Application Overview

Applicants should use the following details to help with creating an application for the GUMBO Grant Program. Please refer to the rules for additional clarification.

- General company details and contact info
- Project description
  - General information
    - Project name
    - Project costs
      - Total project cost
      - Total project cost per prospective broadband recipient
      - Infrastructure cost per prospective broadband recipient
      - GUMBO cost per prospective broadband recipient
    - General location/parishes
    - Number of households to be served
    - Number of businesses to be served
    - Base Speed (Minimum Download/Upload)
    - Supported Scalability Speeds (Minimum Download/Upload)
  - Qualifications and experience
    - Number of years the applicant has provided internet services.
    - Number of households and consumers, by year of service, to which the applicant has provided broadband internet access (at least 25:3 Mbps).
    - The number of completed internet service infrastructure projects funded, in part, through federal or state grant programs, prior to the date of application.
    - History of participation in internet infrastructure projects.
    - The number of penalties paid by the applicant (subsidiary, affiliate, holding company, etc.) relative to internet service infrastructure projects funded through federal or state grant programs, prior to the date of application.
    - The number of times the applicant (subsidiary, affiliate, holding company, etc.) has ever been a defendant in any federal or state criminal proceeding or civil litigation as a result of its participation in an internet service infrastructure project funded through federal or state grant programs, prior to the date of application.
  - Financial background
    - Five years of financial statements, pro forma statements or financial audits. If the applicant has been in business for less than five years, provide documentation for the number of years in business.
    - Whether the applicant (subsidiary, affiliate, holding company, etc.) has filed for bankruptcy.
  - Partnerships
    - Identify any partners or affiliates with a formalized agreement or letter support between the provider and one or more unaffiliated partners where the partner is one of the following:
      - a separate private provider of broadband service, requiring a formalized agreement.
      - a nonprofit or not-for-profit, or a for-profit subsidiary of either, and the applicant is:
        - Allowed access and use of the partner’s infrastructure, on special terms and conditions designed to facilitate the provision of broadband services in unserved areas, requiring a formalized agreement; or
        - Utilizing a matching financial and/or in-kind contribution provided by one or more partners, requiring a formalized agreement; or
        - A parish, municipality, or school board, or any instrumentality thereof, may qualify as a nonprofit for the purposes of the GUMBO grant program. Letters of support by a parish, municipality, or school board, or any instrumentality thereof, supporting an application may be submitted as part of an application. A letter of support does not require a formalized agreement.
- Project area
Application Overview

- **Assessment of service level**
  - Describe the current level of service within the area and provide the data source or methodology used to capture this information. If data is available to support differences between advertised and transmission speeds, applicants may also submit applications for areas where transmission speeds are less than 25:3 Mbps.

- **Mapping**
  - Data must be digitally submitted in a GIS shapefile, kml, CAD (.dwg), or MicroStation (.dgn) file format, (georeferenced to either the Louisiana North State Plane NAD83 (US Feet) coordinate system or the Louisiana South State Plane NAD83 (US Feet) coordinate system). Files can contain points representing locations or polygons outlining the specific areas to be served. CAD drawings must not contain external references. Service to any prospective broadband recipient should be referenced. Representative data should be provided as follows:
    - Census blocks – data shall be submitted as corresponding census block numbers encompassing the area(s) to be served through the proposed project.
    - Shapefiles – data shall be submitted analyzing geospatial data depicting broadband coverage of the proposed project area.
    - Address-level data – data shall be submitted as individual address points of locations where service will be made available through the grant build. All addresses must be geocoded to include latitudinal and longitudinal coordinates.
    - Polygons – data shall be submitted as polygon geometry which contain the areas to be served, or with the expectation that the polygon submitted corresponds to service being available to all locations within the polygon. The applicant must use the most recent data available from the state, parish, or local government to identify all locations within the project area.
  - Additional data sets – the following may be submitted as supporting information and material to the required data listed above and should not be submitted as an alternative. Examples of additional data include, but are not limited to:
    - Scrubbed data (no raw data) from citizen survey results or demand aggregation results with speed tests, if applicable. This data must identify the areas that have less than 25:3 service.
    - Affidavits from citizens or other individuals certifying one or more of the following:
      - they are not able to receive broadband service; or
      - the only available service is cellular or satellite; or
      - the only broadband service available by the existing providers is less than 25:3 service.
  - Average distance in miles between prospective broadband recipients

- **Services**
  - Provide a description of service options to be provided:
    - Service Name
    - Download Speed
    - Upload Speed
    - Data of First Availability
    - Any applicable data caps
    - Number of prospective broadband recipients
    - Price

- **Marketing**
  - Provide documentation for applicant engagement to connect consumers with community education forums, multimedia advertising, and marketing programs.

- **Adoption**
  - Provide documentation that shows low-income household service offerings, digital equity or literacy support, or programs or partnerships to provide these services. The applicant should also indicate current participation in, or plans to, accept the federal Lifeline subsidy.

- **Community support**
Application Overview

- Evidence of support for the project from citizens, local government, businesses, and institutions in the community, including letters of correspondence from citizens, local government, businesses, and institutions in the community that supports the project.
  - Local workforce
    - Documentation of a workforce plan prioritizing the hiring of local, Louisiana resident workers, to include a signed letter of intent with a post-secondary educational institution that is a member of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, containing an obligation upon the applicant, and contractors or subcontractors of the applicant, to put forth a good-faith effort to hire, when possible, recent graduates of broadband-related programs.
- Technical report
  - Any deployment
    - Explain technologies to be used in the proposed project and the broadband transmission speeds offered to prospective broadband recipients as a result of the project. If it would be impracticable, because of geography, topography, or excessive cost to design a broadband infrastructure project that would deliver 100:100 Mbps, the applicant must provide an explanation. Transmission speeds of 100:20 Mbps are the minimum allowable under this grant program.
    - Explain the scalability of the broadband infrastructure to be deployed to meet future bandwidth needs.
    - If claiming points for partnerships, provide a brief narrative explaining how the partnership or affiliation will facilitate deployment and reduce cost per prospective broadband recipient. For applications or project areas where the nonprofit or not-for-profit partner provides only matching financial support, that information can be documented in the budget section within the relevant application or project area.
    - For work being performed by Hudson Initiative or Veterans Initiative qualified applicants or contractors, provide documentation and/or a formalized agreement.
    - Provide a proposed construction timeline and duration of the deployment project period. The deployment project period is the time from award of the grant agreement to the time that service is available to the targeted prospective broadband recipients under the grant. Describe estimated timeline, deployment roll-out and number of end-users to be served in each phase (10 percent, 35 percent, 60 percent, 85 percent, 100 percent).
    - Average distance, in miles, between prospective broadband recipients to be served by the project
  - Wired infrastructure
    - Describe the general design of the project and deployment plan and include the following:
      - Explanation of the existing networks and equipment to be used for the project. If assets are owned by another entity, explain how they will be used for this project and, if applicable, provide a copy of the agreement between the applicant and the owner.
      - Total number of miles of project infrastructure deployment, and the number of miles of project infrastructure deployment accounted for by preexisting infrastructure
      - Detailed explanation of how the new or upgraded infrastructure will serve the prospective broadband recipients. In the case of the installation or upgrade of a specific site infrastructure, such as a point of presence or fiber hut (fiber), pedestal (cable), or a remote exchange/DSLAM (DSL), the applicant must include:
        - The number of prospective broadband recipients that will be served by that site infrastructure
        - The distance from the specific site infrastructure such as a POP, pedestal, or DSLAM to the end user(s) and the expected broadband speed that will be effectively delivered
      - Detailed description of the design work needed for deployment, such as, but not limited to, pole work, acquiring or updating easements, and/or property acquisition.
Application Overview

- Fixed wireless infrastructure
  - Describe the general design of the project and deployment plan and include the following:
    - Explanation of the existing networks and equipment to be used for the project. If assets are owned by another entity, explain how they will be used for this project and, if applicable, provide a copy of the agreement between the applicant and the owner.
    - Total number of miles of project infrastructure deployment, and the number of miles of project infrastructure deployment accounted for by preexisting infrastructure.
    - Detailed explanation of how the new or upgraded infrastructure will serve the prospective broadband recipients. In the case of the installation or upgrade of a specific site infrastructure, such as a vertical asset, the applicant must include:
      - Description and specific location of the vertical asset;
      - Owner of the vertical asset;
      - Number of prospective broadband recipients that will be served by that site infrastructure;
      - The distance from the vertical asset to the end user(s) and the expected broadband speed that will be effectively delivered;
    - Detailed description of the design work needed for deployment, such as, but not limited to, acquiring access to existing vertical assets, acquiring or updating easements, and/or property acquisition;
    - Description and specific type of the equipment used for deployment and the capable speed of the equipment;
    - Explanation of the frequency/frequencies to be utilized for the deployment, whether the deployment will use licensed or unlicensed technologies, as well as mitigation of line-of-sight challenges (which should correspond to the number of recipients to be served).

- Budget
  - Budget overview
    - The project budget should reflect all eligible project costs to be funded through the GUMBO Grant Program. Additionally, the project budget should include the minimum provider funding match of at least 20%, any local government funding match from a parish, municipality, and/or school board, or any instrumentality thereof, and the requested GUMBO Grant Program funding.
  - Proof of funding
    - Provide a signed letter of funding availability from each source of funds committed for the project. If loan or other grant funds are pledged, a loan/grant commitment letter from each source of funds must be included. Should an applicant be an awardee of Universal Service, Connect American Phase II, Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, or other federal or non-federal funds for the deployment of broadband service, the applicant shall attest as to whether or not the applicant’s GUMBO application and associated project’s buildout is dependent upon such awarded funds.

Strike up the broadband!