

2019-2020 GREAT Program

Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology Program

2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act Guidance (Updated May 26, 2020)

SUMMARY

The North Carolina Department of Information Technology's Broadband Infrastructure Office (BIO), as authorized under S.L. 2018-5 and amended by S.L. 2019-230, is providing grants to private providers of broadband services to facilitate the deployment of broadband service to unserved areas of the state. The Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) Program for FY 19-20 funds eligible projects in Tier One economically distressed counties. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, S.L. 2020-4 appropriated an additional \$9 million to fund all qualifying applications received on or before April 1, 2020.

Key Provisions

- All program requirements and criteria detailed in the 2019-2020 Guidance Document still apply to these supplemental funds except for the \$2 million maximum award amount in any eligible county.
- The scoring criteria will still apply in order to determine the required cash match.
- All publicly posted applications as of May 1, 2020, will be evaluated subject to any received protests and scored using the defined scoring criteria as stated in the authorizing legislation.
- The highest scoring applications will receive priority for funding.
- The \$9 million appropriation authorized in S.L. 2020-4 will be used to fund:
 - Applications that did not score high enough for funding from the \$15 million appropriation authorized in S.L. 2019-230 **or**
 - If a non-funded application included eligible areas that overlapped with a funded application, the Office will allow the applicant to revise their application to remove the overlapped areas and only fund the remaining eligible areas from the original application. The Office will not allow the applicant to increase their scope of work.

Next Steps

- The Broadband Infrastructure Office will review all applications using the existing process
- Evaluate and adjudicate any protests to publicly posted applications
- Notify all applicants that were the subject of a protest
- Evaluate and score all applications
- Make recommendations for award to Secretary Tracy Doaks, State CIO