

Alaska Broadband Grant Program

Revised Notice of Funding Opportunity

State of Alaska: Mike Dunleavy, Governor



**Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
Julie Sande, Commissioner**

Alaska Broadband Office

July 3, 2025

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SECTION 1 – PROGRAM INFORMATION

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The State of Alaska, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED), Alaska Broadband Office (ABO) issues this Revised Notice of Funding Opportunity (“Revised NOFO”) to describe the Alaska Broadband Grant Program (“Grant Program”) requirements and application process. This Revised NOFO replaces and supersedes all prior Grant Program NOFOs. The State of Alaska, DCCED, ABO received a grant award under the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, Division F, Title I, Section 60102, Public Law 117-58, 135 Stat. 1182 (November 15, 2021) (Infrastructure Act or Act) also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, CFDA 11.035. This Revised NOFO is required due to the June 6, 2025, BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice (“Notice”) issued by NTIA. (A copy of the Notice is attached hereto as Exhibit A).

The BEAD Program provides new federal funding to be distributed primarily based on the relative number of “Unserved” locations (i.e., Broadband Serviceable Locations that lack access to reliable broadband service at speeds of at least 25 Megabits per second (Mbps) download and 3 Mbps upload and latency levels low enough to support real time, interactive applications) in the state of Alaska. The State of Alaska was allocated \$1,017,139,672.42 to primarily provide broadband to each Unserved and, if funding allows Underserved and Community Anchor Institution (CAI) locations. The State will distribute no more than \$991,796,878.97 for broadband projects to achieve “Internet for All”.

NTIA’s original Notice of Funding Opportunity (“NOFO”) remains in full force and effect except as modified by NTIA’s Notice. The funding mechanism for the Grant Program will be grants.

The State of Alaska seeks to implement sufficient grant opportunities to build the necessary infrastructure to empower full broadband access for all Alaskans, with scalable (as defined in Section 3), and affordable services.

As of July 28, 2025, Alaska has 271,218 Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSL). Of that number, 219,802 are Served¹, 15,563 are Underserved, and 35,780 are Unserved. The Unserved and Underserved BSL counts break down into an additional categorization of “High-Cost” and “Non-High-Cost”. Table 1 below shows the breakdown of the Unserved and Underserved locations.

Table 1: Evaluation of Unserved and Underserved BSLs

Service Level	High-Cost/ Non-High-Cost Areas	Broadband Serviceable Location Counts
Unserved	High-Cost	18,938
	Non-High-Cost	16,842
Subtotal Unserved		35,780
Underserved	High-Cost	1,924
	Non-High-Cost	13,639
Subtotal Underserved		15,563

¹ A portion of the Served count are projects in process called Enforceable Commitments. An Enforceable Commitment is a federal program such as the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program rounds 1 or 2, the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Community Connect, ReConnect, and/or the USDA Rural Loan Program. Of the 219,802 served locations, 51,630 are within an Enforceable Commitment.

CAI	High-Cost	799
	Non-High-Cost	114
Subtotal Underserved		913
Total Unserved and Underserved BSLs		52,256

PROGRAM DETAILS

1. Application Submission Instructions

Complete applications may be submitted electronically through the online application portal, available at <https://reigrants-akdced.my.site.com/recipient/s/login/?ec=302&startURL=%2Frecipient%2Fs%2F>. For Applicants with access to high-speed Internet, applications should be filed electronically. Complete electronic portal applications, including appendices and attachments, must be received by the ABO by 11:59:59 pm AKDT, August 3, 2025.

For applicants without access to high-speed internet, complete applications may be submitted to the ABO by email at ced.abo.general@alaska.gov with the subject line "Alaska Broadband Grant Program Application." Paper applications may also be submitted via the United States Postal Service (USPS) to:

Alaska Broadband Office
Attn: Grant Administrator
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1550
Anchorage, AK 99501

Engineering diagrams must be submitted via an electronic zipped GIS shapefile. If applications are submitted in the portal, there is an area to attach the engineering shapefile. If applications are submitted by mail, the engineering shapefiles will need to be mailed to the ABO with a post mark no later than the due date.

2. Eligibility

The ABO encourages any entity meeting the capability requirements, as set forth herein, to apply for this program. That includes, but is not limited to, federally recognized tribal governments, consortiums, cooperatives, non-profit organizations, private companies including traditional providers of internet and telecommunications service, public-private partnerships, public or private utilities, public utility districts, and local governments.

3. Eligible Project Size

The ABO will accept applications for deployment projects as small as one BSL, or as large as all funding available locations within the state of Alaska.

4. Potential Project Funding Amounts

The State of Alaska was allocated \$1,017,139,672.42, with a net amount available of not more than \$991,796,878.97, to provide service to each Unserved location, and if funding allows, Underserved and Community Anchor Institution (CAI) locations.

5. Maximum Number of Applications

An eligible Applicant may submit multiple applications for the Grant Program in response to this solicitation. Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to use the Pre-Determined Project Areas (PDPA) in Table 2 below. A full list of the recommended BSLs and CAIs by PDPA groupings are found in Appendix I of this document.

Table 2: Pre-Determined Project Areas:

Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA
Akutan	01-01	Adak	02-01	Anchorage	03-01
Cold Bay	01-01	Atka	02-01	Bird Creek	03-01
False Pass	01-01	Nikolski	02-01	Girdwood	03-01
King Cove	01-01	Saint George	02-01	Indian	03-01
Nelson Lagoon	01-01	Saint Paul	02-01		
Sand Point	01-01	Unalaska	02-01		
Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA
Hope	03-02	Chugiak	03-03	Bethel	04-01
		Eagle River	03-03	Goodnews Bay	04-01
				Napaskiak	04-01
				Oscarville	04-01
				Platinum	04-01
				Quinhagak	04-01
				Tuntutuliak	04-01
Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA
Aniak	04-02	Akiak	04-03	Kasigluk	04-04
Chuathbaluk	04-02	Kwethluk	04-03	Nunapitchuk	04-04
Georgetown	04-02	Lower Kalskag	04-03		
Napaimute	04-02	Napakiak	04-03		
		Tuluksak	04-03		
		Upper Kalskag	04-03		
Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA
Cheforak	04-05	Lime Village	04-06	Egegik	05-01
Kipnuk	04-05			King Salmon	05-01
Kongiganak	04-05			Naknek	05-01
Kwigillingok	04-05			Pilot Point	05-01
Mekoryuk	04-05			Port Heiden	05-01
Mertarvik	04-05			South Naknek	05-01
Newtok	04-05			Ugashik	05-01
Nightmute	04-05				
Toksook Bay	04-05				
Tununak	04-05				
Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA
Cordova	06-01	Valdez	06-02	Chitina	07-01
Tatitlek	06-01			Copper Center	07-01
Whittier	06-01			Gakona	07-01
				Glennallen	07-01
				Gulkana	07-01
				Mentasta Lake	07-01
				Tazlina	07-01
Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA
Lake Louise	07-02	Anderson	08-01	Aleknagik	09-01

		Cantwell Carlo Creek Denali Park Healy	08-01 08-01 08-01 08-01	Clark's Point Dillingham Ekuk Ekwok Manokotak New Stuyahok	09-01 09-01 09-01 09-01 09-01 09-01
Community Portage Creek	PDPA 09-02	Community Togiak Twin Hills	PDPA 09-03 09-03	Community Fairbanks North Pole	PDPA 10-01 10-01
Community Haines	PDPA 11-01	Community Angoon Elfin Cove Gustavus Hoonah Pelican Tenakee Springs	PDPA 12-01 12-01 12-01 12-01 12-01 12-01	Community Excursion Inlet	PDPA 12-02
Community Douglas Juneau	PDPA 13-01 13-01	Community Clam Gulch Kasilof Kenai Nikiski Ninilchik Soldotna Sterling	PDPA 14-01 14-01 14-01 14-01 14-01 14-01 14-01	Community Nanwalek Port Graham Seldovia	PDPA 14-02 14-02 14-02
Community Anchor Point Homer Kachemak	PDPA 14-03 14-03 14-03	Community Cooper Landing Moose Pass Seward	PDPA 14-04 14-04 14-04	Community Tyonek	PDPA 14-05
Community Ketchikan Saxman	PDPA 15-01 15-01	Community Akhiok Chiniak Karluk Kodiak Larsen Bay Old Harbor Ouzinkie Uyak	PDPA 16-01 16-01 16-01 16-01 16-01 16-01 16-01 16-01	Community Alakanuk Chevak Emmonak Kotlik Mountain Village Nunam Iqua Saint Mary's Scammon Bay	PDPA 17-01 17-01 17-01 17-01 17-01 17-01 17-01 17-01
Community Marshall Pilot Station Pitkas Point Russian Mission	PDPA 17-02 17-02 17-02 17-02	Community Igiugig Iliamna Kokhanok Levelock Newhalen Nondalton	PDPA 18-01 18-01 18-01 18-01 18-01 18-01	Community Chignik Chignik Lake	PDPA 18-02 18-02

		Pedro Bay	18-01		
		Pope-Vannoy	18-01		
		Landing			
		Port Alsworth	18-01		
Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA
Ivanof Bay	18-03	Big Lake	19-01	Elim	20-01
		Chickaloon	19-01	Nome	20-01
		Houston	19-01	Saint Michael	20-01
		Matanuska-		Shaktoolik	20-01
		Susitna Borough	19-01	Shishmaref	20-01
		Meadow Lakes	19-01	Stebbins	20-01
		Palmer	19-01	Unalakleet	20-01
		Sutton	19-01	White Mountain	20-01
		Talkeetna	19-01		
		Trapper Creek	19-01		
		Wasilla	19-01		
		Willow	19-01		
Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA
Gambell	20-02	Anaktuvuk Pass	21-01	Petersburg	23-01
Savoonga	20-02	Atkasuk	21-01		
		Deadhorse	21-01		
		Kaktovik	21-01		
		Nuiqsut	21-01		
		Point Hope	21-01		
		Point Lay	21-01		
		Prudhoe Bay	21-01		
		Utqiagvik	21-01		
		Wainwright	21-01		
Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA
Craig	24-01	Metlakatla	24-02	Sitka	25-01
Edna Bay	24-01				
Hollis	24-01				
Hyder	24-01				
Kake	24-01				
Kasaan	24-01				
Klawock	24-01				
Naukatik Bay	24-01				
Point Baker	24-01				
Port Protection	24-01				
Thorne Bay	24-01				
Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA
Skagway	26-01	Delta Junction	27-01	Northway	27-02
				Tok	27-02
Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA
Chicken	27-03	Dry Creek	27-04	Wrangell	29-01

Eagle					
Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA
Birch Creek	31-01	Arctic Village	31-02	Fort Yukon	31-03
Central	31-01	Chalkyitsik	31-02	Stevens Village	31-03
Nenana	31-01	Circle	31-02	Tanana	31-03
		Venetie	31-02		
		Yukon Flats Nat	31-02		
		Wildlife			
Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA	Community	PDPA
Galena	31-04	McGrath	31-05	Lake	31-06
Kaltag	31-04	Nikolai	31-05	Minchumina	
Koyukuk	31-04	Takotna	31-05		
Manley Hot	31-04				
Springs	31-04				
Minto	31-04				
Nulato	31-04				
Ruby	31-04				
Shageluk	31-04				
Community	PDPA				
Non-					
Community	32-01				
Based					

6. Overlapping Location Deconfliction

In the event the ABO receives more than one application for service to a location, community, or PDPA the Applicant with the higher score will be awarded grant funding for the location, community, or PDPA.

7. Project Prioritization

The focus of the Grant Program is to deploy broadband service to Unserved locations (those without any broadband service at all or with broadband service offering speeds below 25 Mbps download/3 Mbps upload), Underserved locations (those with speeds below 100 Mbps download/20 Mbps upload) and CAIs (those without access to service at or above 1 gigabit symmetrical). The ABO will prioritize scalable (as defined in Section 3) services first for projects to Unserved locations. If all Unserved locations are funded and funding is available, the ABO will also support projects to Underserved locations.

Funds remaining after the award of projects serving 100 percent of Unserved and Underserved locations will be available for projects providing symmetrical 1 gigabit service to CAIs. To the extent any remaining funds are available after funding 100% of all Unserved, Underserved, and CAI locations, the ABO will allocate funds to non-deployment activities.

Cost Sharing/Matching. Except in certain specific circumstances described herein, for each broadband deployment project utilizing Grant Program funding, each Applicant shall provide matching funds of not less than 25 percent of the total project cost and all costs greater than the grant awarded, if greater than the 25 percent match.

Federal Match Waiver. In special circumstances, pursuant to Section 60102(h)(3)(A)(ii) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-58), the Assistant Secretary may consider a request for a

waiver of some, or all, of the 25 percent match. Applicants may request a waiver, using the form in Appendix C, by outlining the special circumstances underlying the request and explaining how the waiver will serve the public interest and effectuate the purposes of BEAD. Waiver requests shall be submitted to the ABO for evaluation of legitimacy for further submission to NTIA for consideration.

High-Cost Areas. Applicants submitting projects in “High-Cost Areas” as defined in Section 60102(a)(2)(G) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-58) shall have the matching funds waived 100 percent.

In-Kind Matches. Matching funds may be provided in the form of in-kind contributions, so long as such contributions are made consistent with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards set forth at 2 C.F.R. Part 200.306. In-kind contributions, which may include third-party in-kind contributions, are non-cash donations of property, goods, or services, which benefit a federally assisted project, and which may count toward satisfying the non-federal matching requirement of a project’s total budgeted costs when such contributions meet certain criteria.

Matching Funds. Funds from federal programs, including funds from the Commission’s Universal Service Fund programs, generally, may not be used as matching funds; however, the Infrastructure Act expressly provides that matching funds for the BEAD Program may come from a federal regional commission or authority and from funds that were provided to an Applicant for the purpose of deploying broadband service under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116-127; 134 Stat. 178); the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136; 134 Stat. 281), the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (Public Law 116-260; 134 Stat. 1182); or the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2; 135 Stat. 4), to the extent permitted by those laws. Funding from the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program administered by the NTIA, and funding from the Community Connect and ReConnect grant programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service may not be used as matching funds for the BEAD Program.

8. Eligible and Ineligible Project Categories and Activities and Required Risk Assessments

8.1. Eligible Activities: The Grant Program may be used to fund:

8.1.1. Permitting

Work related to Federal, State, Local, and Tribal environmental (including NEPA), historical, and cultural reviews, and site surveys, selection, and acquisition including securing easements, rights-of-way, and/or long-term land or facility leases.

8.1.2. Construction and Deployment

Construction, improvement, and/or acquisition of facilities and telecommunications equipment required to provide qualifying broadband service, including infrastructure for backhaul, Middle Mile, last mile networks, and (to and within) multi-tenant residential buildings.

8.1.3. Personnel Costs and Operating Expenses Associated with the Construction and Deployment of the Infrastructure

Salaries and fringe benefits for staff and consultants providing services connected to implementation of the networks under the Grant Program.

8.1.4. Operational

Overhead costs related to the implementation of networks under this program including salaries and fringe benefits for non-construction staff (e.g., accounting, payroll, human resources), pro-rated percentages of corporate office space, and other similar overhead expenses. Applicants may include indirect costs² as part of the budget. Applicants with an approved Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) may use the

² As defined in [2 CFR § 200.1](#) and [2 CFR § 200.414](#).

NICRA-established percentage of the base direct costs identified in the NICRA³. Applicants without an approved NICRA with a cognizant federal agency are capped at the federal de minimis rate of 15% of the Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC)⁴.

Applicants may use an indirect rate below the full de minimis percentage or eliminate indirect costs from the project budget.

8.1.5. Costs associated with Letters of Credit and/or Performance Bonds

Eligible costs associated with the acquisition and maintenance of:

Letter(s) of Credit: a) issuance fees, b) confirmation fees, c) amendment fees, and d) other costs (e.g., wire transfers, document processing, and courier/delivery).

Performance Bond(s): a) bond issuance premiums, b) escrow service fees, and c) other costs (e.g., agency or brokerage processing, credit reports, document processing, and courier/delivery).

Ineligible costs:

Letter(s) of Credit or Performance Bond(s): a) Legal, b) other professional fees.

8.2. Ineligible Project Activities⁵: The following activities are not eligible for Grant Program funding⁶:

8.2.1. Pre-application submission engineering

8.2.2. Environmental Mitigation

8.2.3. Federal, State, and Local Taxes

8.3. In conformance with 2 CFR § 200.332 the ABO will conduct a Risk Assessment of the Applicant. The Assessment will assist the ABO in determining risks that may impact the Applicant's ability to carry out the requirements of the Grant Program. Using the Minimum Qualification Criterion information provided by the Applicant, the Assessment will evaluate risk based on a) the Applicant's prior experience with the same or similar awards, b) audit reports and findings, c) whether the Applicant has new personnel or new or substantially changed systems, and d) the extent and results of any Federal agency monitoring. Risk Assessment findings may result in Specific Award Conditions (SAC) being added to a Grant Program agreement.

9. Key Dates:

9.1. July 3, 2025.

The State of Alaska opens the revised grant application period. Applicants may start submitting applications on this date.

9.2. August 3, 2025. (Note: the date has been extended by a week)

Completed applications are required to be received by the ABO through the online application portal at <https://reigrants-akdced.my.site.com/recipient/s/login/?ec=302&startURL=%2Frecipient%2Fs%2F>, via email or the United States Postal Service (USPS) no later than **11:59:59 p.m. Alaska Daylight Time (AKDT), August 3, 2025.**

9.3. September 15, 2025.

The State of Alaska will submit the Final Proposal with the proposed grant awards to the NTIA on, or before, **September 15, 2025.**

9.4. December 15, 2025.

³ If the Applicant has a NICRA and will include indirect costs greater than the 15% de minimis rate, a copy of the NICRA must be provided with the application.

⁴ As defined in [2 CFR § 200.1](#).

⁵ The list of ineligible activities is not intended to be considered all-inclusive. Please contact the ABO if you have any questions about project eligibility or the correct funding category.

⁶ Matching funds cannot be used for ineligible activities.

The NTIA has committed to a completed review 90 days after the ABO submits the Final Proposal.

10. Post Award Project Timeline

As established in Section 60102(h)(4)(C) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-58), Applicants that receive BEAD Program funds for network deployment are required to deploy the planned broadband network and, for last mile projects, begin providing services to each customer that desires broadband service within the project area, not later than four years after the Grant Agreement is signed by all parties.

The project period shall begin on the effective date of the Grant Agreement between the ABO and the grant recipient.

The timeline shall include the following project milestones:

- Stage 1: Workforce Readiness
- Stage 2: Permitting
- Stage 3: Staging and Materials Acquisition
- Stage 4: Construction and Deployment
- Stage 5: Operational Readiness Transition
- Stage 6: Project Close-Out

SECTION 2 – APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

The Grant Program application includes two components: Minimum Qualification Criterion (MQ Criterion) and Scoring Section. In the original Grant Program, there were 15 MQ Criterion. The ABO has removed five Criterion but have kept the numbering schema for continuity between the previous requirements and the current requirements. Each has a pass/fail metric. A “fail” in any one of the Criterion will disqualify the application from further consideration. A “pass” of all MQ Criterion moves the application to the scoring phase. Scoring elements that will be evaluated based on information submitted in MQ Criteria 5 and 13 will also be used in Section 3 – Scoring Matrix and Descriptions.

Certifications will be made throughout all Criteria and in Section 3 – Scoring Matrix and Descriptions. All narratives in the application, appendices, and any supplemental attachments must be written in Arial font in a minimum font size of 12.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 15 MINIMUM QUALIFICATION CRITERION

Criterion 1: Applicant License and Registration Information

(All elements are required to be present and currently active for a pass.)

Applicants are required to provide evidence of the following registrations and licenses:

- 1.1. Current Alaska Business License
Applicants are required to have an active business license to be eligible to participate in this program. A copy of the active business license can be obtained from the State of Alaska, Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing and is required to be included in the application.
- 1.2. Active Unique Entity ID
Applicants are required to have an active Unique Entity ID (UEI) registration with SAM.gov at the time of application. This is your organization’s registration with the Federal government, and it is a requirement for receiving Federal funds under the Grant Program. Applicants are required to provide confirmation from the SAM.gov website showing active status in the application.
- 1.3. Active FCC Registration Number (FRN)
Applicants are required to provide their Federal Communications Commission (FCC) registration number at the time of application. The FCC Registration Number (FRN) is a 10-digit unique identifying number that is assigned to entities doing business with the Commission.
- 1.4. Active USAC (Universal Service Administrative Company) Number
If applicable, Applicants are required to provide their USAC number at the time of application.
- 1.5. EIN (Employer Identification Number)
Applicants are required to provide their Employer Identification Number (EIN) during portal registration and a copy is required to be provided with the application.

Criterion 2: Organizational and Managerial Capability

(All elements are required to be present for a pass)

Applicants are required to demonstrate proof of organizational and managerial capability with respect to the proposed project and its ongoing operational integrity. If an Applicant does not address all the following areas, it will be considered a “fail”.

- 2.1. Each Applicant is required to provide a narrative describing the Applicant’s readiness to manage projects. The Applicant shall provide its ownership information pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §1.2112(a)(1)-(7) on the Ownership Certification Form in Appendix J.
- 2.2. Attach an organization chart and include the following information for key management personnel for the below listed positions: name, organization, position title, project role, and attached resume. It is acceptable to list the same name if one person fulfills multiple positions identified below.
 - 2.2.1. Chief Executive Officer or equivalent
 - 2.2.2. Chief Financial Officer or equivalent

- 2.2.3. Chief Operating Officer or equivalent
- 2.2.4. Chief Network/Technology Officer or equivalent
- 2.2.5. Chief Revenue Officer or equivalent
- 2.2.6. Chief Security Officer or equivalent
- 2.2.7. Chief Marketing Officer or equivalent
- 2.2.8. Chief Human Resources Officer or equivalent
- 2.2.9. Chief Information Officer or equivalent
- 2.2.10. General Counsel or equivalent
- 2.3. List the existing and proposed full-time-equivalent (FTE) employees to be dedicated to the project.
- 2.4. Describe the experience and qualifications of key project personnel undertaking this project, experience undertaking projects of similar size and scope, and relevant organizational policies.
 - 2.4.1. Project Manager or equivalent
 - 2.4.2. Field Manager or equivalent
 - 2.4.3. Foreperson or equivalent
 - 2.4.4. Network Engineering Manager or equivalent
 - 2.4.5. Outside Plant Engineering Manager or equivalent
 - 2.4.6. Inspection Engineer or equivalent
 - 2.4.7. Safety Officer or equivalent
- 2.5. Where applicable, the Applicant is required to include a narrative describing any recent or upcoming organizational changes including mergers and acquisitions with any corporate parent, subsidiary, or affiliate relationships as demonstrated in the first Organization Chart provided per section 2.2. of this Criterion.
- 2.6. Provide a list of project partners including their name, a brief description of each organization, and their role within the project.

Criterion 3: Financial Capability

(All elements are required to be present for a pass)

Applicants are required to show specific evidence of financial capability to undertake the construction and deployment of infrastructure and operate and maintain the infrastructure over its complete lifespan. The ABO will not approve an application until it determines the documents submitted demonstrate the prospective grantee's financial capability with respect to the proposed project.

Each Applicant is required to describe:

- 3.1. The Applicant's financial qualifications to meet the obligations associated with their proposed project.
- 3.2. The availability of funds for all project costs that exceed the amount of the grant.
- 3.3. The Applicant must certify that they have, and will continue to have, sufficient financial resources to cover eligible costs for the project in between authorized grant disbursements.
- 3.4. The Applicant must provide a Letter of Credit or Bond Commitment (Appendix A or A1)⁷.

⁷ There are multiple options for either a Letter of Credit or Bond Commitment. Option 1: Applicants must submit a letter committing to issue an irrevocable standby Letter of Credit (LOC) equal to 25% of the total subaward. Using the template provided as Appendix A, the letter shall be issued by a) a bank meeting the eligibility requirements set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.804(c)(2); or b) a credit union that is insured by the National Credit Union Administration and has a credit union safety rating issued by Weiss of B- or better. The letter shall include the dollar amount of the letter of credit and the issuing bank's or credit union's agreement to follow the terms and conditions of the Letter of Credit. Option 2: Applicants must submit a letter committing to issue a performance bond equal to 100% of the total subaward. Using the template provided as Appendix A1, the letter shall be from a company holding a certificate of authority as an acceptable surety on federal bonds as identified in the Department of Treasury Circular 570 committing to issue a performance bond to the Applicant upon notice of award. The letter shall at a minimum provide the dollar amount of the performance bond. Option 3: Applicants must follow all the requirements of Option 1 or Option 2, but may reduce the amount, of Option 1 - 25% Irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit or Option 2 - 100% Performance Bond, to 10% if the Applicant agrees to the following requirements upon becoming a successful subgrantee: a. The ABO issues funding to the subgrantee on a reimbursable basis consistent with Section IV.C.1.b of the federal BEAD NOFO; b. Financial Progress Reports, and corresponding requests for reimbursement must be submitted monthly by the subgrantee, and c. The subgrantee commits to

- 3.5. The Applicant must provide Audited Financial Statements⁸:
- 3.5.1. Applicant shall attach financial statements from the prior fiscal year that have been audited by an independent certified public accountant. If the audit includes findings, the Applicant shall provide a written summary with the audit signed by the Applicant's chief financial officer, describing the implementation of all mitigation actions addressing the findings.
- 3.6. Pro Forma: Evidence is required of at least 3 years of operating cost and cash flow projections post targeted completion of project showing that the Applicant can sustainably operate the funded network and provide the committed service over the Asset Life. Evidence shall be provided through a pro forma showing:
- 3.6.1. Income Statement
- 3.6.2. Balance Sheet
- 3.6.3. Cash Flow Statement
- Pro Forma will include revenue covering expenses and capital maintenance/upgrades, demonstration of commitment by a company with long-term operating history and financial stability, or other comparable methods. The Applicant must attach Pro Forma Financial Statements.⁹

Criterion 4. Deleted – Intentionally Left Blank

Criterion 5: Technical Capability

(All elements are required to be present for a pass) [Must provide an electronic engineering zipped GIS shape file of the network and a fully filled out capital cost MS Excel model]

Each Applicant is required to submit the following documents. All engineering documents are required to be certified by a professional engineer licensed in the State of Alaska. For clarity, these requirements are sourced from the BEAD NOFO, page 74, which reads: *"Prospective subgrantees must submit a network design, diagram, project costs, build-out timeline and milestones for project implementation,...¹⁰ all certified by a professional engineer, stating that the proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets the requisite performance requirements to all locations served by the Project. The Eligible Entity [State of Alaska] shall not approve any grant for the deployment or upgrading of network facilities unless it determines that the materials submitted to it demonstrate the prospective subgrantee's technical capability with respect to the proposed project."*

5.1. Proposed Network Design

Describe the proposed broadband deployment project and the expected results. Include a description of how the proposed network will deliver the broadband services that meet the requisite performance requirements to all Unserved and Underserved Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) and Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) covered by the project(s) by priority. The narrative is required to include a description of the planned capital improvement schedule stating that the proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets the requisite performance requirements for all locations served by the project.

5.1.1. Plans are required to outline the following:

- In the community based BSLs and CAIs, a description of the project route and a list of all communities along the project path;

maintain a letter of credit or performance bond in the amount of 10% of the subaward until it has demonstrated to satisfaction of the ABO that it has completed the buildout of 100 percent of locations to be served by the project or until the period of performance of the subaward has ended, whichever occurs first. Low Earth Orbit Satellite Service providers are subject to the Letter of Credit or Bond requirements outlined in the [BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#).

⁸ Audited documents are encouraged to be but not required to be in Arial font size 12.

⁹ Pro Forma documents are encouraged to be but not required to be in Arial font size 12.

¹⁰ The language: "...and a capital investment schedule evidencing complete build-out and the initiation of service within four years of the date on which the entity receives the subgrant,..." was removed per a NTIA **Conditional Limited Programmatic Waiver and Clarification of Professional Engineer Certification** dated March 7, 2024.

- For all BSLs and CAIs in the PDPA(s) or Project Area(s) for which the Applicant is applying, please use Appendix L template to identify the current service levels for each BSL and/or CAI;
- The count of Unserved or Underserved BSLs;
- If a community along the project path or within a Pre-Determined Project Area (PDPA) is not considered in the design, a detailed explanation of why the BSLs and/or CAIs are omitted is required.

5.1.2. An electronic GIS shapefile of the full network diagram.

5.1.3. Applicants are required to provide a budget that includes at a minimum:

- The total project cost, broken down in detail into the following federal cost categories:
 - Personnel
 - Fringe Benefits
 - Travel
 - Equipment
 - Supplies
 - Contractual
 - Construction
 - Other
 - Indirect
- The cost per location to connect each BSL in the project path or PDPA
- Matching Funds: Include the amount and detail about the matching fund(s) source, including whether they are secured or planned for:
 - High-Cost Areas (HCA)
 - Non-High-Cost Areas (non-HCA)
- Matching Funds Waiver request (if applicable) in a Non-High-Cost Area (Appendix C)

5.1.4. Build-out timeline

5.1.5. 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.

5.2. Certification:

Each Applicant is required to certify in Appendix D that it is technically qualified to complete and operate the project and that it can carry out the funded activities in a competent manner. Applicants are required to show specific evidence of technical capability. This will be demonstrated through the certifying of the following as part of the narrative:

5.2.1. All Applicants must provide:

- If the Applicant is an existing provider, or a new entrant to the market, providing voice, broadband, and/or electric transmission or distribution, it must certify these facts and specify the number of years the Applicant or its parent company has been operating.
- If the Applicant is a provider of voice and/or broadband service, it must certify it has timely filed Commission Form 477s and the Broadband DATA Act submissions, if applicable, as required during the two-year period of experience prior to application, and that it will continue reporting as required; and that it has otherwise complied with the Federal Communication Commission's rules and regulations.
- An Applicant is required to explain any pending or completed enforcement action, civil litigation, or other matter in which it failed to comply or was alleged to have failed to comply with the Federal Communications Commission's rules or regulations.
- If the Applicant has operated an electric transmission or distribution service, it is required to submit qualified operating or financial reports that it has filed with the relevant financial institution for the relevant period along with a certification that the submission is a true and accurate copy of the reports that were provided to the relevant financial institution. Acceptable submissions for this purpose will be

the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Form 7, Financial and Operating Report Electric Distribution; the RUS Form 12, Financial and Operating Report Electric Power Supply; the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) Form 7, Financial and Statistical Report; the CFC Form 12, Operating Report; or the CoBank Form 7; or the functional replacement of one of these reports. See Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Order, 35 FCC Rcd at 719, n. 202.

5.3. Speed of Network: Each applicant is required to provide the information required below in Appendix D:

- 5.3.1. Bandwidth Commitment: Applicant is required to describe and ensure its network provides reliable broadband service with speeds of not less than 100 Mbps for downloads and 20 Mbps for uploads and that 95% of latency measurements fall at or below 100 milliseconds round-trip time.
- 5.3.2. Reliability Commitment: Applicant is required to describe how the network will, on average, not exceed 48 hours of outage time over any 365-day period except in the case of a Force Majeure occurrence.

Criterion 6: Deleted – Intentionally left Blank

Criterion 7: Compliance with Applicable Federal, State, and Local Laws

(All elements are required to be present for a pass.)

Each Applicant is required to self-certify that it has a demonstrated record of and plans to continue to comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws including Federal labor and employment laws.

Criterion 8: Deleted – Intentionally left Blank

Criterion 9: Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management (C-SCRM)

[Appendix G: Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management Compliance]

The Applicant must attest to the Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management items listed in Appendix G by completing and signing the certification. And, if necessary and requested by the NTIA, applicants must provide a copy of their C-SCRM compliance plan. Applicants must satisfy the statutory requirements of 47 U.S.C. §1702.

Criterion 10: Deleted – Intentionally Left Blank

Criterion 11. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Requirements

Applicants are required to include a narrative description of how the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements will be met. This must include how the Applicant will provide either the development of a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX), an Environmental Assessment (EA), and/or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Applicant narrative must include how these requirements will be met whether by a qualified consultant, public-private partnerships with industry experts, private sector partners, non-profit entities, partner with state/territory educational institutions such as community colleges or university systems, or with other subject matter experts (SMEs). Be advised that Applicants must meet federal NEPA requirements before any infrastructure deployment can begin.

Applicants are required to provide a narrative identifying the anticipated NEPA category for the project, and confirming that all planned construction and deployment activities are covered by the actions described in Chapter 3 (Alaska) of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Non-Contiguous United States (FPEIS) prepared by the First Responder Network Authority's (FirstNet) NEPA procedures identified under the BEAD program's authority as it relates to Alaska.

Link available at: [FirstNet FPEIS Non-Contiguous Chapter 3 Alaska July 2017.pdf](#)

NEPA can involve three different levels of analysis based on whether an action has the potential to cause significant environmental effects.

- **Categorical Exclusion (CATEX):** Actions that do not normally have individually or cumulatively significant effects on the human environment may be “categorically excluded” from a detailed environmental analysis. An analysis of environmental considerations of the proposed actions must be completed to determine whether a CATEX can apply.
- **Environmental Assessment (EA):** An EA will be prepared for projects that do not qualify for a CATEX, and when the significance of the project's environmental impact is not clearly established. If NTIA determines that a project will not have significant impacts on the quality of the environment based on the environmental analysis, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is issued. If environmental analysis finds that actions could have significant impact, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be required.
- **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** An EIS is prepared for projects when the action is determined to significantly affect the quality of the human environment. The regulatory requirements for an EIS are more detailed and rigorous than an EA. NTIA will document the final decision in a Record of Decision (ROD) which identifies the alternatives considered, explains the decision, and summarizes any necessary mitigation measures.

For additional technical assistance, see: [How to Plan and Prepare for National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\) Compliance for Alaska Broadband Grant Program](#)

For assistance with NTIA Permitting and Environmental Information Applications, see: [NTIA Permitting and Environmental Information Application \(arccgis.com\)](#)

Criterion 12. Indian Tribe/Tribal Entity Proof of Support

[Where applicable, attach proof of support per landowner]

To the extent the State of Alaska’s Final Proposal includes plans to deploy broadband to Unserved Service Projects or Underserved Service Projects on Tribal Lands, the State of Alaska is required to submit proof of consent from each Alaska Tribe upon whose Tribal Lands the infrastructure will be deployed. Each Applicant is required to obtain the necessary proof of substantial time-relevant evidence such Alaska Tribe has granted site control to the parcel or parcels of Tribal Land needed for the proposed project (e.g., a letter, easement, lease, purchase agreement, deed, license or other document signed by an authorized representative or body of such Alaska Tribe that specifically provides site control for the proposed project and affected parcel(s) (“Site Control”)). Further, no payments for eligible costs under the Grant Agreement will occur until the Applicant/Subgrantee provides the State of Alaska with the appropriate Site Control documentation.

Likewise, if the State of Alaska’s Final Proposal includes plans to deploy broadband to Unserved Service Projects or Underserved Service Projects on lands owned by any tribal entity, i.e., Village Corporations, Regional Corporations, or other tribal organizations, the State of Alaska is required to submit proof of consent from each Tribal Entity upon whose lands the infrastructure will be deployed. Each Applicant is required to obtain the necessary proof of substantial time-relevant evidence such Tribal Entity has granted site control to the parcel or parcels of land owned by the Tribal Entity needed for the proposed project (e.g., a letter, easement, lease, purchase agreement, deed, license, or other document signed by an authorized representative or body of such Alaska Tribe that specifically provides site control for the proposed project and affected parcel(s) (Site Control”)). Further, no payments for eligible costs under the Grant Agreement will occur until the Applicant/Subgrantee provides the State of Alaska with the appropriate Site Control documentation.

In addition, if awarded, 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. At a minimum, the exchange must include what was shared and any questions the Alaska Tribe(s) had and the responses to those questions. If an Applicant is unable to contact an Alaska Tribe, the applicant must show the multiple ways in which it attempted to contact the Alaska Tribe and explain why each was unsuccessful.

Criterion 13. Low-Cost Service Option

As required by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity, Applicants must show proof they will offer not less than one Low-Cost Service Option (LCSO) for Eligible Subscribers at speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps and latency performance of no more than 100 milliseconds for the useful life of the network assets. Applicants that already offer a low-cost plan that meets these service requirements may satisfy the LCSO requirement by proposing to offer their existing low-cost plan to eligible subscribers. Applicants must list their LCSO rate.

Criterion 14. Deleted – Intentionally Left Blank

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).

FILING REQUIREMENTS

APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED VIA DCRA GRANTS PORTAL

A portal instruction guide is provided separately and is available on the ABO website along with other NOFO documentation. Portal registration to access the application is a multi-step process. Applicants are encouraged to register as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to access, develop, and submit applications. Portal registration guidance is also available on the ABO website.

References to character limits within this document refer to portal entries.

PAPER APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL OR USPS

If Applicants without high-speed internet access are submitting a paper application via email or USPS, contact jan.cox@alaska.gov for technical assistance and further instructions. Applications are required to use the MQ Criterion headers listed above in the Project Narrative to organize the submission. A minimum font size of 12, font type Arial, is required, and page size may not exceed a letter sized sheet (8 ½" X 11"). Applicants will also need to submit, via USPS, an electronic file of the project engineering in a zipped GIS shapefile format to the mailing address on page 5 of this document. All documentation, including appendices, attachments, certifications, and attestations shall be submitted in PDF format, other than the GIS shapefile engineering documentation, and are required to be submitted for a complete application. Failure to do so will result in a rejected application. Do not submit applications via more than one delivery method.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

Applicants acknowledge that all information submitted to ABO may be subject to public disclosure. ABO will not publicly disclose or post any personally identifiable information (PII) or proprietary information unless required to do so by law or court order. ABO will treat Applicant's information that is designated as proprietary and confidential consistent with applicable federal and state law. If any Grant Application contains information or data that the Applicant deems to be confidential or proprietary and it requests the information be exempt from disclosure under state open records laws or is protected under applicable state or federal privacy laws, the Grant Applicant shall specifically designate the information as privileged, proprietary, or confidential. Otherwise, the information may be made publicly available. In addition to applicable federal law, ABO will comply with all Alaska laws regarding

disclosure, privacy, and confidentiality, including but not limited to relevant provisions in the following: the Alaska Public Records Act, AS 40.25.100 – 40.25.295 and applicable regulations at 2 AAC 96.100 – 2 AAC 96.900; the Alaska Personal Information and Protection Act, AS 45.48.010 – AS 45.48.995; and any other applicable state laws.

SECTION 3 – SCORING MATRIX AND DESCRIPTIONS

A. Supra-Scoring		Points Available
A.1. Priority Broadband Projects	Priority Broadband Project. The term “Priority Broadband Project” means a project that provides broadband service at speeds of no less than 100 megabits per second for downloads and 20 megabits per second for uploads, has a latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds, and can easily scale speeds as determined by FCC Broadband Benchmarks over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses and support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services. If the State of Alaska determines that selecting a Priority Broadband Project would incur excessive costs, it shall select a lower cost non-Priority Broadband Project.	100
	Total Supra-Scoring Points Available:	100
B. Primary Criteria Scoring		Points Available
B.1. Minimal BEAD Program Outlay	Minimal BEAD Program Outlay. The State of Alaska must select the combination of project proposals with the lowest overall cost to the Program. This may involve selecting a proposal that is not the lowest-cost option for a given set of BSLs but is part of the combination of selected projects with the lowest overall cost to the Program. The formula is the total BEAD funding that will be required to complete the project divided by the number of BSLs the project will serve.	100
	Total Primary Criteria Points Available:	100
C. Secondary Criteria Scoring		Points Available
C.1. Speed to Deployment	48 Months	10
C.2. Speed of Network and Other Technical Capabilities	C.2.1. Speed must scale to the FCC Broadband Benchmarks over time, C.2.2. Adhere to the FCC's Measuring Fixed Broadband - 11th Report, and C.2.3. Low-Cost Service Option Rate Provided.	90
C.3. Preliminary/Provisional Subgrantees	For locations where the State of Alaska has already identified preliminary or provisionally selected subgrantees, the State may give additional weight to those applications in the Benefit of the Bargain Round.	0
	Total Secondary Criteria Points Available:	100

A. SUPRA-SCORING

Automatic Subgrantee Selection

Priority Broadband Projects. If an Applicant's application is the only "Priority Broadband Project" as defined below and all other applications do not meet the definition of "Priority Broadband Project", then the Priority Broadband Project, after the State assesses that the project does not "incur excessive costs", will be awarded to the Applicant with the "Priority Broadband Project" with no other scoring evaluated.

If there are multiple "Priority Broadband Projects" that do not incur excessive costs or the "Priority Broadband Projects" incur excessive costs, then the State shall select a lower cost Priority Broadband Project or non-Priority Broadband Project based on the scoring criteria in subsections B. or C. below.

The term "Priority Broadband Project" means a project that provides broadband service at speeds of no less than 100 megabits per second for downloads and 20 megabits per second for uploads, has a latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds, and, in order to ensure equal access to broadband by all Alaskans, can easily scale speeds as determined by FCC Broadband Benchmarks over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses and support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services.

B. PRIMARY CRITERIA SCORING

100 Points of total score

Minimal BEAD Program Outlay. If no Priority Broadband Projects are selected or there are multiple Priority and Non-Priority Broadband Projects, the State of Alaska must select the combination of project proposals with the lowest overall cost to the Program. This may involve selecting a proposal that is not the lowest-cost option for a given set of BSLs but is part of the combination of selected projects with the lowest overall cost to the Program.

The formula is the total BEAD funding that will be required to complete the project divided by the number of BSLs the project will serve.

If an application to serve the same general project area proposes a project cost within 15% of the lowest-cost proposal received for that same general project area on a per BSL basis, the State of Alaska will evaluate the competing applications based on the three criteria in Section C. Secondary Criteria Scoring.

C. SECONDARY CRITERIA SCORING

100 Points of total score

C.1. Speed to Deployment. (10 of 100 points)

This section will be scored by assigning for each project 10 points to the Applicant who demonstrates the fastest speed to deployment. All other Applicants for the project will receive 9 points. In the case of a tie for the fastest speed to deployment for the project, all tied Applicants will receive 10 points, and all others will receive 9 points.

C.2. Speed of Network and Other Technical Capabilities. (90 of 100 points)

Applicants must certify the speed, latency, and other technical capabilities as described below:

C.2.1. Speed: To ensure equal access to broadband by all Alaskans, download speed must be equal to or better than as determined by FCC Broadband Benchmarks over time. If an Applicant commits to immediately providing equal or better service, all points are awarded; if not, no points are awarded (60 points),

C.2.2. Latency: Ability to meet the FCC's Broadband monitoring criteria "The 80/80 rule"¹¹. If an Applicant

¹¹ The service characteristics outlined in the proposed plan must include speeds and latency requirements that are in accordance with the FCC's 80/80 metric. That is, if the ABO or any other entity assigned by the ABO tests the end user speeds of these plans, the requirements will only be met if 80% of the tests meet or exceed 80% of the required speeds and 95% of latency measurements must be at or below 100 milliseconds round trip. For instance, if the ABO runs 100 speed tests at a selection of broadband service plans, then at least 80 of those speed tests must meet 80% of the speed requirements and 95 latency measurements must meet requirements. For the purposes of these specifications, "typical" download or upload speeds mean that 80% of speed tests must demonstrate at or above 80% of such speeds. Furthermore, 95% of latency tests must

commits to immediately providing monitoring based on the FCC's Measuring Fixed Broadband – Eleventh Report, all points are awarded; if not, no points are awarded (10 points), and

C.2.3. Other Technical Capability: The Applicant that provides a Low-Cost Service Option of 100/20Mbps with less than 100ms latency with the lowest monthly cost with a commitment to maintain the price for the useful life of the network assets will receive 100% of the points in this subcategory (20 points).

C.3. Preliminary/Provisional Subgrantees. (0 of 100 Points)

This category is required by the NTIA but only applies to those states and territories that had already run application rounds. The State of Alaska is not in this situation and so the points associated with this category are 0.

SECTION 4 – GRANT AWARDS

After criterion evaluation and scoring, the Scoring Committee will submit proposed funding awards to the NTIA for approval as part of the ABO's Final Proposal. After NTIA approval, all Applicants will receive written notification of the scoring results.

An Applicant may appeal the scoring results to the DCCED Commissioner. The *only* basis for an appeal is non-adherence by the Scoring Committee to the grant selection and award procedures as identified herein. Appeals must be received by the DCCED Commissioner's Office in writing within ten business days of the date of notification of criterion evaluation and scoring results and must clearly state the basis for the appeal. The appeal will be reviewed by the Commissioner and a final determination will be made within thirty days of receipt of the written appeal. Decisions by the Commissioner are final and may be appealed directly to the Alaska Superior Court.

GRANT INITIATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Following notification of award, a Grant Agreement will be executed for each funded project. Notification of project selection does not imply approval of all activities, specific costs proposed, or proposed timelines.

Grants may be awarded at an amount less than originally requested. Individual grants will be awarded only in amounts appropriate to the scope of the identified project; the proposed project activities; and the needs, resources, and capabilities of the Applicant.

The Grant Agreement is the legal document that governs the administration of the grant, and a draft is attached at Appendix H.

GRANT PAYMENTS

Grant Program agreements are administered on a cost reimbursable basis. If Applicants are awarded Grant Program funds, the awardee will be expected to pay for expenses as they are incurred and submit a billing at the end of each month for reimbursement by DCCED. This requires that the awardees have the cash resources to cover at least 30 to 45 days' cash needs.

GRANT AWARD PERFORMANCE

1. Submittals Post Award/Prior to Disbursement of Funds
Applicants successful in being awarded grant funds will be provided with a set of dates by which post-award performance progress and financial reporting will be required during the term of the grant and upon close-out of the grant.
2. Project Construction/Network Deployment
As established in Section 60102(h)(4)(C) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-58), Applicants that receive BEAD Program funds for network deployment must deploy the planned broadband network and, for last mile projects, begin providing services to each customer that desires broadband service within the project area, not later than four years after the date on which the date the Grant Agreement is signed by all parties.
3. Project Construction/Deployment Extensions
The ABO may grant an extension to a grantee for not more than one year if: 1) the grantee has a specific plan for use of the grant funds, with project completion expected by a specific date not more than one year after the four-year deadline; 2) the construction project is underway; or 3) in the ABO's sole judgement, extenuating circumstances require an extension of time to allow the project to be completed.
- 3.1. Petition for Extension
Grantees may petition for not more than a one-year extension under the circumstances outlined in Section 3 above. The Petition must be submitted on the Petition for Extension Application provided, upon request,

by the ABO. The Petition for Extension Application must be submitted to the ABO not less than six months prior to the project four-year completion deadline identified in the subaward Grant Agreement. The ABO will review and issue determinations regarding Petition for Extension Applications. Determinations shall be issued in writing within thirty calendar days of the submittal of a Petition for Extension Application. An Applicant may appeal the determination of the ABO Scoring Committee to the DCCED Commissioner. Appeals must be received by the DCCED Commissioner's Office in writing within ten business days of the date of notification of the determination and must clearly state the basis for the appeal. The appeal will be reviewed by the Commissioner and a final determination will be made within thirty days of receipt of the written appeal. Decisions by the Commissioner are final and may be appealed directly to the Alaska Superior Court.

SECTION 5 – DEFINITIONS

Affiliate – The term “affiliate” shall be defined consistent with 47 U.S.C. § 153(2) (“The term ‘affiliate’ means a person that (directly or indirectly) owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, another person. For purposes of this paragraph, the term “own” means to own an equity interest (or the equivalent thereof) of more than 10 percent.”).

Affordable Connectivity Program – The term “Affordable Connectivity Program” (ACP) means the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Program established in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (Infrastructure Act) as the successor to a previous program that has since been discontinued. The Commission in 2022 issued the *Affordable Connectivity Program Report and Order*, which sets out details regarding the ACP’s operation. See Affordable Connectivity Program, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 22-2, (rel. Jan. 21, 2022).

Alaska Broadband Office – The term “Alaska Broadband Office” (ABO) means the State of Alaska Office of Broadband established in House Bill 363 and signed into law by Governor Dunleavy in August 2022 that resides within the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED).

Alaska Tribe – “Alaska Tribe” means those tribes who are federally recognized, as provided in the most recent Federal Register. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/01/08/2024-00109/indian-entities-recognized-by-and-eligible-to-receive-services-from-the-united-states-bureau-of>

ANSCA Regional Corporation Lands and Village Corporation Lands – “Regional Corporation Lands and Village Corporations Lands” means lands owned by the Regional and Village Corporations and documented by either a fee simple or quit claim deed and are not Tribal Lands.

Applicant – The term “Applicant” means any entity applying for grant funding for a broadband deployment project under this program.

Asset or Network Asset – The term “asset” or “network asset” means the construction, improvement, and/or acquisition of facilities and telecommunications equipment, and its associated appurtenances, required to provide bandwidth data transmission that exploits signals at a wide spread of frequencies or several different simultaneous frequencies and is used in internet connections of at least 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload bandwidth, including infrastructure for backhaul, middle- and last mile networks, and multi-tenant buildings. The medium can be fiber optic, coaxial cable, microwave, Wi-Fi, twisted pair, geo-synchronistic orbit satellite (~22,000 miles above the surface), middle earth orbit satellite (between 3,100-7,500 miles above the surface), or low earth orbit satellite (between 500-1,000 miles above the surface).

Asset Life – The term “asset life” means a duration of no less than 10 years and includes all upgrades and replacements necessary to maintain the current FCC minimum bandwidth requirements on the network Asset.

Assistant Secretary – The term “Assistant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce for Communications and Information and National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) Administrator or the individual who holds any successor position.

Broadband; Broadband Service – The term “broadband” or “broadband service” has the meaning given the term “broadband internet access service” in Section 8.1(b) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation, meaning it is a mass-market retail service by wire or radio that provides the capability to transmit data to and receive data from all or substantially all internet endpoints, including any capabilities that are incidental to and enable the operation of the communications service but excluding dial-up internet access

service.

Broadband Data Maps – The term “Broadband Data Maps” means the maps created by the Federal Communications Commission under Section 802(c)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. §642(c)(1)).

Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment Program – The term “Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment Program” (BEAD) means the program established in the Infrastructure Act that provides \$42.45 billion to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment, and adoption programs in all 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Community or Communities – The term “community” or “communities” means a City, Borough, or an unincorporated area with a qualified entity that has received money from the Community Assistance Program administered by DCCED, Division of Community & Regional Affairs at least once within the last five (5) consecutive years.

Community Anchor Institution – The term “community anchor institution” means an entity such as a school, library, health clinic, health center, hospital or other medical provider, public safety entity, institution of higher education, public housing organization, or community support organization that facilitates greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including low-income individuals, unemployed individuals, and aged individuals.

Eligible Community Anchor Institution – The term “eligible community anchor institution” means a community anchor institution that lacks access to Gigabit-level broadband service.

Eligible Subscriber – The term “eligible subscriber” means any household seeking to subscribe to broadband internet access service that is eligible for the FCC’s Lifeline Program as defined in 47 CFR § 54.409.

Force Majeure – The term “Force Majeure” means an act of God, flood, fire, earthquake, avalanche, explosion, pandemic, war, terrorism, invasion, riot or other civil unrest, strikes, labor stoppages or slowdowns or other industrial disturbances, or unexpected and unforeseeable passage of law or any action taken by a governmental or public authority, including imposing an embargo, that delays performance of obligations under the Grant Agreement.

Funded Network – The term “Funded Network” means any broadband network deployed and/or upgraded with BEAD Program funds.

Grantee – The term “grantee” means an entity that receives grant funds from the State of Alaska to carry out eligible activities.

High-Cost Area – The term “high-cost area” means an Unserved area in which the cost of building out broadband service is higher, as compared with the average cost of building out broadband service in Unserved areas in the United States. The NTIA has determined that the following 61 Census Block Groups in Alaska are High-Cost Areas: 020130001001, 020130001002, 020130001003, 020160001001, 020160002001, 020160002002, 020209800001, 020500001001, 020500001002, 020500001003, 020500001004, 020500001005, 020500002001, 020500002002, 020500002003, 020500002004, 020500003001, 020600001001, 020700001001, 020700002001, 020900019021, 021050004003, 021220001001, 021220002002, 021220004001, 021220008001, 021220008002, 021220012001, 021500001001, 021500001002, 021500001003, 021580001001, 021580001002, 021580001003, 021580001004, 021640001001, 021700001011, 021800001001, 021880001001, 021880001002, 021880001003, 021880001004, 021880001005, 021980001001, 021980001002, 021980002001, 021980003001, 021989401003, 022200001001, 022400001001, 022400004001, 022400004002, 022400004003, 022820001001,

022900001001, 022900001002, 022900002001, 022900003001, 022900003002, 022900003003, 022900004001.

Indian Tribe — The term “Indian Tribe” means any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, individually recognized (including parenthetically), or Alaska Native Tribe or Entities in the list published most recently as of the date of enactment of this Act pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. § 5131). *See Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Entities Recognized by and Eligible to Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs, 86 Fed. Reg. 7554 (Jan. 29, 2021).*

Location; Broadband Serviceable Location – The terms “location” and “Broadband Serviceable Location” mean “a business or residential location in the United States at which fixed broadband Internet access service is, or can be, installed”.

Middle Mile Infrastructure – The term “Middle Mile Infrastructure” or “Middle Mile” means any broadband infrastructure that does not connect directly to an end-user location, including a community anchor institution.

Non-High-Cost Area – All Alaska Census Block Groups not in the High-Cost Area list.

Priority Broadband Project – The term “Priority Broadband Project” means a project that provides broadband service at speeds of no less than 100 megabits per second for downloads and 20 megabits per second for uploads, has a latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds, and, in order to ensure equal access to broadband by all Alaskans, can easily scale speeds as determined by FCC Broadband Benchmarks over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses and support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services.

Program – The term “Program” means the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program.

Project – The term “project” means an undertaking by a grantee to construct and deploy infrastructure for the provision of broadband service. A “project” may constitute a single Unserved or Underserved Broadband Serviceable Location, or a grouping of Broadband Serviceable Locations in which not less than 80 percent of Broadband Serviceable Locations served by the project are Unserved locations or Underserved locations.

Tribal Consortium – The term “Tribal Consortium” means a partnership between two or more Indian Tribes that work together to achieve a common objective, and whose authority is conferred through resolution from the governing bodies of its member tribes.

Tribal Government – The term “Tribal Government” means the governing body of any Indian band, nation, pueblo, village, community, component band, or component reservation, individually recognized (including parenthetically), or Alaska Native Tribe or Entities in the list published most recently as of the date of enactment of this Act pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. § 5131). *See Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Entities Recognized by and Eligible to Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs, 86 Fed. Reg. 7554 (Jan. 29, 2021).*

Tribal Lands – The term “Tribal Lands” means: (1) lands that are not Regional Corporation Lands and Village Corporation Lands; (2) lands owned by an Alaska Tribe and documented by either a fee simple deed or quit claim deed, which includes lands owned by an Alaska Tribe and that are held in trust by the United States on behalf of that Alaska Tribe; and (3) lands and waters set apart as a reservation by Section 15 of the Act of March 3, 1891 (26 Stat. 1101, 48 U.S.C. sec. 358) and the Presidential Proclamation of April 28, 1916 (39 Stat. 1777) (i.e. the Annette Islands Reserve).

Underserved Location – The term “Underserved location” means a Broadband Serviceable Location that is (a)

not an Unserved location, and (b) that the Broadband Data Maps show as lacking access to Reliable Broadband Service offered with—(i) a speed of not less than 100 megabits per second (Mbps) for downloads; and (ii) a speed of not less than 20 Mbps for uploads; and (iii) latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds.

Underserved Service Project – The term “Underserved Service Project” means a project in which not less than 80 percent of Broadband Serviceable Locations served by the project are Unserved locations or Underserved locations. An “Underserved Service Project” may be as small as a single Underserved Broadband Serviceable Location.

Unserved Location – The term “Unserved location” means a Broadband Serviceable Location that the Broadband Data Maps show as (a) having no access to broadband service, or (b) lacking access to Reliable Broadband Service offered with—(i) a speed of not less than 25 Mbps for downloads; and (ii) a speed of not less than 3 Mbps for uploads; and (iii) latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds.

Unserved Service Project – The term “Unserved Service Project” means a project in which not less than 80 percent of Broadband Serviceable Locations served by the project are Unserved locations. An “Unserved Service Project” may be as small as a single Unserved Broadband Serviceable Location.

SECTION 6 – APPENDICES

The Appendix list includes Appendices A through L. Please complete and ensure the required appendices are attached to your application.

APPENDIX A: Letter of Credit Commitment

APPENDIX A1: Letter of Bond Commitment

APPENDIX B: Deleted Appendix – Intentionally Left Blank

APPENDIX C: Federal Match Waiver Request Form (*if applicable*)

APPENDIX D: Technical Capability Certification Form

APPENDIX E: Deleted Appendix – Intentionally Left Blank

APPENDIX F: Deleted Appendix – Intentionally Left Blank

APPENDIX G: Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management Compliance Form

APPENDIX H: Sample – Alaska Broadband Grant Agreement

APPENDIX I: Unserved and Underserved BSLs and Community Anchor Institutions by Pre-Determined Project Area

APPENDIX J: Ownership Certification Form

APPENDIX K: Deleted Appendix – Intentionally Left Blank

APPENDIX L: Current Service Levels for BSLs and CAIs – Template

Exhibit A: BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice