



CAPITAL BUDGET TASK FORCE

Fiscal Years 2027-2028

Process Overview

As you may know, state leaders are gearing up for another State Capital Budget process and after discussions with various elected officials and key staffers, we expect the upcoming capital bill will include funding to support targeted community projects. In response, the Canton Regional Chamber is assembling a Capital Budget Task Force comprised of local business, nonprofit, education, and community leaders to facilitate a solicitation, review, and recommendation process for local community and economic development and arts and culture projects within Stark County. The Task Force will assist community partners navigate this process and upon individual project review, will submit funding recommendations to legislators, the Governor's Office, and Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM).

****It is important to note that while the Task Force will gather, review, and provide funding recommendations/endorsements for community projects in Stark County, this is a legislative process that requires you to communicate with your legislator. While we work to streamline connectivity and information sharing among interested parties, all project sponsors must communicate directly with their elected official(s). The Chamber will help all project sponsors determine who their appropriate elected officials are and share all information submitted to us with the appropriate parties/offices.***

For projects seeking navigational support and/or an endorsement from the CRCC, please adhere to the following steps:

- **Complete questionnaire and provide all supplementary information electronically to jrizzo@akroncantonadvocacy.org by Friday, November 14th at 5:00 p.m. A confirmation email will be sent within 24 hours of receipt.** All information submitted to the Chamber will be shared with the appropriate elected officials and government offices, however, to officially apply for funding you must fill out and submit individual applications with your House and Senate members.
- All project submissions will be reviewed with a focus on determining eligibility (in respect to the state's guidelines) and intentional, merit-based evaluations (in respect to the Chamber's established evaluation process) both of which are detailed further on the next page.
- Organizations that submit a completed questionnaire may be asked to provide additional documentation after review of the initial submission request.
- A final report detailing the Task Force's process and funding recommendations, as well as all relevant information from submitted projects, will be shared with the Governor's Office, members of our regional legislative delegation and the Ohio Office of Budget and Management.
- For questions, please contact John Rizzo at jrizzo@akroncantonadvocacy.org or (440) 251-5121.



Internal Evaluation Process

Geographic Scope

Only projects located in Stark County will be considered during the CRCC Capital Budget Task Force's internal review and evaluation process. If your project is in another county, please contact the state legislators who represent the district(s) in which your project resides.

Project Eligibility

The State of Ohio provides specific guidelines for what is, and is not, [eligible for funding](#) within the State Capital Budget. These guidelines are the sole basis on which we evaluate the eligibility of a project. If we view your project to be ineligible, we will outline the reasons for making this determination, but this does not bar you from continuing to seek funding through your local legislators.

Project Evaluation

If your project is determined to be eligible in respect to the provided state guidelines, the CRCC Capital Budget Task Force will perform a merit-based evaluation of your project.

Factors going into this merit-based evaluation process include (but are not limited to):

- Economic Impact – Stark County
- Economic Impact – Northeast Ohio/Overall State
- Funding Support – % of project costs covered by other sources
- Funding Support – Long-term sustainability of project
- Talent - Attraction, Retention and Development
- Contributes to regional perception
- Contributes to quality of life
- Revitalizes our physical assets
- Viability of accomplishing in next two years
- Strength of community partnerships
- Positive impact on disadvantaged populations
- Positive impact on low-income neighborhoods

If the CRCC Capital Budget Task Force endorses your project, we will provide you with a letter of support and include your project within our list of regional funding recommendations, as well as advocate for your project to be included in the final FY2027 – 2028 State Capital Budget. Our endorsement will be communicated in a final report sent to regional legislators, the DeWine Administration, and OBM.

If your project does not receive the Task Force's endorsement, we will still provide you with assistance in connecting you with your individual legislator(s) and any other support deemed appropriate.

Important Links

Ohio General Assembly District Maps: <http://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislators/district-maps>