

Guidance Document for Legislative Meetings

FISCAL YEAR 2025 FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS

We believe that our work together in the United States is the outward expression of missionary discipleship. We are called to encounter Christ in our sisters and brothers most in need, and to share the Good News with others—becoming prophetic advocates for justice and the common good.

Guidance for Legislative Meetings

- Review the [CRS Appropriations Backgrounder](#) document, which provides information about the appropriations process and its connections to global poverty.
- Use the legislative meeting [Talking Points](#) to help you communicate with your members of Congress about the importance of international humanitarian and development assistance. Reference the [annual chart of budget accounts for congressional offices](#) that Catholic Relief Services and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops advocate for to address global poverty. Share it with your members' offices.
- Provide examples of the impact of U.S. international funding in CRS programs by each key account with the [appropriations leave behind document](#). This document can be shared in English with congressional offices either before or after a visit on appropriations.
- Your voice matters! Your members of Congress want to know why you and your community care about these issues. As you prepare to meet with your members of Congress, reflect on the stories of our global family that you can share to illustrate the importance of taking action to support people in need.

State of Play

While Congress has traditionally supported increases to international humanitarian and development aid, some of the accounts that CRS prioritizes were impacted by notable reductions to funding for fiscal year 2024. Although some priority budget lines saw maintained or increased funding, this was mainly due to the reduction in other priority accounts. The impact of fiscal year 2024 funding for priority accounts makes it even more important to ensure that legislators prioritize international lifesaving aid in the fiscal year 2025 federal budget.

The administration released their fiscal year 2025 budget proposal in early March 2024. Throughout the spring and summer, the House and Senate will draft and negotiate appropriations bills. Congress will have until the end of September to introduce and pass fiscal year 2025 appropriations measures. Given ongoing debates in Washington over the debt and deficit and the upcoming elections, we expect Congress to pass a Continuing Resolution in September, which will fund the government temporarily at current levels into the next fiscal year beyond the November elections. Until Congress finalizes fiscal year 2025 appropriations, CRS and its supporters will continue to advocate on our priority accounts to ensure the U.S. government provides robust assistance to alleviate suffering and eliminate poverty.

Legislative Ask

At a time of unprecedented humanitarian need, we urge Congress to increase funding for poverty-reducing international development and humanitarian assistance in fiscal year 2025.