NCDIT & NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Division of Broadband and Digital Equity

2021-2022 GREAT GRANT

INFORMATION SESSION FOR ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

FEB. 10, 2022

NATE DENNY

DEPUTY SECRETARY DIVISION OF BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY



DIRECTOR BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE OFFICE

Key Success Metrics

Success Metrics		N.C. Today	N.C. 2025
	Households with broadband internet access	"95.5%"	98%
(((°	Households with broadband internet subscriptions	73%	80%
(((o))) A	Households with children with broadband internet subscriptions	81%	100%
	Adoption rates across racial subgroups		
	Native American	57%	80%
	• Black	64%	80%
	• Latinx	68%	80%
	• White	76%	80%



- Key points of this application round
- Overview of the NC OneMap GREAT Grant Mapping Tool
- Answering your questions



To facilitate economic development through the deployment of broadband to unserved areas of the state



- Opened: Jan. 31
- Deadline: April 4



GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION

https://www.ncbroadband.gov/grants/great-grant-federal/great-grant-2021-2022

Website contains:

- Key dates
- Program guidelines
- Directions to access online application portal
- FAQs
- Information session recording



GUIDELINES & PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Federal ARPA-funded program Guidelines developed under Section38.4.(a) of SL 2021-180 and U.S. Treasury Guidance

\$350M in total funds available

Private providers or cooperatively organized entities

Unserved areas without access to 25:3 speed Tier 1, 2, and rural census tracts in Tier 3 counties A single grant award cannot exceed \$4 million Awards for projects in any one county cannot exceed \$8 million

Defined scoring criteria

Matching awardee funds required Minimum speeds of 100:20, scalable to 100 symmetrical by Dec. 31, 2026

5-year service agreement



SOURCE OF FEDERAL FUNDS & REQUIREMENTS

State Fiscal Recovery Funds

- Exempt from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements*
- Exempt from Davis-Bacon Act labor requirements unless project is over \$10 million*
- * Maybe subject to these requirements if other federal financial assistance programs are part of the project
- Awardees are required to participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) or provide a broad-based affordability program to low-income consumers like the ACP
- Follow the Uniform Guidance 2 CFR 200
- Register for a D-U-N-S number
- System Award Management (SAM.gov) ID
- Debarment Certification



SOURCE OF FEDERAL FUNDS & REQUIREMENTS

Capital Projects Fund

- Exempt from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements*; however, awardees may complete an environmental checklist
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Key Definitions & Provisions



KEY DEFINITIONS - UPDATED FOR THIS ROUND

- Eligible Project
- Eligible Economically Distressed County
- Broadband Service
- Unserved Area
- Partnership



PROVISIONS - UPDATED FOR THIS ROUND

- Protest Process
- Partnership criterion
 - Cost per household and business
 - Base speed multiplier
 - Speed Requirements for Deployments
 - Opportunity for Additional Points



Eligible Projects/Activities



An eligible project is a discrete and specific project located in an unserved area of an economically distressed county seeking to provide broadband service to prospective broadband recipients.



Eligible projects do not include middle mile, backhaul, and other similar projects not directed at broadband service to end users.



If a contiguous project area crosses from one eligible county into one or more eligible adjacent counties, for the purposes of this section, the project shall be deemed to be located in the county where the greatest number of unserved households are proposed to be served.



Costs directly related to the construction of broadband infrastructure and extension of service for an eligible project:

- Easements (one-time fees)
- Materials (fiber, equipment, etc.)
- Construction/Installation
- Testing



INELIGIBLE COSTS

- Overhead or administrative costs
- Recurring operating costs or maintenance
- Backhaul infrastructure must facilitate last-mile service towards specific end-users
- Towers may be eligible, but applicants encouraged to utilize vertical assets already in place or easily installed as much as possible



5-Year Service Agreement

- **Deployment Project Period:** Two years from the effective date of the grant agreement
- **Maintenance Period**: Following the deployment phase, service must continue to be made available to those households and businesses for the remainder of the five-year agreement period.



Eligible Areas, Ineligible Areas and Mapping Data



Areas without Internet service, reliably*, providing transmission speeds of 25:3 Mbps (wireline or fixed wireless) - considered "unserved"

- Applicants identify the areas they wish to apply to serve
- Applicants can apply for funding to serve census blocks OR portions of census blocks

*Reliably is a term described in the US Treasury FAQ document for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.



IDENTIFYING ELIGIBLE AREAS - WHERE TO START

Suggested data to provide baseline information as you develop your areas:

- Census block boundaries in the eligible economically distressed county
- Census blocks with less then 25:3 Mbps, according to the FCC Form 477 Data (entire blocks)
- Ineligible blocks
 - Eligible Economically Distressed Counties, Protected Areas, Previous GREAT Grant Awards
- Other data as outlined in the Guidance Document



IDENTIFYING ELIGIBLE AREAS - OTHER DATA

- Applicants may choose to utilize other sources of data, including field data, as part of their planning and application development
- If utilizing other sources of data to identify unserved locations, applicants must provide a detailed narrative describing their **methodology** for determining the proposed funding area is unserved and eligible for funding
- Protest Process is built into the Application Review Process, and BIO will conduct its own evaluation based on data available, including field tests when necessary



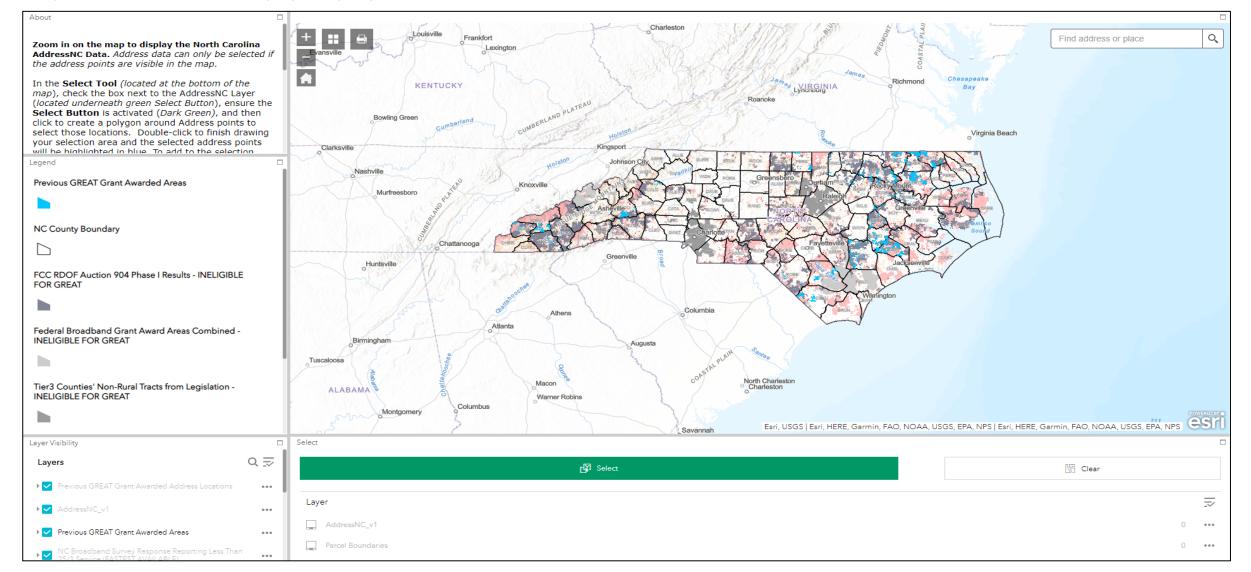
Areas where a private provider has been designated to receive funds through other State or federally funded programs designed specifically for broadband deployment shall be considered served if:

- 1. Such funding is intended to result in construction of broadband in the area within 18 months, or
- 2. For the duration of the federal funding program for that area, or
- 3. If the funding recipient is otherwise in good standing with the funding agency's regulations governing the funding program.



BASELINE DATA FOR IDENTIFYING ELIGIBLE AREAS

https://www.nconemap.gov/pages/broadband



DOWNLOADABLE DATASETS & SHAPEFILES

From NC OneMap webpage:

- Census blocks with less then 25/3 Mbps, according to the FCC Form 477 Data (entire blocks)
- NC Broadband Survey data
- Ineligible areas

This is built on top of the AddressNC - NC Statewide Address Data





Live Demonstration

BEN SHELTON, GISP

PROJECT MANAGER N.C. CENTER FOR GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS



SUMMARY OF GUIDELINES

Application Materials



APPLICATION MATERIALS

Basic applicant information	Proposed # of households	Proposed # of businesses	Description of project area, ID of locations, maps, and mapping data	Base speed to all locations throughout project area
Total project cost	Excel spreadsheet of itemized costs with methodology	Proof of financial solvency	Evidence of proposed partnership	Evidence of support from community
Technical report	Statement of qualifications	Assessment of current level of broadband access in proposed area	Description of proposed services, advertised speeds, pricing structure at project completion	Description of adoption plan
		Confirm if engineering services or construction will be contracted or completed by in-house staff		



SUMMARY OF GUIDELINES

Protesting an Application



All applications must be publicly posted for at least 20 days prior to award.



Eligible Entity that can submit a protest is "A broadband service provider currently providing broadband service in a project area proposed in an application."



Protesting ISP can only submit a protest if the:

• Proposed project covers an area that is a protected area as defined in our Guidance Document

OR

• Proposed project area contains 10% or more of total households with access to broadband service



Every protest must:

- Be in writing
- Accompanied by all relevant supporting documentation as defined in the Guidance Document Protest
- Must include specific addresses
- Broadband service must be available to the exterior of the structure at the specific addresses indicated

*Protesting ISP bears the burden of proof



PROTEST PROCESS

Decision Process

- BIO will review data and adjudicate
- Written decision issued by Secretary
- Decision at least 15 days prior to application approval
- BIO will share decisions with the protesting party and the relevant applicant(s). Areas declared ineligible released to applicants.



Decision Process

- If protest granted for a project area, applicant will be notified to revise the application to:
 - amend proposed project areas (i.e., less locations deemed ineligible)
 - o revise the budget



SUMMARY OF GUIDELINES

Scoring/Match



Competitive

Sliding points scale

Highest score receives priority for funding

BIO will review application and give "final" score BIO will verify match requirement



SCORING CRITERIA

Defined in authorizing legislation

The criteria and description on how to earn points is in Section 5 of the Guidance Document

Opportunity to earn points in each criterion:

- Partnership Up to 4 points
- Unserved Households in a County Range from 1 3 points
- Percentage of unserved HH to be served Range from 1 3 points
- Unserved Business(es) to be served Range 1 3 points
- Cost Per Household or Business Range 7 9 points or Zero Points
- Base Speed Multiplier Based on minimum speeds offered to project area*

Minimum Speeds	Score Multiplier
100:20 Mbps up to 100:100 Mbps	1.00
100 Mbps, symmetrical	2.00
Greater than 100:100 Mbps	3.00

- Additional Points Community Broadband Playbook 1 point
- Additional Points County Match Range 1 7 points



SCORING CRITERIA

Implementation "Formula"

- Partnership + Unserved HH in a County + Percentage of unserved HH to be served + Unserved Business(es) to be served + Cost Per Household or Business = Initial Score
- Initial Score x Base Speed Multiplier* = Subtotal Score
- Subtotal + Community Broadband Playbook + County Match = Final Score

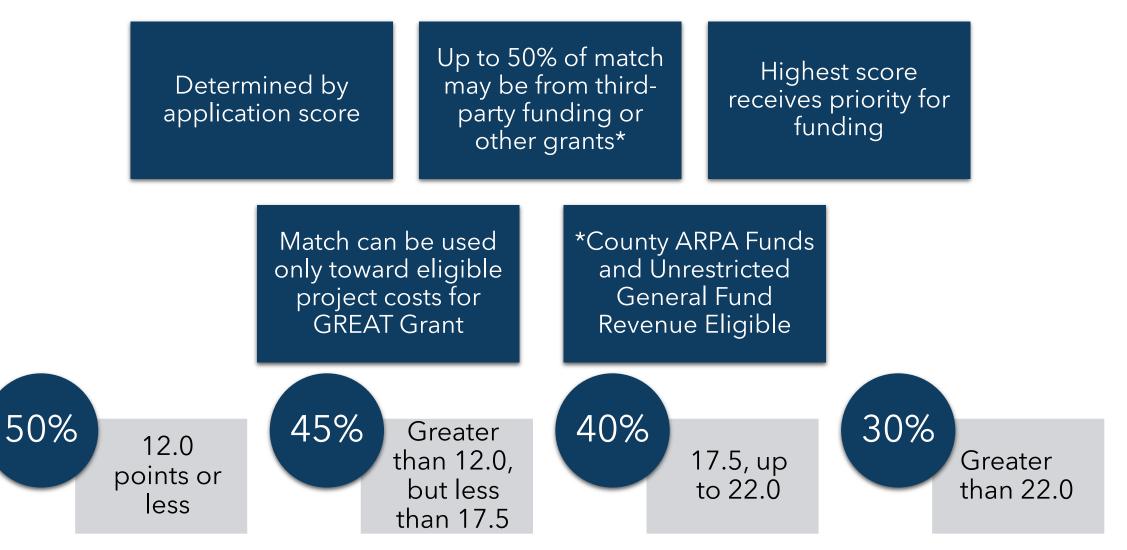
Applications that do not adequately explain how they can reliably provide broadband speeds indicated, or do not adequately address scalability of service to 100 Mbps symmetrical by Dec. 31, 2026, maybe deemed ineligible for consideration



BIO shall give priority to the application proposing to serve the highest number of new households at the lowest cost per household



MATCHING FUNDS





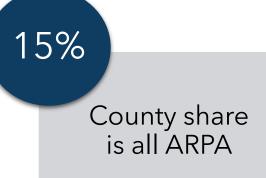
MATCHING FUNDS

***Potential Match Reduction - Regardless of Score**

County Financial Contribution <u>partially</u> ARPA

County Financial Contribution <u>entirely</u> ARPA

25% County share is partially comprised of ARPA funds





SUMMARY OF GUIDELINES

Compliance



HIGHLIGHTS FEDERAL COMPLIANCE

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CONTRACT TERMS - REPORTS AND MILESTONES

- Number of prospective broadband recipients that have access as a result of this project
- Average monthly subscription cost
- Disclosure of any changes to data caps if different from the application
- *Contract terms will be detailed in the grant agreement



CONTRACT TERMS - REPORTS AND MILESTONES

- Construction period milestones
- Financial documentation related to the match
- Financial documentation related to grant reimbursements
- Any other state or federal conditions to satisfy the grant agreement
- *Contract terms will be detailed in the grant agreement



CONTRACT TERMS - CLAW BACK PROVISION

A grant recipient shall forfeit the amount of the grant received if it fails to perform, in material respect the obligations established in the agreement. Two specific provisions in our authorizing legislation that would constitute a repayment:

• Failure to provide the minimum advertised connection speed claimed in the base speed multiplier

OR

• If the applicant claims the base speed multiplier of less than 100 symmetrical, the technology must be scalable to 100 symmetrical by December 31, 2026. Failure to provide 100 Mbps, symmetrical, will result in repayment of funds.

Amount forfeited: the amount disbursed plus interest at a rate per NCGS 105-241.21 (interest on taxes).



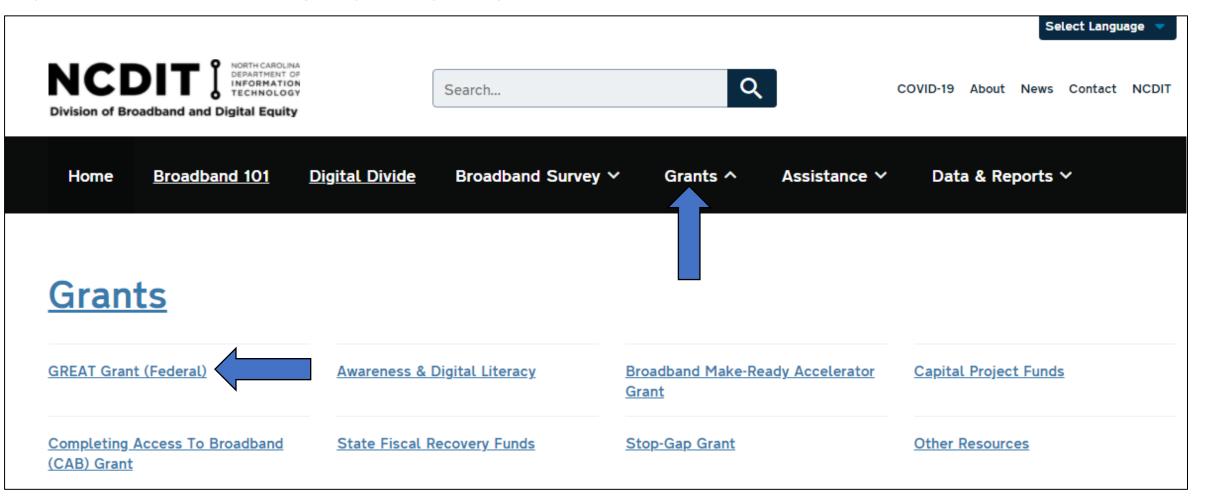


Registering as an Applicant



REGISTERING AS AN APPLICANT

https://www.ncbroadband.gov/grants/great-grant-federal/





REGISTERING AS AN APPLICANT

https://www.ncbroadband.gov/grants/great-grant-federal/great-grant-2021-2022

<u>Home</u>	Broadband 101	<u>Digital Divide</u>	Broadband Survey 🗸	Grants ∽	Assistance 🗸	Data & Reports ∨
• <u>Down</u>	lload the 2021-2022	<u>GREAT Grant guida</u>	nce			
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	4. Register for * <u>System Award Management ID.</u> ₫					
5. Retur	5. Return to this GREAT Grant webpage, click <u>"Start Your Application."</u> 🗗					
*Required	for the application.					
Please ser <u>greatgrant</u>		comments about the	e Great Grant 2021-2022 ap	plication round	to	



REGISTERING AS AN APPLICANT

https://ncid.nc.gov

	ps	
	NCID	6
	Username	
	Password	
	NCID Login	
	Forgot Username Forgot Password Unlock Account	
Need Help	o?	Register!



REGISTERING FOR AN NCID

https://ncid.nc.gov



This system is the property of the State of North Carolina and is for authorized use only. Unauthorized access is a violation of federal and state law. All software, data transactions, and electronic communications are subject to monitoring.



REGISTERING TO ACCESS APPLICATION PORTAL

https://www.ebs.nc.gov/sap/crmaccess/index.html

Enterprise Business S	ervices (EBS) External Access Request Application
User ID Information	
*Agency:	
If you already log into ebs.nc.gov (Enterprise Business Services), enter your current	User ID:
*Last Name:	
*First Name:	
Middle Name:	
*Organization Name (Legal Name of Entity - Registered with the NC Secretary of Sta	ate):
Organization Name 2 (DBA):	
*Organization Address:	
No P.O. Box	
*City:	
*State (select from drop down):	
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REGISTERING FOR D-U-N-S NUMBER

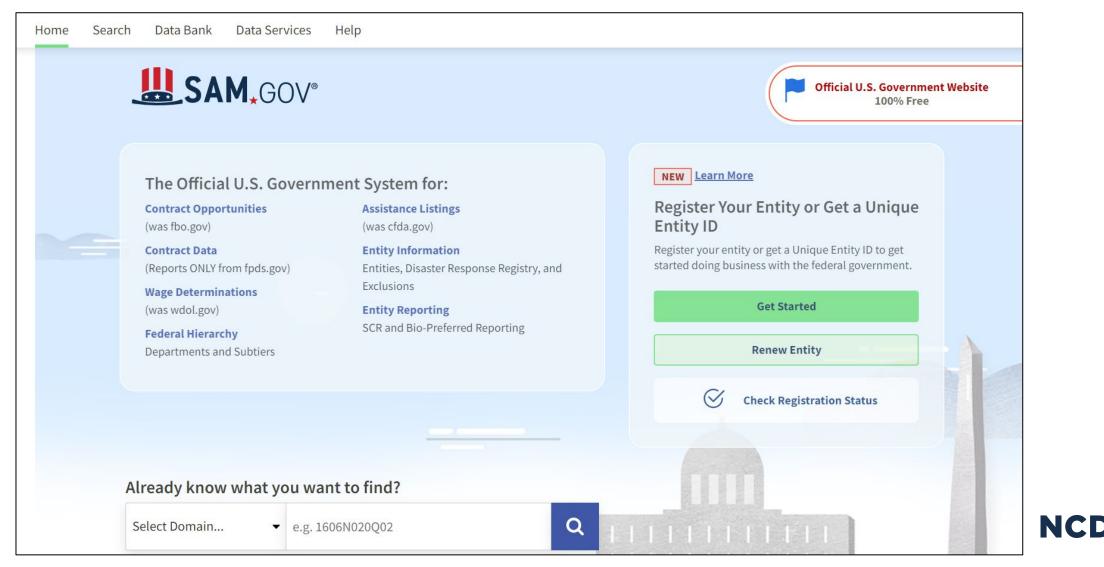
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To access the Import	t Safety Portal go to https://importregistration.dnb.com/ and the Apple Develop Program go to https://developer.apple.com/support/D-U-N-S/
	r Galety Fortal go to https://importregistration.unb.com/ and the Apple Develop Frogram go to https://developer.apple.com/support/D-o-re-o/
Begin D-U-N-S Search/ Request Process	Welcome to the D&B D-U-N-S Request Service for US Federal Government Contractors and Assistance Awardees
About the D&B D-U-N-S Number	If you are getting ready to apply for a federal contract or assistance award, you've come to the right place. The first step is to get your D-U-N-S Number. We will assign the nine-digit, unique D-U-N-S Number free of charge to a valid business entity based on their legal business name and physical location.
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)	Select D-U-N-S Search/Request Process to begin. From here you can:
	 Do a quick search to see if you already have a D-U-N-S Number
	 If you find your D-U-N-S Number, you can email it to yourself.
D&B, SAM, Grants Contacts	Request a D-U-N-S Number
	 The request form takes approximately five minutes to complete.
D&B's Privacy and Data Policy	 D&B has controls in place to mitigate fraud and protect data integrity. Please be patient while we run these checks. It usually takes one to two business days to get your new D-U-N-S Number.
Accessibility	 Once our checks are complete, you'll get an email (to the email address you provide on the request form) with your new D-U-N-S Number. Make sure @dnb.com is not blocked.



REGISTERING FOR SYSTEM AWARD MANAGEMENT (SAM) IDENTIFIER

https://sam.gov/content/home



NCDIT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

https://www.ncbroadband.gov/grants/great-grant-federal/great-grant-2021-2022

<u>Home</u>	Broadband 101	<u>Digital Divide</u>	Broadband Survey 🗸	Grants ∽	Assistance \sim	Data & Reports ∽	
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*Required f	for the application.						
Please sen <u>greatgrant@</u>		omments about the	Great Grant 2021-2022 ap	plication round	to		



START YOUR APPLICATION FROM BROADBAND SITE

https://www.ncbroadband.gov/grants/great-grant-federal/great-grant-2021-2022

Home	Broadband 101	<u>Digital Divide</u>	Broadband Survey ∽	Grants ∽	Assistance \checkmark	Data & Reports 🗸
• <u>Dow</u>	nload the 2021-2022 (<u>GREAT Grant guidan</u>	ice			
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ACCESS EBS APPLICATION PORTAL

https://www.ebs.nc.gov/irj/portal

AND AN YOUR A VIOLANT AND	Enterprise Business Services	User * Password * Passwords are case sensitive Log On Login Help * Browser Support
		Login Help * Browser Support



GREAT Grant Questions

- <u>https://www.ncbroadband.gov/grants/great-grant-federal/great-grant-2021-2022</u>
- <u>GREATGrant@nc.gov</u>
- <u>broadbandmapping@nc.gov</u>

Application Help: Support Services Team

- (919) 707-2208
- DOTITSAPSupportServices@ncdot.gov

NCID Support

- <u>https://it.nc.gov/support/ncid</u>
- (919) 754-6000

