

**Alaska Broadband Grant Program**

**Notice of Funding Opportunity**

**State of Alaska: Mike Dunleavy, Governor**



**Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development  
Julie Sande, Commissioner**

**Alaska Broadband Office**

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# SECTION 1 – PROGRAM INFORMATION

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The State of Alaska, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED), Alaska Broadband Office (ABO) issues this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to describe the Alaska Broadband Grant Program requirements and application process. The State of Alaska, DCCED, ABO received a grant award under the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, Division F, Title I, Section 60102, Public Law 117-58, 135 Stat. 429 (November 15, 2021) (Infrastructure Act or Act) also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, CFDA 11.035.

The BEAD Program provides new federal funding to be distributed primarily based on the relative number of “Unserved” locations (i.e., Broadband Serviceable Locations that lack access to reliable broadband service at speeds of at least 25 Megabits per second (Mbps) download and 3 Mbps upload and latency levels low enough to support real time, interactive applications) in the state of Alaska. The State of Alaska was allocated \$1,017,139,672.42 to primarily provide fiber to each Unserved location and other technologies if certain circumstances exist. The State will distribute no more than \$991,796,878.97 for broadband projects to achieve “Internet for All”.

This is the initial announcement for this opportunity and the funding mechanism will be grants.

## ALASKA BROADBAND OFFICE

The State of Alaska seeks to implement sufficient grant opportunities to build the necessary infrastructure to empower full digital equity for all Alaskans, with appropriate growth and affordable. The ABO is committed to ensuring that all Alaskan individuals and communities have the information technology capacity that is needed for full participation in the global society and economy no matter the rurality of location.

As of May 28, 2024, Alaska has 281,536 Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSL). Of that number, 56,142 are within a federal “Enforceable Commitment”<sup>1</sup>, 145,900 are Served, 20,475 are Underserved, and 37,781 are Unserved. The Unserved and Underserved BSL counts break down into two additional levels of analysis: the first is a categorization of rurality of “Fiber or Road”, “Rural Community”, and “Non-Community Based”; and the second is a determination of “High-Cost” and “Non-High-Cost”. Table 1 below shows the breakdown of the Unserved and Underserved locations in these two sub-categories.

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<sup>1</sup> An Enforceable Commitment is a federal program such as the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program rounds 1 or 2, the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Community Connect, ReConnect, and/or the USDA Rural Loan Program.

Table 1: Evaluation of Unserved and Underserved BSLs

Service Level	Alaska Broadband Office Rurality Evaluation	High-Cost / Non-High-Cost Areas	Broadband Serviceable Location Counts
Unserved	Fiber or Road	High-Cost	2,912
		Non-High-Cost	13,501
	Rural Community	High-Cost	9,533
		Non-High-Cost	456
	Non-Community Based	High-Cost	6,297
		Non-High-Cost	4,510
<b>Subtotal Unserved</b>			<b>37,209</b>
Service Level	Alaska Broadband Office Rurality Evaluation	High-Cost / Non-High-Cost Areas	Broadband Serviceable Location Counts
Underserved	Fiber or Road	High-Cost	1,267
		Non-High-Cost	14,723
	Rural Community	High-Cost	3,614
		Non-High-Cost	239
	Non-Community Based	High-Cost	102
		Non-High-Cost	383
<b>Subtotal Underserved</b>			<b>20,337</b>

**PROGRAM DETAILS**

**1. Application Submission Instructions**

Complete applications may be submitted electronically through the online application portal, available at <https://reigrants-akdced.my.site.com/recipient/s/login/?ec=302&startURL=%2Frecipient%2Fs%2F>. For applicants with access to high-speed Internet, applications should be filed electronically. Applicants without access to high-speed internet, complete applications may be submitted to the ABO via email at [ced.abo.general@alaska.gov](mailto:ced.abo.general@alaska.gov) with the subject line “Alaska Broadband Grant Application.” Paper applications may also be submitted via courier service or the United States Postal Service (USPS) to:

Alaska Broadband Office  
 Attn: Grant Administrator  
 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1535  
 Anchorage, AK 99501

Facsimile (fax) copies sent to (907) 269-8125 by the application deadline will be accepted. Applicants are required to bear in mind that if multiple applicants are attempting to submit at the same time, the facsimile resources may be in use and the application may not make in by the deadline. The ABO encourages applicants to NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST DAY TO SEND IN APPLICATIONS BY FACSIMILE. If the applicant’s facsimile application is received after the deadline, it will NOT be considered.

Engineering diagrams must be submitted via an electronic zipped GIS shapefile. If applications are submitted in the portal, there is an area to attach the engineering shapefile. If applications are submitted via fax or mail, the engineering shapefiles will need to be mailed to the ABO with a post mark no later than the due date.

**2. Eligibility**

The ABO encourages any entity meeting the capability requirements, as set forth herein, to apply for this program. That includes, but is not limited to, federally recognized tribal governments, consortiums, cooperatives, non-profit organizations, private companies including traditional providers of internet and telecommunications service, public-private partnerships, public or private utilities, public utility districts, and local governments.

**3. Eligible Project Size**

The ABO will accept applications for deployment projects as small as one BSL, or as large as all Unserved locations within the state of Alaska.

**4. Potential Project Funding Amounts**

The State of Alaska was allocated \$1,017,139,672.42, with a net available of not more than \$991,796,878.97, to provide service to each Unserved location primarily via fiber and via other technologies if certain circumstances exist. An eligible applicant may apply for no less than \$5,000.00. \$5,000 is a single BSL location allocation in a non-high-cost “Fiber or Road” and “Non-Community Based” location.

**5. Maximum Number of Applications**

An eligible applicant may submit multiple applications for the Alaska Broadband Grant Program in response to this solicitation. Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to use the Pre-Determined Project Areas (PDPA) in Table 2 below. A full list of the recommended BSL by PDPA groupings are found in Appendix I of this document.

Table 2: Pre-Determined Project Areas:

<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>
Akutan	01-01	Adak	02-01	Anchorage	03-01
Cold Bay	01-01	Atka	02-01	Bird Creek	03-01
False Pass	01-01	Nikolski	02-01	Girdwood	03-01
King Cove	01-01	Saint George	02-01	Indian	03-01
Nelson	01-01	Saint Paul	02-01		
Lagoon	01-01	Unalaska	02-01		
Sand Point	01-01				
<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>

Hope	03-02	Chugiak	03-03	Bethel	04-01
		Eagle River	03-03	Goodnews Bay	04-01
				Napaskiak	04-01
				Oscarville	04-01
				Platinum	04-01
				Quinhagak	04-01
				Tuntutuliak	04-01
<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>
Aniak	04-02	Akiak	04-03	Kasigluk	04-04
Chuathbaluk	04-02	Kwethluk	04-03	Nunapitchuk	04-04
Georgetown	04-02	Lower	04-03		
Napaimute	04-02	Kalskag	04-03		
		Napakiak	04-03		
		Tuluksak	04-03		
		Upper	04-03		
		Kalskag	04-03		
<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>
Chefornak	04-05	Lime Village	04-06	Egegik	05-01
Kipnuk	04-05			King Salmon	05-01
Kongiganak	04-05			Naknek	05-01
Kwigillingok	04-05			Pilot Point	05-01
Mekoryuk	04-05			Port Heiden	05-01
Mertarvik	04-05			South Naknek	05-01
Newtok	04-05			Ugashik	05-01
Nightmute	04-05				
Toksook Bay	04-05				
Tununak	04-05				
<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>
Cordova	06-01	Valdez	06-02	Chitina	07-01
Tatitlek	06-01			Copper Center	07-01
Whittier	06-01			Gakona	07-01
				Glennallen	07-01
				Gulkana	07-01
				Mentasta Lake	07-01
				Tazlina	07-01
<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>
Anderson	08-01	Aleknagik	09-01	Portage Creek	09-02
Cantwell	08-01	Clark's Point	09-01		
Carlo Creek	08-01	Dillingham	09-01		
Denali Park	08-01	Ekuk	09-01		
Healy	08-01	Ekwok	09-01		
		Manokotak	09-01		
		New	09-01		
		Stuyahok	09-01		
<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>
Togiak	09-03	Fairbanks	10-01	Haines	11-01

Twin Hills	09-03	North Pole	10-01		
<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>
Angoon	12-01	Douglas	13-01	Clam Gulch	14-01
Elfin Cove	12-01	Juneau	13-01	Kasilof	14-01
Gustavus	12-01			Kenai	14-01
Hoonah	12-01			Nikiski	14-01
Pelican	12-01			Ninilchik	14-01
Tenakee Springs	12-01			Soldotna	14-01
				Sterling	14-01
<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>
Nanwalek	14-02	Anchor Point	14-03	Cooper Landing	14-04
Port Graham	14-02	Homer	14-03	Moose Pass	14-04
Seldovia	14-02	Kachemak	14-03	Seward	14-04
<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>
Tyonek	14-05	Ketchikan	15-01	Akhiok	16-01
				Chiniak	16-01
				Karluk	16-01
				Kodiak	16-01
				Larsen Bay	16-01
				Old Harbor	16-01
				Ouzinkie	16-01
				Uyak	16-01
<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>
Alakanuk	17-01	Marshall	17-02	Igiugig	18-01
Chevak	17-01	Pilot Station	17-02	Iliamna	18-01
Emmonak	17-01	Pitkas Point	17-02	Kokhanok	18-01
Kotlik	17-01	Russian Mission	17-02	Levelock	18-01
Mountain Village	17-01			Newhalen	18-01
Nunam Iqua	17-01			Nondalton	18-01
Saint Mary's	17-01			Pedro Bay	18-01
Scammon Bay	17-01			Pope-Vannoy Landing	18-01
				Port Alsworth	18-01
<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>
Chignik	18-02	Ivanof Bay	18-03	Big Lake	19-01
Chignik Lake	18-02			Chickaloon	19-01
				Houston	19-01
				Matanuska-Susitna Borough	19-01
				Meadow Lakes	19-01
				Palmer	19-01
				Sutton	19-01
				Talkeetna	19-01



				Trapper Creek	19-01
				Wasilla	19-01
				Willow	19-01
<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>
Elim	20-01	Gambell	20-02	Anaktuvuk Pass	21-01
Nome	20-01	Savoonga	20-02	Atkasuk	21-01
Saint Michael	20-01			Deadhorse	21-01
Shaktoolik	20-01			Kaktovik	21-01
Shishmaref	20-01			Nuiqsut	21-01
Stebbins	20-01			Point Hope	21-01
Unalakleet	20-01			Point Lay	21-01
White Mountain	20-01			Prudhoe Bay	21-01
				Utqiagvik	21-01
				Wainwright	21-01
<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>
Petersburg	23-01	Craig	24-01	Metlakatla	24-02
		Edna Bay	24-01		
		Hollis	24-01		
		Hyder	24-01		
		Kake	24-01		
		Kasaan	24-01		
		Klawock	24-01		
		Naukati Bay	24-01		
		Point Baker	24-01		
		Port Protection	24-01		
		Thorne Bay	24-01		
<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>
Sitka	25-01	Skagway	26-01	Delta Junction	27-01
<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>
Northway	27-02	Wrangell	29-01	Birch Creek	31-01
Tok	27-02			Central	31-01
				Nenana	31-01
<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>
Arctic Village	31-02	Fort Yukon	31-03	Galena	31-04
Chalkyitsik	31-02	Stevens Village	31-03	Kaltag	31-04
Circle	31-02	Tanana	31-03	Koyukuk	31-04
Venetie	31-02			Manley Hot Springs	31-04
Yukon Flats	31-02			Minto	31-04
Nat Wildlife	31-02			Nulato	31-04

				Ruby	31-04
				Shageluk	31-04
<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>
McGrath	31-05	Lake Minchumina	31-06	Non-Community Based	32-01
Nikolai	31-05				
Takotna	31-05				
<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>PDPA</b>		
Identified Non-BSL	32-02	Enforceable Commitment	32-03		

**6. Overlapping Location Deconfliction**

In the event the ABO receives more than one application for service to a location or community, the applicant with the higher score will be awarded grant funding for the location or community.

**7. Project Prioritization**

The focus of the Alaska Broadband Grant Program is to deploy broadband service to Unserved locations (those without any broadband service at all or with broadband service offering speeds below 25 Mbps download/3 Mbps upload) and Underserved locations (those without service or offering speeds below 100 Mbps download/20 Mbps upload). The ABO will prioritize fiber infrastructure awards at or below the extremely high cost per location threshold (EHCPLT) first for projects to Unserved locations, if funding is available, the ABO will also support projects to Underserved locations. Funds remaining after the award of projects serving 100 percent of Unserved and Underserved locations will be available for projects providing symmetrical 1 gigabit service to Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs). To the extent any remaining funds are available after funding 100% of all Unserved, Underserved, and CAI locations, the ABO will allocate funds to non-deployment activities.

*Cost Sharing/Matching.* Except in certain specific circumstances described herein, for each broadband deployment project utilizing BEAD grant funding, each applicant shall provide matching funds of not less than 25 percent of the total project cost and all costs in excess of the grant awarded, if greater than the 25 percent match.

*Federal Match Waiver.* In special circumstances, pursuant to Section 60102(h)(3)(A)(ii) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-58), the Assistant Secretary may consider a request for a waiver of some, or all, of the 25 percent match. Applicants may request a waiver, using the form in Appendix C, by outlining the special circumstances underlying the request and explaining how the waiver will serve the public interest and effectuate the purposes of the BEAD Program. Waiver requests shall be submitted to the ABO for evaluation of legitimacy for further submission to NTIA for consideration.

*High-Cost Areas.* Applicants submitting projects in “High-Cost Areas” as defined in Section 60102(a)(2)(G) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-58) shall have the matching funds waived 100 percent.

*In-Kind Matches.* Matching funds may be provided in the form of in-kind contributions, so long as such contributions are made consistent with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards set forth at 2 C.F.R. Part 200.306. In-kind contributions, which may include third-party in-kind contributions, are non-cash donations of property, goods, or services, which benefit a federally assisted project, and which may count toward satisfying the non-federal matching requirement of a

project's total budgeted costs when such contributions meet certain criteria.

*Matching Funds.* Funds from federal programs, including funds from the Commission's Universal Service Fund programs, generally, may not be used as matching funds; however, the Infrastructure Act expressly provides that matching funds for the BEAD Program may come from a federal regional commission or authority and from funds that were provided to an Applicant for the purpose of deploying broadband service under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116-127; 134 Stat. 178); the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136; 134 Stat. 281), the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (Public Law 116-260; 134 Stat. 1182); or the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2; 135 Stat. 4), to the extent permitted by those laws. Funding from the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program administered by the NTIA, and funding from the Community Connect and ReConnect grant programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service may not be used as matching funds for the BEAD Program.

## **8. Eligible and Ineligible Project Categories and Activities**

8.1. Eligible Activities: The Alaska Broadband Grant Program may be used to fund:

### 8.1.1. Permitting

Work related to Federal, State, Local, and Tribal environmental (including NEPA), historical, and cultural reviews, and site surveys, selection, and acquisition including securing easements, rights-of-way, and/or long-term land or facility leases.

### 8.1.2. Construction and Deployment

Construction, improvement, and/or acquisition of facilities and telecommunications equipment required to provide qualifying broadband service, including infrastructure for backhaul, middle- and last-mile networks, and (to and within) multi-tenant residential buildings.

### 8.1.3. Personnel Costs and Operating Expenses Associated with the Construction and Deployment of the Infrastructure

Salaries and fringe benefits for staff and consultants providing services connected to implementation of the networks under this program.

### 8.1.4. Operational

Overhead costs related to the implementation of networks under this program including salaries and fringe benefits for non-construction staff (e.g., accounting, payroll, human resources), pro-rated percentages of corporate office space and other similar overhead expenses. This category has a maximum allowable indirect cost of 10% of the overall capital expenditure.

### 8.1.5. Workforce Development

Registered Apprenticeships and Pre-apprenticeships. Community college and/or vocational training for broadband-related occupations to support deployment, maintenance, and upgrades. In-house training and safety programs supporting improved skills and capacity for occupations related to deployment, maintenance, and upgrades.

8.2. Ineligible Project Activities: The following activities are not eligible for Alaska Broadband Grant Program funding<sup>2</sup>:

#### 8.2.1. Pre-application submission engineering

#### 8.2.2. Environmental Mitigation

#### 8.2.3. Federal, State, and Local Taxes

#### 8.2.4. Costs associated with letters of Credit and/or Performance Bonds

The above listing of ineligible activities is not intended to be considered all-inclusive. Please contact the ABO if you have any questions about project eligibility or the correct funding category.

## **9. Key Dates:**

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<sup>2</sup> Matching funds cannot be used for ineligible activities.

9.1. December 16, 2024.

The State of Alaska opened the grant application period **December 16, 2024**.

9.2. April 14, 2025.

Completed applications are required to be received by the ABO through the online application portal at <https://reigrants-akdced.my.site.com/recipient/s/login/?ec=302&startURL=%2Frecipient%2Fs%2F>, via email, via courier service or the United States Postal Service (USPS), or by facsimile (fax) no later than **4:59 p.m. Alaska Standard Time (AST), April 14, 2025**.

9.3. July 2025.

The State of Alaska expects the proposed grant awards to be submitted to the NTIA for final approval mid **July 2025**.

9.4. September/October 2025.

The ABO anticipates that the NTIA will provide final approval within 60 to 90 days after the ABO submits the "Final Proposal". This will put the formal Alaska Broadband Grant Program award announcements sometime between **September 2025**, and **October 2025**.

## **10. Post Award Project Timeline**

As established in Section 60102(h)(4)(C) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-58), applicants that receive BEAD Program funds for network deployment are required to deploy the planned broadband network and, for last mile projects, begin providing services to each customer that desires broadband service within the project area not later than four years after the grant agreement is signed by all parties.

The project period shall begin on the effective date of the grant agreement between the ABO and the grant recipient.

The timeline shall include the following project milestones:

Stage 1: Permitting

Stage 2: Staging and Materials Acquisition

Stage 3: Workforce Readiness

Stage 4: Construction and Deployment

Stage 5: Project Close-Out and Operational Readiness Transition

## **11. Technical Assistance**

The State of Alaska will provide technical assistance at three sessions.

Additional technical assistance can be arranged throughout the application period by contacting [Jan.Cox@Alaska.gov](mailto:Jan.Cox@Alaska.gov)

## SECTION 2 – APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

The Alaska Broadband Grant Program application includes two components: Minimum Qualification Criterion (MQ Criterion) and Scoring Section. There are 15 MQ Criterion and each have a pass/fail metric. A “fail” in any one of the Criterion will disqualify the application from further consideration. A “pass” of all MQ Criterion moves the application to the scoring phase. Scoring elements that will be evaluated based on information submitted in MQ Criteria 1, 5, and 7 are described in Section 3 – Scoring Matrix and Descriptions.

Certifications will be made throughout Criteria 1-15 and in Section 3 – Scoring Matrix and Descriptions. All narratives in the application, appendices, and any supplemental attachments must be written in Arial font in a minimum font size of 12.

### APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 15 MINIMUM QUALIFICATION CRITERION

#### **Criterion 1: Applicant License and Registration Information**

*(All elements are required to be present and currently active for a pass.)*

Applicants are required to provide evidence of the following registrations and licenses:

- 1.1. Active Business License  
Applicants are required to have an active business license to be eligible to participate in this program. A copy of the active business license can be obtained from State of Alaska, Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing and is required to be included with the application.
- 1.2. Active Unique Entity ID  
Applicants are required to have an active Unique Entity ID (UEI) registration with SAM.gov at the time of application.  
This is your organization’s registration with the Federal government, and it is a requirement for receiving Federal funds under the Alaska Broadband Grant Program. Applicants are required to provide confirmation from the SAM.gov website showing active status in the application.
- 1.3. Active FCC Registration Number (FRN)  
Applicants are required to provide their Federal Communications Commission (FCC) registration number at the time of application. The FCC Registration Number (FRN) is a 10-digit unique identifying number that is assigned to entities doing business with the Commission.
- 1.4. Active USAC (Universal Service Administrative Company) Number  
If applicable, applicants are required to provide their USAC number at the time of application.
- 1.5. EIN (Employer Identification Number)  
Applicants are required to provide their Employer Identification Number (EIN) during portal registration and a copy is required to be provided with the application.

#### **Criterion 2: Organizational and Managerial Capability**

*(All elements are required to be present for a pass)*

Applicants are required to demonstrate proof of organizational and managerial capability with respect to the proposed project and its ongoing operational integrity. If an applicant does not address all the following areas, it will be considered a “fail”.

- 2.1. Each applicant is required to provide a narrative describing the applicant’s readiness to manage projects. The applicant shall provide its ownership information pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §1.12112(a)(1)-(7) on the Ownership Certification Form in Appendix J.
- 2.2. Attach an organization chart and include the following information for key management personnel for the below listed positions: name, organization, position title, project role, and attached resume. It is acceptable to list the same name if one person fulfills multiple positions below.
  - 2.2.1. Chief Executive Officer or equivalent

- 2.2.2. Chief Financial Officer or equivalent
- 2.2.3. Chief Operating Officer or equivalent
- 2.2.4. Chief Network/Technology Officer or equivalent
- 2.2.5. Chief Revenue Officer or equivalent
- 2.2.6. Chief Security Officer or equivalent
- 2.2.7. Chief Marketing Officer or equivalent
- 2.2.8. Chief Human Resources Officer or equivalent
- 2.2.9. Chief Information Officer or equivalent
- 2.2.10. General Counsel or equivalent
- 2.3. List the existing and proposed full-time-equivalent (FTE) employees to be dedicated to the project.
- 2.4. Describe the experience and qualifications of key project personnel undertaking this project, experience undertaking projects of similar size and scope, and relevant organizational policies.
  - 2.4.1. Project Manager or equivalent
  - 2.4.2. Field Manager or equivalent
  - 2.4.3. Foreperson or equivalent
  - 2.4.4. Network Engineering Manager or equivalent
  - 2.4.5. Outside Plant Engineering Manager or equivalent
  - 2.4.6. Inspection Engineer or equivalent
  - 2.4.7. Safety Officer or equivalent
- 2.5. Where applicable, applicant is required to include a narrative describing any recent or upcoming organizational changes including mergers and acquisitions with any corporate parent, subsidiary, or affiliate relationships as demonstrated in the first Organizational Chart provided per the Required Attachment section of this document.
- 2.6. Provide a list of project partners including their name, a brief description of each organization, and their role within the project.
- 2.7. Identify if the project will use any Non-Traditional Providers such as Local Governments (including municipalities or political subdivisions, electric cooperatives, non-profits, or Tribal Governments) and Utilities.

### **Criterion 3: Financial Capability**

*(All elements are required to be present for a pass)*

Applicants are required to show specific evidence of financial capability to undertake the construction and deployment of infrastructure and operate and maintain the infrastructure over its complete lifespan. No application will be approved by the ABO until it determines the documents submitted demonstrate the prospective grantee's financial capability with respect to the proposed project.

Each applicant is required to describe:

- 3.1. The applicant's financial qualifications to meet the obligations associated with their proposed project
- 3.2. The availability of funds for all project costs that exceed the amount of the grant
- 3.3. The applicant will certify that they have, and will continue to have, sufficient financial resources to cover eligible costs for the project in between authorized grant disbursements.
- 3.4. Letter of Credit or Bond: Each applicant will provide a Letter of Credit or Bond Commitment (Appendix A)<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> There are multiple options for either a Letter of Credit or Bond. Option 1: applicants must submit a letter committing to issue an irrevocable standby Letter of Credit (LOC) equal to 25% of the total project cost. Using the template provided as Appendix A, the letter shall be issued by a) a bank meeting the eligibility requirements set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.804(c)(2); or b) a credit union that is insured by the National Credit Union Administration and has a credit union safety rating issued by Weiss of B- or better. The letter shall include the dollar amount of the letter of credit and the issuing bank's or credit union's agreement to follow the terms and conditions of the Letter of Credit. Option 2: applicants must submit a letter committing to issue a performance bond equal to 100% of the total project cost. Using the template provided as Appendix A1, the letter shall be from a company holding a certificate of authority as an acceptable surety on federal bonds as identified in the Department of Treasury Circular 570

3.5. Attached Audited Financial Statements<sup>4</sup>:

3.5.1. Applicant shall submit financial statements from the prior fiscal year that are audited by an independent certified public accountant. If the audit includes findings, the applicant shall provide a written summary with the audit, signed by the applicant's chief financial officer, describing the implementation of all mitigation actions addressing the findings.

3.5.2. If an applicant has not been audited during the ordinary course of business, in lieu of submitting audited financial statements, the applicant shall submit:

3.5.2.1. Unaudited financial statements from the prior year; and

3.5.2.2. Certification, on Appendix B: Certification to Provide Audited Financial Statements, that it will provide financial statements audited by an independent certified public accountant no later than the grant application deadline; and

3.6. Pro Forma: Evidence is required of at least 3 years of operating cost and cash flow projections post targeted completion of project showing that the applicant can sustainably operate the funded network and provide the committed service over the lifetime of the asset. Evidence shall be provided through a pro forma showing:

3.6.1. Income Statement

3.6.2. Balance Sheet

3.6.3. Cash Flow Statement

Pro Forma will include revenue covering expenses and capital maintenance/upgrades, demonstration of commitment by company with long-term operating history and financial stability, or other comparable methods. Attach Pro Forma Financial Statements.<sup>5</sup>

#### **Criterion 4. Other Public Funding Disclosure**

*(All elements are required to be present for a pass)*

Applicants are required to disclose for itself, for its affiliates, or any eligible entity partner under the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP), any application the applicant, its affiliates, or eligible entity partner under the TBCP have submitted or plan to submit, and every broadband deployment project that the applicant or its affiliates are undertaking or have committed to undertake at the time of the application using public funds, including but not limited to funds provided under: the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116-127; 134 Stat. 178); the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136; 134 Stat. 281); the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260; 134 Stat. 1182); the American Rescue Plan of 2021 (Public Law 117-2; 135 Stat. 4); the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-58; 135 Stat. 429); any federal Universal Service Fund high-cost program (e.g., Alaska Plan, ACAM, CAF2); or any State or local universal service or broadband deployment funding program.

Applicants shall disclose for each broadband deployment project:

4.1. A brief narrative of each deployment project. If there are no additional deployment projects, simply add "none."

4.2. The speed and latency of the broadband service to be provided (as measured and/or reported under the applicable rules)

4.3. A list of the BSLs committed to be Served with the project funding and if applicable the list of BSLs committed

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committing to issue a performance bond to the applicant upon notice of award. The letter shall at a minimum provide the dollar amount of the performance bond, or Option 3: 3 applicants must follow all the requirements of Option 1 or Option 2, but may reduce the amount, of Option 1 - 25% Irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit or Option 2 – 100% Performance Bond, to 10% if the applicant agrees to the following requirements upon becoming a successful subgrantee: a. The ABO issues funding to the subgrantee on a reimbursable basis consistent with Section IV.C.1.b of the federal BEAD NOFO; b. Financial Progress Reports, and corresponding requests for reimbursement must be submitted monthly by the subgrantee, and c. The subgrantee commits to maintain a letter of credit or performance bond in the amount of 10% of the subaward until it has demonstrated to satisfaction of the ABO that it has completed the buildout of 100 percent of locations to be served by the project or until the period of performance of the subaward has ended, whichever occurs first.

<sup>4</sup> Audited documents are encouraged to be, but not required to be in Arial font size 12.

<sup>5</sup> Pro Forma documents are encouraged to be, but not required to be in Arial font size 12.

- to moving from Unserved to Underserved
- 4.4. The amount of public funding to be used
  - 4.5. The matching commitment, if any, provided by the applicant, its affiliates, or any eligible entity partner under the TBCP

### **Criterion 5: Technical Capability**

*(All elements are required to be present for a pass) [Must provide an electronic engineering zipped GIS shape file of the network and a fully filled out capital cost MS Excel model]*

Each applicant is required to submit the following documents. All engineering documents are required to be certified by a professional engineer licensed in the State of Alaska as part of the application. For clarity, these requirements are sourced from the BEAD NOFO, page 74, which reads: *“Prospective subgrantees must submit a network design, diagram, project costs, build-out timeline and milestones for project implementation, and a capital investment schedule evidencing complete build-out and the initiation of service within four years of the date on which the entity receives the subgrant, all certified by a professional engineer, stating that the proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets the requisite performance requirements to all locations served by the Project. The Eligible Entity [State of Alaska] shall not approve any grant for the deployment or upgrading of network facilities unless it determines that the materials submitted to it demonstrate the prospective subgrantee’s technical capability with respect to the proposed project.”*

#### **5.1. Proposed Network Design**

Describe the proposed broadband deployment project and the expected results. Include a description of how the proposed network will deliver the broadband services that meet the requisite performance requirements to all Unserved and Underserved Broadband Serviceable Locations covered by the project(s). The narrative is required to include a description of the planned capital improvement schedule evidencing complete build-out and the initiation of service within four years of the date on which the grant agreement is signed stating that the proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets the requisite performance requirements to all locations served by the project.

5.1.1. Plans are required to outline the following:

- In the community based BSLs, a description of the project route and a list of all communities along the project path
- In the community based BSLs, identify the current service levels for each BSL
- The count of Unserved or Underserved BSLs
- If a community along the project path or within a Pre-Determined Project Area (PDPA) is not considered in the design, a detailed explanation of why the BSLs are omitted is required.

5.1.2. An electronic GIS shapefile of the full network diagram.

5.1.3. Applicants are required to provide a budget that includes at a minimum:

- The total project cost
- A capital investment schedule of milestones for project implementation including:
  - Stage 1: Workforce Readiness
  - Stage 2: Permitting
  - Stage 3: Staging and Materials Acquisition
  - Stage 4: Construction and Deployment
  - Stage 5: Operational Readiness Transition
  - Stage 6: Project Close-Out
- The cost per location to connect each BSL in the project path or PDPA
- Matching Funds: Include the amount and detail about the matching fund(s) source, including whether they are secured or planned for:
  - High-Cost Areas (HCA)
  - Non-High-Cost Areas (non-HCA)
- Matching Funds Waiver request (if applicable) in a Non-High-Cost Area (Appendix C)



#### 5.1.4 Build-out timeline

### 5.2. Certification:

Each applicant is required to certify in Appendix D that it is technically qualified to complete and operate the project and that it can carry out the funded activities in a competent manner, including that it will use an appropriately skilled and credential workforce (see Section 3.3. of this Grant Opportunity). Applicants are required to show specific evidence of technical capability. This will be demonstrated through the certifying of the following as part of the narrative:

5.2.1. Applicants with Two or More Years of Experience [in Alaska]: An applicant that has provided a voice, broadband, and/or electric transmission or distribution service in Alaska for at least the two consecutive years prior to the date of its application submission or that is a wholly owned subsidiary of such an entity, is required to certify the following:

- If a provider of voice, broadband, and/or electric transmission or distribution, certify to these facts and specify the number of years the applicant or its parent company has been operating.
- If a provider of voice and/or broadband service, certify it has timely filed Commission Form 477s and the Broadband DATA Act submissions, if applicable, as required during this time- period; that it will continue reporting as required; and that it has otherwise complied with the Federal Communication Commission's rules and regulations.
- An applicant is required to explain any pending or completed enforcement action, civil litigation, or other matter in which it failed to comply or was alleged to have failed to comply with Federal Communications Commission's rules or regulations.
- If the applicant has operated an electric transmission or distribution service, it is required to submit qualified operating or financial reports that it has filed with the relevant financial institution for the relevant time-period along with a certification that the submission is a true and accurate copy of the reports that were provided to the relevant financial institution. Acceptable submissions for this purpose will be the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Form 7, Financial and Operating Report Electric Distribution; the RUS Form 12, Financial and Operating Report Electric Power Supply; the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) Form 7, Financial and Statistical Report; the CFC Form 12, Operating Report; or the CoBank Form 7; or the functional replacement of one of these reports. See *Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Order*, 35 FCC Rcd at 719, n. 202.

5.2.2. Applicants New to Broadband: An applicant that is a new entrant to the broadband market, is required to provide a narrative description to demonstrate that the newly formed entity has obtained, through internal or external resources, sufficient operational capabilities.

### 5.3. Speed of Network:

5.3.1. Bandwidth Commitment: Applicant is required to describe and ensure its network provides reliable broadband service with speeds of not less than 100 Mbps for downloads and 20 Mbps for uploads and that 95% of latency measurements fall at or below 100 milliseconds round-trip time.

5.3.2. Reliability Commitment: Applicant is required to describe how the network will, on average, not exceed 48 hours of outage time over any 365-day period except in the case of a Force Majeure occurrence.

## **Criterion 6: Project Sustainability**

*(All elements are required to be present for a pass) [must provide a fully filled out MS Excel economic model]*

Applicants are required to include a narrative description about the project's sustainability over the lifetime of the asset.

6.1. Describe how the applicant's revenue covers expenses and capital maintenance/upgrades and explain the applicant's operating history and financial stability.

6.2. If the project does not connect to existing or funded infrastructure owned by the applicant or a market with competitive long haul fiber systems (e.g., Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau), provide an explanation of the agreement or understanding with a third-party owner of infrastructure to which the project

connects.

- 6.3. Using the attached MS Excel economic model in Appendix E: Financial Sustainability Model, provide a description and identification of revenue and expenses, including transportation costs that demonstrate that the funded project can be sustainably operated for the expected lifetime of the asset with a positive net present value.

### **Criterion 7: Compliance with Applicable Federal, State, and Local Laws**

*(All elements are required to be present for a pass.)*

Each applicant is required to demonstrate that it can carry out funded activities in a competent manner in compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws.

7.1. Applicants shall submit a narrative demonstrating the ability to comply with laws. This is required to include:

7.1.1. Details about the applicant's experience in this area

7.1.2. Ongoing monitoring process throughout the life of the project

7.1.3. Identification of staff or consulting assistance that will be responsible for compliance monitoring of Federal, State, and local laws to include the Build America, Buy America Act (BABA)

### **Criterion 8: Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination Law Compliance**

*(All elements are required to be present for a pass) [any necessary attachments]*

Applicants are required to agree to abide by the non-discrimination requirements set forth in federal statutes, rules, and regulations. Such agreement shall be identified using the Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination Law Compliance Certification Form found in Appendix F.

Applicants are required to agree to a binding commitment to:

8.1. Abide by the Civil Rights and Non-Discrimination Law Compliance requirements set forth herein

8.2. Acknowledge that failure to comply may result in cancellation of any award and/or recoupment of funds already disbursed.

### **Criterion 9: Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management (C-SCRM)**

*[Appendix G: Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management Compliance]*

The applicant must attest to the Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management items listed in Appendix G by completing and signing the certification. And, if necessary and requested by the NTIA, provide a copy of their C-SCRM compliance plan.

### **Criterion 10: Weather/Climate/Natural Hazard Threat Assessment and Mitigation Plan**

Applicants are required to demonstrate that they have sufficiently accounted for current and future weather- and climate-related risks to new broadband infrastructure projects, such as wildfires, extreme heat and cold, inland, and coastal flooding, extreme winds, glacial dam outbursts, avalanches, and landslides or mass wasting.

Other natural hazards include but are not limited to earthquakes and dam failures. This portion of the narrative is required to:

1) Outline a Weather/Climate/Natural Hazard Threat Assessment, that includes, but is not limited to, the threats identified for the project area in the State Hazard Mitigation Plan and,

2) Develop an accompanying Mitigation Plan for mitigating the identified threats over the lifetime of the project, specifically characterizing any weather, climate, and other natural hazard risks to new and retrofitted broadband infrastructure for the life of the Asset.

The Mitigation Plan shall account for, mitigate, and where possible avoid the known and identifiable risks of current and future projected weather, climate, or other natural hazard conditions. Each potential applicant shall explain how they addressed these risks through measures including (but not necessarily limited to) choice of a technology platform suitable to the weather, climate, and other natural hazard risks of the region; reliance on alternative siting of facilities (e.g., underground construction where appropriate); retrofitting or hardening of existing assets that are Alaska Broadband Grant Program, Notice of Funding Opportunity – Final 1a

critical to BEAD-funded offerings; additional onsite and in-home power resources; use of established plans and processes to deal with extreme weather related risks; the speed of restoration of service in the case of an outage; and the use of network and facility redundancies to safeguard against threats to infrastructure.

The Mitigation Plan shall also include details for repeating the assessment and mitigation process within six months of the release of the updated State Hazard Mitigation Plan (approximately every five years) over the life of the project to ensure evolving risks are understood, characterized, and addressed, and that the most up-to-date tools and information resources are utilized. If an applicant has completed a Hazard Threat Assessment and Mitigation Plan, it may be uploaded here in addition to completing the required narrative.

### **Criterion 11. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Requirements**

Applicants are required to include a narrative description of how the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements will be met. This will need to include how the applicant will provide either the development of a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX), an Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Applicant narrative must include how these requirements will be met whether by a qualified consultant, public-private partnerships with industry experts, private sector partners, non-profit entities, partner with state/territory educational institutions such as community colleges or university systems or with other subject matter experts (SMEs). Be advised that applicants must meet federal NEPA requirements before any infrastructure deployment can begin.

NEPA can involve three different levels of analysis based on whether an action has the potential to cause significant environmental effects.

- Categorical Exclusion (CATEX): Actions that do not normally have individually or cumulatively significant effects on the human environment may be “categorically excluded” from a detailed environmental analysis. An analysis of environmental considerations of the proposed actions must be completed to determine whether a CATEX can apply.
- Environmental Assessment (EA): An EA will be prepared for projects that do not qualify for a CATEX, and when the significance of the project's environmental impact is not clearly established. If NTIA determines that a project will not have significant impacts on the quality of the environment based on the environmental analysis, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is issued. If environmental analysis finds that actions could have significant impact, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be required.
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): An EIS is prepared for projects when the action is determined to significantly affect the quality of the human environment. The regulatory requirements for an EIS are more detailed and rigorous than an EA. NTIA will document the final decision in a Record of Decision (ROD) which identifies the considered alternatives, explains the decision, and summarizes any necessary mitigation measures.

For additional technical assistance, see: [How to Plan and Prepare for National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\) Compliance for Alaska Broadband Grant Program](#)

A complete Environmental Impact Statement for the State of Alaska can be found at: [State of Alaska Environmental Impact Statement \(May 2017\)](#)

For assistance with NTIA Permitting and Environmental Information Applications, see: [NTIA Permitting and Environmental Information Application \(arcgis.com\)](#)

### **Criterion 12. Indian Tribe/Tribal Entity Proof of Support**

*[where applicable attach proof of support per landowner]*

To the extent the State of Alaska’s Final Proposal includes plans to deploy broadband to Unserved Service Projects or Underserved Service Projects on lands owned by a tribal entity, the State of Alaska is required to submit proof of Alaska Broadband Grant Program, Notice of Funding Opportunity – Final 1a

consent from each tribal entity upon whose lands, owned by a tribal entity, the infrastructure will be deployed. Each Applicant is required to obtain the necessary proof of consent on behalf of the State of Alaska. In addition, prior to filing an application Applicants are required to contact, and show proof of contact or attempted contacts, each federally recognized tribal government (Tribe) in whose community/communities the infrastructure will be built and share the high-level plans for middle mile (where applicable) and last mile infrastructure that will be built in the community. And, if awarded, continue communication throughout the project. At a minimum, the exchange must include what was shared and any questions the Tribe(s) had and the responses to those questions. If an Applicant is unable to contact a Tribe, the applicant must show the multiple ways in which it attempted to contact the Tribe and explain why each was unsuccessful.

### **Criterion 13. Low-Cost Option**

Applicants are required to have one of the following Low-Cost Options:

#### **13.1 For Fiber and Non-Satellite solutions:**

13.1.1 Identify all recurring and non-recurring charges or fees to the subscriber (e.g., service initiation costs):

13.1.1.1 Monthly Recurring Target: \$110.00

13.1.1.2 Non-Recurring Target Range: \$0.00 - \$150.00

13.1.1.3 Price increases: Applicants are only permitted to increase prices of this plan either: a) commensurate to year-over-year changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: All Items Less Food & Energy (also known as Core CPI) as defined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; or b) due to new or increased government mandated taxes and fees imposed on the consumer, not providers.

13.1.2 Identify the plan's basic service characteristics (download and upload speeds, latency, any limits on usage or availability) and any material network management practices:

13.1.2.1 Minimum Download Speed: 100Mbps

13.1.2.2 Minimum Upload Speed: 20Mbps

13.1.2.3 Maximum Latency: 100ms

13.1.2.4 Usage Limits: Unlimited

13.1.2.5 Service Availability: 80% for 80% of tests at Busy Hour

13.1.3 Identify whether a subscriber may use any Affordable Connectivity Program subsidy toward the plan's rate (this is yes/no)

13.1.4 Identify subscriber's ability to upgrade to any new low-cost service plans offering more advantageous technical specifications at no additional cost (this is yes/no)

#### **13.2 For Satellite solutions:**

13.2.1 Identify all recurring and non-recurring charges or fees to the subscriber (e.g., service initiation costs):

13.2.1.1 Monthly Recurring Target: \$90.00

13.2.1.2 Non-Recurring Target: \$600.00

13.2.1.3 Price increases: Applicants are only permitted to increase prices of this plan either: a) commensurate to year-over-year changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: All Items Less Food & Energy (also known as Core CPI) as defined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; or b) due to new or increased government mandated taxes and fees imposed on the consumer, not providers.

13.2.2 Identify the plan's basic service characteristics (download and upload speeds, latency, any limits on usage or availability) and any material network management practices:

13.2.2.1 Minimum Download Speed: 100Mbps

13.2.2.2 Minimum Upload Speed: 20Mbps

13.2.2.3 Maximum Latency: 100ms

13.2.2.4 Usage Limits: Unlimited

13.2.2.5 Service Availability: 80% for 80% of tests at Busy Hour

13.2.3 Identify whether a subscriber may use any Affordable Connectivity Program subsidy toward the plan's rate (this is yes/no)

13.2.4 Identify subscriber's ability to upgrade to any new low-cost service plans offering more advantageous technical specifications at no additional cost (this is yes/no)

## **Criterion 14. Middle Class Affordability**

Applicants are required to describe a middle-class affordability plan that details how high-quality broadband services will be made available to all middle-class families in the BEAD-funded network's service area at reasonable prices. This response is required to clearly provide a reasonable explanation of how high-quality broadband services will be made available to all middle-class families in the BEAD-funded network's service area at reasonable prices.

- 14.1. Identify all recurring and non-recurring charges or fees to the subscriber (e.g., service initiation costs):
  - 14.1.1. Monthly Recurring Target Range: \$110.00 - \$150.00
  - 14.1.2. Non-Recurring Target Range: \$0.00 - \$150.00
  - 14.1.3. Price increases: Applicants are only permitted to increase prices of this plan either: a) commensurate to year-over-year changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: All Items Less Food & Energy (also known as Core CPI) as defined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; or b) due to new or increased government mandated taxes and fees imposed on the consumer, not providers.
- 14.2. Identify the plan's basic service characteristics (download and upload speeds, latency, any limits on usage or availability, and any material network management practices):
  - 14.2.1. Minimum Download Speed: 100Mbps
  - 14.2.2. Minimum Upload Speed: 20Mbps
  - 14.2.3. Maximum Latency: 100ms
  - 14.2.4. Usage Limits: Unlimited
  - 14.2.5. Service Availability: 80% for 80% of tests at Busy Hour

## **Criterion 15. Application and Grant Agreement Certification**

Applicants must certify on the application form that the appropriate authorized party has read and will comply with all Criteria in the application and provisions of the Draft Grant Agreement (Appendix H).

## **FILING REQUIREMENTS**

### **APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED VIA DCRA GRANTS PORTAL**

A portal instruction guide will be provided separately. Portal registration to access the application is a multi-step process. Applicants are encouraged to register as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to access, develop, and submit applications.

References to character limits within this document refer to portal entries.

### **PAPER APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL, FAX, MAIL, OR COURIER**

If Applicants without high-speed internet access are submitting a paper application via email, fax, mail, or courier, contact Jan.Cox@Alaska.gov for technical assistance and further instructions. Applications are required to use the MQ Criterion headers listed above in the Project Narrative to organize the submission. A minimum font size of 12, font type Arial is required, and page size may not exceed a letter sized sheet (8 1/2" X 11"). Applicants will still need to submit an electronic file of the two Microsoft Excel files and the project engineering in a GIS shapefile format to the mailing address on page 4 of this document. All documentation, certifications, and attestations, in PDF format other than the MS Excel and GIS engineering documentation, are required to be submitted for a complete application. Failure to do so will result in a rejected application. Do not submit applications in more than one format.

### **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE**

Applicants acknowledge that all information submitted to ABO may be subject to public disclosure. ABO will not publicly disclose or post any personally identifiable information (PII) or proprietary information unless required to do so by law or court order. ABO will treat Applicant's information that is designated as proprietary and confidential consistent with applicable federal and state law. If any Grant Application contains information or data that the

Applicant deems to be confidential or proprietary and it requests the information be exempt from disclosure under state open records laws or is protected under applicable state or federal privacy laws, the Grant Applicant shall specifically designate the information as privileged, proprietary, or confidential. Otherwise, the information may be made publicly available. In addition to applicable federal law, ABO will comply with all Alaska laws regarding disclosure, privacy and confidentiality, including but not limited to relevant provisions in the following: the Alaska Public Records Act, AS 40.25.100 – 40.25.295 and applicable regulations at 2 AAC 96.100 – 2 AAC 96.900; the Alaska Personal Information and Protection Act, AS 45.48.010 – AS 45.48.995; and any other applicable state laws.

## SECTION 3 – SCORING MATRIX AND DESCRIPTIONS

Primary Scoring		Points Available	
		High-Cost Area	Non-High-Cost Area
<b>A.</b>	<b>Minimal BEAD Program Outlay</b>		
A.1.	Minimal BEAD Program Outlay per Location	15.0	7.5
A.2.	Connecting Every BSL Within a Community and the associated PDPA(s)	15.0	7.5
A.3.	Match (Non-Federal)* <i>*Bonus Points Available for Match over and above the required (1 point for every 1% above)</i>	0.0	15.0
	<b>Max Minimal BEAD Program Outlay Points Available</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>30.0</b>
<b>B</b>			
	<b>Affordability and Plans</b>		
B.1.(A)	Plan for Symmetrical 1 Gig Service, Unlimited Data for Fiber Preference and Priority Projects for category 1 and 2 PDPAs.		
	1Gbps/1Gbps Price	Affordability Scoring within the subcategory B.1.(A)	Affordability Scoring Contribution Points
	\$500	100%	25.0
	\$600	90%	22.5
	\$700	80%	20.0
	\$800	70%	17.5
	\$900	60%	15.0
	\$1,000	50%	12.5
	\$1,100	40%	10.0
	\$1,200	30%	7.5
	\$1,300	20%	5.0
	\$1,400	10%	2.5
	\$1,500+	0%	0.0
			25.0
<b>Or</b>			
B.1.(B)	Plan for 100/20Mbps, Unlimited Data for Other (non-fiber) Projects in category 3 PDPAs and, if necessary, round 2 applications.		
	100/20Mbps	Affordability Scoring within the subcategory B.1.(B)	Affordability Scoring Contribution Points
	\$110	100%	25.0
	\$114	90%	22.5
	\$118	80%	20.0
	\$122	70%	17.5

	\$126	60%		15.0
	\$130	50%		12.5
	\$134	40%		10.0
	\$138	30%		7.5
	\$142	20%		5.0
	\$146	10%		2.5
	\$150+	0%		0.0
				25.0
	<b>Max Affordability and Plans Points Available</b>		<b>25.0</b>	<b>25.0</b>
<b>C. Fair Labor Practices</b>				
C.1.	Certification of compliance			10.0
C.2.	Compliance with federal labor and employment laws			4.0
C.3.	Disclosure of applicant violations			2.0
C.4.	Disclosure of contractor and/or subcontractor violations			2.0
C.5.	Wage information			1.0
C.6.	Workplace safety committees			1.0
	<b>Max Fair Labor Practices Points Available</b>			<b>20.0</b>
<b>Total Primary Criteria Points Available:</b>				
				<b>75.0</b>

<b>Secondary Scoring</b>			Points Available	
			<b>Fiber</b>	<b>Non-Fiber</b>
<b>D.</b>	<b>Speed to Deployment</b>			
	Time to Deployment	Deployment Scoring within the subcategory D.		
D.1.	47 Months or less	100%	10.0	5.0
D.2.	Greater than or equal to 48 Months	95%	9.5	4.75
	<b>Max Speed to Deployment Points Available</b>		<b>10.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>E.</b>	<b>Speed of Network and Other Technical Capabilities</b>			
E.1.	Scalability: Can achieve 1Gbps/1Gbps		0.0	2.5
E.2.	Asset life: 10-year asset life		0.0	2.5
	<b>Max Speed of Network and Other Tech Points Available</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>F.</b>	<b>Max Non-Traditional Provider Points Available</b>		<b>5.0</b>	
<b>G.</b>	<b>Use of SOA/DNR/OPMP Resources Points Available</b>		<b>10.0</b>	
<b>Total Secondary Criteria Points Available:</b>				
			<b>25.0</b>	<b>25.0</b>
<b>Total Primary and Secondary Points Available:</b>			<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>



## PRIMARY CRITERIA SCORING

### 75 Points of total score

**A. Minimal BEAD Program Outlay.** The total score opportunity for this category is 30 Points.

The ABO Scoring Committee will score how applicants minimize the BEAD program outlay. This includes the cost per location, connecting all BSLs in the proposed PDPA, and any matching funds for both High-Cost Areas (HCA) and non-High-Cost Areas (non-HCA). Applications will be sub-scored in this category based on the following criteria:

**A.1. Minimal BEAD Program Outlay Per Location:** subcategory A.1. will be scored based on the minimal program outlay per location. The less BEAD program outlay will receive a higher score in this subcategory:

- 15.0 Points in HCA.
- 7.5 Points in non-HCA.

Description of the sub-scoring for section A.1: The score will be evaluated where the minimal BEAD program outlay per location passed will receive 100% of the available points, the highest BEAD program outlay per location passed will receive 0% of the available points, and all other applicants will receive a ratio of available points based off the lowest cost per location passed. This will be evaluated using the applicants' project budget sheet provided in MQ Criterion 5.

**A.2. 100% Connections:** subcategory A.2. will be scored based on whether all BSLs within a PDPA, or if not using PDPAs, every BSL within every community along a non-PDPA path are connected. If so, the applicant will receive 100% of the available points in this subcategory. If not, the applicant will receive no points in this subcategory:

- 15.0 Points in HCA.
- 7.5 Points in non-HCA.

Description of the sub-scoring for section A.2.: The score will be evaluated where an applicant that connects every Unserved and (where it has sufficient funding) Underserved BSL within a community and every community along a path will receive 100% of the available points in this subcategory. If not, the applicant will receive no points in this subcategory. This will be evaluated using BSLs identified in the applicants' project budget sheet provided in MQ Criterion 5 and compared to the PDPA BSL counts.

**A.3. Matching Funds:** subcategory A.3 will be based on the size of the match. For deployment projects in HCAs, a non-federal match is not required. In areas not considered high cost, a minimum 25% non-federal match will be required from the applicant:

- 0 Points in HCA (a 1% bonus will be attributed to each 1% of match).
- 15.0 Points in non-HCA.

Description of the sub-scoring for section A.3.: The score will be evaluated on the applicant's designated match. If the applicant meets the specified match, the applicant will receive 100% of the points within this subcategory. If not, the applicant will receive no points in this subcategory. In addition, applicants can receive a 1 bonus point for every 1% match above the requirement. Where applicable, this will be evaluated using the applicants' project budget sheet provided in MQ Criterion 5 section 5.1.3. (This will be a number for the BSLs in a HCA, where applicable, and number for BSLs in the NHCA where applicable).

**B. Affordability.** The total score opportunity for this category is 25 Points. Applications will be scored based on the following criteria:

**B.1.(A) Fiber projects:** Applicants who meet the price point in this category of \$500/month, 1Gbps/1Gbps Service, Unlimited Data will receive the total points available. Pricing above the target will receive a reduced score based on the Affordability Scoring ratios listed in the Scoring Matrix.

OR

**B.1.(B) Other (Non-Fiber Projects):** Applicants who meet the price point in this category of \$110/month, 100Mbps/20Mbps Service, Unlimited Data will receive the total points available. Pricing above the target will receive a reduced score based on the Affordability Scoring ratios listed in the Scoring Matrix.

In both affordability scenarios, the identification of the affordability number will be a single fill number in the portal.

**C. Fair Labor Practices.** The total score opportunity for this category is 20 Points.

Description: Applicants are required to provide a narrative and evidence of plans to comply with federal labor and employment laws and of plans to solicit, recruit, and retain minority-owned enterprises and women-owned enterprises (MBEs/WBEs). Applicants without a verifiable record of compliance with labor and employment law may mitigate this fact by making specific, forward-looking commitments to strong labor and employment standards and protections with respect to BEAD-funded projects.

Scoring: Applications that provide all the required information and certify they will comply with existing labor requirements outlined in the BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) will receive 20 points. Points will be allocated based on the information submitted for each element of the fair labor category. Applications that provide no response will receive 0 points.

Applicants must certify that their applying organization will comply with existing labor requirements outlined in subsection E.

### **C.1. Certification of compliance**

Applicants are required to have a plan for ensuring the project workforce will be appropriately skilled and credentialed (including contractors and subcontractors). Factors that will be considered include: 1) the ways in which the applicant will ensure the use of an appropriately skilled workforce (e.g., registered apprenticeships); 2) the steps the applicant will take to ensure an appropriately credentialed workforce (e.g., licensure, occupational training); 3) where known, identify whether the workforce is unionized; 4) identify status of workforce (e.g., directly employed or contracted); and 5) identification of proposed contractors and subcontractors.

- Non-Union Workforce Requirements. If the project workforce, or any applicant's, contractor's, or subcontractor's workforce is not unionized the applicant is required to provide the following with respect to the non-union workforce:
- The jobs titles and size of the workforce (in terms of Full-Time-Equivalent positions, including those of contractors and subcontractors) required to carry out the proposed work over the course of the project and the entity that will employ each portion of the workforce; and

For each job title required to carry out the proposed work (including contractors and subcontractors) a description of safety training, certification, and/or licensure requirements (e.g., OSHA 10, OSHA 30, confined space, traffic control, etc.) including whether there is a robust in-house training program with established requirements tied to certifications, titles, and information on the professional certifications and/or in-house training in place to ensure that deployment is done at a high standard.

Applicants are required to demonstrate three years of history for themselves and any other entity that will participate in the project, including contractors and subcontractors, of compliance with federal labor and employment laws on broadband deployment projects. New entrant applicants, without historical records, may submit historical data for the project team that has been assembled, including contractors and subcontractors. All applicants shall show past compliance and disclose all violations and outcomes for that three-year period certified by an authorized official within the applicant's organization. Other considerations include the applicant, and its contractors and sub-contractors disclosed violation of laws such as the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, or other applicable labor and employment laws. Finally, this category will be scored on how the applicant will ensure compliance for itself, contractors and subcontractors with labor and employment practices for the proposed deployment project including: 1) applicable wage scales and wage and overtime payment practices for each class of employee expected to be involved directly in the physical construction of the broadband network; and 2) how the applicant will ensure the implementation of workplace safety committees that are authorized to raise health and safety concerns in connection with the delivery of deployment projects.

### **C.2. Compliance with federal labor and employment laws**

This will be scored based on the response provided in MQ Criterion 7.

**C.3. Disclosure of applicant violations]**

Where applicable list all State or Federal labor and/or OSHA violations within the last 3 years. Include any fines and mitigation requirements and status of the mitigation efforts. If no violations, type "None".

**C.4. Disclosure of contractor and/or subcontractor violations]**

Where applicable, and where the sub-contractors are known at the time of application, applicants must list all State or Federal labor and/or OSHA violations within the last 3 years. Include any fines and mitigation requirements and status of the mitigation efforts. If no violations, type "None". If an applicant is awarded, a list of all State or Federal labor and/or OSHA violations within the last 3 years (including any fines and mitigation requirements and status of the mitigation efforts) must be provided to the Grant Administrator prior to the first payment to the contractor or subcontractor.

**C.5. Wage information**

Applicant may be subject to the requirements of the Davis-Bacon Act, when Grant Award funds are used on a construction project in conjunction with funds from another federal program that requires enforcement of the Davis-Bacon Act. Additionally, corollary state prevailing-wage-in-construction laws (commonly known as "little Davis-Bacon Acts") may apply to projects. The Applicant must certify that they will receive and verify the accuracy of copies of the contractor/subcontractor's certified weekly payroll reports and compliance with applicable labor standards upon award.

**C.6. Workplace safety committees**

Plan for Establishment of a Worker-Led Safety Committee.

Applicants must provide a narrative on how they plan to run workplace safety committees to attain points in this category.

**SECONDARY CRITERIA SCORING**

**25 Points of total score.**

**D. Speed to Deployment.**

The total score percentage for this category is 10 Points for Priority Broadband Projects and 5 Points for Other Last-Mile Broadband Deployment Projects. This will be evaluated from the schedule in the Project Budget provided in MQ Criterion 5.

**D.1. Applicants who commit to project completion in 47 months.**

**D.2. Applicants who cannot commit to project completion in 47 months.**

**E. Speed of Network and Other Technical Capabilities.**

The total score opportunity for this category is: 0 Points for Priority Broadband Projects and 5 Points for Other Last-Mile Broadband Deployment Projects. Applicants proposing to use technologies that exhibit greater ease of scalability with no future investment funded by the ABO and whose capital assets have longer useable lives will be afforded additional weight over those proposing technologies with higher costs to upgrade and shorter capital asset cycles. Applicant must certify to the scalability and asset life descriptions in Subsection E.

**E.1. Scalability: can achieve 1Gbps/1Gbps**

**E.2. Asset life: 10-year asset life**

**F. Non-Traditional Providers.**

The total score opportunity for this category is 2.5 Points. Applicants that are Non-Traditional Providers such as Local Governments (including municipalities or political subdivisions, electric cooperatives, non-profits, or Tribal Governments) and Utilities will receive an additional 2.5 Points. This will be evaluated using information from MQ Criterion 1.

**G. Use of State of Alaska/Department of Natural Resources/Office of Project Management and Permitting.**

The total score opportunity for this category is 10 Points. Applicants who agree to use the Office of Project Management and Permitting (OPMP) within the State of Alaska (SOA) Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to assist in efficient permitting and project management will receive an additional 10 Points. Applicants may

choose not to use SOA/OPMP. Where this is the case, applicants will receive 0 Points for this category. This will be a “Yes” or “No” selection in the portal.

## SECTION 4 – GRANT AWARDS

After criterion evaluation and scoring, the Scoring Committee will make final funding awards. All applicants will receive written notification of the scoring results.

An applicant may appeal the scoring results to the DCCED Commissioner. The *only* basis for an appeal is non-adherence by the Scoring Committee to the grant selection and award procedures as identified herein. Appeals must be received by the DCCED Commissioner's Office in writing within ten business days of the date of notification of criterion evaluation and scoring results and must clearly state the basis for the appeal. The appeal will be reviewed by the Commissioner and a final determination will be made within thirty days of receipt of the written appeal. Decisions by the Commissioner may be appealed directly to the Alaska Superior Court.

### GRANT INITIATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Following notification of award, a grant agreement will be executed for each funded project. Notification of project selection does not imply approval of all activities, specific costs proposed, or proposed timelines.

Grants may be awarded at an amount less than originally requested. Individual grants will be awarded only in amounts appropriate to the scope of the identified project; the proposed project activities; and the needs, resources, and capabilities of the applicant.

The grant agreement is the legal document that governs the administration of the grant, and a draft is attached at Appendix H.

### GRANT PAYMENTS

Alaska Broadband Grant Program agreements are administered on a cost reimbursable basis. If applicants are awarded Alaska Broadband Grant Program funds, the awardee will be expected to pay for expenses as they are incurred and submit a billing at the end of each month for reimbursement by DCCED. This requires that the awardees have the cash resources to cover at least 30 to 45 days' cash needs.

### GRANT AWARD PERFORMANCE

1. Submittals Post Award/Prior to Disbursement of Funds  
Applicants successful in being awarded grant funds will be provided with a set of dates by which post-award performance progress and financial reporting will be required during the term of the grant and upon close-out of the grant.
2. Project Construction/Network Deployment  
As established in Section 60102(h)(4)(C) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-58), applicants that receive BEAD Program funds for network deployment must deploy the planned broadband network and, for last mile projects, begin providing services to each customer that desires broadband service within the project area, not later than four years after the date on which the applicant receives the subgrant from the ABO.
3. Project Construction/Deployment Extensions  
The ABO may grant an extension to a grantee for not more than one year if: 1) the grantee has a specific plan for use of the grant funds, with project completion expected by a specific date not more than one year after the four-year deadline; 2) the construction project is underway; or 3) extenuating circumstances require an extension of time to allow the project to be completed.
  - 3.1. Petition for Extension  
Grantees may petition for not more than a one-year extension under the circumstances outlined in Section 3 above. The Petition must be submitted on the Petition for Extension Application provided by the ABO. The Petition for Extension Application must be submitted to the ABO not less than six months prior to the

project four-year completion deadline identified in the subaward grant agreement. The ABO will review and issue determinations regarding Petition for Extension Applications. Determinations shall be issued in writing within thirty calendar days of the submittal of a Petition for Extension Application. An applicant may appeal the determination of the ABO Scoring Committee to the DCCED Commissioner. Appeals must be received by the DCCED Commissioner's Office in writing within ten business days of the date of notification of the determination and must clearly state the basis for the appeal. The appeal will be reviewed by the Commissioner and a final determination will be made within thirty days of receipt of the written appeal. Decisions by the Commissioner may be appealed directly to the Alaska Superior Court.

## SECTION 5 – DEFINITIONS

Affiliate – The term “affiliate” shall be defined consistent with 47 U.S.C. § 153(2) (“The term ‘affiliate’ means a person that (directly or indirectly) owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, another person. For purposes of this paragraph, the term “own” means to own an equity interest (or the equivalent thereof) of more than 10 percent.”).

Affordable Connectivity Program – The term “Affordable Connectivity Program” (ACP) means the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Program established in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (Infrastructure Act) as the successor to a previous program that has since been discontinued. The Commission in 2022 issued the *Affordable Connectivity Program Report and Order*, which sets out details regarding the ACP’s operation. See *Affordable Connectivity Program, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, FCC 22-2, (rel. Jan. 21, 2022).

Alaska Broadband Office – The term “Alaska Broadband Office” (ABO) means the State of Alaska Office of Broadband established in House Bill 363 and signed into law by Governor Dunleavy in August 2022 that resides within the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED).

Alaska Tribe: “Alaska Tribe” means those tribes who are federally recognized, as provided in the most recent Federal Register. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/01/08/2024-00109/indian-entities-recognized-by-and-eligible-to-receive-services-from-the-united-states-bureau-of>

ANSCA Regional Corporation Lands and Village Corporation Lands: “Regional Corporation Lands and Village Corporations Lands” means lands owned by the Regional and Village Corporations and documented by either a fee simple or quit claim deed and are not Tribal Lands.

Applicant – The term “Applicant” means any entity applying for grant funding for a broadband deployment project under this program.

Asset or Network Asset – The term “asset” or “network asset” means the construction, improvement, and/or acquisition of facilities and telecommunications equipment, and its associated appurtenances, required to provide bandwidth data transmission that exploits signals at a wide spread of frequencies or several different simultaneous frequencies and is used in internet connections of at least 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload bandwidth, including infrastructure for backhaul, middle- and last-mile networks, and multi-tenant buildings. The medium can be fiber optic, coaxial cable, microwave, Wi-Fi, twisted pair, geo-synchronistic orbit satellite (~22,000 miles above the surface), middle earth orbit satellite (between 3,100-7,500 miles above the surface), or low earth orbit satellite (between 500-1,000 miles above the surface).

Asset Life – The term “asset life” means a duration of no less than 10 years and includes all upgrades and replacements necessary to maintain the current FCC minimum bandwidth requirements on the network Asset.

Assistant Secretary – The term “Assistant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce for Communications and Information and National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) Administrator or the individual who holds any successor position.

Broadband; Broadband Service – The term “broadband” or “broadband service” has the meaning given the term “broadband internet access service” in Section 8.1(b) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation, meaning it is a mass-market retail service by wire or radio that provides the capability to transmit data to and receive data from all or substantially all internet endpoints, including any capabilities that are incidental to and enable the operation of the communications service but excluding dial-up internet access

service.

Broadband Data Maps – The term “Broadband Data Maps” means the maps created by the Federal Communications Commission under Section 802(c)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. §642(c)(1)).

Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment Program – The term “Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment Program” (BEAD) means the program established in the Infrastructure Act that provides \$42.45 billion to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment, and adoption programs in all 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination Law Compliance – Compliance with “Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination Law Compliance” means no person in the United States may, on the ground of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, or handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under, any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Prior to distributing any BEAD funding to a grantee, the grantee must agree, by grant agreement, to abide by the non-discrimination requirements set forth in the following legal authorities, to the extent applicable, and to acknowledge that failure to do so may result in cancellation of any award and/or recoupment of funds already disbursed:

1. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d et seq.) and the Department of Commerce’s implementing regulations, published at 15 C.F.R. Part 8;
2. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 et seq.);
3. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq.);
4. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794), and Department of Commerce implementing regulations published at 15 C.F.R. Part 8b;
5. The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 6101 et seq.), and Department of Commerce implementing regulations published at 15 C.F.R. Part 20;
6. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e et seq.;
7. Any other applicable non-discrimination law(s). Application requirements, award terms, and conditions do not impose civil rights and nondiscrimination law compliance requirements on Indian Tribes beyond what would otherwise apply under federal law;
8. Parts II and III of Executive Order 11246, Equal Employment Opportunity (30 Fed. Reg. 12319);
9. Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency (65 Fed. Reg. 50121), and
10. Executive Order 13798, Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty, and Office of Management and Budget, M-20-09—Guidance Regarding Federal Grants and Executive Order 13798 (January 16, 2020).

Community or Communities – The term “community” or “communities” means a City, Borough, or an unincorporated area with a qualified entity that has received money from the Community Assistance Program administered by DCCED, Division of Community & Regional Affairs at least once within the last five (5) consecutive years.

Community Anchor Institution – The term “community anchor institution” (CAI) means an entity such as a school, library, health clinic, health center, hospital or other medical provider, public safety entity, institution of higher education, public housing organization, or community support organization that facilitates greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including, but not limited to, low-income individuals, unemployed individuals, children, the incarcerated, and aged individuals. CAIs may also include other types of institutions the ABO has determined facilitates greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including low-income individuals, unemployed individuals, children, the incarcerated, and aged individuals.



Eligible Community Anchor Institution – The term “eligible community anchor institution” means a community anchor institution that lacks access to Gigabit-level broadband service.

Extremely High-Cost Per Location Threshold – Is the threshold the ABO has determined to evaluate whether a project will be fiber or some other technology. All of Category 3 is considered above the Extremely High-Cost Per Location Threshold (EHCPLT) Additionally, locations within a community boundary that have no bidders in any of the priority project bid rounds will be considered Extremely High-Cost Per Location Threshold locations. All Extremely High Cost Per Location Threshold locations will automatically be subject to rules of the selection of non-fiber based grant opportunity.

Fiber or Road – This definition only applies to the Alaska Broadband Grant Program Scoring Section. In that context only, “Fiber or Road” means a BSL that is within 10 miles of a road system or an existing fiber system.

Force Majeure – The term “Force Majeure” means an act of God, flood, fire, earthquake, avalanche, explosion, pandemic, war, terrorism, invasion, riot or other civil unrest, strikes, labor stoppages or slowdowns or other industrial disturbances, or unexpected and unforeseeable passage of law or any action taken by a governmental or public authority, including imposing an embargo, that delays performance of obligations under the Grant Agreement.

Funded Network – The term “Funded Network” means any broadband network deployed and/or upgraded with BEAD Program funds.

Grantee – The term “grantee” means an entity that receives grant funds from the State of Alaska to carry out eligible activities.

High-Cost Area – The term “high-cost area” means an Unserved area in which the cost of building out broadband service is higher, as compared with the average cost of building out broadband service in Unserved areas in the United States. The NTIA has determined that the following 61 Census Block Groups in Alaska are High-Cost Areas: 020130001001, 020130001002, 020130001003, 020160001001, 020160002001, 020160002002, 020209800001, 020500001001, 020500001002, 020500001003, 020500001004, 020500001005, 020500002001, 020500002002, 020500002003, 020500002004, 020500003001, 020600001001, 020700001001, 020700002001, 020900019021, 021050004003, 021220001001, 021220002002, 021220004001, 021220008001, 021220008002, 021220012001, 021500001001, 021500001002, 021500001003, 021580001001, 021580001002, 021580001003, 021580001004, 021640001001, 021700001011, 021800001001, 021880001001, 021880001002, 021880001003, 021880001004, 021880001005, 021980001001, 021980001002, 021980002001, 021980003001, 021989401003, 022200001001, 022400001001, 022400004001, 022400004002, 022400004003, 022820001001, 022900001001, 022900001002, 022900002001, 022900003001, 022900003002, 022900003003, 022900004001.

Indian Tribe – The term “Indian Tribe” means any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, individually recognized (including parenthetically), or Alaska Native Tribe or Entities in the list published most recently as of the date of enactment of this Act pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. § 5131). See Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Entities Recognized by and Eligible to Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs, 86 Fed. Reg. 7554 (Jan. 29, 2021).

Location: Broadband Serviceable Location – The terms “location” and “Broadband Serviceable Location” mean “a business or residential location in the United States at which fixed broadband Internet access service is, or can be, installed”.

Middle Mile Infrastructure – The term “middle mile infrastructure” (a) means any broadband infrastructure that does not connect directly to an end-user location, including a community anchor institution; and (b)

includes—(i) leased dark fiber, interoffice transport, backhaul, carrier-neutral internet exchange facilities, carrier-neutral submarine cable landing stations, undersea cables, transport connectivity to data centers, special access transport, or other similar services; and (ii) wired or private wireless broadband infrastructure, including microwave capacity, radio tower access, and other services or infrastructure for a private wireless broadband network, such as towers, fiber, and microwave links. The ABO adopts the NTIA adopted definition of “middle mile infrastructure” set forth in Title IV of the Infrastructure Act, modified slightly to reflect the term “community anchor institution” used in the BEAD Program. See Infrastructure Act § 60401(a)(9).

Non-Community Based – This definition only applies to the Alaska Broadband Grant Program Scoring Section. In that context only, the term “Non-Community Based” BSL, or “NCB” are locations that fall outside the community boundaries as defined by the DCCED Division of Community and Regional Affairs and/or are more than 10 miles from the nearest road or fiber system.

Non-High-Cost Area – All Alaska Census Block Groups not in the High-Cost Area list.

Non-Traditional Broadband Provider – The term “non-traditional broadband provider” means an electric cooperative, nonprofit organization, public-private partnership, public or private utility, public utility district, or other entity (including Tribal government, Alaska Native Corporation, or local government including any unit, subdivision, authority, or consortium of local governments) that provides or will provide broadband services.

Open Access – The term “open access” refers to an arrangement in which the grantee offers nondiscriminatory access to and use of its network on a wholesale basis to other providers seeking to provide broadband service to end-user locations, at just and reasonable wholesale rates for the useful life of the subsidized network assets. For this purpose, “just and reasonable wholesale rates” means rates that include a discount from the provider’s retail rates reflecting the costs that the grantee avoids by virtue of not providing retail service to the end user location (including, for example, marketing, billing, and collection-related costs).

Priority Broadband Project – The term “Priority Broadband Project” means a project that will provision service via end-to-end fiber-optic facilities to each end-user premises. A project that will rely entirely on fiber-optic technology to each end-user premises will ensure that the network built by the project can easily scale speeds over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses and support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services.

Program – The term “Program” means the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program.

Project – The term “project” means an undertaking by a grantee to construct and deploy infrastructure for the provision of broadband service. A “project” may constitute a single Unserved or Underserved Broadband Serviceable Location, or a grouping of Broadband Serviceable Locations in which not less than 80 percent of Broadband Serviceable Locations served by the project are Unserved locations or Underserved locations.

Rural Community – This definition only applies to the Alaska Broadband Grant Program Scoring Section. In that context only, a “Rural Community” is one of the 71% of Alaska communities that are only reachable by small aircraft, summer barge, or winter road or trail.

Tribal Consortium – The term “Tribal Consortium” means a partnership between two or more Indian Tribes that work together to achieve a common objective, and whose authority is conferred through resolution from the governing bodies of its member tribes.

Tribal Government – The term “Tribal Government” means the governing body of any Indian band, nation, pueblo, village, community, component band, or component reservation, individually recognized (including

parenthetically), or Alaska Native Tribe or Entities in the list published most recently as of the date of enactment of this Act pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. § 5131). See Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Entities Recognized by and Eligible to Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs, 86 Fed. Reg. 7554 (Jan. 29, 2021).

Tribal Lands – The term “Tribal Lands” means: (1) lands that are not Regional Corporation Lands and Village Corporation Lands; (2) lands owned by an Alaska Tribe and documented by either a fee simple deed or quit claim deed, which includes lands owned by an Alaska Tribe and that are held in trust by the United States on behalf of that Alaska Tribe; and (3) lands and waters set apart as a reservation by Section 15 of the Act of March 3, 1891 (26 Stat. 1101, 48 U.S.C. sec. 358) and the Presidential Proclamation of April 28, 1916 (39 Stat. 1777) (i.e. the Annette Islands Reserve).

Underserved Location – The term “Underserved location” means a Broadband Serviceable Location that is (a) not an Unserved location, and (b) that the Broadband Data Maps show as lacking access to Reliable Broadband Service offered with—(i) a speed of not less than 100 megabits per second (Mbps) for downloads; and (ii) a speed of not less than 20 Mbps for uploads; and (iii) latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds.

Underserved Service Project – The term “Underserved Service Project” means a project in which not less than 80 percent of Broadband Serviceable Locations served by the project are Unserved locations or Underserved locations. An “Underserved Service Project” may be as small as a single Underserved Broadband Serviceable Location.

Unserved Location – The term “Unserved location” means a Broadband Serviceable Location that the Broadband Data Maps show as (a) having no access to broadband service, or (b) lacking access to Reliable Broadband Service offered with—(i) a speed of not less than 25 Mbps for downloads; and (ii) a speed of not less than 3 Mbps for uploads; and (iii) latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds.

Unserved Service Project – The term “Unserved Service Project” means a project in which not less than 80 percent of Broadband Serviceable Locations served by the project are Unserved locations. An “Unserved Service Project” may be as small as a single Unserved Broadband Serviceable Location.

## SECTION 6 – APPENDICES

The Appendix list includes Appendices A through K. Please complete and ensure the required appendices are attached to your application.

APPENDIX A: Letter of Credit or Bond Commitment

APPENDIX B: Certification to Provide Audited Financial Statements (*if applicable*)

APPENDIX C: Federal Match Waiver Request Form (*if applicable*)

APPENDIX D: Technical Capability Certification Form

APPENDIX E: Financial Sustainability Model

APPENDIX F: Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination Law Compliance Certification Form

APPENDIX G: Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management Compliance Form

APPENDIX H: Sample – Alaska Broadband Grant Agreement

APPENDIX I: Unserved and Underserved BSLs by Pre-Determined Project Area

APPENDIX J: Ownership Certification Form

APPENDIX K: Affidavit of Non-Collusion