

**Revised Alaska Broadband Grant Program
Application Portal and Notice of Funding Opportunity
Frequently Asked Questions**

The Alaska Broadband Office (ABO) is posting questions that it receives from the public on the revised Alaska Broadband Grant Program while the Application Portal is open between July 3, 2025, and July 27, 2025. Updated versions of this FAQ document will be posted twice weekly.

Questions received before 5pm on Tuesdays will be answered by 5pm on Wednesdays;
questions received before 5pm on Thursdays will be answered by 5pm on Fridays.

1. Will ABO grant any waivers for matching funds requirements? If yes, what are the criteria for a match waiver?

Matching funds waivers are addressed in section 7. *Project Prioritization* under *Section 1 – Program Information* of the Alaska Broadband Grant Program Revised Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Applicants may request a waiver using Appendix C, the Federal Match Waiver Request Form. Both documents are available on the Alaska Broadband Grant Program page of the ABO website:

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/abo/AlaskaBroadbandGrantProgram.aspx>.

2. Can an applicant combine PDPAs in one application, or must they be submitted in separate applications? When will the new BSL list be available?

Yes, applicants can combine PDPAs in one application. The new BSL list is available on the ABO website as Appendix I:

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/abo/AlaskaBroadbandGrantProgram.aspx>.

3. Do applicants need to re-register in DCRA portal? Our organization has an organization profile from the earlier NOFO, but when I log in, I'm not seeing the grant opportunity. Is there something applicants need to do in order to be able to see the new application in the portal?

When you click the link on the ABO website, it will take you to the log-in screen for the DCRAGrants Portal. Listed under Funding Opportunities you should see “Alaska Broadband Grant Program – Updated per Policy Notice”. That is the grant opportunity you want to click on. There is no need to re-register in the portal.

4. The new NOFO at 5.1.5 requires: *Certification to ensure reliability and resilience of broadband infrastructure by establishing risk management plans that account for technology infrastructure reliability and resilience, including natural disasters (e.g., wildfires, flooding, tornadoes, hurricanes, etc.), as applicable, as well as cybersecurity best practices*. We don't see a place for this. And is this just a simply certification that we've established risk management plans or do we upload our risk management plans?

Criterion 10 Weather/Climate Threat Assessment and Mitigation Planning has been removed; a climate risk management plan is no longer required. However, the applicant will need to certify that they have incorporated best practices for ensuring reliability and resilience of broadband infrastructure as part of the engineering.

Criterion 9 Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management (C-SCRM) will require certification check box and completed Appendix G.

5. Criterion 7 and 9: Is there a requirement for a narrative or is it just a certification by checking the box? Understood that Criterion 9 also requires Appendix G to be signed and uploaded.

Criterion 7 only requires the Certification check box; the narrative box is provided for any additional information the applicant would like to submit.

Criterion 9 requires the Certification check box and signed Appendix G. The narrative textbox is provided for any additional information the applicant would like to submit.

6. Criterion 5 PE Certification: Where and how do we meet the requirement that “All engineering documents are required to be certified by a professional engineer licensed in the State of Alaska as part of the application”

Engineering documents must have a PE stamp that will indicate they have been certified by a professional engineer licensed in the State of Alaska.

7. Is there a template for the requested zipped shapefile of the engineering diagrams? For example, are there required attribute fields or a preferred datum/projection?

The ABO has not developed a standardized template, but industry standards such as TIA-606 and ASCE 38/75 can be applied for telecom infrastructure mapping and whatever meets your PE’s requirements.

8. The portal doesn’t seem to have a specific area to attach the engineering shapefile as noted in the NOFO. There is an area to upload files, but the dropdown categories do not include the shapefile. How should the shapefile be attached?

The zipped GIS shapefile should be uploaded as part of Criterion 5. Technical Capability. There is an “Upload Files” at the bottom of the section and an “Electronic Zipped GIS Shapefile” classification in the dropdown categories (see below).

9. MQ12: The previous NOFO said we had to submit proof of consent from any "tribal entity" upon whose lands the infrastructure will be deployed. The new NOFO has changed "tribal entity" to "Alaska Tribe." Since, as you know, the tribes themselves do not own the land, this wording change is substantial; it seems to indicate that we no longer need proof of consent at all. Can you clarify whether this was the intent of the wording change, and if not, what is now required, if anything, in terms of proof of consent?

Proof of consent must be from the landowner. If a Tribe owns the land, then consent would be needed from the Tribe for that land only. If a corporation, municipality, or city owns the land then consent would need to come from the respective landowner. The change that has occurred is that in the original Alaska Broadband Grant Program NOFO, in addition the applicants had to show that they had notified Tribes of their intent and if the applicant won, continue to notify the tribes of how the project is going; in the revised NOFO, applicants do not need to notify Tribes pre-award. If an applicant is selected as a subgrantee, "Subgrantees are required to contact, and show proof of contact or attempted contacts, each Alaska Tribe's government where the infrastructure will be built on Tribal Lands and share the high-level plans for middle mile (where applicable) and last mile infrastructure that will be on those lands throughout the project."

10. MQ3: If an applicant's "pro formas" would all be zeroes because the project will result in a partnership agreement in which the partner rather than the applicant becomes the service provider, can we just not submit pro formas and explain this in the narrative?

"Pro Formas" are required. If an applicant applies with a \$0 filled Pro Forma, the application will be rejected as a "fail" on Criterion 5.

11. MQ3: Because of the highly specialized nature of these projects, are applicants allowed to use sole-source contractors?

Applicants/Subgrantees are not required to post RFPs for subcontractors. Subcontractor selection is the applicant's/subgrantee's prerogative as long as it conforms to Criteria 2 and 5.

12. MQ 2: The NOFO states, "List the existing and proposed full-time-equivalent (FTE) employees to be dedicated to the project." Does this mean you only want employees who will be full-time equivalents on the project to be listed, or does this mean you want a breakout of the % of FTE for each listed project position (e.g., foreperson 10% FTE, field manager 20% FTE, etc.)?

The required level of detail is a breakout of the % of FTE for each listed project position (e.g., foreperson 10% FTE, field manager 20% FTE, etc.).

13. Appendices: In the portal, the Appendices page appears to indicate that applicants are to upload Appendices H & I, but these look like informational documents only. Should we just upload those two appendices as is, or do you want something more there?

Appendix H and Appendix I are informational only. They do not need to be uploaded. The applicant will certify in Criterion 15 that they have received and read the Draft Grant Agreement (Appendix H) per the screenshot below. No action is required for Appendix I.

▲ Criterion 15. Application and Grant Agreement Certification

Applicants must certify on the application form that the appropriate authorized party has read and will comply with all Criteria in the application and provisions of the Draft Grant Agreement (Appendix H).

▲ I certify that the applying organization has read and will comply with all Criteria in both the application and provisions of the Draft Grant Agreement (Appendix H).

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