



Dear NCN Members,

The Trump Administration has once again requested to zero out CDFI grant funding in FY 2019. This troubling proposal combined with unfinished work on FY 2018 (current year) appropriations bills leaves too much room for uncertainty, putting funding for Native CDFIs at risk.

It is now more important than ever that your Members of Congress hear from YOU. Each and every U.S. Representative has the ability to make a formal request to the House Appropriations Committee in support of the CDFI Fund and NACA. Your Rep will submit requests based on the input of their constituents. Most Congressional offices finalize their appropriations wish lists by early March, and we don't want to miss out on this important opportunity.

By reaching out to key staffers as outlined below, you are effectively influencing your Rep's FY 2019 appropriations wish list and ensuring that the CDFI Fund and NACA are top priorities. Fortunately for us, Congress - not the Trump Administration - ultimately decides the fate of the CDFI Fund and NACA, and your voice can and will influence a positive outcome.

NCN is making this process as easy as possible for Native CDFIs to contact your Rep, and we encourage you to do so ASAP. Many offices have posted internal deadlines as early as March 2nd for Financial Services approps requests, so please be sure to send your email **no later than Friday, March 2nd 2018.** (If you want to confirm your Rep's exact deadline, feel free to call your Congressional office and ask for their "Financial Services appropriations request deadline.")

Follow the steps below to complete this quick and easy process:

1. Click here: [Attachment 1 - Approps Letter Template for House Staffers.docx](#) to download **Attachment #1** - Approps Letter Template for House Staffers.
 1. Save the letter as a Word Doc or PDF.
 2. Update highlighted fields as indicated (date, Congressman/woman's name, etc.).
2. Click here: [Attachment 2 - FY 18-19 Approps Request.pdf](#) to download **Attachment #2** - FY 18-19 Approps Request.
 1. Nothing to update - just save as a PDF.
3. Click here: [House Native American and Financial Services Staffers - Feb 2018.xlsx](#) to find email addresses for your Rep's key staff member(s). Draft one email including all staff (if more than one is listed for the office). CC [Kim Wilson](#) so the Feighan Team can follow up before the deadline.



1. Subject line: FY 2019 Program & Bill Language Request
2. Copy and paste this email draft: [NCN House Approps Email Draft.docx](#) into the body of your email.
 - i. Fill in all highlighted areas
 - ii. Feel free to personalize your email with information about your organization if you'd like.
1. Attach **Attachment #1** and **Attachment #2**.
2. Double check that all highlighted areas are filled in and hit send!

IMPORTANT NOTE: We are making “Program” and “Bill Language” requests, as permitted by House Rules, NOT requesting earmarks. If an office tells you this is an earmark request and refuses to assist you, it is appropriate for you to politely let them know that these are Program and Bill Language requests, not earmarks. Feel free to copy [Kim](#) and [Alison](#) if any questions arise.

Please reach out to [Kim Wilson](#) or [Alison](#) if you have any questions. They are here to help!

Thank you,

NCN