



Congresswoman

VERONICA ESCOBAR

Texas' 16th Congressional District



February 2024

Agenda

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Federal Funding Opportunities



Investing in El Paso's Future: Implementation of Key Democratic-Led Legislation

✓ **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law**

Signed into law November 2021, a \$1.2 trillion bill that 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.

✓ **Inflation Reduction Act**

Signed into law August 2022, CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 provides \$52.7 billion in federal funding to revitalize the U.S. semiconductor industry, including \$39 billion in semiconductor incentives, \$13.2 billion in R&D and workforce development, and \$500 million to strengthen global supply chains.

✓ **CHIPS and Science Act**

Signed into law August 2022, Inflation Reduction Act's \$370 billion in investments will lower energy costs for families and small businesses, accelerate private investment in clean energy solutions in every sector of the economy and every corner of the country, strengthen supply chains for everything from critical minerals to efficient electric appliances, and create good-paying jobs and new economic opportunities for workers.

Fiscal Year 2025
House Appropriations Process

Appropriations 101

Every year, Congress aims to pass 12 appropriations bills to fund the government. Appropriations bills fund the discretionary portions of the federal budget:

1. **Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration**
2. **Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies**
3. **Defense**
4. **Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies**
5. **Financial Services and General Government**
6. **Homeland Security**
7. **Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies**
8. **Labor, Health and Human Services, Education**
9. **Legislative Branch**
10. **Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies**
11. **State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs**
12. **Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies**

Appropriations 101 (cont.)

Types of appropriations requests:

1. **Programmatic Request:** A request to fund a specific federal agency or program in the bill at a certain level.
Example: *Provide \$68 billion program increase for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)*
1. **Language Request:** A request to include specific bill or report language that does not direct funding to a particular entity but direct or encourage specific actions by federal agencies.
Example: *“The Committee encourages the Department of Education to study the impact of the availability of student loans on increases in enrollment rates.”*
2. **Community Project Funding:** A request to fund a specific local project in a Member’s district.
Example: *Provide \$5.2 million for the El Paso County to build a full-scale community kitchen with the capacity to prepare, serve, and deliver 10,000 meals daily.*

Community Project Funding Requests

Key Guidelines for Community Project Requests

Only 15 projects will be selected and submitted for consideration by the Congress.

State, local, or tribal governments and non-profit organizations are generally eligible for Community Project Funding. For-profit entities are not eligible.

Projects must have demonstrated community support. Examples include, but are not limited to, supportive letters from local elected officials, press articles, inclusion in community development plans, or resolutions passed by local government entities.

All applications must be submitted by March 17, 2023. Interested applicants are encouraged to reach out to our office earlier to signal interest and receive feedback on their application. All applicants will be notified about the status of their application by early April.

Community Project Funding Requests (cont.)

FY 2023 Projects (\$25,097,706)

- El Paso Children's Hospital Pediatric Mobile Clinic, **\$595,000**
- The El Paso International Airport Solar Covered Parking Project, **\$1,750,000**
- The El Paso ISD After-School Community Learning Centers: Broadening STEAM Learning Ecosystems, **\$2,000,000**
- The Heritage Tourism Business Connection, **\$500,000**
- The SAC 1 Sediment Detention Basin, **\$1,000,000**
- The TTUHCEP El Paso Border Health Center, **\$3,000,000**
- The town of Anthony, Texas Police Department, Municipal Court, and Emergency Shelter Facility, **\$1,925,000**
- The El Paso County Animal Welfare Pet Wellness Clinic, **\$1,300,000**
- The El Paso County Senior Meal and Community Kitchen, **\$4,000,000**
- The Horizon City Transit-Oriented Development Phase 1, **\$1,735,000**
- La Casa de los Abuelitos, **\$2,442,706**
- A Planning Study conducted by Texas A&M Transportation Institute, El Paso to Improve Land Border Crossing Transit and Pedestrian Connectivity to Business Districts in the El Paso Region for Equity, Accessibility and Economic Development, **\$750,000**
- For Vinton Water and Wastewater Phase III, **\$4,000,000**
- Appraisal Study for Future Projects on the Franklin Canal, **\$100,000**

Community Project Funding Requests (cont.)

FY 2024 Projects (\$19,223,573)

- Nuevo Hueco Tanks Ground Storage Water Tank, **\$850,000**
- Gateway West-Sparks Water Project, **\$500,000**
- Town of Anthony Waste-Water Treatment Plant (WWTP), **\$959,752**
- Arsenic Treatment Plant and Associated Raw & Treated Water Pipelines, **\$959,752**
- Replacing Aging Emergency Generator and Adding Solar Capacity, **\$1,383,069**
- Aerospace Digital Engineering Research, **\$963,000**
- El Paso County, TX (Flood Warning Project), **\$975,000**
- Collective Training Barracks (Planning and Design), **\$7,200,000**
- El Pasoans Fighting Hunger West, **\$800,000**
- Rural Utility Service Vehicles (PW), **\$550,000**
- Rio Vista Rehabilitation, **\$1,050,000**
- Sun Metro Micro Transit, **\$720,000**
- Terminal Bridge Reconstruction, **\$850,000**
- Business One-Stop Shop (BOSS) Facility Acquisition and Expansion, **\$500,000**
- Police Department Technology Augmentation, **\$963,000**

National Defense Authorization Act

- Also known as the NDAA, this annual bill authorizes funding for the Department of Defense and prescribes U.S. defense policy for the upcoming fiscal year.
- The NDAA has passed for 63 consecutive years, becoming one of very few must-pass bills to be signed into law and a reliable vehicle for legislative priorities.
- Between the House and Senate, it is Members of the House Armed Services Committee and the Senate Armed Services Committee who help craft this bill from start to finish annually.
- Congresswoman Escobar has served on the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) since she was first elected to Congress, proudly representing El Paso and Fort Bliss in this capacity.
- As a Member of this Committee, the Congresswoman accepts legislative requests from interested stakeholders to further the interests of El Paso, Fort Bliss, and our military service members and families.
- The first deadline for submissions is: 23 FEB, 5:00 PM EST. **UPDATE PRIOR TO RELEASE**
- Please consider our office a resource in accepting and collaborating on legislative proposals to address local military equities and priorities.

National Defense Authorization Act (cont.)

Some Prior Legislative Wins Achieved via NDAA for Fort Bliss and TX-16

- Support for Castner Range unexploded ordnance disposal and cleanup
- \$7.2M in funding to speed up urgent barracks construction at Fort Bliss
- \$74M in funding for Fort Bliss Rail Yard
- \$49.5M increase in funding for Department of Defense partnerships with Minority Serving Institutions, including UTEP
- Improving the Military Spouse Employment Partnership Program by leveraging telework and remote work employment for military spouses.
- Making the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) permanent, a program that allows communities like El Paso to address deficiencies in community infrastructure that supports Fort Bliss.

Grants Services

- Congresswoman Escobar's office can help you find relevant federal grant and funding opportunities that your entity may be eligible for.
- We can be your advocates when communicating with federal agencies.
- If you have a question about a grant or want to know where your application is in the process, our office can help obtain that information.
- On a case-by-case basis, the Congresswoman will provide 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 agency where the grant originated from.
- Letters of Support are only included for applications to federal grants and state grants with a federal nexus. Requests for a Letter of Support are not considered for local or community foundation grant applications.
- To learn more about how Congresswoman Escobar's office supports grant applicants, go to escobar.house.gov and visit the grant applicants tab.

Constituent Services

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?

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



- 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
- This is the first year that artwork will be displayed at the EPMA from May to August
- **Deadline this year is April 5, 2024**



2023 Congressional Art Competition Winner:
"Mi Querido Apa" by Azenette Hernandez of Eastwood HS

Questions? Email: TX16.ArtComp@mail.house.gov

CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE



2022 Congressional App Challenge Winners

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

Questions? Contact: Priscilla.Contreras@mail.house.gov

Library of Congress Surplus Books Program

One of Congresswoman Veronica Escobar's priorities is to ensure that the institutions that help our district develop and grow have the tools necessary to succeed. She is pleased to announce TX-16's participation in the Library of Congress Surplus Books Program.

- The Surplus Books Program is a program offered by the Library of Congress through which books that are not needed for the Library's own uses are made available for donation to eligible organizations and institutions across the 16th Congressional District.

Any school, library or non-profit in the 16th Congressional District that is interested in learning more about Congresswoman Escobar's Library of Congress Surplus Book Program, contact Priscilla Contreras at Priscilla.Contreras@mail.house.gov



Congresswoman Escobar donating books to the EPPL

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, serviceacademy.tx16@mail.house.gov or visit our Service Academy web page at Escobar.House.gov



United States Naval
Academy



United States Air Force
Academy



United States Merchant
Marine Academy



United States Military
Academy

Internships in DC or El Paso

- 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.
- **DEADLINE for Summer 2024: April 5, 2024**
- For more information about our internship opportunities in the El Paso or Washington, DC office, please visit our website.



Congresswoman Escobar with Summer 2023 El Paso interns

Congressional Youth Advisory Council



Congresswoman Escobar with her first CYAC cohort

- Congresswoman Veronica Escobar started the Texas' 16th Congressional District's Congressional Youth Advisory Council (CYAC) as a leadership opportunity for high school students with an interest in public service and the legislative process.
- The CYAC works with Congresswoman Veronica Escobar's office to research topics and bills while collaborating alongside their peers. All students living in the district and in grades 9-12 are eligible to apply.
- The deadline for students to apply to be a part of next year's CYAC is in the Fall.

Questions? Olga.Avant-Mier@mail.house.gov

Additional Services

Washington, D.C Tour Requests

- White House Tours
- US Capitol Building Tours
- Library of Congress Tours
- Presidential Greetings for milestone occasions
- Flag Requests

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

Questions and Discussion