

Capital Projects Fund- Multi-Purpose Community Facility Program

Application Scoring and Evaluation Criteria Overview

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by the DEO using the criteria and associated point values set forth below. Each category uniquely contributes to the DEO’s mission to increase the availability and effectiveness of broadband service throughout the state and its economy.

Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Points (550)
A. Economic Distress	100
A.1 Level of Economic Distress within Target Community	100
B. Project Need	100
B.1 Project Justification	50
B.2 Community Support	50
C. Project Readiness	50
C.1 Reasonableness of Project Schedule	15
C.2 Engineering Design Evidence	10
C.3 Environmental and Other Permits	25
D. Community Impact	150
D.1 Benefits to Community	75
D.2 Diversity of Services/Functions	25
D.3 Accessibility	25
D.4 CareerSource Florida Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) Partnership	25
E. Project Budget	50
E.1 Budget Narrative and Reasonableness of Cost	50
F. Project Viability, Resiliency and Sustainability	100
F.1 Financial Capacity and Sustainability	10
F.2 Facility Resiliency	50
F.3 Organization Capability and Track Record	20
F.4 Operational Sustainability and Ownership	20

To maximize chances of receiving a high score under this review, applicants must be mindful to provide complete, comprehensive, and clear responses for all sections of the application and information requested.

This is a competitive grant application and eligibility for funding is based on scoring a minimum of 275 points out of a maximum 550 points. Based on the number of applicants, the amounts applied for and awarded,

and the score given to each application, the potential exists that not all applicants scored as eligible for funding will be awarded funding.

Evaluation Criteria Consideration Factors

The evaluation criteria below apply to both existing projects and new construction projects. There are six (6) major evaluation criteria listed below with sub-categories and consideration factors identified for each. Under each sub-category, factors are listed for consideration that will be used to assign scoring points. The Applicant should answer all questions to enable a comprehensive, detailed review and scoring of the application.

Economic Distress (100 points)

This criteria evaluates how the project will serve an economically distressed area including a rural area of the state, as measured by the greatest percentage difference between the metrics of unemployment, poverty, or social vulnerability of the community/county and the statewide average.

A.1 Level of Economic Distress (Maximum 100 points)	
Key Areas	Factors for Consideration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project targets a community in economic distress. Demonstration of the level of economic distress in the area served by the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Project is a Rural Area of Opportunity as designated in Section 288.0656(7)(a), Florida Statutes and/or a fiscally constrained county identified in Section 218.67, Florida Statutes. ✓ Rates for unemployment, poverty, and vulnerability index are more adverse than Florida's statewide averages. ✓ Level of low- and moderate-income persons or households in the community. ✓ Children qualifying for School Lunch Program (reported by Florida Department of Education for the NSLP).

Economic Distress Factors

Economic Factors		Maximum Points 100
1	Facility is located within Rural Area of Opportunity	20
2	Poverty rate above state average	15
3	Unemployment rate above state average	15
4	Socioeconomic Vulnerability Index above state average	15
5	Free / reduced lunch eligibility	15
6	LMI Factor (see table below)	20

Note: For those applications that address all six economic factors listed above – maximum score will be 100 points. For other applications, based on which of these six economic factors are addressed, the score will be a sub-total of points shown in the table above for each category addressed.

Low to Moderate Income Factor (LMI)

LMI Factor	Maximum Points 20
More than 55% LMI	20
Between 45.01% and 55% LMI	15
Between 35.01% and 45% LMI	10
35% or less LMI	5

Project Need (100 points)

The criteria in this section assess how well the Applicant makes a compelling case for this project through a project plan that is comprehensive and covers how the project targets the community's needs. In addition, this measures the level of community support within the proposed project area. Applicants who provide substantive evidence of community support will score higher.

B.1 Project Justification (Maximum 50 points)

Key Areas	Factors for Consideration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which the project meets the following criteria. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Designed to directly enable work, education, and health monitoring. ○ Designed to address a critical need that resulted from or was made apparent or exacerbated by the public health emergency. ○ Designed to address a critical need of the community to be served by the project. • Demonstration of project need in the served community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Applicant has developed a compelling narrative to justify the need for the project including approach to identify the need. ✓ Applicant used evidence such as lack of community libraries with internet access, community schools with no access to employment and work-related services, health centers with limited internet and/or private areas for telehealth appointments to justify the need. ✓ Applicant should demonstrate that the facility has the required broadband connectivity and devices including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For existing facilities, details on current broadband connectivity at the facility and available/proposed devices. ○ For new and existing facilities, details on whether Applicant has initiated discussions with Interest Service Providers to secure broadband connection to the facility.

B.2 Community Support (Maximum 50 points)	
Key Areas	Factors for Consideration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which the project need is demonstrated through community support. • The extent to which Local Technology Planning Teams and other surveys were factored into defining the project to address specific needs identified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Evidence of community outreach efforts to demonstrate the need for the project. ✓ Other community feedback that shows compelling need and project support. ✓ If available, recent survey or other similar community-focused analyses regarding level of need, gaps, and project support. ✓ Degree to which teams conducted community-level activities including participating in Local Technology Planning Teams and research to determine the community's need for a multi-purpose facility.

Project Readiness (50 points)

This criteria assesses the readiness of the project by evaluating key activities carried out to date, the details of the project schedule, design, and the work related to environmental approvals and certificates is underway.

The following factors should be taken into consideration for evaluation and scoring process.

C.1 Reasonableness of Project Schedule (Maximum 15 points)	
Key Areas	Factors for Consideration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of the project development activities carried out by the Applicant to date. • Reasonableness of the project schedule. • The extent to which the project meets or is expected to meet broadband connectivity needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ List of activities carried out by the Applicant to date. ✓ The degree to which the project schedule is detailed, structured, clear, and consistent with committed timelines for key activities. ✓ Detailed narrative on project schedule confirming that project completion will be prior to December 31, 2026. ✓ Identification of key execution risks and mitigation plan. ✓ Existing or proposed arrangements with Internet Service Providers and suppliers for broadband connectivity and/or devices.

C.2 Engineering Design Evidence (Maximum 10 points)

Key Areas	Factors for Consideration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Details regarding the engineering and design plans for the facility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Completeness of the Applicant's project design.✓ Clear and detailed design of the facility and the services provided in each area.✓ Contractors and vendors details (particularly for new construction). <p><i>Note: Professional engineer, architect, or similar certification is required.</i></p>

C.3 Environmental and Other Permits (Maximum 25 points)

Key Areas	Factors for Consideration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Details provided on environmental review process, and all required governmental approvals and permits as required for the proposed project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Clear and detailed list of the required approvals and permits.✓ Concrete plan to secure the required approvals and permits.✓ Completed environmental review process (e.g., Documentation of Certificate of Exemption/Categorically Excluded Not Subject To (CENST), if applicable; or documentation of the appropriate level environmental review has been completed, up to but not including publication or posting the Notice of Intent / Request for Release of Funds.

Community Impact (150 points)

This criteria measures the potential impact that the project could have within the proposed area. Specifically, this measures the degree to which the project will increase access to work, education, and health services, and promote community and economic development within the project area. In addition, this criteria looks at the project functions by evaluating the details of the services provided, degree of accessibility and asset plans in terms of ownership, operations, and maintenance.

D.1 Benefits to Community (Maximum 75 points)

Key Areas	Factors for Consideration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details on how the proposed facility will address the current need and provide a benefit to the targeted community from a Work, Education, and Health Monitoring perspective. • Details on the benefits that the facility will have on the targeted community. Provide examples of potential uses of the proposed facility. • Details on whether the project will have direct job creation and if it will prioritize workers from disadvantaged communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Narrative on the services that will be offered at the facility that are not currently available such access to training facilities, education, workforce, and health monitoring services, etc. ✓ Details on the facility benefits such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inclusion of public location for access to digital devices for educational opportunities persons or households. ○ Inclusion of private areas where citizens can access their telehealth appointments or meet with healthcare providers. ✓ The number of new jobs created in the targeted community directly related to construction, operations and maintenance of the facility. ✓ Extent to which the proposed project has a plan to hire local workers from disadvantaged communities that have experienced disproportionately poor work, education, and health outcomes demonstrated by federal, state, and other relevant data, reports from the targeted community/communities. ✓ Access to digital devices at a public or accessible location to provide educational opportunities and services including certification programs, in-person training programs and classes to develop technological skills. ✓ Provision of private spaces and relate devices to facilitate telehealth services.

D.2 Diversity of Services/Functions (Maximum 25 points)

Key Areas	Factors for Consideration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project addresses other services and/or functions in addition to addressing the core requirements for CPF eligibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Availability of other functional areas including recreational such as basketball courts and exercise areas. ✓ Availability of municipal services such as police and fire.

D.3 Accessibility (Maximum 25 points)

Key Areas	Factors for Consideration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Details on the facility location and its surroundings.• Required and recommended services offered at the location in relation to accessibility to the facility, including accessibility for individuals with disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Proximity and access to public transportation.✓ Proximity to community anchor institutions, and other end user facilities.✓ Does the facility meet all accessibility requirements established by state and federal laws?✓ Does the facility provide unrestricted access during normal business hours?✓ Does the facility offer services to those hindered by language barriers, methods for training, and access for workforce related activities.

Note: Applicants whose existing facilities are not fully accessible to individuals with disabilities are urged to work toward compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

D.4 CareerSource Florida Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) (Maximum 25 points)

Key Areas	Factors for Consideration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstration and evidence of partnership and collaboration between the applicant and CareerSource Florida including the extent to which CareerSource is used to provide training courses, assist with job postings, established on-site meetings to assist job applicants etc.• Contemplation of partnerships with state colleges and technical centers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Level of coordination and information sharing between 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, more specifically a plan to host weekly or monthly meetings/training and provide information and services at no cost to users of the facility that seek to enter or re-enter the job market.✓ Evidence of planning for training courses, and approach to soliciting support from the local workforce development board on job postings.

Project Budget (50 points)

Applicant should provide information on the budget narrative and should identify all major expenditure categories and the total sums for categories. Applicant should also provide details on the annual operating and maintenance cost of the facility.

E.1 Budget Narrative and Reasonableness of Cost (Maximum 50 points)	
Key Areas	Factors for Consideration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrative explaining the various cost categories and providing the rationale for the costs. • Reasonableness of the capital budget for the project. • Reasonableness of the annual operating budget for the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Level of detail provided in the budget narrative for the project. ✓ Level of detail of the total project costs including a narrative on all major capital expenditure categories and the total sums for those categories. ✓ Level of detail provided on the annual costs for operating and maintaining the facility. <p><i>The cost elements should include, as applicable, engineering design, permitting, construction and labor costs, and other costs associated with a new facility i.e., acquisition of property for development.</i></p>

Project Viability, Resiliency and Sustainability (100 points)

Application should clearly demonstrate that the proposed project is financially and operational viable, ensures resiliency, Applicant organization has necessary resources, and experience to deliver the proposed project within budget and schedule, and that the Applicant organization has an experience for successfully executing similar project(s).

F.1 Financial Capacity and Sustainability (Maximum 10 points)	
Key Areas	Factors for Consideration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant's financial capacity consistent with the project size and operations proposed. • The applicant's ability to obligate and expend funds by program deadlines. • Demonstration of the project's financial sustainability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ If applicable, audited financial statements of the applicant and other documentation, or financial records to demonstrate financial stability. ✓ Clear identification of additional funding sources and proof of financing being available. ✓ Evidence that the Applicant has the financial capacity to operate and maintain the facility for a period of 5 years after project completion.

F.1 Financial Capacity and Sustainability (Maximum 10 points)

Key Areas	Factors for Consideration
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Verified financial resources to the project from the Applicant and/or any qualified community partner(s).✓ Detailed narrative explaining how the grant recipient will obligate and spend funds in compliance with the program deadlines.✓ Discussion of key financial risks that could impede sustainability (e.g., cost overruns) and mitigation strategies.

F.2 Facility Resiliency (Maximum 50 points)

Key Areas	Factors for Consideration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Details regarding the resiliency of the planned facility.• Details on whether the planned facility is environmentally sustainable and energy efficient.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Provide evidence of plans to ensure resiliency of the facility such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Planning for redundancy in power generation (i.e., having a backup generator).○ Considering alternative sources of power such as photo-voltaic panels, thermal hot water heaters, etc.○ Constructing or rehabilitating facilities with materials that are more resilient to weather changes.○ Leveraging ICC/NSSA 500 Standard for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters code standards for both new construction and existing facilities.✓ Planning for the facilities to function as a storm shelter.

F.3 Organization Capability and Track Record (Maximum 20 points)

Key Areas	Factors for Consideration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstration that the Applicant is well positioned to contract, operate, and maintain the facility for a period of initial 5 years after the project completion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Details regarding the Applicant's ability to complete construction and operate and maintain the facility for at least 5 years after project completion.

F.3 Organization Capability and Track Record (Maximum 20 points)

Key Areas	Factors for Consideration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of the Applicant’s experience and track record to execute and operate similar project(s). • If applicable, demonstration of viable partnerships including public-private partnerships. • If applicable, details regarding the partner’s organizational capability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Details on the Applicant’s key personnel experience in areas similar to the project. ✓ Details that the Applicant has delivered projects of similar size in the last 5 years. ✓ Details regarding partnerships including public-private partnerships or coordination between the Applicant and local entities to implement, operate, and sustain the project. ✓ Details regarding the partner’s experience in having developed a similar project.

F.4 Operational Sustainability and Ownership (Maximum 20 points)

Key Areas	Factors for Consideration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details related to project ownership and duration of operations. • How does the Applicant plan to fund the operations and maintenance of the facility? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Evidence of facility and equipment ownership either through a) lease agreement with guaranteed rights of renewal, or b) a commercial lease agreement with at least 10 years remaining, c) copy of the facility deed or d) outright purchase of a facility and/or equipment. Confirmation that ownership of the facility and equipment will be retained by the Applicant. ✓ Evidence and confirmation that the facility will conduct eligible activities for a minimum of five years after completion of the project.

Note: Applicants must own the facility to apply for any exterior rehabilitation initiatives.