

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, making it even more important to ensure that legislators prioritize international lifesaving aid in the fiscal year 2025 federal budget.

Throughout the spring and summer, the House and Senate have drafted and begun to negotiate fiscal year 2025 appropriations bills. The House has proposed steep cuts to many of the humanitarian and development accounts that CRS identifies as critical for lifesaving work to address global poverty. The Senate has largely proposed to maintain foreign assistance.

Given the upcoming elections, we expect Congress to pass a Continuing Resolution by the end of September, which will fund the government temporarily at current levels into the next fiscal year beyond the November elections. At the same time there is increasing pressure to reduce non-defense discretionary spending, including foreign aid because of ongoing debates around the debt and deficit and parallel conversations about needs to increase defense spending. Until Congress finalizes fiscal year 2025 appropriations, it is essential that CRS and its supporters continue to advocate on our priority accounts to ensure the U.S. government provides robust assistance to alleviate food insecurity and eliminate poverty.

Legislative Ask

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