Capital Projects Fund

Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program

Statewide Technical Assistance Webinar Q&A

Q: What is the Capital Projects Fund - Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program?
A: The Muti-Purpose Community Facilities Program (MPCF) is one of three funding opportunities under the Capital Projects Fund (CPF). The primary objective of the MPCF is to provide funds to subrecipients for construction, or improvements, to buildings designed to give the local community access to broadband Internet necessary to access work, economic development, education, and telehealth opportunities. These communities identified a critical need for this resource as a result of the public heath emergency and this program is designed to help bridge the gap of need in the community.

Q: Does the application need to address work, education, <u>and</u> health monitoring? Or do we just need to address at least one of them?
A: Access to work, education, and health monitoring (like telehealth) opportunities must be addressed within the application. According to 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 <u>and</u> health monitoring.

Q: What qualifies as an identified critical need?
A: Critical needs will vary by applicant. The applicant must identify the critical need and demonstrate how the facility will help address it. The program guidelines are posted on our website and include the following examples: lack of community libraries with internet access, community schools with no access to employment and work-related services, and health centers with limited internet access. Please navigate to the "CPF Multi-Purpose Facilities" tab for further details or visit the [Office of Broadband webpage.](#)

Q: When does the application window open and close?
A: The application cycle opened on July 5, 2023, and all applications must be received by the Florida Office of Broadband by 5 p.m., Eastern Time, on October 5, 2023.

Q: How do I submit an application?
A: On the Office of Broadband (Broadband) website, please click the purple button "Broadband Application Portal." You will be brought to a portal to create an account and then submit your application. Applications will only be accepted through this portal. If you need any technical assistance, please reach out to the following email: **Broadband@Commerce.fl.gov** or visit Office of Broadband webpage.

Q: Will the webinar presentation be posted online?
A: Yes, both the webinar recording and slide deck will be posted on the Broadband website. Please navigate to the "CPF Multi-Purpose Facilities" tab or visit the [Office of Broadband webpage.](#)

Q: How will you determine whether a nonprofit is eligible to apply?
A: Non-profits are eligible to apply. On the application, there will be places to input entity information such as DUNS/FEIN and State of Florida Vendor Number. Eligible applicants are: 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; school districts; and Co-operatives and electric utilities.

Q: Is there an updated LTPT list?
A: Yes. To request a copy of the list, email the broadband email inbox at **Broadband@Commerce.FL.gov**.

Q: Is there an internet speed threshold for areas to apply? How is that determined?
A: The building should provide the members of the community with access to minimum internet speeds of 100 Mbps of download speed and 20 Mbps of upload speed (100/20Mbps). It is preferable to have symmetrical (same upload and download speed) 100/100 Mbps speed. This information should be included in the application and can be provided by an internet service provider.

Q: How can I get updates about additional webinars?
A: Sign up for updates from our website by clicking on the button for "Subscribe for updates" on the Office of Broadband webpage.

Q: Is there a preference on the type of internet technology used?
A: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) places an emphasis on fiber technology. This technology offers fast, reliable internet speeds and is scalable into the future. However, we understand that each community has different needs. We encourage applicants to list the technology that will most benefit their community.

Q: Are local governments eligible?
A: Yes. Please see above list of eligible applicants.

Q: Are only the counties listed in the presentation on the Rural Areas of Opportunity (RAO) slide eligible?
A: The program is open statewide and all counties are eligible. However, proposed projects in RAOs do have a dedicated score in the evaluation process. These rural communities around the state typically have a higher need for this funding.

Q: Is there a discount program similar to the federal government program?
A: No.

Q: Is Rural and Economic Development Initiative (REDI) status enough for rural areas or do you have to be an economically distressed county?
A: Preference will be given to rural communities with demonstrated economic distress (high unemployment, high poverty rate, etc.). Counties do not have to be economically distressed to apply, but those that demonstrate these factors will score higher in the evaluation process. Please review the scoring and evaluation criteria that is posted on the website for further details. Please navigate to the "CPF Multi-Purpose Facilities" tab on the Office of Broadband webpage.

Q: You mentioned that funds would be available until expended. Does that mean that review of the grant applications will begin before the deadline?
A: Applications will be reviewed as they are received. Award decisions will not be made prior to the application deadline.

Q: Is there a challenge period time frame yet?
A: There is no challenge process for the MPCF Program at this time.

Q: What kind of documentation can be submitted to reflect the partnership with Local Technology Planning Teams (LTPT)?
A: Applicants can show evidence of partnership through participation in the LTPT meetings such as being listed on an agenda, actively participating in conversations, and working with entire team. While one letter of support is a good starting point, further effort and evidence is needed. The application will be reviewed and scored based on the information and documentation provided, so it is important to ensure all evidence is included as support to

your project and application. Examples include but are not limited to letters of support, community surveys, and documentation of meetings with the LTPT.

Q: Can you apply for this grant if you are applying for other grants outside of Broadband-related grants?
A: Yes.

Q: Can other federal funds such Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) be used as match?
A: There is no match requirement for this program. A grantee may use other funds, but there is no requirement. Private leverage is encouraged.

Q: If these funds would be used for a construction project, is there a date that project must break ground?
A: There is no date requirement for a project to break ground, but December 31, 2026 is the deadline for expending all awarded funds.

Q: Are there speed and income thresholds for the communities served by the MPCF? What are those and what is the metric for determining those?
A: Visit the website and review the evaluation and scoring criteria. Preference will be given to unserved areas (internet connection is less than 25/3 Mbps). Metrics are outlined in the application guide and scoring criteria. Please navigate to the "CPF Multi-Purpose Facilities" tab. Click here: [Office of Broadband](#)

Q: I think you may have covered this but is stackable funding allowed with grant?
A: The answer depends on the funding source. Determination will be made on a case-by-case basis. Please contact the Office of Broadband via the following email: **Broadband@Commerce.fl.gov** for review and determination.

Q: Is there a maximum amount that can be awarded for an application?
A: Yes, there is a $4 million limit per application and a $6 million limit per applicant across all submitted applications. FloridaCommerce reserves the right to waive the limits on a case-by-case basis.

Q: When does the performance period start and end?
A: The performance period starts when a contract is signed. All funds must be expended by the deadline of December 31, 2026.

Q: What costs are eligible for this program?
A: Eligible costs are as followed:

- Costs of repair, rehabilitation, construction, improvement, and acquisition of real property, equipment (devices and office equipment).

- Soft costs such as fixtures, equipment, and initial outfitting, design services which result in construction documents, indirect costs of construction manager, contract staff associated with developing the facility.

- Ancillary costs necessary to operationalize and put the capital assets to full use, including costs to increase broadband adoption and improve digital literacy.

- Costs associated with monitoring of and reporting on projects in compliance with Treasury requirements, including closeout costs; and

- Costs associated with collecting and measuring performance data.

Q: Will shovel-ready projects (ready to begin construction) score higher than projects that are not?
A: There are multiple factors that go into the overall score of an application. Please review the scoring and evaluation criteria that is posted on the [Office of Broadband](#) webpageon the "CPF Multi-Purpose Facilities" tab.

Q: If there are more funds requested than funds available, how will FloridaCommerce award applicants?
A: FloridaCommerce will evaluate multiple factors to determine which projects are awarded, including but not limited to the application score and whether the facility is within a rural area of the state. Please review the scoring and evaluation criteria to ensure your application addresses the various criteria. Please navigate to the "CPF Multi-Purpose Facilities" tab on the Office of Broadband webpage.

Q: Are applications of previously awarded projects available online?
A: The MPCF Program is a new program with no prior rounds of funding. There is information on our website about other broadband program awards such as the Broadband Opportunity Program or the Broadband Infrastructure Program. Click here: Office of Broadband