privacy Release Form

What do I include?

- Complete ALL contact information!
- One form per Adult. (18 & over)
- Include all information & details that pertains to your case.
- Be explicit about what you are requesting our office to do.
- Attaching supporting documents is highly encouraged.
- Manual forms **MUST** be signed in ink

Congresswoman Veronica Escobar (TX-16)
Constituent Information and Privacy Release Form



Full Legal Name - Nombre Legal Completo: _____

Preferred Name - Nombre Preferido: _____ Gender - Genero: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION - Información de Contacto: _____ Pronoun - Pronombre: _____

Address - Domicilio: _____

City, State, Zip Code - Ciudad, Estado, Código Postal: _____

Telephone - Teléfono: (____) _____ - _____
Mobile - Móvil
Home - Teléfono fijo

Telephone - Teléfono: (____) _____ - _____
Mobile - Móvil
Home - Teléfono fijo

E-Mail - Correo Electrónico: _____

Briefly describe the nature of the assistance you are requesting (list any forms you have filed, as well as any names, dates or contact numbers you think may help the Congresswoman's inquiry). You may attach any additional documentation.

Favor de proporcionar una breve descripción de su situación y/o problema y proporcione cualquier documento, contactos, fechas que puedan ayudar para su caso. Por favor especifique la asistencia que esta buscando de la Congressista.

Please provide any **applicable** identifying information
Por favor proporcione cualquier información **pertinente**

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY) - Fecha de Nacimiento: _____

Social Security Number - Número de Seguro Social: _____

Military ID and Branch - Identificación y Sector Militar: _____

Case Number - Número de Caso: _____

Form Type - Tipo de Formulario de Inmigración: _____

Country of Birth - País de Nacimiento: _____

Alien Number - Número de Registro de Extranjero: _____

Under the Federal Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552(a) et seq., we must have a signed privacy release form outlining your problem/issue. This provides our office permission to look into the matter on your behalf. In addition, keep in mind that sufficient time must be given to the agency to appropriately respond. This process may vary depending on your case. I provided or authorized all of the information in this privacy release and any document submitted with it, reviewed and understand all of the information contained in my privacy release and submitted with it, to the best of my knowledge, and hereby authorize Congresswoman Veronica Escobar and members of her staff to obtain such information from government agencies as may be required for the purpose of resolving the concerns I have set herein.

Bajo la Ley Federal de Privacidad de 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552 (a) et seq., Debemos tener un formulario de liberación de privacidad firmado que resuma su problema. Esto le da permiso a nuestra oficina para investigar el asunto en su nombre. Este proceso puede variar dependiendo en su caso. Además, tenga en cuenta que se le debe dar suficiente tiempo a la agencia para que responda apropiadamente. Yo proporcioné o autoricé toda la información en este comunicado de privacidad y cualquier documento enviado con él, revisé y entendí toda la información contenida en mi formulario de privacidad y lo que se entregó con él. He completado este formulario según mi leal saber y entender y, por este medio, autorizo a la representante Veronica Escobar y a los miembros de su personal a obtener la información de las agencias gubernamentales que se requiera para resolver las inquietudes que he establecido aquí.

By providing your info, you will be opted in to receive Congresswoman Escobar's newsletter and communications. You can unsubscribe at any time.
Al proporcionar su información, recibirá comunicaciones de la Congressista Escobar. Puede cancelar en cualquier momento.

Signature - Firma: _____ Date - Fecha: _____

Please return the SIGNED form, in blue or black ink, via email, postal mail, fax or in person to:
Devuelva el formulario FIRMADO, en tinta azul o negra, por correo electrónico o postal, fax o en persona a:
Office of Congresswoman Veronica Escobar, 221 N. Kansas Street, Suite 1500, El Paso, Texas
79901 Fax: (915) 541-1407 Phone: (915) 541-1400



- Annual art competition, takes place every spring
- Open to all high school students in TX-16
- Winning artwork is displayed in U.S. Capitol for 1 year



Questions? Contact: Jazmine.Venegas@mail.house.gov

CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE



- Annual coding competition, takes place every fall
- Open to all 6th-12th grade students in TX-16
- Winning app is displayed in U.S. Capitol for 1 year

Questions? Contact: Jazmine.Venegas@mail.house.gov

Congressional Nomination to a Service Academy

- Congresswoman Escobar provides nominations to four of the five Service Academies. The U.S. Military Academy at West Point, U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point. Admission to the United States Coast Guard Academy, also a federal service academy, does not require a congressional nomination.
- Each student must apply and submit other required documents prior to the deadline, usually mid December.
- For more information contact: Yesenia Villarreal @ Yesenia.Villarreal@mail.house.gov or visit our Service Academy web page @ <https://escobar.house.gov/services/service-academy-nominations-info.htm>



United States Naval
Academy



United States Air Force
Academy



United States Merchant
Marine Academy



United States Military
Academy

Federal Grants

Grants and Federal Domestic Assistance

- Guidance and key resources to help eligible grant seekers find information on federal grants, loans, and nonfinancial assistance for projects.
- Examples of Federal agencies: USDA, HHS, NSF, NIH
- Letters of Support
- Grant webinars



Internships

Congresswoman Escobar offers both part-time and full-time internships in her Washington, DC and El Paso offices. Internships are open to high school, college and graduate-level students and many affiliated schools and programs offer academic credit.

New classes are selected in the Fall, Summer and Spring

To apply please submit:

- Your resume
- One letter of recommendation
- Cover letter
- Applications can be emailed to Olga Avant-Mier at Olga.Avant-Mier@mail.house.gov



Additional Services

Congressional Commendations

- Appointment to public office
- Awards or honors
- Citizenship
- Eagle Scout
- Election to public office
- Girl Scout Gold Award
- Graduation
- Heroism
- Other achievements of public distinction

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law



- This once-in-a-generation investment was signed into law on November 15, 2021
- Overall is a \$1.2 trillion spending bill, with over \$550 billion in new spending
- The IJA directs \$284 billion (52 percent) of the \$550 billion in new investments toward modernizing and making improvements across all modes of transportation, with the majority of funding reserved for highways, roads and bridges
- Major Resource: Use [build.gov](https://www.build.gov).

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Toplines



- Roads, Bridges, & major projects: \$110 billion
- Water Infrastructure: \$55 billion
- Broadband: \$65B
- Airports: \$25 billion
- Land Ports of Entry: \$3.85 billion
- Electric Vehicle Charging: \$7.5 billion
- Public Transit: \$39.2 billion
- Clean School Buses: \$5 billion
- Western Water Infrastructure: \$8.3B
- Addressing Legacy Pollution: \$21B
- Reconnecting Communities: \$1B
- Resiliency: \$47.2B
- Power and Grid: \$65B

Discretionary vs. Formula Grants



- The total cost of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is over \$1 trillion
- The unique thing about the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is that it directs the implementation of many new discretionary programs that localities can take advantage of

Example of Formula vs. Discretionary Grant



- On February 10th, the Department of Transportation announced \$615 million (\$5 billion over 5 years) would be going to help states create a network of Electric Vehicle Charging stations along designated Alternative Fuel Corridors, particularly along the Interstate Highway System.
- Texas will be receiving over \$60.3 million this year to start this project, and I-10 is considered an Alternative Fuel Corridor.
- Later this year, a competitive grant program will be announced by the Department of Transportation that units of local government can apply for directly to help further EV charging access in locations throughout the country, including in rural and underserved communities

Other Examples



- Distance Learning, Telemedicine, And Broadband Program: Broadband Loans: to make loans and loan guarantees to finance construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide high speed broadband service in eligible rural areas.
- Low to No Emission Bus Program: Is a competitive grant program to transit authorities shift to clean emission busses
- Grants for Construction and Refurbishing of Individual Household Decentralized Wastewater Systems for Individuals with Low or Moderate Income: creates a grant program that allows nonprofit organizations to receive funds for the construction, repair, or replacement of decentralized wastewater systems for low or moderate income households, or groups of such households

Appropriations 101

Appropriations 101

- The President will typically release a budget on or before the first of February.
- The President's budget recommends spending levels for various programs and agencies of the federal program (budget authority).
- Congress is supposed to use this budget to produce a budget resolution.
- Regular Appropriations Bill: provides funding in all appropriations for a fiscal year must be enacted by October 1.
- Continuing Resolution: If a regular appropriations bills are not enacted by October 1st a continuing resolution continues funding the federal government

Appropriations 101 (cont.)

- The House then begins to report out their appropriations bills in May or June, with the aim of completing consideration by August.
- The Senate will also report out its bills starting in June with the goal of completing consideration by September.
- However, in recent years the appropriations process has not been finished by October 1st so continuing resolutions have been needed to keep the government open.
- Even if your project/bill language/report language is included in the House appropriations bill, it will need to remain in the bill as it makes its way through the Senate and to the President. If included, our staff will track the project as it goes through this process.

Appropriations 101

- Programmatic request: A request to fund a specific federal program in the bill at a certain level.
 - Example: Provide \$30 million to the Poison Control program
 - The West Texas Regional Poison Center at UMC El Paso draws funding down from this program.
- Language Request: There are two types, bill and report language. Bill language requests are more direct and have the force of law. Report language does not direct funding to a particular entity but encourages, urges or directs some type of action by an agency.
 - Example: The Committee urges the HHS Office of Minority Health to examine how it can support health profession schools at HSIs along the U.S. Mexico border, including ways to engage community partnerships that utilize cancer prevention tools including screening, education, and diagnostics to meet the healthcare needs of underserved populations along the border. The Committee further encourages OMH to work with the CMS Office of Minority Health to support these types of cancer prevention activities
 - Result: In the FY22 Congressional Budget Justification for HHS, the following was included: “The HHS Office of Minority Health (OMH) is developing a strategy to increase outreach to and engagement of HSI medical schools first and then HSIs more broadly, to include HSIs along the U.S.-Mexico border. HHS OMH will be providing a written report to the Appropriations Committee outlining these efforts. HHS OMH also will explore with CMS OMH colleagues how we can support dissemination of information on CMS resources for cancer prevention to HSIs, including those along the U.S.-Mexico border.”

Community Project Funding Requests

- Community Project Requests: These requests can be used to direct federal funding for fiscal year 2023 to local projects.
- Each congressional office is limited to making 15 project requests.
- The requesting entity must be a nonprofit or a local/state government organization.
- In order to understand the requirements for submitting requests, our office will be providing more information in the coming days and it is critical the community reads through it. This includes the resource guide as well as the information on each subcommittee form.
- While requirements across subcommittees vary, the below information will be published on our website if we submit your project:
 - Name and address of requesting entity
 - Amount of funds requested
 - Purpose for the project and a justification for the use of taxpayer funds on your project

Community Project Funding Requests

- Most importantly, each request must include demonstrated community support. You will be required to submit evidence of community support, including (but not limited to):
 - Letters of support from elected community leaders
 - Press articles highlighting the need for the specific project
 - Resolutions passed by local/county/state governments
 - Projects listed on community development plans, state intended use plans, and other publicly available planning documents
 - Support from local newspaper editorial boards, etc.
- Additional requirements are listed below:
 - Neither the Congresswoman nor her immediate family can have any financial interest in the proposed project. Our office will provide a certified letter stating this to the Committee.
 - No funds can be used by for-profit recipients.
 - State/local matching funding must be available for some of the federal projects that are open for Community Project Funding requests (matching funding does NOT have to be in-hand, but officials must have a plan to fund in order to meet this requirement).
 - Each project is funded only for FY 2023 and should not be viewed as multi-year funding. Any funding awarded through this process should not be viewed as a replacement for other sources of funding.
 - You will need to provide a budget breakdown for how you intend to use the funding for your project.

Community Project Funding Requests

- The subcommittees accepting Community Project Funding requests are (these could change for FY23):
 - Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies
 - Commerce, Justice, Science ,and Related Agencies
 - Defense
 - Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies
 - Financial Services and General Government
 - Homeland Security
 - Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
 - Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
 - Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
 - Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related agencies
- What is the funding range subcommittees will be looking to grant for projects?
 - This will again vary across subcommittees. A suggestion from the committee is that your funding request should align with the needs of the project. As staff continues to be briefed on the process we encourage you to email tx16.approps@mail.house.gov.

Community Project Funding Requests

- Some examples of accounts under each subcommittee that were open during the FY22 cycle are:
 - Department of Agriculture ReConnect Program – Meant to facilitate pilot grants to facilitate broadband deployment
 - Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) – Technology and Equipment – Funding made available for State, local, and tribal law enforcement to develop and acquire effective technologies and interoperable communications that assist in investigating, responding to, and preventing crime
 - State and Tribal Assistance Grants – These grants fund local wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects
 - Health Facilities Construction and Equipment – These grants are meant to help with the cost of construction, renovation, or capital equipment for facilities for provision of health, mental health, or substance abuse services, training of health professionals, or medical research
 - Department of Transportation – Local Transportation Priorities – Highway and transit capital project eligible under title 23 and title 49 of the US code are able to apply for this account
 - Department of Housing and Urban Development – Economic Development Initiative – Site acquisition, demolition or rehabilitation of housing or facilities, construction and capital improvements of public facilities, and public services are eligible for these grants.
 - Department of Agriculture Community Facilities Grants – Grants to purchase, construct, or improve essential community facilities to purchase equipment, and pay other related expenses

Other Ways Our Office Can Help: Rep. Escobar's Grants Services

- The Congresswoman's office can work with you to help find relevant federal grant and funding opportunities that your organization may be eligible for.
- We can be your advocate when communicating with federal agencies.
 - If you have a question about a grant, want to know where your application is in the process, or if you have been awarded a grant, our office can help you get that information.
- On a case by case basis, the Congresswoman will offer letters of support to include in your federal grant application. In addition to including them in your application, these letters are also sent to the Secretary or Director of the executive agency where the grant originated from.
- These Letters of Support are only included for applications to Federal Grants. Requests for a Letter are not considered for a State or Local grant application.
- Additionally, a Letter of Support is not guaranteed. If you would like the Congresswoman to write a letter of support for your application, please reach out to our Grant Coordinator, Lizette Bode at lizette.ruiz-bode@mail.house.gov.

FY22 Appropriation Cycle Wins

Community Project Funding Wins

- \$1.2 Million to the El Paso County Hospital District/UMC El Paso for the UMC Robotics Expansion
- \$2.015 Million to the County of El Paso for the Crisis Intervention Team
- \$2.85 Million to the County of El Paso for the Cotton Valley Connect by Digital El Paso
- \$925,000 to Centro De Salud Familiar La Fe for the La Fe FQHC Technology Upgrade
- \$1.1 million to the County of El Paso for the Connecting Communities: Upper Valley First-Time Water & Wastewater Projects
- \$1 million to the El Paso Center for Children for the Casitas Community Project
- \$1 million to the City of El Paso for the Paso Del Norte Trail
- \$525,000 to the City of El Paso for the El Paso Police Department Body-Worn Camera Program
- \$964,000 to the National Center for Defense Manufacturing and Machining/UTEP for El Paso Makes: Department of Defense Contract Support for El Paso's Manufacturers

Questions and Discussion