



Louisiana Office of Broadband  
Development & Connectivity

## **Supplemental Notice of Protest Process, Decisions, and Appeals in Louisiana’s Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Subgrant Process (GUMBO 2.0)**

**Release Date: November 18, 2024**

**Version: 5.0**

Louisiana has established a protest process for applicants not selected in the preliminary phase of the Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband opportunities 2.0 (GUMBO 2.0) program on a basis that would result in an award change, other than a served versus unserved basis, such as a scoring error. The purpose of this supplemental notice is to provide information on the GUMBO 2.0 protest period and process.

### **1. Summary**

The protest process, decisions and appeals shall be conducted in accordance with [GUMBO 2.0 Program Law](#). See La. R.S. 51:2370.21 et seq. The protest period is fourteen (14) business days upon the announcement of a grant award.

### **2. Protest Period and Process**

ConnectLA will announce grant awards **on Monday, November 18, 2024**.

Pursuant to La. R.S. 51:2370.27(F), upon a grant award announcement, any eligible grant recipient or local governing body may protest a grant award during a fourteen-business-day-protest period on a basis that would result in an award change, other than a served versus unserved basis, such as a scoring error. Any eligible grant recipient or local governing body submitting a protest shall attest that the information in the protest is accurate and that the protest is submitted in good faith. The office may deny any protest that contains inaccurate information. The director or his designee may, prior to the commencement of an action in court concerning a protest, settle and resolve the protest.



**Protests must be submitted to [connect@la.gov](mailto:connect@la.gov) on or before December 10, 2024. ConnectLA may deny any protest that contains inaccurate information.**

The administrative and judicial review processes for protests are outlined in La. R.S. 51:2370.28, which states:

- A. If the protest of a grant award is not resolved by mutual agreement, the director or his designee shall, within fourteen business days, issue a decision in writing. The decision shall do all of the following:
  - (1) State the reasons for the action taken.
  - (2) Inform all parties to the protest of their right to administrative and judicial review as provided in this Subpart.
- B. A copy of the decision required by Subsection A of this Section shall be furnished immediately to all parties to the protest.
- C. A decision required by Subsection A of this Section shall be final and conclusive unless one of the following applies:
  - (1) The decision is fraudulent.
  - (2) A party to the protest has timely appealed to the commissioner of administration in accordance with Subsection D of this Section.
- D. If a party to the protest files an appeal with the commissioner of administration, it shall be filed within fourteen business days of receipt of a decision issued pursuant to Subsection A of this Section. The commissioner of administration may review and determine any appeal by a party to the protest from a determination by the director or his designee.
- E. On any appeal filed pursuant to Subsection D of this Section, the commissioner of administration shall decide within fourteen business days whether the decision concerning a grant application was in accordance with this state's constitution, statutes, and regulations; the terms and conditions of the application; and any requirements of federal laws or regulations. Any prior determinations by the director or his designee shall not be final or conclusive.
- F. A copy of the decision issued pursuant to Subsection E of this Section shall be mailed or otherwise furnished immediately to all parties to the protest.
- G. A decision issued pursuant to Subsection E of this Section shall be final and conclusive unless one of the following applies:
  - (1) The decision is fraudulent.
  - (2) A party to the protest has appealed to the court as provided for in Subsection H of this Section.
- H. A party to the protest may file an appeal in the Nineteenth Judicial District Court within seven business days of receipt of a decision issued pursuant to Subsection E of this Section. The Nineteenth Judicial District Court shall have exclusive venue over an action between the state and a party to the protest to determine whether an award of a grant

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is in accordance with this state's constitution, statutes, and regulations. These actions shall extend to all kinds of actions, whether for monetary damages or for declaratory, injunctive, or other equitable relief.

- I. A party to the protest by a final judgment or interlocutory order or ruling of the Nineteenth Judicial District Court may appeal or seek review thereof, as the case may be, to the Louisiana Court of Appeal, First Circuit or the Supreme Court of Louisiana, as otherwise permitted in civil cases by law and the constitution of this state. If a court has found in a final judgment that an applicant or a party to the protest has incorrectly designated a location as served or unserved, the office may assess a civil penalty of up to one thousand dollars per incorrectly designated location identified in the GUMBO 2.0 award process and disputed in litigation.

### Version history

Supplemental Notice Version	Release date
1.0	March 14, 2024
2.0	July 29, 2024
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4.0	October 4, 2024
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