Broadband Infrastructure Gap Networks Grant Program

Solicitation No.2024-MBI-01
Grant Application Overview and Requirements

Applicants are strongly encouraged to review this Grant Application Overview and Requirements and the Solicitation No.2024-MBI-01 thoroughly before starting the online application process. This will help Applicants understand the requirements for the application, including the key factors considered in the evaluation.

Contents

1. Key Definitions

Terms	Description
Broadband Serviceable Location ("BSL")	Premises that include one or more residents, businesses, or community anchor institutions where fixed broadband internet access service is or could be installed.
Community Anchor Institution	Based on the statutory definition in 47 USC 1702 (a)(2)(E), "Community Anchor Institution" means a school, library, health clinic, health center, hospital or other medical provider, public safety entity, institution of higher education, public housing organization (including any public housing agency, HUD-assisted housing organization, or Tribal housing organization), or community support organization that facilitates greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including low-income individuals, unemployed individuals, children, the incarcerated, and aged individuals.
Gateway Municipality	A Gateway municipality is a municipality with a population greater than 35,000 and less than 250,000 with a median household income below the commonwealth's average and a rate of educational attainment of a bachelor's degree or above that is below the commonwealth's average.
Last Mile Infrastructure	Broadband infrastructure that serves as the final leg connecting the internet service provider's network to the end-use customer's on-premises telecommunications equipment.
Long Drops	Fiber optic cable extension (aerial or conduit) running from a backbone or lateral fiber optic cable at a utility pole to a customer's building or other premises that is non-standard or exceptionally long and would require the customer to contribute to the upfront, non-recurring cost of the installation.
Middle Mile Infrastructure	High-capacity broadband infrastructure that traverses long distances to connect communities to the internet backbone, is not intended to connect directly to large numbers of end-user locations and enables interconnecting internet service providers to provide last mile broadband service of at least 100 megabits per second download and 100 megabits per second upload and is scalable to faster speeds.
Overbuild	The construction of new Middle Mile and Last Mile Infrastructure that passes one or more Served Locations. For example, a second fiber line that passes a location that is not an Unserved or Underserved Location is considered an Overbuild.

Terms	Description
Project Service Area ("PSA")	A specific geographical region in which the Applicant proposes to provide broadband services, including both public and private lands. If the PSA covers more than one municipality, the municipalities must be geographically contiguous to each other, and it must include all unserved and underserved BSLs within each municipality.
Public-Private-Partnership	A long-term agreement between local government entities and private entities for the delivery and funding of broadband services.
Qualified Census Tracts	Locations (i) where not less than 50 percent of households earn less than 60 percent of the Local Area Median Gross Income (AMGI) for the relevant jurisdiction; and/or (ii) not less than 25 percent of households are below the federal poverty line. For additional information, please refer to the following link: Designation of Qualified Census Tracts (huduser.gov).
Substantial Completion	The date for which the Project can fulfill the primary operations that it was designed to perform, delivering services to end-users. At substantial completion, service operations and management systems infrastructure must be operational.
Served Location	A Broadband Serviceable Location with access to broadband internet speeds greater than or equal to 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload.
Underserved Location	A Broadband Serviceable Location without access to broadband internet speeds of at least 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload.
Unserved Location	A Broadband Serviceable Location without access to broadband internet speeds of at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload.

2. Introduction

2.1. Purpose

Massachusetts Broadband Institute ("MBI"), a division of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative ("MassTech"), appreciates your interest in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Capital Project Fund – The Gap Networks Grant Program ("Program"). To apply for grant funding, applicants must complete an online application and upload the required supporting documentation listed in the Appendix below.

To optimize your application and maximize your chances of receiving an award, please keep in mind the following recommendations as you prepare your application:

- **Level of Responsiveness:** Provide all required information and attachments as comprehensively and clearly as possible.

- **Grant Selection Criteria:** Ensure that your proposal addresses the key evaluation criteria and consideration factors mentioned in the evaluation criteria included in the Program Guidelines.

- **Optional Scoring Criteria:** Respond to optional scoring criteria and supply sufficient evidence to score additional points.

Application assessment and the selection of awardees will be based on the information provided in the application, along with any necessary attachments and documentation. MBI will use a competitive process to grant awards to the applicants whose proposed projects receive the highest evaluation scores.

If an Applicant wishes to have MBI treat certain information or documentation as confidential, the Applicant must submit a written request to MassTech's General Counsel prior to submission. The request must precisely identify the information and/or documentation that is the subject of the request and provide a detailed explanation supporting the application of the statutory exemption(s) from the public records cited by the Applicant. The MassTech General Counsel will issue a written determination within ten (10) business days of receipt of the written request. If the MassTech General Counsel approves the request, the Applicant shall clearly label the relevant information and/or documentation as "CONFIDENTIAL" in the application. Any statements in an application reserving any confidentiality or privacy rights that is inconsistent with these requirements and procedures will be disregarded.

2.2. Online Application Structure

The online application is divided into two primary components:

1- Section 1 of the application addresses general information about the Applicant such as contact details, technical and financial capabilities, and overall project summary information. This information will be required and needs to be provided only once, irrespective of the number of PSAs the Applicant proposes to serve.

2- Section 2 of the application consists of specific information related to each PSA selected by the Applicant. Each proposed PSA will be evaluated as a separate project. Applicants will need to provide the required information for each PSA, along with the required attachments.

To submit a complete online application, Applicants must include all details according to the following sections:

Section One: Applicant and Overall Project Information

1. Applicant Information

2. Contact Information

3. Application Summary

4. Applicant Confirmation

5. Applicant's Ability to Execute the Project

6. Technological Approach

Section Two: Project Service Area(s) Information

1. Project Service Area Overview

2. Support of Target Populations and Equity

3. Project Feasibility and Reasonableness

4. Optional Bonus Criteria

Attachments required by the Applicant are included in the Appendix below. *(This section lists the required attachments. Applicants are free to include other additional attachments as necessary to support their application.)*

Note: For ease of reference, the sections below were structured to follow the structure of the Solicitation document to help Applicants clearly see the requirements for each of the scoring criteria. The online application will be structured in manner that allows Applicants to submit the one-time information first followed by the PSA specific information.

3. General Information

Please provide the general information below for your online application

3.1. Applicant Information

a) Organization's Legal Name:

b) If applicable, "Does Business as" Name:

c) Address Line 1:

d) Address Line 2:

e) City, State, Zip:

f) Website:

g) Federal ID Number:

h) Tax ID Number:

i) Entity Type:

☐ Private Entity (including incorporated business, limited liability company, general partnership, limited partnership)

☐ Local Governmental Entity e.g., municipalities or municipal light plants that offer broadband service), Native American Indian Tribes, and non-profit organizations

☐ Co-operatives (including electric co-operatives and utilities)

☐ Public Private Partnership (a lead applicant must be identified)

☐ Non-profit organizations

☐ Other (Other entities that develop and/or operate broadband networks)

3.2. Contact Information

a) *Authorized Representative* – the person from applicant's organization authorized to enter into agreement with MBI in order to accept grant funds

   i) Name:

   ii) Title:

   iii) Address Line 1:

   iv) Address Line 2:

   v) City, State, Zip:

   vi) Telephone:

   vii) Email Address:

b) *Primary point of contact* – If different then above, the person from applicant's organization that MBI will direct questions in relation to the application

   i) Name:

   ii) Title:

   iii) Address Line 1:

   iv) Address Line 2:

   v) City, State, Zip:

vi) Telephone:

vii) Email Address:

3.3. Application Summary

a) Total Number of Project Service Areas Included in Application:

b) Total Number of Unserved Locations To Be Served Through Applicant's Project(s):

c) Total Number of Underserved Locations To Be Served Through Applicant's Project(s):

d) Total Project Cost:

e) Is Applicant Requesting Grant Funds For Middle Mile Infrastructure?

☐ YES

☐ NO

f) Is Applicant Proposing An Overbuild in Any Of The Project Service Area(s)?

☐ YES

☐ NO

g) Is Applicant Requesting Grant Funds for Long Drops/Non-Standard Installations?

☐ YES

☐ NO

h) Applicant to provide total amount of funds requested and total amount of non-federal match across all PSAs:

Application Funding Information			
Grant Amount Requested ($)		Grant percentage of all PSAs' costs (%)	
Amount of Applicant Match ($)		Applicant Match as a percentage of all PSAs' costs (%)	

3.4. Applicant Confirmation

As an applicant to the Gap Networks Grant Program, I certify that I have read and understood the application, grant solicitation, and accompanying information in its entirety. I also understand the program eligibility, restrictions, guidelines, compliance, and regulation.

☐ Agree   ☐ Disagree

4. Project Service Area Overview

a) Each proposed PSA shall be considered as a separate project. Applicant shall provide a project summary including a brief description of the project, impacted area, benefits to communities served, and technology and speeds to be deployed. *(Please note that this description may be posted on MBI's website should your application be awarded).*

b) Applicant shall provide details on the number and type of unserved and underserved locations passed by completing the table below:

Location Type	Residential	Business	Community Anchor Institutions
Unserved			
Underserved			
Total			

c) Applicant shall describe how the Program funding would significantly affect the likelihood of Project success.

d) Is the proposed project solely Last-Mile or a combination of Last-Mile and Middle-Mile as defined above and in the Guidelines document?

☐ Solely Last-Mile
☐ Combination of Last-Mile and Middle-Mile

If a combination, Applicant shall describe the Middle Mile portion of the project and demonstrate that the Middle-Mile Infrastructure is necessary to facilitate Last Mile connections to unserved and underserved communities.

Applicant may also provide any supporting documentation that addresses the need for the Middle-Mile Infrastructure.

Applicant should label the overview map as **"Attachment 4A – Middle-Mile Infrastructure"**.

> **Confirmation**
>
> Check this box to confirm that the middle-mile documentation is included in the Appendix. ☐

e) Applicant to select the type(s) of broadband technology that will be deployed in the proposed project area. *(Please select all that apply).*

- ☐ Fiber Optic
- ☐ Fixed Wireless
- ☐ Hybrid Fiber-Coaxial

Applicant shall briefly describe how the technology(s) indicated above will be designed and integrated into a cohesive network that reliably provides at a minimum 100/100 broadband speeds to all BSLs in the PSA.

f) *Overbuild:* Will there be an Overbuild in the proposed project area? If yes, Applicant should provide evidence demonstrating the overbuild section(s) of the project is the least cost option to reach the Unserved or Underserved location.

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

If YES, Applicant shall describe the Overbuild section(s) (e.g., mileage, percentage of total route miles).

If YES, Applicant shall provide evidence that the Overbuild section(s) are necessary and the most cost-effective method of reaching the target unserved/underserved BSL(s) in the PSA.

If YES, Applicant shall identify the number of served locations that will be passed by the Overbuild section(s) of the network.

Location Type	Number of Locations Passed
Served	

> **Confirmation**
> Check this box to confirm that Applicant plans to fully fund the Overbuild through the Applicant's Funding Match. ☐

g) *Non-Standard Installations:* Will the proposed project include costs for Long Drops/Non-Standard Installations to reach certain customers?

    ☐ YES
    ☐ NO

If YES, Applicant shall describe the Long Drop section(s) (e.g., number of long drops, length of long drops, copy of the Applicant's installation policy in effect as of October 25, 2023, cost for each customer installation, amount of grant funding requested for long drops, etc.).

5. Applicants Submission for Scoring Evaluation

Please provide detailed information about your Project below, including any supporting documents required. Each proposed Project Service Area ("PSA") shall be considered as a separate Project.

5.1. Support of Target Populations and Equity *(Applicable to each PSA as part of Section Two)*

1. COMMUNITIES SERVED (5pts):

   a) *Project Service Area Description:* Applicant shall provide a description of the geographic coverage of the proposed Project Service Area (e.g., route miles, network interconnection locations, street/place names, contiguous/non-contiguous areas, etc.).

   b) *List of Municipalities Served: Does* the proposed Project Service Area include a Gateway Municipality, Qualified Census Tract, or other location with low income or economically disadvantaged households?

      ☐ YES
      ☐ NO

      Applicant shall list all the municipalities to be served. Also, indicate whether the municipality is a Gateway Municipality and whether any Qualified Census Tracts are included in the Project Service Area.

Name of Municipality	Qualified Census Tract (Y/N)	Gateway Municipality (Y/N)

   c) *Project Map:* Applicant shall include a service map of the proposed project area in PDF version, and ensure the map includes the following information, as applicable:
      - Last-Mile Project: Include the service area boundaries and also include place names, boundaries, buildings, road/street names, Qualified Census Tract boundaries, or other features that clearly identify the project coverage area.
      - Middle-Mile Project: Includes the routes that the high-capacity broadband infrastructure traverses to connect communities to the Internet backbone, does not connect directly to end-user locations, and enables interconnecting internet service provider(s) to provide last-mile broadband service.

Applicant shall label the overview map as **"Attachment 5.1A – Project Map"**.

Confirmation
Check this box to confirm that the overview map in PDF is included in the Appendix. ☐

d) *Address and Spatial Data*: Applicant shall provide the requisite address and spatial data for the proposed Project Service Area.

For the proposed Project Service Area, Applicant should provide the following attachments:

i) Spatial data layers of proposed project service area boundaries and network route including road centerlines, easements, and points of interconnection with existing infrastructure. Actual proposed locations of infrastructure should be included in the file(s). Acceptable spatial formats include file geodatabase (.gdb), Shapefile (.shp, .shx, .prj, .dbf, etc.), and Google Earth (.kmz, or .kml). Upload the data in a single compressed .zip file format. Mass DOT road centerline data can be found here: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-data-massachusetts-department-of-transportation-massdot-roads.

This attachment shall be labeled as "Attachment 5.1B – Spatial Data Layers":

Confirmation
Check this box to confirm that a detailed network map is included in the Appendix. ☐

ii) Spreadsheet of street addresses to be served within the proposed service area. Address data may come from (1) MBI BSL data, (2) CostQuest BSL Fabric, or (3) alternate sources, in that order of preference. Applicant should use the Address Data Template that includes the following fields:
   a) Address data source (MBI, CostQuest, Other)
   b) Unique ID *(use BSL_ID for MBI data and Location_ID for CostQuest data, not required for other data sources)*
   c) Street number*
   d) Street name, including prefix or suffix*
   e) Municipal jurisdiction (official city or town name)*
   f) 5 digit zip code*
   g) Location type (residential, commercial, institution, other)
   h) Latitude* *(5-6 decimal places)*
   i) Longitude* *(5-6 decimal places)*
   j) Current Service Level (Unserved, Underserved, Unknown)
   k) Current Service Source (MBI Map, FCC Map, Applicant, Other)

   Due to CostQuest Fabric licensing requirement, street address and latitude/longitude are not required if a CostQuest Fabric is used.

Applicant may submit additional addresses not included in the state BSL dataset that should be considered valid BSLs. The records for these locations should include all information listed above in section d)ii), with the exception of the BSL_ID. If locations were derived from the FCC Fabric, omit the street address and latitude/longitude information, and include a new field with the Location ID.

This attachment shall be labeled as "Attachment 5.1C – Street Addresses":

> **Confirmation**
> Check this box to confirm that a list of addresses to be served is included in the Appendix. ☐

2. <u>NUMBER OF LOCATIONS SERVED AND LEVEL OF SPEED PROVIDED BY THE PROJECT (9pts):</u>

   a) *Locations to be Served:* Applicant shall enter the total number of locations to be passed by the proposed project for the speed tiers identified below.

Current Speed (Mbps)		≤ 25/3: Unserved		≤ 100/20: Underserved	
Maximum Speed After Build (Mbps)		**100/100**	**1G/1G**	**100/100**	**1G/1G**
Premises	Single BSL				
Premises	Multi-Dwelling Units				
Premises	Businesses				
Premises	Community Anchor Institutions				
Premises	**Total**				

3. <u>EXTENT TO WHICH LOW-INCOME POPULATIONS WILL BE SERVED (5pts):</u>

   a) *List of Cities/Towns to be Served:* Applicant shall list all the cities/towns to be served and indicate each city/town HUD Low or Moderate Income ("LMI") and LMI points. LMI scores according to the HUD ranking can be found on the following webpage: download (mass.gov).

Name of City/Town	HUD LMI	LMI Points

4. <u>AFFORDABILITY OF BROADBAND PLANS OFFERED BY APPLICANT (6pts):</u>

   a) *Affordable Plans:* Participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program ("ACP"), or any successor program, is a mandatory for all awardees through December 31, 2034. Applicant should confirm their participation in the FCC's ACP.
      - ☐ YES
      - ☐ NO

   If NO, Applicant must provide proof that the Applicant has submitted the ACP Election Form and all required documentation to the Universal Service Administrative Company as part of Attachment 5.1D.

   This attachment shall be labeled as "Attachment 5.1D – Affordable Connectivity Program":

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Confirmation
Check this box to confirm that evidence demonstrating participation, or, if applicable, the prior submission of required ACP participation documents is included in the Appendix. ☐

b) *Plan Speeds and Costs:* Applicant shall provide details of pricing for all mass market broadband service offerings that will be charged to residents, businesses, and organizations served by the project.

Download Speed (Mbps)	Upload Speed (Mbps)	Monthly Data Allowance (GB)	Monthly Cost ($)	Data Cap (GB)

c) *Other Low-Cost Service(s):* Applicant should indicate if they are or will provide a low-cost service offering with ACP to eligible households.

☐ YES
☐ NO

If YES, please provide further details:

5. COMMUNITY SUPPORT (5pts):

a) *Support Letters:* Applicant shall include in their grant application letter(s) of support from the governing body of each municipality that will be served by the project.

This attachment shall be labeled as "Attachment 5.1E – Community Support Letters":

Confirmation
Check this box to confirm that a letter(s) of support is included in the Appendix. ☐

b) *Additional Support Letters or Documentation:* Furthermore, Applicant may also provide a description of additional community support for the proposed project. Community support can be presented in multiple ways including but not limited to formal public-private partnerships, letters of support, memorandums of understanding, community broadband plans, permit fee reductions or waivers or other relevant and appropriate documents.

This attachment shall be labeled as "Attachment 5.1F – Additional Community Support":

Confirmation
Check this box to confirm that additional community support documentation is included in the Appendix. ☐

5.2. Applicant's Ability to Execute the Project *(To be provided once as part of Section One)*

1. <u>FINANCIAL CAPABILITY (10pts):</u>

   a) Financial Statements: Does the Applicant have audited financial statements or other public financial reports (e.g., SEC filings) of the Applicant and its parent company?

      ☐ YES
      ☐ NO

   If Yes, Applicant to provide five years of audited financial statements or financial records of the Applicant and its parent company as part of Attachment 4.2A.

   This attachment shall be labeled as "Attachment 5.2A – Audited Financials"

   > **Confirmation**
   > Check this box to confirm that five-year audited financial statements
   > are included in the Appendix. ☐

   If NO, Applicant to provide five-year unaudited financial statements along with a statement signed by either the Applicant's chief executive officer or chief financial officer affirming that the unaudited financial statements are true and correct.

   This attachment shall be labeled as "Attachment 5.2B – Unaudited Financials"

   > **Confirmation**
   > Check this box to confirm that five-year unaudited financial statements
   > are included in the Appendix. ☐

   b) *Letter of Credit:* In lieu of the submission of financial statements or records, Applicant may provide a qualifying letter of credit in an amount of no less than 20% of the requested grant amount (or such high amount, if the applicant proposes a Funding Match that exceeds 20%)?

      ☐ YES
      ☐ NO

   If YES, Applicant shall include the letter of credit as part of Attachment 4.2C.

   This attachment shall be labeled as "Attachment 5.2C – Letter of Credit"

   > **Confirmation**
   > Check this box to confirm that the letter of credit is included in the Appendix. ☐

   c) *Certification of Compliance:* Provide evidence of officer certification of compliance with local, state, and federal tax laws and compliance with all applicable regulatory requirements.

This attachment shall be labeled as "Attachment 5.2D – Officer Certification"

> **Confirmation**
> Check this box to confirm that evidence of officer certification of compliance is included in the Appendix. ☐

2. <u>ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY AND RESOURCES (8pts):</u>

   a) Organizational Capacity: Applicant shall provide a brief history of the Applicant's organizational capacity and resources to deploy the proposed project. Applicant should highlight technical, financial, and managerial capabilities to complete the project within the proposed project schedule and to operate the project in a sustainable manner.

   i) Applicant shall provide a copy of the Applicant's organizational chart. Applicant should also show the direct relationship with its parent company if the parent company will be providing financial support to the Applicant.

   This attachment shall be labeled as "Attachment 5.2E – Organizational Chart"

   > **Confirmation**
   > Check this box to confirm that evidence of organizational chart is included in the Appendix. ☐

   ii) Applicant shall include resumes of key personnel that will be involved in the development and management of the project (e.g., planning, design, infrastructure deployment, operations, etc.)

   This attachment shall be labeled as "Attachment 5.2F – Resumes"

   > **Confirmation**
   > Check this box to confirm that resumes are included in the Appendix. ☐

   b) *Business Partners:* Applicant shall provide a description of any key business partners that will collaborate to deliver the proposed project and explain the roles and responsibilities of each partner.

3. <u>EXPERIENCE IN IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS OF SIMILAR SIZE AND COMPLEXITY (7pts):</u>

a) *Sample Projects:* Applicant shall provide descriptions of up to three (3) similar projects in terms of project size and complexity of a network that was successfully completed in the past three (3) years highlighting the approach taken and results accomplished.

This attachment shall be labeled as "Attachment 5.2G – Sample Projects"

<div>

Confirmation

Check this box to confirm that case studies or other evidence of successful projects are included in the Appendix. ☐

</div>

5.3. **Project Feasibility and Reasonableness** *(Applicable to each PSA as part of Section Two)*

1. <u>AMOUNT OF MATCHING FUNDS LEVERAGED (10pts):</u>

   a) *Funding Match:* Applicant to provide Funding Match for the project service area. *If the Applicant is a municipality requesting Funding Match waiver please enter (-) zero for the Applicant Match amount and percentage of the total PSA costs.*

Project Funding Information			
Grant Amount Requested ($)		Grant percentage of project service area cost (%)	
Amount of Applicant Match ($)		Applicant Match as a percentage of project service area cost (%)	

   b) Is Applicant a municipality requesting a Funding Match waiver?

   ☐ YES

   ☐ NO

   If YES, Applicant to submit supporting documentation demonstrating that the Applicant still has outstanding debt service obligations associated with the construction of the broadband network that would be extended with the requested grant funding.

   This attachment shall be labeled as "Attachment 5.3A – Municipal Funding Match Waiver"

Confirmation
Check this box to confirm that supporting documentation for funding match waiver are included in the Appendix. ☐

2. <u>REASONABLENESS OF PROPOSED PROJECT SCHEDULE (5pts):</u>

   a) *Project Timeline:* Applicant shall complete the table below by providing key dates related to the proposed project.

Project Timeline			
Project Start Date		Customer Installation Start Date (if applicable)	
Construction Start Date		Customer Installation End Date (if applicable)	

Construction End Date		Start of Service Date	

b) *Project Schedule Narrative:* Applicant shall provide a detailed narrative regarding the project schedule including project start and end dates, key dependencies, key risk factors and mitigation strategies, the individual tasks and their anticipated timelines by quarter and year including the broadband deployment tasks and activities necessary for project completion.

Applicants shall complete the table below as part of the project schedule description:

Project Milestone	2024				2025				2026			
Quarter	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Site surveys, field work, and completion of preliminary design and engineering	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Execution of cable license agreement (if applicable)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Filing make-ready applications for pole and conduit licenses and payment of associated fees	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Payment of make-ready estimates to utilities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Receipt of all make ready licenses needed to complete the project	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Receipt of municipal grants of location to public rights of way (if applicable)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Completion of 50% of construction buildout (measured by premises passed)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Final Completion (measured by 100% of premises passed and	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

c) *Risk Factors:* Applicant shall provide a list of any risk factors including financial, technical, or permitting that may change or delay the proposed project schedule.

d) *Required Permits:* Applicant shall provide a list of all necessary permits for the project and associated timeframes for procuring them. Applicant should also describe their plan of action for obtaining them.

3. <u>EFFICIENT USE OF EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE (3pts):</u>

a) *Project Efficiency:* Is the Applicant planning to leverage existing infrastructure and assets in developing their project?

☐ YES
☐ NO

If YES, Applicant shall describe the type(s) and location(s) of infrastructure being leveraged and the steps taken to achieve efficiencies in their project costs.

4. <u>REASONABLENESS OF PROPOSED PROJECT BUDGET (7pts):</u>

a) *Project Cost Information:* Applicant shall complete the table below by summarizing the following proposed project costs and metrics.

Project Cost Information	Amount
Total Project Cost	
Total Project Route Miles	
Number of Long Drops/Non-Standard Installations	

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Average Cost of Customer Contributions to Long Drops/Non-Standard Customer Installation	
Average Cost Per Location Served (averaged across all locations)	
Average Cost Per Lineal Mile for the Project	

b) *Budget Summary:* Applicant shall populate the budget details table below.

Budget Category	Total
Middle Mile Related Costs	
Make-Ready (Applications and Make-Ready Estimate Payments)	
Design and Engineering	
Permitting and Regulatory Compliance (including building, electrical, environmental, historical, and cultural reviews and compliance)	
Network Equipment, Fiber/Cabling, Facilities and Materials	
Construction, Testing, and Certification	
Facility Leases For Terms Exceeding One Year (Including IRU Agreements and Capital Leases)	
Subtotal (Middle Mile)	
Last Mile Related Costs	
Make-Ready (Applications and Make-Ready Estimate Payments)	
Design and Engineering	
Permitting and Regulatory Compliance (including building, electrical, environmental, historical, and cultural reviews and compliance)	
Network Equipment, Fiber/Cabling, and Materials	
Construction, Testing, and Certification	
Long Drops and Non-Standard Customer Installation Costs	
Overbuild Costs	
Facility Leases For Terms Exceeding One Year (Including IRU Agreements and Capital Leases)	
Costs Associated With Monitoring and Reporting Requirements	
Subtotal (Last Mile)	
Total Project Cost	

Budget Narrative: Applicant shall provide a detailed budget narrative for project deployment, including basis and key assumptions for cost estimates, and describe the reasonableness of their proposed

budget by providing examples of measures taken for the efficient use of grant funds, such as engaging in competitive procurement (e.g., Request for Proposals (RFPs)) for major purchases.
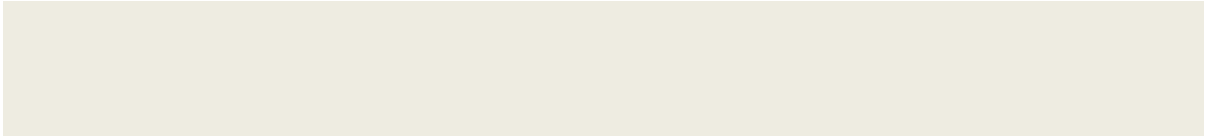
5.4. **Technological Approach** *(To be provided once as part of Section One)*

1. <u>SOUNDNESS OF TECHNICAL APPROACH (5pts):</u>

a) *Project Delivery Approach:* Applicant shall provide a clear and concise description of the Applicant's approach to delivering the proposed project, including a summary of the preliminary engineering work done to date. Applicants should also describe their planned approach for managing, constructing, and operating the proposed project.

If available, Applicant may provide supporting documentation related to their delivery of the project.

This attachment shall be labeled as "Attachment 5.4A – Project Delivery Supporting Documentation"

Confirmation
Check this box to confirm that supporting documentation for project delivery are included in the Appendix. ☐

2. <u>RELIABILITY OF PROPOSED TECHNOLOGY (5pts):</u>

a) *Type of Technology:* Applicant shall complete the table below by identifying the type of technology that will be deployed for the proposed project.

Technology	
Fiber-Optic	☐
Hybrid Fiber-Coaxial	☐
Fixed Wireless	☐

Note: Technology with the highest number of served locations will be selected for scoring.

i) *Fiber-Optic:* Applicant shall complete the table below:

Fiber-Optic		
Total Miles		
Miles by type of deployment	Middle Mile	Last Mile
Total Number of locations served		

ii) *Hybrid Fiber-Coaxial:* Applicant shall complete the table below:

Hybrid Fiber-Coaxial	
Total Miles	
Total Number of locations served	

iii) *Fixed Wireless:* Applicant shall complete the table below:

Fixed Wireless	
Number of Towers	
Number of Base Stations	
Area of Coverage (square miles)	
Total Number of locations that can be served	

3. <u>UPLOAD AND DOWNLOAD SPEED TIERS OFFERED BY APPLICANT (10pts):</u>

a) *Service Offering:* Applicant shall complete the table below by providing information related to the download and upload speeds of the proposed project.

Service Offering		
	Service Speed	
Highest Speed Tier provided by Applicant upon project completion	Download	Upload

5.5. Optional Bonus Criteria (To be provided once as part of Section One)

1. Labor and Workforce Standards (2pts):

a) Applicant may provide a narrative describing how the Applicant's workforce meets high safety and training standards, including professional certification, licensure and/or robust in-house training, and/or the Applicant prioritizes hiring of local workers and/or workers from historically disadvantaged communities.

2. Community Empowerment (2pts):

a) Applicant may describe the extent to which the project supports community empowerment. These efforts may include job creation, new facilities and operations in local communities during the project period and that may continue beyond the performance of the grant activities, and efforts to employ and utilize local personnel and supplies. Applicant to provide this information at the PSA(s) or community(ies) level.

Note: MBI acknowledges that such efforts may increase both the value and overall costs of the proposed project.

3. Sustainability Efforts (2pts):

a) Applicant may provide a narrative describing efforts to support sustainable deployment, materials, and continuing operations. These efforts may include efforts to minimize direct and indirect energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption, the amount of material entering the waste stream, and negative impacts on air quality.

6. Appendix

6.1. Attachments for Required Criteria

Please include the following documents as attachments, as applicable. The failure to submit mandatory documentation (as listed in the application form) may result in the application being deemed incomplete.

Attachment	Purpose	File Name Format
Attachment 4A	Documentation to support the need for the Middle-Mile infrastructure	[Name]_[Project]_Middle-Mile Infrastructure
Attachment 5.1A	Service map of the proposed project	[Name]_[Project]_Project Map
Attachment 5.1B	Detailed spatial data layers of the proposed project service area	[Name]_[Project]_Spatial Data Layers
Attachment 5.1C	List of addresses to be served	[Name]_[Project]_Street Addresses
Attachment 5.1D	Evidence demonstrating participation, or the pursuit of Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) participation	[Name]_[Project]_Affordable Connectivity Program
Attachment 5.1E	Letter(s) of support from governing body of each municipality that will be served by the project	[Name]_[Project]_ Community Support Letters
Attachment 5.1F	Additional community support documentation	[Name]_[Project]_Additional Community Support
Attachment 5.2A	Audited financial statements or financial records for the past 5 financial years	[Name]_[Project]_Audited Financials
Attachment 5.2B	Unaudited financial statements or financial records for the past 5 financial years certified by CEO or CFO.	[Name]_[Project]_Unaudited Financials
Attachment 5.2C	Letter of credit in an amount of no less than 20% of the requested grant amount *(Optional)*	[Name]_[Project]_Letter of Credit
Attachment 5.2D	Officer certification of compliance	[Name]_[Project]_Officer Certification
Attachment 5.2E	Organizational chart of the applicant and their parent company, should parent company provide financial support	[Name]_[Project]_Organizational Chart
Attachment 5.2F	Resumes of key personnel that will be managing the proposed project	[Name]_[Project]_Resumes
Attachment 5.2G	Case studies or other evidence of successful projects	[Name]_[Project]_Sample Projects

Attachment 5.3A	Supporting documentation for Funding Match waiver	[Name]_[Project]_Municipal Funding Match Waiver
Attachment 5.4A	Supporting documentation for project delivery	[Name]_[Project]_Project Delivery Supporting Documentation

6.2. Project Service Area Address Data Template

The Project Service Area Address Data Template is on the following page.

Address data source	Unqiue ID	Street Number*	Street Name*	Municipal jurisdiction*	Zip code*	Location type	Latitude*	Longitude*	Current Service Level	Current Service Source
MBI, CostQuest, Other	Use BSL_ID for MBI data and Location_ID for CostQuest data, not required for other data sources		Including prefix or suffix	Official city or town name	5 digit code	Residential, commercial, institution, other	5-6 decimal places	5-6 decimal places	Unserved, Underserved, Unknown	MBI Map, FCC Map, Applicant, Other