Oklahoma ARPA CPF Broadband Investment Grant Program
Questions and Responses

Please note: This FAQ was developed as a broad public resource and is intended to be strictly informational. The answers contained in this FAQ will not include complete information as the questions posed do not provide complete information. This document may be consulted as a reference but should not be relied on for a complete assessment. The OBO encourages potential applicants to consult their legal counsel in finding answers to these questions.

Updated: 9:00am CT, May 3, 2024

1. With ACP winding down and funding expected to be exhausted by May 2024, is the requirement for an ISP to accept ACP still applicable?

   Yes, at this time ISPs applying for the CPF program are required to offer a low-cost option as well as participate in the ACP program.

2. Please define low-cost option.

   As outlined in the scoring criteria, applicants that provide a low-cost plan option for less than or equal to $30, will receive 2.5 points. Comparatively, applicants that provide a low-cost plan that covers more than 50% of a plan with a $30 ACP subsidy included, will receive 1.25 points.

3. In the third paragraph on page 3 of the NOFO, ISPs are required to design to all serviceable locations in an area but provide service to unserved/underserved locations. Please clarify if design is required for all BSLs and not just those that are unserved or underserved.

   Design is not required for served locations. Only unserved and underserved locations per the FCC Broadband Availability Map will be considered for funding. As such, please only include unserved and underserved locations as defined by the FCC.

4. The CPF Scoring Criteria references Community Support Meetings. Please clarify what constitutes a Community Support Meeting. Would the following meet the requirement? 1. Meeting with an elected official; 2. Meeting with the president of a HOA; 3. Meeting with a school superintendent or school board member.

   These examples meet the requirement as would any meetings conducted with members of the community.

5. Is there a limit to the number of proposals that can be submitted?

   There is not a limit to the number of proposals that may be submitted by a single entity. Entities may submit more than one proposal for the same county, but please ensure that all proposals submitted do not cross into other counties.

6. Would OBO make successfully contested locations from ARPA SLFRF eligible again in ARPA-CPF if construction has not started for those locations in the last 6 months since the contests were made?

7. If a project is proposing >100/100 speeds to 150 unserved locations and 50 underserved locations, how many points would the project receive for the category of the CPF scoring criteria shown below?

1. Number of Broadband Connections & Speeds: Up to 25 points possible

The proposed improvements in broadband speed and number of connections to be served by the project:

# of Connections	Speed Now:	<25/3	<25/3	<100/20	<100/20
	Speed After Build:	100/100	>100/100	100/100	>100/100
0 to 100	Points:	19	24	14	17
100+		20	25	15	18

The project would receive 25 points on this scoring component.

8. The OBO has provided locations considered unserved/underserved on its website. ISPs will only be allowed to propose building to these locations. Would OBO allow contests of locations that are NOT in this list but are known to be unserved/underserved?

Only locations that are noted as unserved or underserved on the FCC Broadband Availability Map will be considered for funding.

9. The Capital Projects Fund Notice of Funding Opportunity states that every O-BIG CPF Grant Program must have a minimum 25% funding match; however, the CPF scoring criteria indicates that a match of less than 25% will receive 0 points in the matching fund amount category. Can the OBO confirm that each project submitted must have a minimum 25% funding match?

Yes, each project submitted for the CPF O-BIG grant must include at least a 25% match.

10. Relating to the Project Readiness category within the CPF scoring criteria, can the OBO confirm how many points will be associated with a project that can begin construction in less than 6 months following grant award, but more than 120 days following grant award?

If a proposed application has demonstrated the project will be shovel ready and begin construction in less than 6 months but will not begin construction within 120 days, the lesser of the point values (12 points) will be awarded.

11. If a project is building to 1 unserved (less than 25/3) location with greater than 100/100 speeds, will the project score a 24 in this category?

That is correct.

12. In the APRA-CPF NOFO, it mentions the need for *"Financial viability includes the applicants most current audited financial statements."* Is this a requirement or can we present audited financials after the award process?

    This is required during the application process for scoring purposes.

13. Is there a way for ISPs to download location data to determine which locations are eligible?

    Yes, use the following link to find downloadable KMZ files from ARPA SLFRF: https://oklahoma.gov/broadband/grant-programs/arpa-slfrf.html

    ISPs can also find unserved/underserved data on the CPF page: https://oklahoma.gov/broadband/grant-programs/capital-projects-fund.html

    Note: locations from SLFRF KMZs will need to be subtracted from the unserved/underserved data

14. The ARPA-CPF NOFO states, "Applicants must certify that the applicant's network design is technically feasible and capable, upon completion of the project, *by providing certification from a Professional Engineer* or by using an in-house engineer who designs and oversees the implementation of network designs in the regular course of business."

    Does the Engineer need to be certified in the State of Oklahoma to provide the required certification or can they be certified in any state?

    The engineer needs to be certified in Oklahoma.

15. How would projects be scored if multiple locations have more than one pre-investment speed? For example, an ISP is serving 150 locations total, 25 of them are 100/20Mbps and 125 are 25/3Mbps. How would that project be scored?

    A mean of the pre-investment speeds will be taken and that will determine the score.

16. In the CPF NOFO, under Section VII Eligible Project Costs, it states that *infrastructure for backhaul, middle, and last mile networks* are eligible costs. Must a project also contain last mile connections to be eligible?

    The project is required to make last mile connections.

17. One of the application requirements states, *Applicant provides fabric ID and addresses of locations currently unserved and underserved in the project service area.* To obtain and provide this information, the applicant would have to register (Tier D License) as an ISP with the FCC. Is it a requirement for this application that we are an ISP in order to apply?

    It is only a requirement that applicants obtain the fabric and address information.

18. In middle mile networks, locations of any customer of a partnering ISP would then be supported. How do applicants best capture that information? Would letters of support stating customers and service areas suffice?

Middle mile projects will not be accepted or awarded.

19. If a middle mile project is proposed, is it a requirement that applicants are, will become or will partner with an ISP?

Middle mile projects will not be accepted or awarded.