THE ENABLING MIDDLE MILE BROADBRAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Project Information – Application Guidance

Today's webinar will focus on the Middle Mile Program – one of four high-speed Internet programs administered by NTIA[1]

INTERNET FOR ALL

BEAD

$42.45B

Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment Program

A program to get all Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to build infrastructure where we need it to and increase adoption of high-speed Internet.

DIGITAL EQUITY

$2.75B

Digital Equity Act

Three programs that provide funding to promote digital inclusion and advance equity for all. They aim to ensure that all communities can access and use affordable, reliable high-speed Internet to meet their needs and improve their lives.

TRIBAL

$2.00B

Tribal Connectivity Technical Amendments

A program to help tribal communities expand high-speed Internet access and adoption on tribal lands.

MIDDLE MILE

Today's focus

$1.00B

Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure

A program to expand middle mile infrastructure, to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.

Middle Mile Grant Program will invest in the construction, improvement or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure

INTERNET FOR ALL

Funding pool
$1.00B

A program to expand middle mile infrastructure, to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Middle mile infrastructure refers to the mid-section of Internet infrastructure that carries large amounts of data at high speeds over long distances and connects the "backbone" of Internet infrastructure to the "last mile", which connects to end users
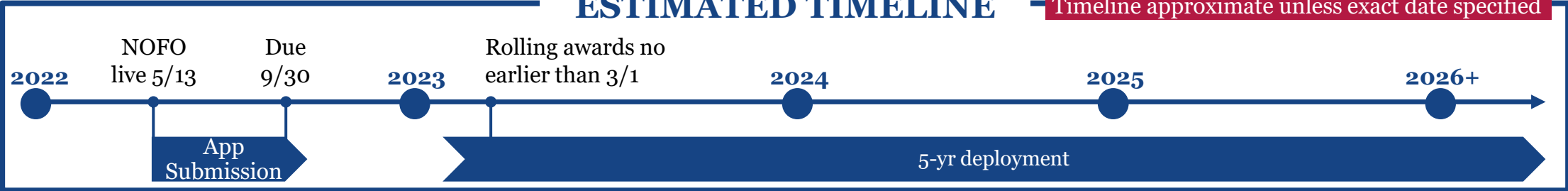
Entities eligible to apply include a wide variety, including but not limited to government entities, utilities, companies, and non-profits that provide Internet services

Example uses of funds:

☆ Construction, improvement or acquisition of facilities and equipment

☆ Engineering design, permitting and work related to projects

☆ Personnel costs, including salaries and benefits

☆ Other costs necessary to program's activities

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified

2022

NOFO live 5/13

Due 9/30

2023

Rolling awards no earlier than 3/1

2024

2025

2026+

App Submission

5-yr deployment

NTIA

Today's webinar will focus on Project Information portion of the Middle Mile Grant Program Application

APPLICANT INFORMATION

June 30, 2022

Today's focus

PROJECT INFORMATION

July 13, 2022

BUDGET INFORMATION

August 10, 2022

NTIA will only accept applications submitted electronically via its online application portal by September 30, 2022

NTIA Application Portal

Applications must be received through the NTIA Application Portal no later than 11:59 p.m. EDT on Sept. 30, 2022

Please contact middlemile@ntia.gov with any questions and nghelpdesk@ntia.gov for technical support with the portal.

Application format requirements

- Figures, graphs, images, and pictures should be readable and may be presented in landscape

- Font should be easy to read and 11-point minimum; figures and tables may use smaller type

- One-inch margins on top, bottom, left, and right

- Portrait orientation except for figures, graphs, images, and pictures

- Page size 8 ½ by 11 inches

- All applications must be typed in English

There are three sections to complete for the Project Information portion of the Middle Mile Grant Program Application

PROJECT INFORMATION

> **Project Details**

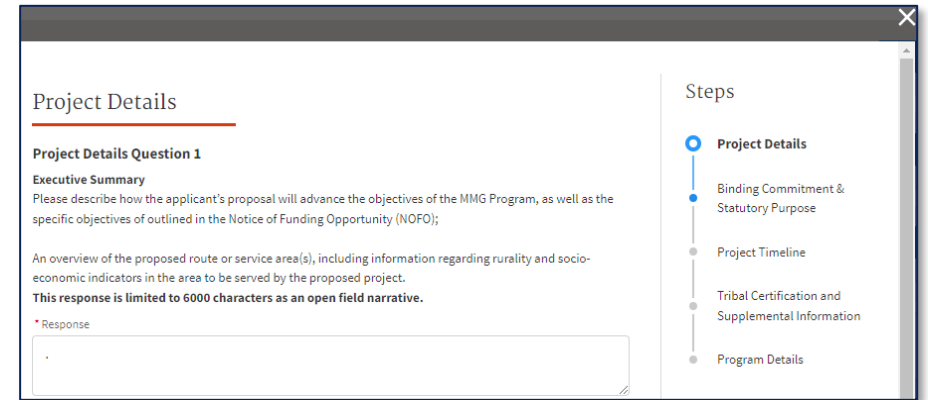> **Technical Capabilities**

> **Required Documents**

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Details - Executive Summary

Executive Summary *(6,000 characters)*

- **High-level** introduction to the project; no technical jargon

- Provide project purpose:

  - Address how proposal will advance Middle Mile Grant Program/NOFO objectives

  - Provide an overview of proposed route or service area(s)

  - Indicate level of need in service area(s)

- Describe binding commitments made (see Binding Commitment):

  - Connect networks servicing unserved areas

  - Connecting non-contiguous trust lands

  - Offering broadband at reasonable rates, carrier-neutral

- All information in this area should be considered **PUBLIC**.

- Consider writing the **Executive Summary** last for consistency: it should contain no new information.

Project Details

Project Details Question 1

Executive Summary

Please describe how the applicant's proposal will advance the objectives of the MMG Program, as well as the specific objectives of outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO);

An overview of the proposed route or service area(s), including information regarding rurality and socio-economic indicators in the area to be served by the proposed project.
This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

* Response

Steps

- **Project Details**
- Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose
- Project Timeline
- Tribal Certification and Supplemental Information
- Program Details

Note: Applicants are encouraged to compose narrative responses separately, then copy and paste into the narrative text fields. Save and archive narrative responses for record keeping purposes.

Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal

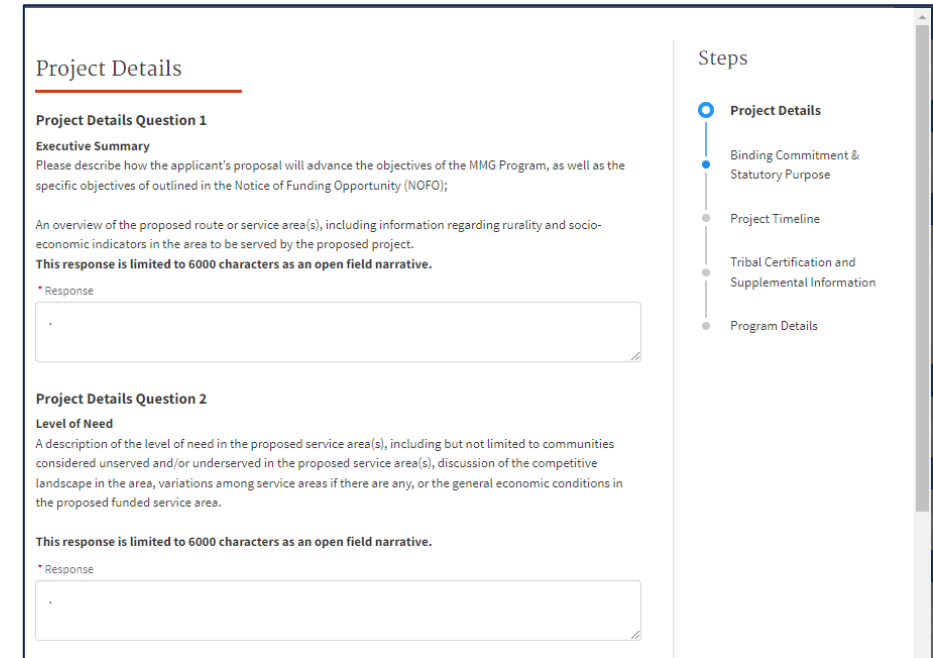*Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal*

Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal

Project Details - Level of Need

Level of Need Narrative *(6,000 characters)*

- Describe the level of need in the proposed service area(s)
  - Include competitive landscape and variations in service
  - Project value-add
- Confirm proposal is consistent with state broadband plan/ priorities and that broadband office(s) were directly consulted
- Note any specific service providers that have expressed interest in utilizing the network to provide last mile service, including degree of interest (e.g., letters of interest, contracts)
- Estimated number of expected users
- Describe general economic conditions in the proposed area
- Provide the most complete picture possible of the existing state of broadband infrastructure in the proposed area
  - Include reasons why it is currently insufficient
- Discuss the extent to which the proposed project will meet all broadband needs of the communities within the project area

Project Details

Steps

- Project Details
- Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose
- Project Timeline
- Tribal Certification and Supplemental Information
- Program Details

Project Details Question 1

Executive Summary

Please describe how the applicant's proposal will advance the objectives of the MMG Program, as well as the specific objectives of outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO);

An overview of the proposed route or service area(s), including information regarding rurality and socio-economic indicators in the area to be served by the proposed project.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

* Response

Project Details Question 2

Level of Need

A description of the level of need in the proposed service area(s), including but not limited to communities considered unserved and/or underserved in the proposed service area(s), discussion of the competitive landscape in the area, variations among service areas if there are any, or the general economic conditions in the proposed funded service area.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

* Response

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Project Details - Government & Community Involvement

Government & Community Involvement
(3,000 characters)

- Describe coordination and level of involvement with applicable State, Territory, Tribal, local governments, and other community organizations/partners across public, non-profit, and private sectors

  - Pay particular attention to community anchor institutions involved in the project

- Outline each organization's planned role in the project, including **financial** or **equipment** contributions

- Clarify any benefits received from the project

- Submit additional documentation if available, e.g., letters of support

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Project Details Question 3

State Collaboration Acknowledgement

NTIA strongly encourages prospective non-state applicants to coordinate and consult with the State Broadband Office or other coordinating body located in the jurisdiction in which the eligible entity proposes to deploy middle mile infrastructure to ensure that the proposal is consistent with the state's broadband plan and priorities. Please confirm collaboration and consultation.

Do you confirm collaboration and consultation with the appropriate organization?

* Response
- ● Yes
- ○ No

Project Details Question 4

State and Local Collaboration Narrative

Please provide information on the applicant's coordination with applicable State, Territory, Tribal, and local governments, including their awareness of the proposed project and any potential impact to respective service areas; and

Information regarding the applicant's involvement and coordination with community organizations or other relevant partners in the proposed service area.

This response is limited to 3000 characters as an open field narrative.

* Response

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Project Details – Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose

Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose

Confirm via Y/N that the eligible entity will make a binding commitment to prioritize **at LEAST ONE** of the following per Section 60401(e) of the IIJA in questions 1-3:

Question 1:
Connecting Middle Mile Grant infrastructure to last mile networks that service unserved areas

Question 2:
Connecting non-contiguous trust lands
- Describe in narrative *(1,000 characters)*

Question 3:
Offering wholesale broadband service

Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose

Binding Commitment

As directed by Section 60401(e) of the Infrastructure Act, each applicant must make a binding commitment to prioritize at least one of the following via the funded middle mile network. The commitment should be described in the Executive Summary.

Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose Question 1

Will the project connect middle mile infrastructure to last mile networks that provide or plan to provide broadband service to households in unserved areas?

* Response
- ○ Yes
- ○ No

Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose Question 2

Is the project connecting non-contiguous trust lands?

* Response
- ● Yes
- ○ No

Please describe:

* Response

[ ]

Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose Question 3

Do you commit to offering wholesale broadband service at reasonable rates on a carrier-neutral basis?

* Response
- ○ Yes
- ○ No

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INTERNET FOR ALL

Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose

Confirm via Y/N that the eligible entity meets **at least TWO** of the following five requirements in questions 4-8 in order to receive priority in programmatic review

Question 4:
Adopts fiscally sustainable Middle Mile Grant strategies *(ref Budget Narrative)*

Question 5:
Commits to offering non-discriminatory interconnect to parties that request it *(ref Interconnect Policy)*

Question 6:
Identifies specific terrestrial and wireless last mile broadband providers that have (i) requested interconnection and (ii) demonstrated sustainable plans/funding sources for interconnection *(ref Level of Need Narrative)*

Submit financial documents that demonstrate anticipated revenues associated with MM projects, e.g., financial studies & analyses

- Purpose: Validate revenues are sufficient for long-term provision of service

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Statutory Purpose

As directed by Section 60401(d)(2) of the Infrastructure Act, the MMG Program will prioritize applications that meet at least two of the following five criteria:

Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose Question 4

The eligible entity adopts fiscally sustainable middle mile strategies. This strategy should be described in the Budget Narrative.

Do you attest to this?

* Response ⓘ
　○ Yes
　○ No

Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose Question 5

The eligible entity commits to offering non-discriminatory interconnect to terrestrial and wireless last mile broadband providers and any other party making a bona fide request. This policy will be described in the Interconnect Policy.

Do you attest to this?

* Response
　○ Yes
　○ No

Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose Question 6

The eligible entity identifies specific terrestrial and wireless last mile broadband providers that have(i) expressed written interest in interconnecting with middle mile infrastructure planned to be deployed by the eligible entity; and ii) demonstrated sustainable business plans or adequate funding sources with respect to such interconnection. This may be demonstrated in the Level of Need narrative of the Exec Summary.

* Response
　○ Yes
　○ No

Note: Required Financial Documentation is uploaded with Budget Narrative

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Project Details – Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose cont.

Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose

Confirm via Y/N that the eligible entity meets **at least TWO** of the following five requirements in questions 4-8 in order to receive priority in programmatic review

Question 7:
Identified supplemental investments or in-kind support to accelerate completion of project *(ref Project Timeline Narrative)*

Question 8:
Demonstrated MMG infrastructure will benefit national security interests *(ref National Security Interests Narrative, next slide)*

Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose Question 7

The eligible entity has identified supplemental investments or in-kind support (such as waived franchise or permitting fees) that will accelerate the completion of the planned project. Such acceleration may be described in the Project Timeline narrative.

Do you attest to this?

* Response
○ Yes
○ No

Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose Question 8

The eligible entity has demonstrated that the middle mile infrastructure will benefit national security interests of the United States and the Department of Defense. The benefits may be explained in the Benefitting National Security Interests Narrative.

Do you attest to this?

* Response
● Yes
○ No

Note: As directed by Section 60401(d)(2) of the IIJA the Middle Mile Grant Program will prioritize applications that meet at least two of the five criteria.

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Project Details – Benefitting National Security Interests

Benefitting National Security Interests
(1,000 characters)

Include project's benefits to national security, e.g.:

- Redundancy and resiliency of telecommunications networks that support broadband services

- Other commercial telecommunications services

- Protection of critical national infrastructure (power grid, transmission facilities)

- Border security

- Physical infrastructure sensors

- Monitoring, etc.

Benefitting National Security Interests Narrative
Relevant considerations here include, but are not limited to, whether the funded middle mile infrastructure will increase the redundancy and resiliency of telecommunications networks that support broadband services, other commercial telecommunications services, protection of other critical national infrastructure (e.g., the national power grid and power transmission facilities), border security, or other physical infrastructure sensor and monitoring.

This response is limited to 1000 characters as an open field narrative.

* Response

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Project Details - Project Timeline

Project Timeline

Question 1:
Applicants must select the number of years for the project (1-5)

Question 2:
Enter a narrative *(3,000 characters)* that demonstrates:

a) Project Path

b) Capital Investment Schedule

   • Demonstrate yearly buildout

c) Potential Acceleration

   • Explain if the project can be accelerated with supplemental investments or in-kind support

d) Completion Objectives

   • Consider network design, securing licenses, site preparation, inside/outside plant deployment, operational support systems, and network testing

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Project Timeline

Project Timeline Question 1

Project Duration
Number of Years

*Response

Project Timeline Question 2

Project Timeline Narrative
The narrative requires the Applicant to describe a project with critical path, including key milestones for implementation of the project, preparations, and risk factors; and a capital investment schedule evidencing that the applicant will complete build-out and the initiation of service within five years of the date on which the entity receives the grant and will meet interim buildout requirements set forth herein and in any other binding document.
If the project is able to be accelerated with supplemental investments or in-kind support to meet a statutory purpose, this should be explained.

This response is limited to 3000 characters as an open field narrative.

*Response

Steps

- Project Details
- Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose
- Project Timeline
- Tribal Certification and Supplemental Information
- Program Details

Notes: **Round-up years if timeline range is not a whole integer**

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Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal

Project Details - Project Timeline cont.

INTERNET FOR ALL

Project Timeline

Question 3: ☁

In addition to the narrative, the Applicant's project plan file must be uploaded

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Project Timeline Question 3
Project Timeline File
Applicants are asked to upload a template which will denote key milestones for implementation of the project, including but not limited to field survey, network design, equipment/material procurement, environmental assessment, permitting, construction, network testing, network activation and completion.

Upload

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*Upload

| ⬆ Upload Files | Or drop files |

| FileName | ⌄ | Upload Date | ⌄ | |

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▷ *Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal*

▯ *Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal*

Project Details - Tribal Certification & Waivers

Waiver of Alternative Requirements Requested

- **ALL** waiver or requirement modification requests to the project must be included here. Should specify necessity:
  - For effective delivery or administration of grants
  - For the construction, improvement, or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure on trust land.

- Check & upload waiver if applicable

Tribal Land Certification – Unserved or Underserved

- A Tribal Government may certify whether an area within its own Tribal Land is unserved or underserved **based on criteria of its choosing**

- Must provide a statement on Tribal letterhead that:
  - Notes the area being certified as unserved or underserved
  - Explains how the determination was made
  - Provides any supporting information available

Special Rules exist for Tribal Governments & Native Entities

Waivers & Alternative Requirements may be granted if considered necessary (NOFO III.G.1)

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Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal

Project Details - Program Details

Question 1 - Fair Labor Narrative
(3,000 characters)

- Demonstrate compliance with federal labor and employment laws by providing examples of items described per the NOFO III.H

Question 2 – Officer Certification

- Upload a certificate from a director-level employee or officer

  - An officer certification is an affirmation of compliance with Fair Labor and Employment Laws by an authorized individual within the company.

Program Details

Program Details Question 1

Fair Labor Practices
Applicants must have a demonstrated record of and plans to be in compliance with federal labor and employment laws. This will help ensure that projects are carried out in accordance with the law, assist NTIA in ensuring that a prospective awardee is capable of carrying out activities funded by an award in a competent manner in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws; and promote the effective and efficient completion of high-quality middle mile broadband infrastructure projects by ensuring a reliable supply of skilled workers and minimizing disruptive and costly delays.

This response is limited to 3000 characters as an open field narrative.

* Response

Program Details Question 2

Officer Certification
In order for NTIA to evaluate an applicant's demonstrated record of and plans to be in compliance with federal labor and employment laws, each applicant must provide examples of items described in III.H in the NOFO. Applicants are asked to upload a Certification from an Officer/Director-level employee (or equivalent) of the applicant evidencing consistent past compliance with federal labor and employment laws by the applicant, as well as contractors and subcontractors.

Upload
⬆ Upload Files | Or drop files

* Upload
⬆ Upload Files | Or drop files

FileName		Upload Date	

Steps
- Project Details
- Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose
- Project Timeline
- Tribal Certification and Supplemental Information
- Program Details

Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal

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Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal

Program Details: Highly Skilled Workforce & Workforce Development

Question 3 – Highly Skilled Workforce Narrative
(3,000 characters)

- Applicants must submit a plan for ensuring that the project workforce will be appropriately skilled and credentialed as per NOFO III.I

Question 4 – Advancing Workforce Development Narrative
(3,000 characters)

- Provide examples of advancing workforce development through appropriate investments in a diverse and well-trained workforce as per NOFO III.J

Program Details Question 3

Highly Skilled Workforce
To ensure that applicants have the technical and operational capacity to carry out the project, applicants must submit a plan for ensuring that the project workforce will be an appropriately skilled and credentialed workforce (including by the applicant and each of its contractors and subcontractors). The plan for a highly skilled workforce should include the information described in III.I in the NOFO.

This response is limited to 3000 characters as an open field narrative.

* Response

Program Details Question 4

Advancing Workforce Development
A skilled workforce is critical to meeting infrastructure buildout timelines under the Infrastructure Act and connecting households across the country to reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband. A well-trained workforce will also allow for the safe deployment of sustainable networks. To meet the workforce needs of the MMG Program, applicants must make appropriate investments to develop a skilled, diverse workforce. Each applicant must provide as part of its application examples of items described in III.H in the NOFO.

This response is limited to 3000 characters as an open field narrative.

* Response

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Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal

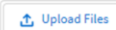*Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal*

Program Details: Climate Resiliency & Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination Law

Question 5 – Climate Resiliency
(3,000 characters)

- Demonstrate that weather and climate-related risks related to Middle Mile Grant program infrastructure projects have sufficiently been accounted for and there are plans to combat those per NOFO III.I

Question 6 – Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination Law Compliance

- Y/N: Applicants must agree to set nondiscrimination requirements by future binding commitment set forth by the legal authorities listed per NOFO III.L

Program Details Question 5

Climate Resiliency

Please demonstrate that the applicant has sufficiently accounted for current and future weather- and climate-related risks to new MMG Program infrastructure projects. In particular, each applicant should clearly demonstrate how it is conducting the items listed in III.I in the NOFO.

This response is limited to 3000 characters as an open field narrative.

* Response

Program Details Question 6

Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination Law Compliance

Prior to distributing any MMG Program funding to a prospective awardee, NTIA will require the prospective awardee to agree, by contract or other binding commitment, to abide by the non-discrimination requirements set forth in III.J in the NOFO.

Do you agree to abide by the non-discrimination requirements?

* Response
- ○ Yes
- ○ No

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Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal

TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES

Technical Capabilities

Technical Capabilities

Technical Capabilities Question 1
Certification of Technical Capability
Each applicant must supply a certification attesting that it is technically qualified to complete and operate the proposed project.

Upload

⬆ Upload Files | Or drop files

FileName ⌄	Upload Date ⌄	
Certification of Technical Capability.pdf-S...	06/10/2022	🗑

Technical Capabilities Question 2
Technical Overview
Please describe targeted last mile service objectives, including last mile service provider letters of commitment, agreements, or contracts; and a description of the proposed service offerings, including the pricing of the services to be offered over the proposed facility.

This response is limited to 3000 characters as an open field narrative.

*Response

Applicants are encouraged to upload supplemental documentation.

Upload

⬆ Upload Files | Or drop files

FileName ⌄	Upload Date ⌄	

Steps
- Technical Capabilities
- Technology Details

Questions 2 through 4 are limited to 3000-character narrative responses

Upload Certification of Technical Capability ☁

Technical Overview Narrative *(3,000 characters)*
- Applicant must describe targeted last mile service objectives, including last mile service provider letters of commitment or contracts
- Applicant must describe proposed service offerings. This includes the pricing of the services to be offered over the proposed facility

Note: Applicants are encouraged to upload supplemental documentation.

☁ *Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal*

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📄 *Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal*

Technical Capabilities

Technical Capabilities Question 3
Competitive Landscape
The Applicant should describe existing middle mile offerings in the area, if any, including competitor data if applicable. This should include a description of the proposed service offerings, including the pricing and technology of the services to be offered over the proposed facility. Where possible, Applicant's project should be able to demonstrate a decline in middle mile costs that are likely to flow through to consumer broadband prices.

This response is limited to 3000 characters as an open field narrative.

* Response

Applicants are encouraged to upload supplemental documentation.

Upload

⬆ Upload Files   Or drop files

FileName	∨	Upload Date	∨

Technical Capabilities Question 4
Interconnect Policy
The Applicant must describe in detail the nondiscrimination, interconnection, and network management practices that would be adopted for the project facilities. The Applicant should describe how it will comply with nondiscrimination and interconnection obligations, particularly with connectivity to the public Internet and physical interconnection for the exchange of traffic. In addition to describing network management practices, the Applicant should disclose any practices in place to block access to illegal or harmful content.

This response is limited to 3000 characters as an open field narrative.

* Response

Save and Next

Competitive Landscape Narrative *(3,000 characters)*
- Applicant should be able to demonstrate decline in Middle Mile Grant costs that are likely to flow through to consumer broadband prices

Interconnect Policy *(3,000 characters)*
- Describe network management practices that will comply with nondiscrimination & interconnection obligations while blocking access to illegal & harmful content
- Applicant will include the URL to the publicly available interconnection policy and verify that such policy is to be offered in perpetuity.

When Completing Narratives
- Compose narrative responses offline, then copy and paste into narrative text fields
- Save and archive narrative responses for record keeping purposes

☁ *Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal*

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📄 *Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal*

Technical Capabilities

Determine Technology Details: ❑ Fiber Optic Technology ❑ Wireless ❑ Other

For Question 1, if 'Fiber Optic Technology' is selected, applicant must click radio button to select a response to the expanded section.

If 'Fiber' is selected, a mandatory narrative field will auto populate and applicant must certify that upon completion of project, BB service speeds will be no less than 1 Gigabit per second for downloads and 1 Gigabit per second for uploads within designated parameters.

If a Wireless or Other technology type is proposed, a certification statement is optional.

Note: Applicants selecting 'Fiber' must upload Template Community Anchor Institution (CAI)

Technology Details

Technology Details Question 1
Type of technology to be used in proposal:

Response
☑ Fiber Optic Technology
☐ Wireless
☑ Other

If Other, please describe:

*Response

Each applicant of an award to build middle mile infrastructure using fiber optic technology shall certify that the proposed project, upon completion, will include direct interconnection facilities that will facilitate the provision of lit broadband service, at speeds not less than 1 Gigabit per second for downloads and 1 Gigabit per second for uploads to anchor institutions located within 1,000 feet of the middle mile infrastructure, as detailed in the Template CAI below.

Do you agree to certify to the above?

*Response
○ Yes
○ No

An eligible entity applying for a middle mile grant may seek, and the Assistant Secretary may grant, a waiver of the requirements set out in the previous paragraph, in full or in part, to the extent the eligible entity demonstrates that the requirement is not technically or economically feasible.

Do you plan to apply for a waiver? If yes, please attach the waiver application in the Application Workspace, the Application Information section, Required Documents under Required Document Question 4 "Additional Waiver Upload".

*Response
○ Yes
○ No

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Technical Capabilities

Network Route Map

- Project area highlighting unserved/underserved areas

- Pre-existing service area with current service levels

- Physical path of network's transmission medium

- Points of interconnection

- Wireless towers & associated coverage areas

- Anchor Institutions within 1,000 feet

Network Route Map must delineate between network & facilities that are:

1. Part of the Applicant's/key partners' existing network;

2. Proposed as part of this project;

3. Leased from a third party;

4. Utilized under some alterative arrangement; or

5. Relevant to interconnection with either Last Mile or Middle Mile service providers

Technology Details Question 3
Network Route Maps
Applicants should provide a physical network map that includes the following (if applicable):

- The Project Area and those unserved and underserved areas which it will enable.
- Applicant's pre-existing service area that demonstrates current service levels.
- The physical path of the network's transmission medium (e.g., backbone and lateral cable routes, microwave links), transmission type, technology, operating bandwidth, capacity (e.g., dark vs. lit strand count), and cable placement (e.g., aerial, burial) should be displayed.
- Points of interconnection (purely passive and non-environmentally controlled nodes, e.g., splice points are optional):
  - Provider Facilities
  - Collocation Facilities
  - Private Interconnection Points with partnering service provider/private network
- Wireless towers and associated coverage areas.
- Anchor institutions within 1,000 feet, if desired.
- Additionally, the maps should delineate between network and facilities that are:
  - Part of the Applicant's/key partners' existing network;
  - Proposed as part of this project;
  - Leased from a third party;
  - Utilized under some alternative arrangement; or
  - Relevant to interconnection with either Last Mile or Middle Mile service providers.

PLEASE NOTE: Only ESRI Shapefiles will be accepted and uploaded.

Upload

⬆ Upload Files   Or drop files

FileName   ⌄   Upload Date   ⌄

Note: Only ESRI Shapefiles will be accepted and uploaded (.shp, .shx & .dbf)

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25   Internet For All

Technical Capabilities

Applicants are required to complete fields

Data Submission Specifications

Applicants must complete and upload the "Data Submission Specification Template" with information for all interconnection points proposed for the network. All three required fields of the template must be completed:

- Point Name

- Latitude

- Longitude

This should accommodate information for all interconnection points proposed for network access, points to Last Mile service providers, Internet peering points, and towers.

Technical Capabilities

Network Logical Diagram

Applicant must provide network diagrams that including all network elements and the capacity, facilities, and mileage between each element. The diagram must denote the network elements that already exist while explicitly demonstrating:

- Links between the network nodes
- Internet access peering points
- Proposed aggregation node facilities that will serve as egress point
- Points of interconnection and collocation facilities
- For Wireless Systems, the antennae height, proposed frequencies, and approximate coverage area for each access point

Environmental Narrative *(1,000 characters)*

- Applicants must comply with environmental regulation (e.g., National Environmental Policy Act)
- Applicants must include site and aerial photographs

While developing the Network Diagram

- Indicate points of interconnection for third party service providers and Internet peering points.

- Show miles between points, use of existing ducts or poles/overlay versus new build, and in-ground versus aerial, and lateral versus backbone.

- Denote basic equipment types and capacity figures at key aggregation nodes.

Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal

Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal

Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Required Documents

Required Project Documents

Required Project Documents Question 1
Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
This is a document published to reflect an estimate of indirect cost rate negotiated between the Federal Government and a Grantee's organization which reflects the indirect costs (facilities and administrative costs) and fringe benefit expenses incurred by the organization. This must be completed, if applicable.

Upload
Upload Files   Or drop files

FileName | Upload Date
Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreemen.pdf-State of California-GRN-000306 | 06/10/2022

Required Project Documents Question 2
Template Table of Funded Partners and Unfunded Collaborators
List all funded and unfunded project collaborators, including partners, subrecipients, match providers, major contractors/supplies, details on role/scope of work for project. A fillable Template of Funded Partners and Unfunded Collaborators can be found in found in the MMG ZIP folder.

Upload
Or drop files

FileName | Upload Date
MMG Template Table of Funded Part. and Unfunded Collaborators.pdf-State of California-GRN-0... | 06/10/2022

Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement

Each applicant must provide a document that estimates the indirect rate negotiated between the Federal Government and a Grantee's organization which reflects the indirect facilities and administrative costs incurred by the organization. This must be completed, if applicable.

Template Table of Funded Partners and Unfunded Collaborators

List all funded and unfunded project collaborators and provide details on their scope of work. Fillable Template "Funded Partners and Unfunded Collaborators" must be completed and uploaded

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Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal

Required Documents

Certificate of Operational Capability ☁

Each applicant must supply and upload

- A certification from an officer-level employee attesting to the applicant's operational capability to complete and operate the proposed project.

- A certification attesting that an FCC form 477s and Broadband DATA Act has been submitted from an officer-level employee

- If the Applicant has operated only an electric transmission or distribution service, it must submit qualified operating or financial reports

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Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal

Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal

Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal

Applicants should pay close attention to application requirements to avoid delays in review

Common Mistakes

In previous NTIA programs, some of the most common reasons for curing included **missing or incomplete forms**. Additional curing reasons included:

- Documents uploaded in incorrect file type, format, or template

- Inconsistent or inaccurate information across application narratives, summaries, and forms

- Incorrectly selecting Y/N options

- Password protected documents that cannot be opened

- Images and text in uploaded documents are blurry and cannot be clearly read

> Ensure that all NTIA required forms, templates, and documents related to Applicant Information have been **uploaded** into the NTIA Grants Portal, including:

- ❑ Network Logical Diagram
- ❑ Network Route Maps (ESRI Shapefile only)
- ❑ Data Submission Specification Template
- ❑ Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
- ❑ Table of Funded Partners & Unfunded Collaborators

- ❑ Certificate of Operational Capability
- ❑ Certificate of Technical Capability
- ❑ Other Technical Capabilities documents, as needed
- ❑ Tribal Waivers & Certifications, as applicable

> Ensure that Project Name and budget information are consistent across all forms

Applicants should implement best practices to make certain the application is prioritized and not delayed

Best Practices

- Thoroughly read through the NOFO for a comprehensive understanding

- Communicate, connect, and collaborate with your broadband offices

- Draft narrative information offline and save forms for record-keeping purposes

- Copy and paste all narratives from separately saved documents

- Always use NTIA provided templates when available

- Confirm that all required forms are properly completed prior to upload

- Ensure that summary information is consistent across all forms; write the Executive Summary last

- Do not include non-public information in the Executive Summary

- Document that the eligible entity meets at least TWO or more statutory requirements in questions 4-8 so the application is prioritized in programmatic review

Additional resources about the Middle Mile Grant Program

1 Visit the InternetForAll.gov for additional information on federal funding programs

2 Engage with your State or territory regarding their plans to improve high-speed Internet access

3 Submit questions to middlemile@ntia.gov

4 Attend future NTIA webinars, including program-specific application guidance webinars for applicants

INTERNET FOR ALL

Programmatic inquiries

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For specific inquiries, please contact the appropriate office