

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS PROGRAM

Earmarked funding is a function of the political process and does not undergo peer-review or other merit-based competition as typically required by federal granting agencies. It is, however, very much a competitive process and is becoming more so each year. Competition for Congressionally designated projects is keen, and only the most compelling projects will be supported. Earmarks are not intended for individual research projects or for projects for which competitive funding is available.

Successful earmark projects have the following characteristics:

1. **They respond to national or regional needs.** Be as specific as possible regarding the Michigan need and impact. Please identify why the problem in question is significant enough to warrant a federal investment. Identify the specific purpose/objectives of the funding being requested and how these objectives will help address the identified needs described above. What are the specific goals of the project for which funding are being requested? For example, what measurable improvements in health status, educational achievement, environmental quality, or similar outcomes – locally and nationally – will result from this project? Identify specific applications of the project.
2. **They develop infrastructure and capacity at SVSU.** Internally, priority will be given to projects where targeted support will build capacity to compete successfully for follow-on funding support. Successful projects should have an “exit strategy,” a plan to continue with other sources of support once the earmarked funding has ended.
3. **They are aligned with a strategic priority for SVSU.** Since only a few projects can be funded within any given federal budget cycle, projects that align best with SVSU’s institutional priorities will be submitted.
4. **They are supported by staffers within a federal agency.** A “champion” within an agency must be identified who will support and endorse the project during the Congressional budget development process. Projects should be aligned with and promote the agency’s mission. A detailed proposal must ultimately be developed and submitted for evaluation, per agency grant application guidelines. Even though funding has been designated by Congress, the designated federal agency must approve, award, and oversee any given earmarked project.
5. **They do not fit the guidelines for competitive grant programs.** The University will not submit proposals for earmarked funding when competitive sources of grant funding are available. Specifically, agencies that support basic research, such as the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health, do not receive Congressional earmarks, and are not suitable targets for project-specific earmarked funding.
6. **They have reasonable and realistic budgets, given the programs for which they are targeted.** Budgets for earmarked projects typically range between \$250K-\$1.5 M. Budgets will vary by appropriations bill and by federal agency. Funding is rarely provided for construction projects. Projects should not rely solely on federal support, but demonstrate institutional commitment through the inclusion of matching funds and/or in-kind contributions.
7. **They are developed and directed by individuals with a proven track record for successfully executing external grants.** Whenever our Congressional delegation is successful in securing an

earmarked project on behalf of SVSU, they have a vested interest in its success. SVSU has an obligation to demonstrate that the funding is a wise use of taxpayers' dollars and worthy of the support provided by our Congressional representatives.

8. They are well written and compelling in content