

Welcome to Russ Reid's inaugural bi-weekly e-newsletter,

Mark on Earmarks!

By: Mark McIntyre

I've launched this leadership level e-newsletter to shed light on a substantial source of federal support for cities and counties, colleges and universities, hospitals and medical centers, social service organizations, and other nonprofits.

Despite the misinformation you may have heard frequently from the media, congressional line-item earmarks will continue to fund your organization's worthy initiatives. The trouble is, most leaders know little about the tremendous opportunities they have to secure significant federal dollars through line-item earmarks.

In the coming months, I will use this newsletter to dispel the confusion over earmarks... provide useful tips on the appropriations process... and highlight federal funding opportunities for institutions like yours.

To begin, I want to answer the question: "What's Right with Earmarks?"

Simply put, earmarks improve people's lives.

While earmarks are often derided as pork, the reality is: Line-item earmarks feed people... house people... educate people... cure diseases... and create jobs.

Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution grants the Congress the sole power of the federal purse. Line-item earmarks reflect the specific spending priorities of Members of Congress. Our U.S. Senators and Representatives provide earmarks to local governments, colleges and universities, hospitals and medical centers, and private nonprofits because these organizations are effective stewards of federal dollars.

Historically, a few Members of Congress have abused the line-item earmarking process. The media, rightly, points this out. However, what is often ignored is that the overwhelming majority of earmarks fund worthy initiatives.

Arguably, earmarking has become the most open and accountable component of the entire federal legislative process. The Congress has passed several reforms to make earmarks more transparent. These reforms have ensured that worthy projects that serve community needs benefit.

There are significant federal funding opportunities available to nonprofits, local governments, education and healthcare providers. Do you do great work in your community? And are you a good steward of your dollars? Do you have a project that requires more funding to complete? If so, then doesn't it make sense to explore the potential of line-item earmarks as a major funding source?

Next e-newsletter (April 20): I will provide tips on drafting effective appropriations request forms, an essential first step in securing earmark funding.

If you have a question about the appropriations process that you would like me to address in a future newsletter, or if you would like to learn more about how Russ Reid can help your organization secure significant federal funding through the appropriations process, please contact me via phone or email at 202-912-8622 or mark.mcintyre@russreid.com.

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