

# Special District Grant Accessibility Act

## Talking Points / Discussion Guide

May 2024



### H.R. 7525 Talking Points & Discussion Guide

- [Your District Name] is a local special district government providing [type of service(s)] to [X-population] of our shared constituents in [name(s) of community/communities]
- We are **one of approximately 35,000 special purpose units of local government** in the country that altogether provide a range of infrastructure and essential community programs.
- Yet, **there is no consistent definition in federal law for what a “special district” is**, creating inconsistencies in how special districts may access federally funded programs for local governments. As a result, we often face unnecessary, additional hurdles other units of government do not have to jump through. This can prevent our access.
- Furthermore, the **federal government does not consider special districts to be geographic units of government**, which prevents us from having **federally-recognized population figures**. Those figures are needed for verification and access to population-based funding opportunities.
- *Has your district experienced hardship accessing grants because it is not a city, county, town, or other general unit of government? Share the story.* Examples could be, but are not related to: transportation funding for park projects, surface/road transportation projects, community development, broadband, ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (COVID funds), etc.
- Legislation has been introduced to remedy this issue for our districts and others like ours. **H.R. 7525**, The bipartisan *Special District Grant Accessibility Act* is **the solution**.
- H.R. 7525 would **establish a federal definition of special district** that and would lead to federal agencies’ formal recognition of special districts as units of local government eligible for applicable federal funding opportunities.
- The definition is necessary to drive consistency in how federal agencies view local special district governments in development and implementation of rules and regulations.
- **The *Special District Grant Accessibility Act* will place us on a level playing field with general government services**, allowing special districts to be clearly eligible for programs supporting local governments.
- **The Ask:** Please support and cosponsor **H.R. 7525, the *Special District Grant Accessibility Act***. Congressman Pat Fallon sponsors this legislation with Congresswoman Brittany Pettersen as lead cosponsor.