



# **2019-2020 GREAT Program**

**Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology Program**

## **2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act Guidance**

**(Updated May 7, 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.
- If an existing application contains a proposed project area that overlaps with other applications, an applicant may submit a revised application to serve other eligible areas and/or increase the scope of work of an existing application.
- If an application that was submitted on or before April 1, 2020, this provision allows the applicant to resubmit their original application or a revised application.
- All revised applications will be subject to a new 30-day public posting period.
- Acceptable documents for Proof of Funding Availability include but not limited to the following:
  - Letters from the applicant's Board of Director or investors guaranteeing the total project cost
  - A letter or actual statements from your bank or other financial institution verifying total available cash or lines of credit meet or exceed the anticipated total project costs.
  - The most recent financial audit for your company
  - Letters from a verifiable third-party entity guaranteeing the total project cost

### Next Steps

- **All revisions or amendments to existing applications are due by May 29, 2020 at 5:00 pm.**
- **If an applicant intends to revise or amend its application, it must notify the Broadband Infrastructure Office in writing by 5 p.m., May 15, 2020.**
- When an applicant notifies the Office of its intent to revise or amend its application, the Office will use the Grant Application Portal ([www.ebs.nc.gov](http://www.ebs.nc.gov)) to return the grant application.
- When notified of an intent to revise or amend an application, the application, if publicly posted, will be removed from the public posting website. The 30-day public posting window will restart when the final application is received.
- Revised applications must meet all application requirements required by S.L. 2018-5 and amended by S.L. 2019-230 and the grant guidelines.
- All resubmissions are final and there is no opportunity to submit additional documentation after May 29, 2020.

# **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