2021-2022 GREAT GRANT

INFORMATION SESSION FOR ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

FEB. 14, 2022

NATE DENNY
DEPUTY SECRETARY
DIVISION OF BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY

ANGIE BAILEY
DIRECTOR
BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE OFFICE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Success Metrics</th>
<th>N.C. Today</th>
<th>N.C. 2025</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Households with broadband internet access</td>
<td>“95.5%”</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with broadband internet subscriptions</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with children with broadband internet subscriptions</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoption rates across racial subgroups</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Native American</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Black</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Latinx</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• White</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OBJECTIVES FOR TODAY

• Key points of this application round
• Overview of the NC OneMap GREAT Grant Mapping Tool
• Answering your questions
PURPOSE OF THE GREAT PROGRAM

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

- 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federal ARPA-funded program</th>
<th>Guidelines developed under Section38.4.(a) of SL 2021-180 and U.S. Treasury Guidance</th>
<th>$350M in total funds available</th>
<th>Private providers or cooperatively organized entities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unserved areas without access to 25:3 speed</td>
<td>Tier 1, 2, and rural census tracts in Tier 3 counties</td>
<td>A single grant award cannot exceed $4 million</td>
<td>Awards for projects in any one county cannot exceed $8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defined scoring criteria</td>
<td>Matching awardee funds required</td>
<td>Minimum speeds of 100:20, scalable to 100 symmetrical by Dec. 31, 2026</td>
<td>5-year service agreement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Capital Projects Fund

- Exempt from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements*; however, awardees may complete an environmental checklist
- Exempt from Davis-Bacon Act labor requirements*
* Maybe subject to these requirements if other federal financial assistance programs are part of the project
- Follow the Uniform Guidance 2 CFR 200
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- System Award Management (SAM.gov) ID
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SUMMARY OF GUIDELINES

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.
ELIGIBLE COSTS

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

- Census block boundaries in the eligible economically distressed county
- Census blocks with less than 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
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.
INELIGIBLE AREAS

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
From NC OneMap webpage:

- Census blocks with less than 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
Application Materials
### APPLICATION MATERIALS

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

**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**
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)
  - revise the budget
SUMMARY OF GUIDELINES

Scoring/Match
SCORING AND MATCH

Competitive

Sliding points scale

Highest score receives priority for funding

BIO will review application and give “final” score

BIO will verify match requirement
**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*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum Speeds</th>
<th>Score Multiplier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100:20 Mbps up to 100:100 Mbps</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 Mbps, symmetrical</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater than 100:100 Mbps</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 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*
SCORING - TIE BREAKER

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

Determined by application score

Up to 50% of match may be from third-party funding or other grants*

Highest score receives priority for funding

Match can be used only toward eligible project costs for GREAT Grant

*County ARPA Funds and Unrestricted General Fund Revenue Eligible

50% 12.0 points or less

45% Greater than 12.0, but less than 17.5

40% 17.5, up to 22.0

30% Greater than 22.0

*County ARPA Funds and Unrestricted General Fund Revenue Eligible
MATCHING FUNDS

*Potential Match Reduction - Regardless of Score

**County Financial Contribution**
- *partially ARPA*
- *entirely ARPA*

- **25%** County share is partially comprised of ARPA funds
- **15%** County share is all ARPA
SUMMARY OF GUIDELINES

Compliance
HIGHLIGHTS FEDERAL COMPLIANCE

State Fiscal Recovery Funds

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• 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

• Follow the Uniform Guidance 2 CFR 200
• Register D-U-N-S number
• System Award Management (SAM.gov) ID
• Debarment Certification

• Awardees are required to participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) or provide a broad-based affordability program to low-income consumers similar to the ACP
HIGHLIGHTS FEDERAL COMPLIANCE

Capital Projects Fund

• Exempt from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements*; however, awardees may complete an environmental checklist

• Exempt from Davis-Bacon Act labor requirements*

* Maybe subject to these requirements if other federal financial assistance programs are part of the project

• Follow the Uniform Guidance 2 CFR 200
• Register D-U-N-S number
• System Award Management (SAM.gov) ID
• Debarment Certification
• 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
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

Application Instructions

Please follow the steps below to start your application. Click here to download the application instructions with screenshots.

1. If you have not already, *register for an NCID.*
2. Complete an *EBS registration form.*
3. Register for a *D-U-N-S.*
4. Register for *System Award Management ID.*
5. Return to this GREAT Grant webpage, click "Start Your Application."

*Required for the application.

Please send any questions or comments about the Great Grant 2021-2022 application round to greatgrant@nc.gov.
REGISTERING AS AN APPLICANT

https://ncid.nc.gov

NCID Tips

Username
Password
NCID Login

Forgot Username
Forgot Password
Unlock Account

Need Help? Register!
New User Registration

Please indicate your user type from one of the following categories:

- **Individual**: Request access to the State of North Carolina services as an individual or citizen.
- **Business**: Request access to the State of North Carolina services on the behalf of a business.
- **State Employee**: Currently employed or assigned to work for an agency within the State of North Carolina government.
- **Local Government Employee**: Currently employed or assigned to work for a North Carolina county or municipality.

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
REGISTERING FOR D-U-N-S NUMBER

https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/

Welcome to the D&B D-U-N-S Request Service for US Federal Government Contractors and Assistance Awardees

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.

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.
- Request a D-U-N-S Number
  - The request form takes approximately five minutes to complete.
  - 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.
  - 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.

Contact www.dnb.com/govtduns if you have technical difficulties.
REGISTERING FOR SYSTEM AWARD MANAGEMENT (SAM) IDENTIFIER

https://sam.gov/content/home
Application Instructions

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*Required for the application.

Please send any questions or comments about the Great Grant 2021-2022 application round to greatgrant@nc.gov.
START YOUR APPLICATION FROM BROADBAND SITE

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

Application Instructions

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Please send any questions or comments about the Great Grant 2021-2022 application round to greatgrant@nc.gov.
ACCESS EBS APPLICATION PORTAL

https://www.ebs.nc.gov/irj/portal
NEED ASSISTANCE?

GREAT Grant Questions

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

Application Help: Support Services Team

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

NCID Support

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