

Spring 2022

Acceleration Grants Listening Session

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Washington State
Department of
Commerce

Spring 2022 Infrastructure Acceleration Grants - Agenda

1) Synopsis of Fall 2021 After Action Review Elements

2) Timing

- a) Application
- b) Challenge Process
- c) Review, Awards

3) Authorizing Environment

- a) Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund – ARPA
- b) 2021-2021 Capital Budget
- c) RCWs

4) Priorities and Considerations

- a) Service speeds
- b) Last mile and middle mile
- c) Community Anchor Institutions
- d) Lack of service, unreliable service
- e) Regional partnerships

5) Next Steps

Key elements to be addressed

- **Timing** –
 - Insufficient time to provide materials
 - Insufficient time to participate in the Challenge process
- **Clarity** –
 - Provide details on required materials, scored elements, process
 - Definitions
- **Challenge Process** –
 - Sufficient project detail to evaluate for overbuild
 - Sufficient time to evaluate projects and discuss with applicants potential project modifications.

Estimated Timeline

Notice of Funding Opportunity Released	June 14
End of Technical Assistance Period	July 29
Spring 2022 Applications Due	August 18
Review period	August - November
Release data to ISPs	August 26
Applications provided to Review Panelists	August 26
Coordination with other funders	September – October
Recommendations to Director	October
Awards Announced	November 1

Applications

- **ZoomGrants Platform**
 - Checklist of items necessary to complete
- **List of project area census blocks required**
- **Incumbent provider contact required**
- **Letter(s) of support:**
 - Required from tribe(s) if non-tribal entity claiming service to tribal lands
 - Not required from County and, or Broadband Action Teams
- **Right of Way Access – multiple methods to demonstrate access**
 - Projects in state highway right of way, must identify status of permit acquisition

Questions



Questions?

Challenge / Collaboration

- **Incumbent service provider contact during the application period**
 - *July 7, 2022*, postmark - 6 weeks prior to August 18 application deadline
 - Locate incumbents using FCC data - <https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/#/>
 - Submit information to the incumbent(s) local contact information from incumbents list on the following link at the Utilities and Transportation Commission:
https://www.utc.wa.gov/companies?&exposed_select_industry=566
 - Include census blocks for project area
 - Identify premises being served or capable of being served – Drops equipped/ready to serve, not contingent on who is subscribing.

Challenge / Collaboration

- **Minimum speed to area – 100/20 megabits per second (Mbps)**
 - Reliable, wireline existing service, or
 - Plans to build in area over next 12 months –
 - MUST provide evidence: permits, rights of way agreements, etc.

Questions



Questions?

Review, Awards

- **Threshold review**

- Eligible applicants – *Local governments, tribal nations, nonprofits, nonprofit cooperatives, and multi-party entities consisting of public entities, or public entities and private entities. (Capital Budget)*
- Eligible projects – *Projects capable of providing 100/100 Mbps, or projects that provide a minimum of 100/20 Mbps that is scalable to 100/100 Mbps. (Capital Projects Fund-ARPA)*
- Complete application – *All required materials and actions are submitted by no later than the deadline published in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.*

Review, Awards Continued

- **Application review**

- Technical review – *Technology proposal will be reviewed by GeoPartners to verify capability of 100/100 Mbps, or 100/20 Mbps with scalability to 100/100 Mbps (Capital Projects Fund-ARPA)*
- “Over-build” review – *Project area will be reviewed to identify areas of potential over-build. Identified areas will be compared against applications materials to determine next steps, if any.*
- Proposal review – *Outside review team will be given access to ZoomGrants to review application submittal materials. Team will meet several times to answer any questions on contextual considerations, with a final set of meetings to determine the final recommendations for funding.*

Questions



Questions?

Authorizing Environment

**Coronavirus Capital Projects Funds – ARPA –
42 USC Chapter 7, subchapter VI**

**2022 Supplemental Capital Budget, Section 1041-Substitute
Senate Bill 5651**

**Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.330 -
Definitions (...530), Powers and Duties
(...534), Speed Goals (...536)**

**Notice of
Funding
Opportunity**

Priorities and Considerations - Scoring

- **Last mile connections – Up to 40 Points**
 - Points to be determined by the proportion of the project consisting of last mile connections
 - 100% of project proposal = last mile connections = 40 points
 - 60% of project proposal = last mile connections = 24 points
- **100/100 Mbps Speeds – Up to 20 Points**
 - All projects' technology ***must*** be scalable to 100/100 Mbps (*Threshold criterion*)
 - Projects able to provide 100 symmetrical to entire project area upon completion = 20 points
 - Points awarded proportional to the percentage of project area receiving these speeds upon project completion. *Example: 50% of project area = 10 points*

Priorities and Considerations – Scoring Cont.

- **Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) to be served with 1 Gig – Up to 15 Points**
 - CAI = Schools, libraries, medical and healthcare providers, public safety institutions, public housing authorities, institution of higher education, and community support organizations.
 - Supports state speed goal: RCW 43.330.536(2)
- **Addresses lack broadband, unreliable service – Up to 15 points**
 - Project area census blocks without service, or with unreliable service
 - Proportionally awarded points: *Example: 50% of service area without service = 8 points.*

Priorities and Considerations – Scoring Cont.

- **Regional partners approach – 5 points**
 - Applicants claiming tribal service areas, or partnership, must have a letter of support or acknowledgment from the tribal nation (*Threshold criterion*)
 - Any combination of local governments, tribal nations, nonprofits, nonprofit cooperatives, or multi-party entities consisting of public entities, or public entities and private entities.
 - Each entity has a distinct role in the project: *funding, right of way, permitting, staffing, etc.*
- **Public / Private funding contribution from partnering ISP – 5 points**
 - Not a matching funds requirement
 - Funding contribution must be reflected in project budget,
 - Must be a minimum of 10% total project cost.

Questions

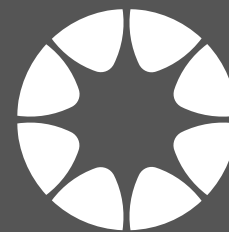


Questions?

Process and Next Steps

- Listening session presentations – May 9, May 17, May 18, 2022
- Feedback deadline May 31, 2022 – *Written comments to:*
WSBO@commerce.wa.gov
- Broadband Office to review, and incorporate where possible, feedback received for the Spring 2022 grant funding round
- Notice of Funding Opportunity released – June 14, 2022

**Thank you for your
time!**



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