Capital Projects Fund
Multi-Purpose Community Facility Projects

Statewide Technical Assistance Webinar

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Florida Office of Broadband

Capital Projects Fund (CPF)

- Established by the U.S. Department of Treasury as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), the Capital Projects Fund program provides funding to carry out critical capital projects that directly enable work, education and health monitoring, including remote options.

- The CPF program allows eligible applicants to invest in capital assets that address a community's critical connectivity need identified or exacerbated by the pandemic. This includes rural areas, tribal communities and low to moderate income communities.

Capital Projects Fund

The State of Florida is implementing three programs within the CPF:

- Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP)
- Digital Connectivity Program (DCP)
- Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program (MPCF)

- $86.9 million is designated for the Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program.

Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program

Purpose:

The primary objective of the MPCF Program is to provide funds to subrecipients for the construction of or improvements to buildings designed to jointly and directly enable work, education and health monitoring opportunities, located in communities with an identified critical need.

- Applicants should ensure that the proposed multi-purpose facility is designed to:
  - Directly enable work, education and health monitoring
  - Address a critical need that resulted from or was made apparent or exacerbated by the public health emergency
  - Address a critical need of the target community

- Below are examples of projects eligible for use of MPCF funds:
  - Projects designed to construct or improve full-service community schools.
  - Projects designed to construct or improve libraries.
  - Projects designed to construct or improve community health centers.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include:

- Local governmental units (e.g., municipalities or counties)
- Non-profit organizations
- Private entities which can be in the form of corporations, limited liability companies, general partnerships or limited partnerships
    - Internet Service Providers, broadband Internet training institutions and information technology programs
- Libraries, healthcare facilities, law enforcement academies and other community anchor institutions
- Higher education institutions (e.g., universities, community colleges or technical colleges)
- Nursing and critical health profession programs
- Multi-purpose community centers
- Co-operatives and electric utilities

Local Technology Planning Teams

- Active Local Technology Planning Teams (LTPT) will assist communities with identifying critical needs and identifying eligible projects:
  - LTPTs are familiar with the local community's digital state and are acutely aware of the challenges and barriers faced by Florida's communities.
  - LTPTs can provide more accurate and relevant information on the needs of the communities they serve.

- Participation and engagement with LTPTs is recommended to help determine the community's need for a multi-purpose facility.

- LTPTs should play an active role in the application process.

CareerSource Florida

All applicants are encouraged to partner with their local workforce development board to gain insights on training, workforce needs and general economic activity that could benefit from the MPCF program.

- Examples of workforce-related activities can include:
  - Hosting a career fair at the facility to connect employers with qualified individuals who might have received trainings at the facility or utilized the facility to look for employment and career development opportunities
  - Assist with job postings
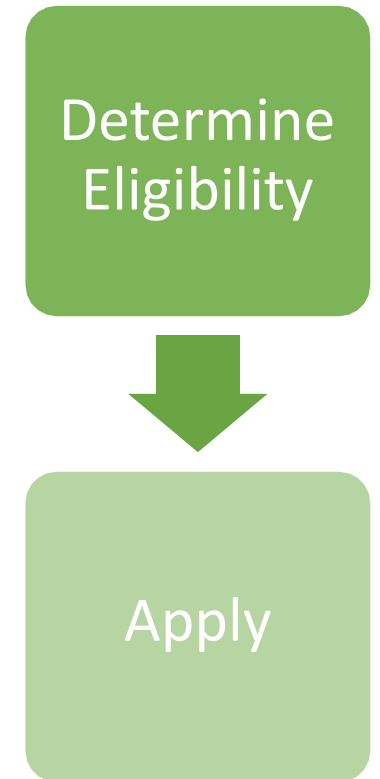 - Establishing on-site meetings to assist job applicants.

Factors to consider when completing this application section include:

- The level of coordination and information sharing between the applicant and CareerSource Florida including whether the applicant has conducted and/or participated in regular meetings with CareerSource Florida.

- Evidence of an overall plan for the community, specifically a plan to host weekly or monthly meetings/trainings and provide information and no-cost services to users of the facility seeking to enter or re-enter the job market.

- Evidence of planning for training courses, and an approach to soliciting support from the local workforce development board on job postings.
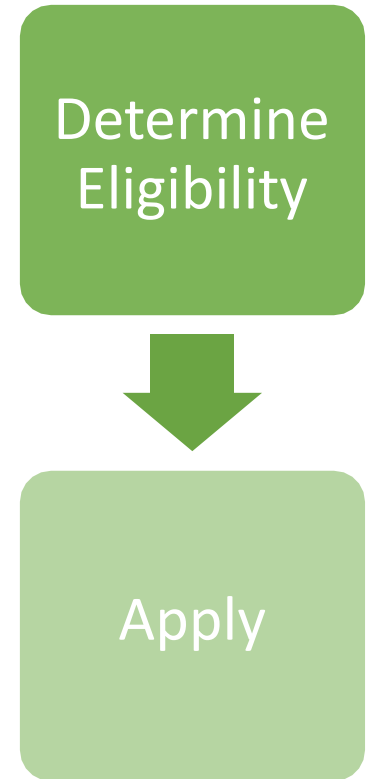
Application Overview

- Application window opened on **July 5, 2023**.

- Applications will be accepted via the portal at www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband

- Questions about the application process may be directed to Broadband@Commerce.fl.gov.

- There is no limit on the number of projects an applicant can submit.

- $4 million limit on the requested grant award amount per application.

- $6 million limit on the cumulative grant award per applicant across awards.

Determine Eligibility

Apply

Application Overview

- There is no required match of funding, however private leverage is strongly encouraged.

- If an applicant or project area has current Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), Broadband Opportunity Program, Broadband Infrastructure Program, Connect America Fund, or other federal broadband funding identified in the proposed project area, the project is still eligible for funding under this program.

- Applicants can apply for both the MPCF program and the Digital Connectivity Program.

- Awards will be based on a competitive application process.

- Funds will be issued through a reimbursement process.

Determine Eligibility

Apply

Scoring and Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on defined scoring criteria for the MPCF Program.

- There are six major categories for scoring and evaluation:
    - Economic Distress
    - Project Need
    - Project Readiness
    - Community Impact
    - Project Budget
    - Project Viability, Sustainability and Resiliency

The Scoring Criteria is posted at www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband.

Completing the Application

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 application submission.

  - The Applicant **must identify each portion of the application and/or supporting documentation deemed confidential <u>and</u> provide a redacted version of the same material which may be disclosed** pursuant to Florida Statutes, to the Department 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

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.
- Applicants should respond in a timely manner if contacted regarding deficiencies in the application.
- Check all figures in the project budget for calculation errors.
- Be sure that the signatory on the application has 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., Eastern Time, on the deadline. No late applications will be accepted.

Creating a Strong Application

When explaining the Project in the application:

- Include information regarding an ***identified critical need*** for the project.

- Include community demographic information.

- Wherever possible, leverage existing facilities to maximize the use and impact of funds.

- Include any information about facility functions and services that will benefit the target community.
  - Applicants are encouraged to submit projects for facilities that provide access to other purposes like exercise areas, basketball courts, meeting spaces, etc.

- Include information that aligns with Program priorities:
  - Access to education, healthcare and workforce opportunities.
  - Project sustainability and resiliency.
  - Strong local community support.

See MPCF Program Guidelines for additional details at www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband.
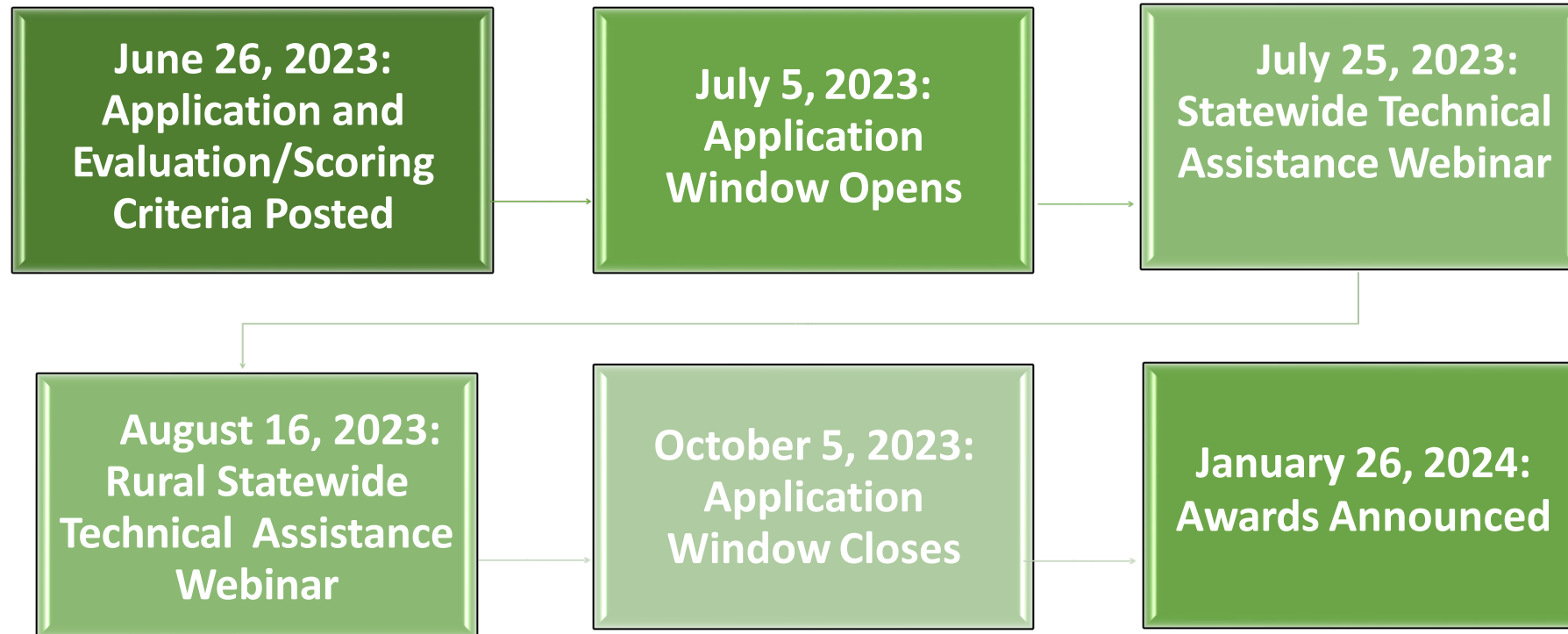
Documenting Community Support

Seeking community support is a vital element in the Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program and applications must show evidence of community engagement by including:

- Documentation of meetings with the county's Local Technology Planning Team.
- Degree to which Applicant conducted community-level activities including engaging with Local Technology Planning Teams and research to determine the community's need for a multi-purpose facility.
- Any Memorandums of Agreement or Understanding between the Applicant and its project partner(s).
- Evidence of community outreach efforts and feedback, such as surveys, community focused analyses and project support.
- Other community feedback that shows compelling need for the project.

The Timeline

June 26, 2023: Application and Evaluation/Scoring Criteria Posted

July 5, 2023: Application Window Opens

July 25, 2023: Statewide Technical Assistance Webinar

August 16, 2023: Rural Statewide Technical Assistance Webinar

October 5, 2023: Application Window Closes

January 26, 2024: Awards Announced

Requests for Payment During the Grant Period

- All grant agreements executed under the Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program will be based on a cost reimbursement.

- All requests for payment must be related to work performed during the performance period of 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

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

- Round 2 of the Broadband Opportunity Program.

- Florida Digital Adoption and Use Program.

- Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD).

- State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program (SDEPG).

- Digital Connectivity Program.

Contact Us

Thank You.

If you have questions or comments about this presentation, please contact us.

www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband

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