

SCORING

The GREAT Program is a competitive grant program. Applications shall be scored based upon a system that awards a single point for criteria considered to be the minimum level for the provision of broadband service with additional points awarded to criteria that exceed minimum levels. **Applications receiving the highest score shall receive priority status for the awarding of grants.**

Project Applications will be scored as follows:

- Partnership – Projects involving partnership or affiliation by a private provider with a nonprofit or not-for-profit, or a for-profit subsidiary of either that is required to enable certain partnership activities, or any combination thereof, shall be given five points in their application score where it is documented to the satisfaction of the BIO that the partnership or affiliation will facilitate deployment and reduce cost per housing unit by utilizing the resources, facilities, and infrastructure of the partner or where the nonprofit or not-for-profit partner provides only financial support.

Partnership	Points
Documented Partnership per definition	5

- Unserved Households (HH) – The BIO shall give additional points to projects based upon the estimated number of unserved households within the eligible economically distressed county, as determined by the most recent data published by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) or any other information available to the BIO. Points shall be given to projects that will be located in counties with estimated unserved households as follows:

Unserved HH	Points
700 or less	1
700 – 1999	2
2000 and over	3

The BIO has utilized FCC data to estimate the number of unserved households per county. This data is available for use and can be found in the Appendix.

- Households (HH) To Be Served – The BIO shall give additional points to projects that will provide broadband service to unserved households within the eligible economically distressed county, as determined by the most recent data of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) or any other information available to the BIO. Points shall be given to projects that will serve unserved households within the project area as follows:

Unserved HH to be Served	Points
Under 150	1
150-249	2
250 and up	3

The definition for households is as follows:

Household – A house, apartment, single room, or other group of rooms, if occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters, and where the occupants do not live with any other persons in the structure and there is direct access from the outside or through a common hall.

Applicants should ensure that their applications clearly outline the number of unserved households where service will be made available through an eligible project.

- Unserved businesses – The BIO shall give additional points to projects that will provide broadband service to unserved businesses located within the eligible economically distressed county, as determined by the most recent data published by the Federal Communications Commission or any other information available to the BIO. Points shall be given to projects that serve unserved businesses within the project area as follows:

Unserved Business	Points
Between 1 and 4	1
5 and 10	2
a) more than 10 b) Agricultural operation, Agricultural Processing Facility or c) Business w/31 or more f/t employees	3

Applicants should ensure that their applications clearly outline the number of unserved businesses, agricultural operations and agricultural processing facilities, where service will be made available through an eligible project. Businesses with 31 or more full-time employees should be noted.

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- Cost Per Household – The BIO shall give additional points to projects that minimize the infrastructure cost of the proposed project per household, based upon information available to the BIO. Points shall be given to projects based upon the estimated cost per household as follows:

For projects proposed in the *Piedmont or *Coastal Plain Regions:

Estimated Cost per Household	Partnership Using Infrastructure	Private Provider Only
Up to \$1700	4	9
\$1701-2200	3	8

**Piedmont Region* – The portion of the State lying west of and including Franklin, Lee, Moore, Richmond, Wake and Warren Counties, to the eastern boundaries of Alleghany, Burke, Caldwell, Rutherford and Wilkes Counties.

**Coastal Plain Region* – The portion of the State lying east of the eastern boundaries of Franklin, Lee, Moore, Wake and Warren Counties.

For projects located in the *Mountain Region:

Estimated Cost per Household	Partnership Using Infrastructure	Private Provider Only
Up to \$2500	4	9
\$2501-3300	3	8

**Mountain Region* – The portion of the State lying west of and including Alleghany, Burke, Caldwell, Rutherford, and Wilkes Counties.

- Base Speed Multiplier - Projects that will *provide minimum download and minimum upload speeds shall have the aggregate points given under items 1-5, multiplied by a factor at the level indicated below:

Minimum Speeds	Score Multiplier
10:1 Mbps	0.95
25:3 Mbps or greater	1.35

Note: “Provide” a particular speed is understood to mean that this calculation should be based on the planned “typical speeds” to be provided, not the advertised speeds.

Community Broadband Planning – The BIO shall also award an additional point to projects where a county has a Community Broadband Planning Playbook that meets the guidelines established by the BIO. A county must meet (and be able to document) *at least one* of the following criteria to receive a point for the Community Broadband Planning Playbook scoring item:

- A county must have a current Broadband Planning Committee;
- A county must have undertaken some type of active broadband project or study within the past two years (since summer of 2016);
- A county official or county leader must have worked actively with the Broadband Infrastructure Office in the past year (since summer 2017) to begin developing a broadband planning committee or broadband goals;
- A county official must have reviewed the BIO's Community Broadband Planning Playbook, since its release in Spring 2018, with the goal of implementing a playbook process for the county, and having conveyed this goal to the Broadband Infrastructure Office seeking assistance from the Office's Technical Assistance Team.

Community Broadband Planning Playbook	Points
Planning	1

**Appendix – Estimate of Unserved Households per County
Compiled for Scoring for GREAT Program**

These numbers are estimates based on the latest FCC Data available; and are being provided for informational purposes, for use by applicants in estimating their scoring to determine match requirements.

Number of households in census blocks with less than 10 Mbps download and Mbps upload according to the July 2017 FCC form 477 data release

County	Estimated # of Unserved Households	County	Estimated # of Unserved Households
ALLEGHANY	531	LENOIR	1,313
ANSON	451	MACON	3,078
ASHE	286	MARTIN	1,433
BERTIE	1,154	MCDOWELL	2,019
BLADEN	1,144	MITCHELL	197
CAMDEN	22	MONTGOMERY	3,448
CASWELL	4,087	NORTHAMPTON	1,349
CHEROKEE	2,691	PASQUOTANK	7
CHOWAN	257	PERQUIMANS	265
CLAY	1,170	PERSON	1,245
COLUMBUS	2,684	RICHMOND	102
EDGECOMBE	967	ROBESON	4,964
GATES	723	SCOTLAND	15
GRAHAM	1,171	SWAIN	1,576
GREENE	1,928	TYRRELL	175
HALIFAX	1,636	VANCE	248
HERTFORD	1,232	WARREN	1,220
HYDE	1,193	WASHINGTON	328
JACKSON	4,382	YADKIN	134
JONES	693	YANCEY	132