



CITY OF EL PASO

# Federal Legislative Agenda

Strategic and Legislative Affairs

City Council Work Session: March 3, 2025

# Objective

**Presentation, discussion, and action on the City of El Paso's Legislative Agenda for the 119th United States Congress**

**Goal 6: Set the Standard for Sound Governance and Fiscal Management**



# Overview

- Federal Legislative Agenda
- Federal Funding Analysis
- Partnerships
- Agenda Implementation
- Rapid-Response Program
- Council Action



# Strategic and Legislative Affairs (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 and Sustainability Program

SLA serves the liaison function for the City's coordination with federal, state, international, and local governmental entities



# Federal Legislative Agenda

Enables the City to deliver exceptional services and support a high quality of life for our community by:

1. Establishing the **federal legislative platform for City Departments**
2. Guiding the City's **rapid response strategy** to new federal developments
3. Driving our **partnership and coordination** with federal agencies, Members of Congress, and local partners

# Federal Legislative Agenda

## Development Schedule

FY25  
Q2  
Jan - Mar

### Agenda Development

- January 3, 2025: Start of 119th Congress
- February to March: Input from City Departments
- March 3, 2025: City Council Approval
- March 10, 2025: National League of Cities in Washington DC

FY25  
Q3  
Apr - Jun

### Agenda Implementation

- April 2025: American Defense Communities in Washington DC
- May 2025: Grants Program Update (City Council)
- June 2025: Legislative Update (City council)

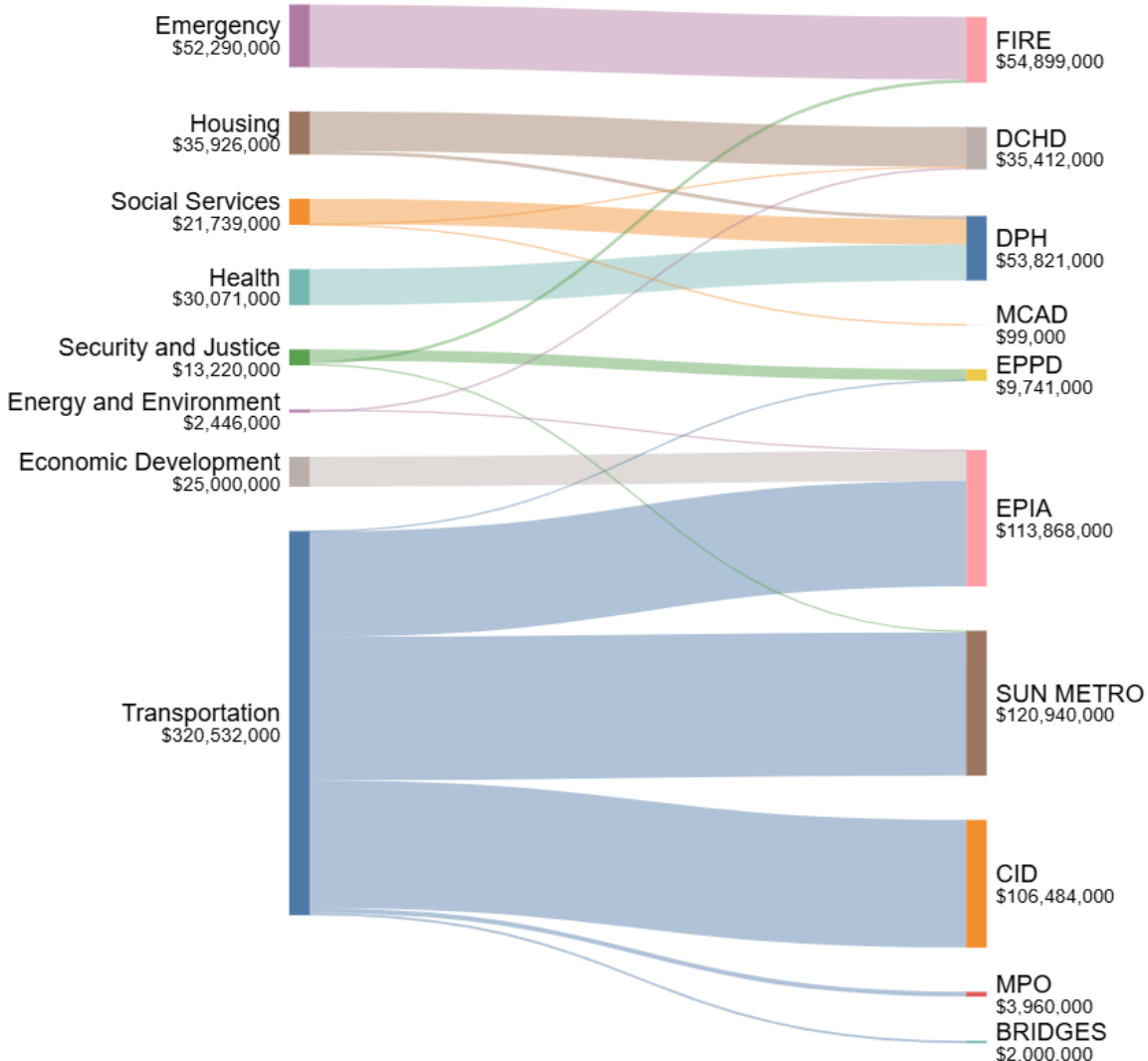
FY25  
Q4  
Jul - Sep

### Quarterly Updates

- July 2025: SLA Visit to Washington DC with City Departments
- August 2025: Legislative and Federal Budget Update (City Council)
- September 2025: SLA Visit to Washington DC with City Departments

# Federal Funding Analysis

## Grant Funds (FY23 to FY25)



**\$505 million** in grant funds received over the past three fiscal years for crucial services and major infrastructure projects

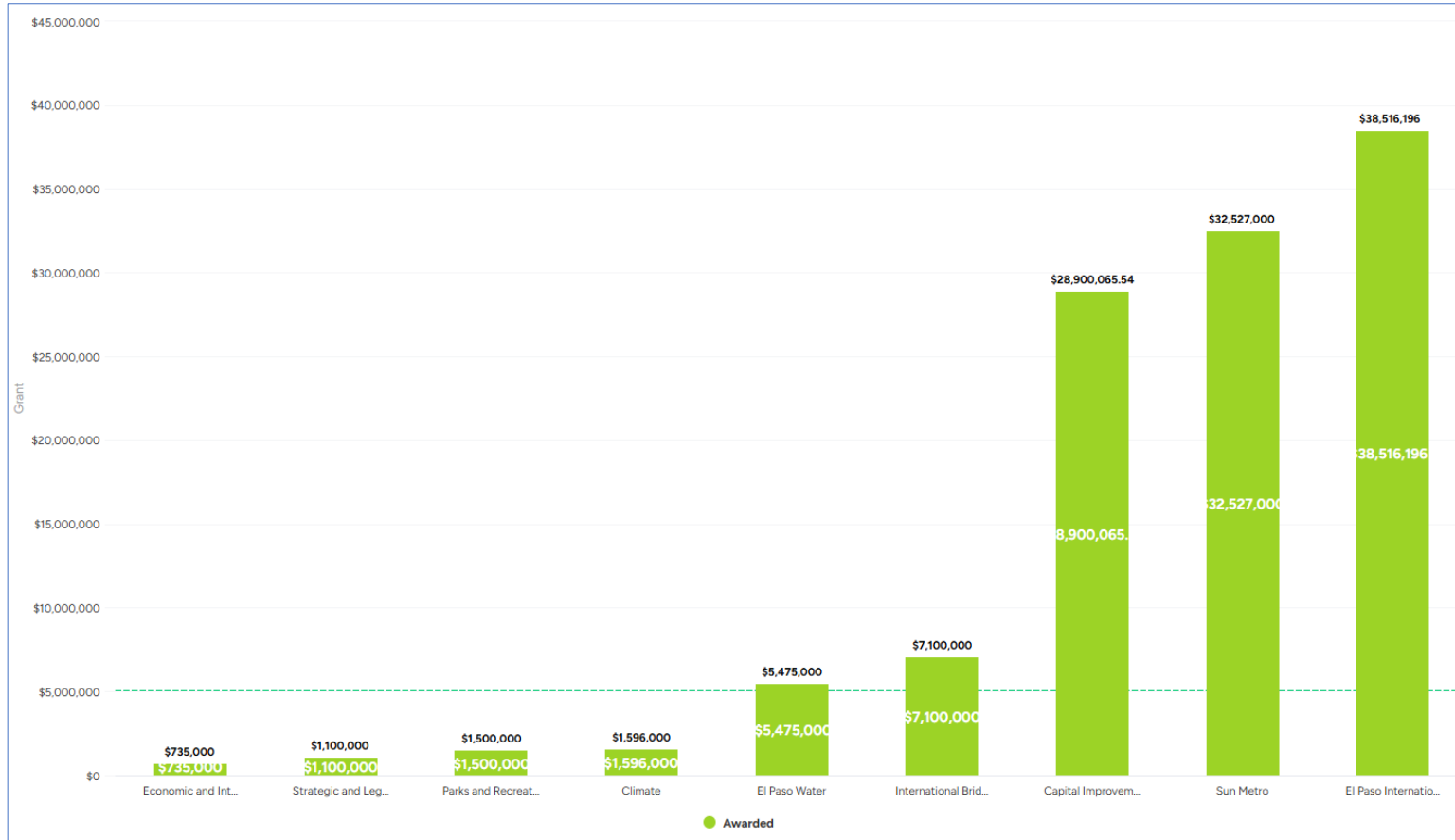
### Funding Agencies

- 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

*\*note: other not shown, includes the treasury and other federal programs amounting to \$4,115,299*

# Federal Funding Analysis

## Incoming Grant Awards (FY24 - FY25)



**\$100+** million in newly-awarded funds (most agreements pending)

*\*On 2/25/25, a federal judge indefinitely blocked the Trump administration's freeze of federal funding. SLA is monitoring via third party programs:*

[Litigation Tracker: Legal Challenges to Trump Administration Actions](#)



# Partnerships

SLA collaborates with federal partners to bolster advocacy for our region via:

- Coordination with Congressional Offices
- Coordination with Federal Agencies
- Participation in National League of Cities
- Role as applicant or collaborator for Federal Grant opportunities
- Oversee Lobbyist contract

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# Partnerships



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# Agenda Implementation

## Position Statements

SLA will support City Departments in developing Position Statements to:

- Advance City Council directives
- Prioritize grant funding opportunities
- Comment on legislation impacting City programs
- Respond to changes in federal rulemaking via the [Federal Register](#)
- Participate in the federal public comment process

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# Agenda Implementation

## General Positions

### **Maximize federal resources**

Support federal legislation that funds, expands, and supports City programs

### **Minimize legal and financial burdens**

Oppose legislation that creates an undue burden, increases costs of public services, results in revenue loss, or unfunded mandates

### **Uphold Local Authority**

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

### **Strengthen local-federal partnerships**

Support partners including National League of Cities, local governments, and community organizations

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# Agenda Implementation

## Critical Infrastructure

- Protect from clawbacks to existing programs; oppose proposals that slow or halt projects
  - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
  - Inflation Reduction Act
- Support transportation and aviation infrastructure and operations
- Expand international ports, including crossing infrastructure, facilities, staffing, and equipment
- Programs or incentives supporting energy efficiency and alternative energy generation

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# Agenda Implementation

## Public Safety

- Increase funding for public safety personnel, new operations, 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

## Veterans and Military Affairs

- New partnerships with the Department of Defense
- Support Veterans services and mental health
- Increase funding for workforce programs

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# Agenda Implementation

## Critical Public Services

- **Housing Program Funding:** anti-displacement projects, street outreach, rapid rehousing, emergency shelter, utility and cash assistance
- **Health Program Funding:** Tuberculosis control, STDs, childhood immunization
- **Federal Rulemaking Changes:** Expand eligibility for CDBG and volunteer programs; remove CDBG public services cap
  - Simplify program enrollment (e.g., SNAP)
  - Ensure funding sustainability, restore rescinded funds, and reduce/waive matching requirements (ESG, AmeriCorps Seniors).
  - Streamline grant processes, including application, management, and training

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# Rapid Response Program

## In January 2025, SLA and the Office of the Comptroller deployed the 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

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# Rapid Response Program

## Possible Impacts to City Funding from E.O.

- [Unleashing American Energy](#)
- [Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing](#)
- [America First Trade Policy](#)
- [Putting America First in International Environmental Agreements](#)
- [Initial Recissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions](#)
- [Regulatory Freeze Pending Review](#)
- [Council to Assess the Federal Emergency Management Agency](#)
- [Delivering Emergency Price Relief for American Families and Defeating the Cost-of-Living Crisis](#)

SLA with the Office of the Comptroller will continue monitoring federal rulemaking changes, federal agency communications, and federal courts

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# Federal Opportunities

## Adapt to New Funding Landscape

- Increased funding for Police, Fire, and Veterans Services
- Increased funding for critical infrastructure
- Capturing federal funding and incentives to attract private-sector investments in advanced manufacturing, aerospace and defense

## Advance Legislation

- Capturing value via Foreign Trade Zone (related to tariffs)
- Presidential Permit for Ysleta Port of Entry
- Department-led funding and program improvements





# Requested Action

The El Paso City Council approves the FFY25 Legislative Agenda for the 119th United States Congress

## MISSION

Deliver exceptional services to support a high quality of life & place for our community.



## VISION

Develop a vibrant regional economy, safe & beautiful neighborhoods, & exceptional recreational, cultural & educational opportunities



## VALUES

**I**ntegrity, **R**espect, **E**xcellence, **A**ccountability, **P**eople

