

# Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure Program Statewide Technical Assistance Webinar

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# CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

Established by the U.S. Department of Treasury as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), funds are provided to eligible states to carry out critical capital projects that directly enable work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options.

The Capital Projects Fund (CPF) program allows for eligible applicants to invest in capital assets that address a communities' critical needs identified or exacerbated by the pandemic. This includes rural areas, Tribal communities, and low/moderate income communities.



# CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

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There are three programs within the CPF:

- Broadband Infrastructure Program
- Digital Connectivity Technology Program
- Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program

On November 30, 2022, DEO was awarded \$247.8 million of the total \$366 million in funding for the Broadband Infrastructure Program.

DEO is awaiting approval of the:

- Digital Connectivity Technology Program
- Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program

# LOCAL TECHNOLOGY PLANNING TEAMS

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Active Local Technology Planning Teams (LTPT) are imperative to continued success of all Broadband deployment, adoption, use and related activities:

- LTPTs should continue holding regular meetings to keep communities up to date on all things broadband.
- The Office of Broadband will continue hosting monthly meetings with LTPT Leads for program updates and technical assistance.
- LTPTs should play an active role in the application process.
- LTPTs should partner with Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to ensure awareness of all project areas in submitted applications.



# ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

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Applicants eligible to apply for grant awards include:

- Local governmental units (e.g., municipalities or counties).
- Non-profits, or private entities.
  - Co-operatives, electric utilities, and other entities that build or operate broadband networks, including networks that are owned, operated by, or affiliated with local governments.
  - Private entities can be corporations, limited liability companies, general partnerships, or limited partnerships.
  - DEO encourages public private partnerships.

# AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

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All applicants must participate in the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) to qualify, and applicants must show evidence of participation.

- If an applicant is not participating, but planning to, they must provide evidence of the Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) status and other communication of documents attesting the intent.
- Applicants pursuing ACP participation at the time of a grant award must provide an affidavit confirming their status as an ACP participant within six months of signing a grant agreement or their grant award will be revoked, and any funds received by the grantee during that time shall be repaid in full to DEO.

# APPLICATION OVERVIEW

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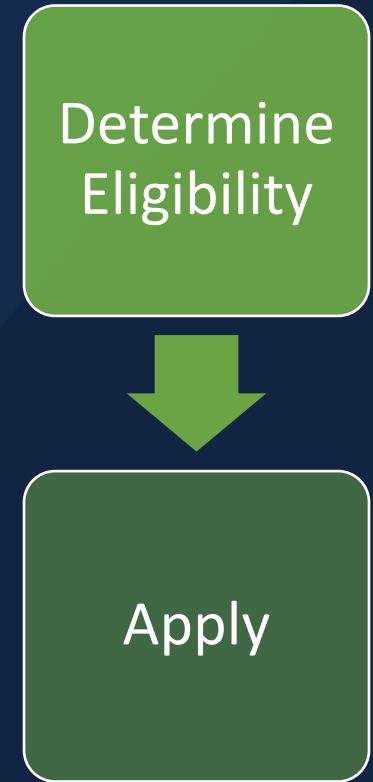
- The application opened February 28, 2023.
- Applications will be accepted via the portal only.
- Questions about the application process may be directed to [Broadband@DEO.MyFlorida.com](mailto:Broadband@DEO.MyFlorida.com).
- There is no limit on the number of projects an applicant can submit.
- The Office of Broadband will not define “project area.”
- All projects must align with the Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband, however, not every strategy within the Plan needs to be addressed in the application.



# APPLICATION OVERVIEW

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- There is no required match of funding.
- Private leverage is strongly encouraged.
- If an applicant or project area has current Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), Broadband Opportunity Grant Program, Connect America Fund, or other federal broadband funding identified in the proposed project area, the project is **ineligible** for this program.
- Awards will be based upon a competitive application process.
- Funds will be issued through a reimbursement process.





# COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

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Things to consider when completing the application:

- Be sure to complete all fields.
- Applicants may designate portions of information provided on their application and/or any supporting documentation as “**Proprietary Confidential Business Information**” or “**Trade Secret**” under Florida Statutes.
- Such claims of confidentiality must be clearly articulated and made at the time of submittal.
- The Applicant **must identify each portion of the application and/or supporting documentation deemed confidential and provide a redacted version of the same material which may be disclosed**, pursuant to Florida Statutes, to the Office concurrent with when the claim of confidentiality or proprietary protection is asserted.
- All sections claimed confidential by an Applicant will be kept confidential by the Department.

# COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

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Things to consider when completing the application:

- Contact the Office of Broadband for technical assistance if you are unsure about anything that is asked or requested.
- Check all figures in the project budget for calculation errors.
- Be sure that the signatory on the application has the authority to sign the application.
- Do not wait until the deadline to submit or to request technical assistance.
- Submit the application by 5:00p.m., on the deadline. No late applications will be accepted.

# CREATING A STRONG APPLICATION

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When explaining the Project in the application:

- Utilize common industry terminology.
- Include any relevant information regarding landmarks and local landmarks.
- Include population demographic information.
- Include any information about traditionally unserved residents or previous local broadband projects.
- Include information that aligns with the Priorities of the Program:
  - Access to education, healthcare, workforce, and community support.
  - Project sustainability.
  - Strong local community support.

See CPF Program Guidelines for additional details.

# DOCUMENTING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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Community engagement is a vital element in the Capital Projects Fund and applications must sure to show evidence of community engagement by including:

- Documentation of meetings with the county's Local Technology Planning Team.
- Degree to which the Local Technology Planning Teams completed, and submitted to the Office of Broadband, the results of the activities and reports identified in the Broadband Planning Toolkit.
- Any Memorandums of Agreement or Understanding between the applicant and its project partner(s), specifically as it pertains to sustainability and maintenance of networks.
- Evidence of community outreach efforts and feedback.

# THE TIMELINE

The current timeline for the Capital Projects Fund:



# REQUESTS FOR PAYMENT DURING THE GRANT PERIOD

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All grant agreements executed under the Capital Projects Fund will be established as cost reimbursement.

All requests for payment must be related to work performed during the period of performance in the agreement.

Grantees may also want to consider:

- Timing on purchases of necessary project materials and labor contracting due to present supply shortage challenges.
- Cash flow challenges.
- Contingency planning.

# ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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Additional funding opportunities for communities through the Florida Office of Broadband:

- Round 2 of the Broadband Opportunity Program.
- Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD).
- Florida Digital Adoption and Use Program.

# Thank You



If you have questions about this presentation or need to discuss a future project, please contact our office.

[www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband)

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