

Office of Broadband
Broadband Opportunity Grant Program
Frequently Asked Questions



What is the Broadband Opportunity Program?

- The **Broadband Opportunity Program** is a program that was established within the Florida Office of Broadband to award grants to applicants who seek to expand broadband internet service to unserved areas of the state of Florida.

For the purposes of this program, what is the definition of “unserved”?

- Section 288.9961, F.S.:
 - “Unserved” means a geographic area of this state in which there is no provider of broadband Internet service.
 - “Underserved” means a geographic area of this state in which there is no provider of broadband Internet service that offers a connection to the Internet with a capacity for transmission at a consistent speed of at least 100 megabits per second downstream and at least 10 megabits per second upstream.

What entities are eligible to apply for the funds?

- Applicants eligible to apply for grant awards include:
 - Corporations, limited liability companies, general partnerships, and limited partnerships that are organized under the laws of this state or otherwise authorized to transact business in this state;
 - Political subdivisions; and
 - Indian tribes.

Are there any other requirements for applicants?

- Entities must show community engagement and partnership in all applications in terms of local investment, documentation of public-private consultation, and sustainability plans. Letters of support alone will not be sufficient to evidence this engagement.

What is the maximum grant amount to be awarded under this program?

- The maximum award amount by statute is \$5 million per project area.

Can multiple applications be submitted within the same county?

- Yes, multiple applications may be submitted and will be reviewed to prevent duplication of prospective coverage areas.

What are the eligible uses of the funds?

- Funds awarded under the Broadband Opportunity Program can be used for the deployment of infrastructure in support of the provision and expansion of broadband.

When does the application cycle open and close?

- The application cycle opens on November 2, 2022, and all applications must be received by the Florida Office of Broadband by 5:00 pm, Eastern Time, on December 2, 2022.

Will there be an application challenge period?

- Yes, a broadband Internet service provider that provides existing service in or adjacent to a proposed project area may submit to the office, within 45 days after publication of the proposed unserved areas from each grant application submitted, a written challenge to an application.

By what date must an awarded grantee complete its project?

- DEO is required to expend all funds by December 31, 2026. Agreements will be structured to allow for expenditure and close-out of all agreements prior to the deadline.