

**State of Illinois Uniform Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)**  
**Summary Information**

Awarding Agency Name	Commerce And Econ Opp
Agency Contact	Matt Schmit (Broadband@illinois.gov)
Announcement Type	Modified
Type of Assistance Instrument	Grant
Funding Opportunity Number	1
Funding Opportunity Title	Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program
CSFA Number	420-27-2681
CSFA Popular Name	Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program
Anticipated Number of Awards	0
Estimated Total Program Funding	\$300,000,000
Award Range	\$0 - \$10000000
Source of Funding	Federal and State
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements	No
Indirect Costs Allowed	No
Restrictions on Indirect Costs	No
Posted Date	01/26/2022
Application Date Range	General announcement open for a period of time with no specific due dates for applications.
Grant Application Link	Please select the entire address below and paste it into the browser... <a href="https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/2366-2005-2681-2006.html">https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/2366-2005-2681-2006.html</a>
Technical Assistance Session	Offered : Yes Mandatory : No Date : 03/10/2023 : 12:00PM Registration link : <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MIHgLO3-pGU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MIHgLO3-pGU</a>

## Agency-specific Content for the Notice of Funding Opportunity

### Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program

NOFO ID: 2366-2005 and 2681-2006

**03/28/2023 Modification – This Notice of Funding Opportunity has been updated with clarification on definitions, clarification on allowable costs, clarification on mapping review and challenge process, reduction in the match priority from 50% to 30%, and additional details on reporting. Applicants that have applied prior to this modification will be given the opportunity to update their budget and schedule while being considered in the window they applied.**

## A. Program Description

**This opportunity is being jointly posted to 2 CSFAs (420-35-2366 and 420-27-2681) and applicant only needs to apply once to be considered for the opportunities posted to both CSFAs.**

This Notice of Funding Opportunity ("NOFO") sets forth the requirements for the Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program at the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity ("DCEO" or "Department") funded through a combination of the state Build Illinois Bond Fund and federal American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA"). Through this NOFO, the Department will fund proposals that support broadband deployment to expand and strengthen existing broadband network infrastructure, health information technology, telemedicine, distance learning, and public safety.

The Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program represents an integral and strategic component of both the comprehensive 2019 Rebuild Illinois infrastructure program and the state's five-year economic plan to expand economic opportunity and reduce socioeconomic gaps through equity investment.

Through multiple rounds of competitive matching grants, Connect Illinois seeks to achieve what no other state or federal approach to date has accomplished: ubiquitous broadband access for homes, businesses, and community anchor institutions. At the same time, Connect Illinois seeks progress in digital equity and inclusion while leveraging investment in new broadband infrastructure to spur advances in use and innovation for such areas as agriculture, economic development, education, and telehealth.

Definitions. The following terms are defined accordingly for purposes of this NOFO and the Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program:

"ARPA" means the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Section 9901, P.L. 117-2, 42 U.S.C. 802. "Build

Illinois" means the Build Illinois Bond Fund [30 ILCS 105/5.160].

"Capital Improvement" means a project with a purpose to physically expand or physically improve upon infrastructure necessary for internet service delivery.

"DCEO" means the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

"Economically Distressed Area" means a census tract which meets one of the following four tests:

1. Poverty rate of at least 20%; or
2. 75% or more of the children in the area are eligible to participate in the federal free lunch or reduced-price meals program; or
3. At least 20% of the households in the area receive assistance under the Supplemental Nutrition

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Assistance Program (SNAP); or

4. Average unemployment rate that is more than 120% of the national unemployment average, for a period of at least two (2) consecutive calendar years preceding the date of the application.

The Department maintains a map of areas that meet these qualifications on its website.

"Eligible Entities" means an incorporated business or partnership; a political subdivision; a nonprofit organization; a cooperative association; or a limited liability corporation organized for the purpose of expanding broadband access. Illinois public school districts are eligible to apply but may be encouraged to leverage other available federal or education-specific funding prior to an award.

"GATA" means the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act [30 ILCS 708].

"GATA Rule" means the administrative rules of the Governor's Office of Management and Budget found at 44 Ill. Adm. Code 7000.

"Grantee" means any applicant for a grant award under this program whose proposal is funded by the Department.

"IIJA" means the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, P.L. 117-58.

"Illinois Broadband Map" means an interactive map created for the Illinois Office of Broadband, and available via its website, for purposes of administering the Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program.

"Last Mile Infrastructure" means broadband installation that serves as the final leg connecting the broadband service provider's network to the end-user customer's on-premises telecommunications equipment.

"Middle Mile Infrastructure" means broadband construction that links a broadband service provider's core network infrastructure to last mile infrastructure.

"Program" means the Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program.

"Qualified Illinois City" means an Illinois city with 75,000 residents or more in population "Rebuild

Illinois" means the Rebuild Illinois Projects Fund.

"State" means the State of Illinois.

"Uniform Guidance" means the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, 2 CFR 200.

"Underserved Area" means an applicant designated project area of Illinois in which households, businesses, or community anchor institutions have wireline broadband access of at least 25/3 Mbps but less than 100/20 Mbps, reflected in broadband mapping utilized by DCEO for the Connect Illinois program.

"Unserved Area" means an applicant designated project area of Illinois in which households, businesses, or community anchor institutions lack access to wireline broadband service of at least 25/3 Mbps, reflected in broadband mapping utilized by the DCEO for the Connect Illinois program.

Eligible Project Activities. Applications should be classified under one of three categories: (a) *Broadband Access* for Illinois homes, businesses, and community anchor institutions in unserved or underserved areas; (b) *Broadband Innovation* for economic development and related applications; or (c) *Urban Broadband* for expanded access and/or innovation in qualified Illinois cities or metropolitan areas of 75,000 residents or more.

All Connect Illinois projects must include infrastructure expansion scalable to speeds of at least 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload upon deployment.

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Eligible Project Areas. For Broadband Access projects, proposals covering unserved and/or underserved areas are eligible for Connect Illinois grant funding via this NOFO. Allowable Costs. Allowable costs for this NOFO may include all or a portion of the following: network design; project planning; obtaining construction permits; construction of facilities – including deployment of middle mile and/or last mile infrastructure; durable equipment; and installation and testing of the broadband service.

Grant expenditures must comply with the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR 200), as well as the American Rescue Plan Act and related guidance from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. All grant expenditures must be reasonable and necessary to support allowable grant activities. This grant opportunity is limited to capital improvement expenses. The grant will not compensate for indirect costs, overhead or administrative expenses associated with the execution of the program.

This NOFO is being posted at Catalog of State Financial Assistance (“CSFA”) numbers 420-27-2681 and 420-35-2366. Applications received for either CSFA will be considered for funding from both CSFAs. An applicant should not submit the duplicate applications to each CSFA.

### **B. Funding Information**

This grant program is utilizing a combination of state funds from the Build Illinois Bond Fund appropriated by the General Assembly through Public Act 102-0017, Article 137 and federal funds received from the U.S. Department of Treasury American Rescue Plan Act appropriated by the General Assembly from the State Coronavirus Urgent Remediation Emergency Fund through Public Act 102-0017, Article 173.

To date, \$400 million has been appropriated and authorized as available funding for the Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program. Up to \$350 million of this amount is available through this NOFO. Priority consideration will be given to projects that leverage certain nonstate funding – from private, federal, and/or local sources – totaling 30 percent or more of eligible total project costs. The maximum individual grant amount is \$10 million, and applicants are encouraged to submit multiple proposals. Grant project work must be completed within three years of an award.

Applicants must submit a project narrative that describes in detail how the award will be executed. The project narrative should include enough information for DCEO to understand the scope of the project, the budget, including a detailed breakdown of the costs associated with each budget line and any additional necessary detail to enable DCEO to manage the grant agreement activity against planned project performance. The project narrative must include evidence of capacity, quality and need as defined in Section E.1.

Agreement(s) and budget(s) with subrecipients and subcontractors must be pre-approved by and on file with DCEO. Agreements can be submitted to DCEO when available. Subcontractors and subrecipients are subject to all applicable provisions of the Agreement(s) executed between DCEO and the grantee. The successful applicant shall retain sole responsibility for the performance of its subrecipient(s) and/or subcontractor(s).

The grant agreement will specify the payment terms and the payment schedule pursuant to cash management requirements as stated in 44 Ill Admin. Code Title 44, Subtitle F, Part 7000 Section 120. The Department reserves the right to determine the appropriate payment structure on a project-specific basis.

**The release of this NOFO does not obligate the Department to make an award.**

### **C. Eligibility Information**

An entity must be registered in the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal, [www.grants.illinois.gov/portal](http://www.grants.illinois.gov/portal) at the time of grant application. The portal will verify that the entity:

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- Has a valid FEIN number;
- Has a valid UEI number;
- Has a current SAM.gov account;
- Is not on the Federal Excluded Parties List;
- Is in Good Standing with the Illinois Secretary of State, as applicable;
- Is not on the Illinois Stop Payment list; and
- Is not on the Department of Healthcare and Family Services Provider Sanctions list.

Entities on the Illinois Stop Payment List and/or the Federal Excluded Parties List at time of application submission will not be considered for an award.

An automated email notification to the entity alerts them of “qualified” status or informs how to remediate a negative verification (e.g., inactive DUNS, not in good standing with the Secretary of State). A federal Debarred and Suspended status cannot be remediated.

Pursuant to the policy of the Illinois Office of the Comptroller, to receive grant funds from the State of Illinois, a grantee must be considered a regarded entity by the IRS for federal income tax purposes. Disregarded entities will not be eligible to receive grant funds.

### **1. Eligible Applicants.**

Eligible applicants for this program include an incorporated business or partnership; a political subdivision; a nonprofit organization; a cooperative association; or a limited liability corporation organized for the purpose of expanding broadband access. Illinois public school districts are eligible to apply but may be encouraged to leverage available federal or education-specific funding prior to an award.

### **2. Cost Sharing or Matching.**

To obtain a grant, the applicant must provide for the funding not covered by the grant with matching funds. The match can come from private and/or public sources available to the applicant. For all applications, the merit-review scoring process will award points to applications that leverage matching funds totaling 30 percent or more of total eligible project costs.

Documentation to validate the availability of matching funds is required as part of the application. Some examples of appropriate documentation include: a letter of credit; letter confirming funds from a bank; board resolution committing funding; or loan documentation. If the application will have additional financial partners contributing to the matching funds, the application must also identify the financial partner(s) and documentation of the amount and availability of each partner’s financial match.

### **3. Indirect Cost Rate.**

This grant opportunity is limited to capital improvement expenses. The grant will not compensate for indirect costs, overhead or administrative expenses associated with the execution of the program.

### **4. Other, if applicable.**

The Department complies with all applicable provisions of state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to nondiscrimination, sexual harassment and equal employment opportunity including, but not limited to: The Illinois Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/1-101 et seq.), The Public Works Employment Discrimination Act (775 ILCS 10/1 et seq.), The United States Civil Rights Act of 1964 (as amended) (42 USC 2000a-and 2000H-6), Section 504 of the

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Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 794), The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC 12101 et seq.), and The Age Discrimination Act (42 USC 6101 et seq.).

### D. Application and Submission Information

#### 1. Address to Request Application Package.

Grant application templates are available at the web link provided in the "Grant Application Link" field of this announcement or by contacting the Program Manager:

Illinois Office of Broadband  
Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity  
1 West Old State Capitol Plaza, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62701  
Email: [broadband@illinois.gov](mailto:broadband@illinois.gov)

Additional information, including the Application Packet and broadband mapping, is available at [www2.illinois.gov/dceo/ConnectIllinois](http://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/ConnectIllinois) or on the DCEO Grant Opportunities homepage.

#### 2. Content and Form of Application Submission.

A standard application package must be submitted and reviewed by the Department. Each package should contain the following items:

- i. Uniform Grant Application in fillable PDF format. (print, sign and scan signature page with submission)
- ii. Uniform Capital Budget utilizing the template provided by DCEO for this project. The entire budget with all worksheets included even if the worksheets are not relevant to the grant opportunity must be submitted with the application materials. (print, sign and scan signature page with submission)
- iii. Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- iv. Mandatory Disclosures

This Notice of Funding Opportunity also requires the submission of the following other programmatic specific items (See Application Packet Part 2 for details of these requirements):

- v. Cover Page
- vi. Broadband Application
- vii. W-9 form

#### 3. Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number and System for Award Management (SAM)

Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or Federal or State awarding agency that is exempt from those requirements under 2 CFR 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal or State awarding agency under 2 CFR 25.110(d)) is required to:

- i. Be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) before submitting its application. To establish a SAM registration, go to [www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov) and/or utilize this instructional link: [How to Register in SAM from the www.grants.illinois.gov Resource Links tab](#).
- ii. Provide a valid DUNS number in its application; and,

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- iii. Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal, Federal pass-through or State award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal or State awarding agency. The State awarding agency may not make a Federal pass-through or State award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the State awarding agency is ready to make a Federal pass-through or State award, the State awarding agency may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal pass-through or State award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal pass-through or State award to another applicant.

### 4. Submission Dates and Times.

Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis until available funds are depleted.

Application materials must be submitted to the Department via electronic form at: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/f0e7b74e8322484cb934d9c96831caf0>. The Department is under no obligation to review applications that do not comply with the above requirements.

### 5. Intergovernmental Review, if applicable.

N/A

### 6. Funding Restrictions.

See A. Program Description and C.3 Indirect Cost Rate.

This opportunity does allow the reimbursement of pre-award costs for pre-engineering costs that were expended during the creation of the application (up to \$40,000.00). Approval is contingent upon a review of the purchase to meet procurement standards (2 CFR 200.317-327) and review for a conflict of interest.

### 7. Other Submission Requirements.

Links to documents stored in Google Docs or other cloud-based servers are not allowed.

Applicants may confirm receipt of the application and documents by contacting the program contact listed in this NOFO.

## E. Application Review Information.

### 1. Review Processes.

Merit Review Process. The Illinois Office of Broadband will award grants to projects that help advance the Connect Illinois vision while demonstrating optimal impact of Connect Illinois funds. Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by a merit-review team from the Illinois Office of Broadband. This team will use standard criteria and associated point values to assist in systematically evaluating grant applications.

The criteria will be applied to information provided by the Applicant in response to the requirements of this NOFO. To ensure that an application receives the highest possible scoring, please provide complete, comprehensive, and clear responses for all information requested; succinct responses are encouraged as appropriate.

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Applications will be graded using the merit-based review process and scored on the criteria specified via application materials included in the complementary Application Packet, available at: [www2.illinois.gov/dceo/ConnectIllinois](http://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/ConnectIllinois).

Mapping Review & Challenge Process. Before grants are awarded, applicants, incumbent providers, impacted communities, and other stakeholders can offer feedback on proposed projects or challenge the accuracy of the Illinois Broadband Map. Incumbent broadband providers can offer feedback challenging the eligibility of a grant application on the basis of current available broadband service or near-term planned broadband deployment. Impacted communities and other stakeholders can provide feedback regarding an application's alignment with community goals, plans, or needs.

The mapping review and challenge process includes, but is not limited to, the following steps:

- i. Publication of proposed project areas and project descriptions
- ii. Publication of relevant deadline(s) for initial mapping review and challenge process feedback; the window for such feedback will include no fewer than 20 business days
- iii. Response to feedback filed to [broadband@illinois.gov](mailto:broadband@illinois.gov), including the opportunity for a follow-up conversation regarding project(s) in question
- iv. Communication to applicant regarding feedback received, including the opportunity for a follow-up conversation regarding project(s) in question
- v. Final determination, with resulting impact on proposed project area, scope, and/or budget communicated to feedback filer and applicant prior to award announcement.

To participate in the mapping review and challenge process, a broadband provider must participate in all Illinois Broadband Map data collection efforts conducted by the Illinois Office of Broadband or its designee.

More information about the mapping review and challenge process, including Illinois Broadband Map data collection, is available at: [www2.illinois.gov/dceo/ConnectIllinois/mapping-review](http://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/ConnectIllinois/mapping-review). Mapping review and challenge process updates will be communicated via [broadband@illinois.gov](mailto:broadband@illinois.gov).

The release of this NOFO does not obligate the Department to apply any or all mapping review and challenge process feedback to grant applications in question.

## **2. Selection Criteria and Process.**

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the funds are depleted for the program or the application period closes, whichever comes first. The merit review team will score each qualified application received for this funding opportunity. The final score of each merit review team member will be calculated and an average of all scores will be the final application score.



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Selection Criteria	Points
<b><i>Project Impact</i></b>	
• Broadband Impact	36
• Socioeconomic Development Impact	
• Level of Economic Distress in Targeted Communities	
<b><i>Nonstate Match &amp; Demonstration of Need</i></b>	
• Degree of Non-State Match	36
• Demonstration of Financial Need	
• Detailed, Cost Effective Budget	
<b><i>Community Support</i></b>	
• Evidence of Community Support	20
• Verified Financial Commitment from Community	
<b><i>Project Readiness</i></b>	
• Detailed, Reasonable Project Schedule	28
• Detailed Engineering Design and Network Map	
• Leveraging Existing Resources and Operating Assets	
<b><i>Project Viability &amp; Sustainability</i></b>	
• Network Capacity and Scalability	32
• Financial Sustainability	
• Organization Capability and Track Record	
<b><i>Affordability &amp; Adoption Assistance</i></b>	
• Lower Price Service Tier	20
• Programs to Foster Adoption	
<b><i>Open Access, Shared Use &amp; Business Strategy</i></b>	
• Range of Service Packages to Target Variety of Customer Segments	28
• Price Points Comparable to Rates in Competitive, Urban Markets	
• Well Defined Customer Acquisition and Retention Plan	
• Open Access, Wholesale Offerings	

Applications that score 150 or more may be awarded immediately.

Applications that receive 100 points or less will not be funded.

Applications that score between 101-149 may be selected for an award on a quarterly basis that will consider:

Relevant geographic balance; project focus; and nonstate match.

- i. Geographic Balance. The team will strive to achieve geographic balance throughout the state in awarding grants. As a result, applications may be considered on a regional basis per the 10 designated state economic development regions of Illinois, a map of which is available at: [www2.illinois.gov/dceo/ConnectIllinois](http://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/ConnectIllinois).
- ii. Project Focus. Applications also may be considered on the basis of three categories of focus. Given the Connect Illinois vision to achieve broadband ubiquity while driving economic development and advances in areas such as distance learning, precision agriculture, and telehealth, applications should be classified under one of three categories: (a) *Broadband Access* for Illinois homes, businesses, and community anchor institutions in unserved or underserved areas; (b) *Broadband Innovation* for economic development and related applications; or (c) *Urban Broadband* for access and/or innovation in qualified Illinois cities or metropolitan areas of 75,000 residents or more.
- iii. Nonstate Match. Applications that expect to leverage local or federal funding for a portion of the required nonstate match may be considered, in part, on the basis of that nonstate support. For instance, Connect Illinois applications leveraging additional ARPA dollars are highly encouraged. Applications leveraging

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other federal funds through such sources as FCC, NTIA, or USDA may be expected to combine state and federal support for an accelerated project deployment schedule, increased project area, and/or increased nonstate match requirement; the resulting Connect Illinois “Fedcelerator” federal broadband accelerator framework and related requirements is available at: [www2.illinois.gov/dceo/ConnectIllinois](http://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/ConnectIllinois).

The quarterly windows are described below:

1 <sup>st</sup> Window	Must be submitted by March 31, 2022
2 <sup>nd</sup> Window	Must be submitted by June 30, 2022
3 <sup>rd</sup> Window	Must be submitted by September 30, 2022
4 <sup>th</sup> Window	Must be submitted by December 31, 2022
5 <sup>th</sup> Window	Must be submitted by May 1, 2023
6 <sup>th</sup> Window	Must be submitted by June 30, 2023
7 <sup>th</sup> Window	Must be submitted by October 2, 2023
8 <sup>th</sup> Window	Must be submitted by January 1, 2024
9 <sup>th</sup> Window	Must be submitted by April 1, 2024
10 <sup>th</sup> Window	Must be submitted by July 1, 2024

Applications may be considered in a later window if not selected in previous windows. Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis, and strong applications may be awarded grant funding prior to the close of the window.

**The release of this NOFO does not obligate the Department to make an award in each category.**

The Merit Review process is subject to appeal. However, evaluation scores cannot be appealed. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the Department within 14 calendar days after the date that the grant award notice has been published. The written appeal shall include the name and address of the appealing party, the identification of the grant and a statement of reasons for the appeal. To file an appeal, applicants must submit the appeal in writing and in accordance with the Merit Application Review Appeals Process listed on the Grant Opportunities page of the DCEO website: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/AboutDCEO/GrantOpportunities/Pages/MeritAppReview.aspx>.

### **3. Anticipated Announcement and State Award Dates, if applicable.**

The Department anticipates sending Notices of State Award within approximately one to three months of the application submission date, but reserves the right to issue a reduced award, or not to issue any award. Unsuccessful applicants will also be notified.

## **F. Award Administration Information**

### **1. State Award Notices.**

The Notice of State Award (NOSA) will specify the funding terms and specific conditions resulting from the pre-award risk assessments. The NOSA must be accepted in the GATA Portal by an authorized representative of the grantee organization. The NOSA is not an authorization to begin performance or incur costs.

### **2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements.**

Grant Uniform Requirements. The Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (30 ILCS 708/1 *et seq.*) (and its related administrative rules, 44 Ill. Admin. Code Part 7000), was enacted to increase the accountability and transparency in the use of grant funds from whatever source and to reduce administrative burdens on both State agencies and grantees by adopting federal guidance and regulations applicable to those grant funds; specifically,

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the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR 200).

Procurement. Grantees will be required to adhere to methods of procurement per the Procurement Standards (2 CFR 200.317 – 2 CFR 200.327).

Business Enterprise Program. For grant awards of \$250,000 or more, grantees will be required to comply with the Business Enterprise Program for Minorities, Females, and Persons with Disabilities Act (30 ILCS 575/0.01 *et seq.*), which establishes a goal for contracting with businesses that have been certified as owned and controlled by persons who are minority, female or who have disabilities. The Department and the Capital Development Board will work with the grantees to ensure compliance prior to the establishment of the grant agreement as well as through the life of the grant.

Environmental Review Requirements. Capital grants will be reviewed to determine environmental review requirements. Based on the scope of the project, the grantees may be required to complete additional environmental approvals before a grant agreement can be initiated.

Illinois Works Jobs Program Act (30 ILCS 559/20-1 *et seq.*). For grants with an estimated total project cost of \$500,000 or more, the grantee will be required to comply with the Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative (30 ILCS 559/20-20 to 20-25) and all applicable administrative rules. The “estimated total project cost” is a good faith approximation of the costs of an entire project being paid for in whole or in part by appropriated capital funds to construct a public work. The goal of the Illinois Apprenticeship Initiative is that apprentices will perform either 10% of the total labor hours actually worked in each prevailing wage classification or 10% of the estimated labor hours in each prevailing wage classification, whichever is less. Grantees will be permitted to seek from the Department a waiver or reduction of this goal in certain circumstances pursuant to 30 ILCS 559/20-20(b). The grantee must ensure compliance for the life of the entire project, including during the term of the grant and after the term ends, if applicable, and will be required to report on and certify its compliance.

Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/0.01 *et seq.*). Applicants that are awarded grants shall comply with all requirements of the Prevailing Wage Act, including but not limited to, inserting into all contracts for construction a stipulation to the effect that not less than the prevailing rate of wages as applicable to the project shall be paid to all laborers, workers, and mechanics performing work under the award and requiring all bonds of contractors to include a provision as will guarantee the faithful performance of such prevailing wage clause as provided by contract. Grantees will be required to report on Prevailing Wage Act compliance on a monthly basis.

Employment of Illinois Workers on Public Works Act (30 ILCS 570/0.01 *et seq.*). All grantees will be required to comply with the Employment of Illinois Workers on Public Works Act (30 ILCS 570/0.01 *et seq.*) (the “Act”), which provides that whenever there is a period of excessive unemployment in Illinois (as defined by the Act), if the Grantee is using Grant Funds for (1) constructing or building any public works, or (2) performing the clean-up and on-site disposal of hazardous waste for the State of Illinois or any political subdivision of the State, then the Grantee shall employ at least 90% Illinois laborers on such project. Illinois laborers refers to any person who has resided in Illinois for at least 30 days and intends to become or remain an Illinois resident. Grantees may receive an exception from this requirement by submitting a request and supporting documents certifying that Illinois laborers are either not available or are incapable of performing the particular type of work involved. The certification must: (a) be submitted to the grant manager within the first quarter of the Award Term; (b) provide sufficient support that demonstrates the exception is met; (c) be signed by an authorized signatory of the Grantee; and (d) be approved by DCEO in consultation with the Illinois Department of Labor. In addition, every contractor on a public works project or improvement or hazardous waste clean-up and on-site disposal project in this State may place on such work no more than 3 (or 6 in the case of a hazardous waste clean-up and on-site disposal project) of the contractor’s regularly employed non-resident executive and technical experts.

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State COVID-19 Requirements. For all State of Illinois funded grants that are non-American Rescue Plan Act funds, due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, to be eligible to receive an award, grant applicants are required to adhere to and all applicable executive orders issued by the Governor of Illinois, rules issued by an Illinois state agency, or other directives and/or guidance issued by Illinois state agencies related to the prevention of the spread of COVID-19. These same requirements will apply to award recipients in carrying out the activities in the award throughout the award term.

All grantees receiving ARPA funded grants will be required to comply with related rules and guidance issued by the U.S. Department of the Treasury:

- i. COVID-19 Requirements. Grantees should adhere to all COVID-19 guidelines in carrying out an award as directed by the Department and required by the State.
- ii. Grant Uniform Requirements. The Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (30 ILCS 708/1 et seq.) (and its related administrative rules, 44 Ill. Admin. Code Part 7000), was enacted to increase the accountability and transparency in the use of grant funds from whatever source and to reduce administrative burdens on both State agencies and grantees by adopting federal guidance and regulations applicable to those grant funds; specifically, the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR 200).
- iii. Procurement. Grantees will be required to adhere to methods of procurement per the Procurement Standards (2 CFR 200.317 – 2 CFR 200.327).
- iv. Civil Rights Law Compliance. In addition to all other non-discrimination and Civil Rights law compliance required, Treasury requires that all grantees must certify that they are in full compliance with the terms and provisions of all legal requirements of the Treasury relating to non-discrimination and non-discriminatory use of federal funds. These requirements include ensuring that grantees do not deny benefits or services, or otherwise discriminate on the basis of race, color national origin (including limited English proficiency), disability, age, or sex (including sexual orientation and general identity), in accordance with the following authorities: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 USC 2000d-1 et seq.) and the Treasury's implementing regulations, 31 CFR Part 22; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 794), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 USC 1681 et seq.) and the Treasury's implementing regulations, 31 CFR Part 28; and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 USC 6101 et seq.) and the Treasury's implementing regulations at 31 CFR Part 23.
- v. Recordkeeping Requirements. Grantees are required to maintain, for five (5) years after all funds have been expended or returned to Treasury by the State, adequate books, all financial records and supporting documents, statistical records, and all other records pertinent to this Award. If any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the retention period, the records must be retained until all litigation, claims or audit exceptions involving the records have been resolved and final action taken. Grantees are responsible for ensuring all contractors and subrecipients, if applicable, adhere to these records retention requirements.  
  
Grantees agree to provide or make available all records related to an award, to Grantor or to Treasury upon request, and to any authorized oversight body, including, but not limited to, the Government Accountability Office ("GAO"), Treasury's Office of Inspector General ("OIG"), and the Pandemic Relief Accountability Committee ("PRAC").
- vi. Interest on Grant Funds. Grantees are not required to maintain grant funds in an interest-bearing account, but if they choose to do so, grantees may retain the interest and are not limited to using that interest for eligible uses under the grant award.

**3. Reporting.**

Periodic Performance Report (PPR) and Periodic Financial Report (PFR). Grantees funded through this NOFO are required to submit in the format required by the Grantor, at least on a quarterly basis, the PPR and PFR electronically to their assigned grant manager. The first of such reports shall cover the first three months after the award begins. Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.328, Periodic Financial Reports shall be submitted no later than 30 calendar days following the period covered by the report. Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.329, Periodic Performance Reports shall be submitted no later than 30 calendar days following the period covered by the report. Any additional reporting requirements will be disclosed in the NOSA.

Grantees are required within 45 calendar days following the end of the period of performance to submit a final closeout report in the format required by the Grantor (See 2 CFR 200.344).

Monitoring. Grantees funded through this NOFO are subject to fiscal and programmatic monitoring visits by the Department in accordance with 2 CFR 200.337. They must have an open-door policy allowing periodic visits by Department monitors to evaluate the progress of the project and provide documentation upon request of the monitor. Program staff will also maintain contact with participants and monitor progress and performance of the contracts. The Department may modify grants based on performance.

Audit. Grantees shall be subject to Illinois' statewide Audit Report Review requirements. Terms of the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 (31 USC 7501-7507), Subpart F of 2 CFR Part 200, and the audit rules set forth under the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act shall apply (See 30 ILCS 708/65(c)).

Project Reporting. Grantees will be required to submit regular reports to document the progress of the project as part of the grant requirements. These reports include, but are not limited to, the following requirements stipulated by the use of certain ARPA funds for this program:

- i. Projected/actual construction start date (month/year);
- ii. Projected/actual initiation of operations date (month/year);
- iii. Location (for broadband, geospatial location data); and
- iv. For projects with total project costs over \$10 million:
  - a. Grantee may provide a certification that a project includes a project labor agreement, meaning a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement consistent with section 8(f) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 158(f)) and the Illinois Project Labor Agreements Act (30 ILCS 571). Grantee will provide a copy of the project labor agreement. A project labor agreement must:
    - Set forth mutually binding procedures for resolving jurisdictional labor disputes and grievances;
    - Guarantee against strikes, lockouts, or similar actions;
    - Ensure a reliable source of labor;
    - Set goals for woman and minority apprenticeship hours;
    - Permit the selection of the lowest responsible bidder, regardless of union status;
    - Bind all contractors and subcontractors through the inclusion of bid specifications in all relevant bid documents; and
    - Be signed by a bona fide labor organization. Grantee will provide contact information for the bona fide labor organization.
  - b. Grantee must maintain sufficient records to substantiate this information upon request.

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c. If the Grantee does not provide such certification, Grantee must provide a Project Workforce Continuity Plan, detailing:

- How the Grantee will ensure the project has ready access to a sufficient supply of appropriately skilled and unskilled labor to ensure high-quality and timely construction throughout the life of the project;
- How the Grantee will minimize risks of labor disputes and disruptions that would jeopardize timeliness and cost-effectiveness of the project;
- How the Grantee will resolve jurisdictional labor disputes and grievances;
- How the Grantee will provide a safe and healthy workplace that avoids delays and costs associated with workplace illnesses, injuries, and fatalities;
- How the Contractor will ensure that the lowest responsible bidder is chosen for the project;
- How the Grantee will ensure that all contractors and subcontractors are bound by the Project Workforce Continuity Plan;
- Whether workers on the project will receive wages and benefits that secure an appropriately skilled workforce in the context of a local or regional labor market;
- Whether the project prioritizes local hires; and
- Whether the project has a Community Benefit Agreement, with a description of any such agreement.

- v. Speeds/pricing tiers to be offered, including the speed/pricing of its affordability offering;
- vi. Technology to be deployed;
- vii. Miles of fiber;
- viii. Cost per mile;
- ix. Cost per passing;
- x. Number of households (broken out by households on Tribal lands and those not on Tribal lands) projected to have increased access to broadband meeting the minimum speed standards in areas that previously lacked access to service of at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload
- xi. Number of households with access to minimum speed standard of reliable 100 Mbps symmetrical upload and download;
- xii. Number of households with access to minimum speed standard of reliable 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload
- xiii. Number of institutions and businesses (broken out by institutions on Tribal lands and those not on Tribal lands) projected to have increased access to broadband meeting the minimum speed standards in areas that previously lacked access to service of at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload, in each of the following categories: business, small business, elementary school, secondary school, higher education institution, library, healthcare facility, and public safety organization
  - a. Specify the number of each type of institution with access to the minimum speed standard of reliable 100 Mbps symmetrical upload and download; and
  - b. Specify the number of each type of institution with access to the minimum speed standard of reliable 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload.

## **G. State Awarding Agency Contact(s)**

Grant Help Desk  
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity  
Email: [CEO.GrantHelp@Illinois.gov](mailto:CEO.GrantHelp@Illinois.gov)

## **H. Other Information, if applicable**

N/A