# **Connecting Minority Community Pilot Program- Session 7a**

# Moderator: Cameron Lewis October 20, 2021

# Carole Garner

1:48

Hello, and thank you for joining us today.

1:51

Before we begin, we wanted to let you know that due to the format of our webinar, we regret that phone dial-in audio is not available with this webinar. If you would like to listen to this webinar on your mobile device, you must download GoToWebinar app for Android or Apple. If you're not able to download the app, rest assured, this webinar will also be available for on demand viewing at <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/events/past-events">https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/events/past-events</a> no later than October 27th. Thank you.

#### Cameron Lewis

2:39

Hello, my name is Cameron Lewis, and I would like to welcome you all to the Connecting Minority Communities Technical Assistance Webinar.

2:46

In this webinar, we will be discussing key factors in your application, so be sure to take notes. And as questions present themselves, feel free to enter them into the chat box, and we will address them during the Q&A portion of the presentation. Now, this presentation, transcript, and recording, will be available on the BroadbandUSA website by October 27th for your review. So, feel free to take a look, and while you're there, you can also watch our previous webinars under the Past Events tab.

3:13

Now that we have housekeeping out of the way, I would like to take a moment to introduce our speakers for today. First up, we have Scott Woods, our senior broadband program specialist and CMC team lead.

3:26

Michell Morton and Kevin Hughes, our broadband program specialists, Mercedes Martinez, our grants officer with NIST, and wrapping it up, is myself, Cameron Lewis, and I have the honor of serving as your moderator for today.

3:41

Now, before we take off and get to those key factors, I would like to walk you through today's agenda. To open the presentation, Scott will deliver a brief introduction and an overview before introducing Michell to the screen to address common application mistakes and a few key reminders.

3:58

Afterwards, we will see Kevin for project implementation and planning elements, followed by a NIST grant's recap from Mercedes. I will then see you again soon after for Q&A. Now, without further ado, I would like to invite our CMC team lead Scott Woods to the screen. To kick off our agenda. Scott?

# Scott Woods

# 4:23

Thank you, Cameron, and good afternoon, everyone. Scott Woods, here, it is my pleasure to be with you again on today. I just want to take some time out and really thank you all for being a part of the CMC Pilot Program, for being more than accommodating in allowing us to conduct our outreach, and today's session is really about you.

#### 4:47

It's providing technical assistance that you will need to fill out an application, going through the project justification, the budget details, and some other useful information that you'll need. So we flip the script a little bit on today's and tomorrow's session. They will be totally different.

# 5:06

And so, for today's scheduled session, we're going to focus on technical assistance regarding common application mistakes, as well as filling out of the project narrative and some other details that you will need to fill out, successfully fill out your CMC application.

#### 5:24

I'm also excited that Mercedes from the grants office is joining us and show recap some of the grants information that we provided on our previous webinars and our previous content. So again, sit back and relax, take notes. And, again, if you have any questions, the team is available. Please do not hesitate to contact us. We absolutely love conducting outreach. We absolutely love meeting with you. And so at this point I am going to turn it over to Michell Morton, who will take us through and talk to us about common application and submission mistakes. So, Michell, over to you.

# 6:07

Thanks Scott, Hello, I'm Michell and the CMC team is so happy that you're considering applying to the CMC Grant Program. We just want to remind you of several common application mistakes. First, we encourage you to thoroughly read through the NOFO.

# 6:21

Use the NOFO as your guide while writing your application. We also have several frequently asked questions on the CMC website that you can refer to if you have questions we didn't answer today or need further clarity. One common mistake is eligibility.

# 6:37

Before writing your application, please make sure that your organization is eligible to serve as the lead applicant for the CMC grant. As a friendly reminder, only an HBCU, TCU or MSI can serve as the lead applicant, whether the application is a part of a consortium or not.

#### 6:55

Another common application mistake is providing insufficient financial and budgetary information. As you're completing your application, please make sure to complete all required financial documentation and submit to a budget

# Michell Morton

narrative that clearly explains how the federal assistance will be used in the project's purpose. In the financial documentation, you want to ensure that the readers have a good sense of not only how the funds will be used, but the requested funding is sufficient to meet the project's intended goals.

#### 7:28

As a reminder, the CMC grant does not require any matching funds. However, if you do include matching funds in your grant application, you must provide sufficient documentation for those voluntary matching funds.

#### 7:42

One last common mistake I like to highlight is not submitting letters of commitment. NTIA requires a letter of commitment from each member of the consortium who will be funded in the proposed project, and any other significant partners in the proposed project. Remember that each letter of commitment must contain the following information.

## 8:04

The detailed role of each member of the proposed project, a detailed description of each member's intended commitment to the proposed project, and the letter of commitment must be signed by an authorized member of the consortium.

# 8:18

Next, we will focus on best practices to follow when submitting your application. As I mentioned before, reading and understanding all of the application requirements is important to submitting a successful application.

# 8:30

Good applications provide a business or execution plan. This is your opportunity to demonstrate to reviewers a well-thought-out plan of execution of the proposed project. Successful applications also demonstrate there's a core staff that is knowledgeable and dedicated to the proposed project.

#### 8.48

For organizations that have the capacity, a useful tip to assemble a grant writing team should include: senior level management to support and sign the grant application; a project manager who serves as the primary source of project related information; a grant writer to write the grant; an editor, preferably not related to the project, to provide an objective review of the application and assessment of how well the grant reads as well as to ensure all application requirements have been fulfilled; and a finance expert to assist in developing a good budget. And we cannot emphasize this enough, make sure to provide all information requested in the application. Applicants should read section 4.D. the CMC NOFO carefully.

# 9:33

This section provides a list of attachments of required documents. As the NOFO states, applicants should follow the instructions and recommendations regarding the attachments. Applicants should use the Download Submitted Forms and Applications feature on grants dot gov. Here, applicants can check

that all required attachments were contained in the submission. Applications submitted without the required documents will not pass the initial administrative review.

#### 10:00

In this slide, please see the chart on the right. The chart lists all the required documents for grant application. In this chart, I would like to highlight numbers 10 and 11. Number 10 is the certification regarding compliance. And number 11 is the certification for minority of business enterprises only if applicable. You will only need to submit number 11 if it's applicable to your application.

# 10:27

Last, I would like to provide several key reminders to keep in mind as you prepare your application. To complete the application, you must have Adobe Reader installed on your computer. Without it, you'll be unable to fill out the CMC application. Another reminder is that all applicants must be registered in the Systems for Award Management, also known as sam.gov.

# 10:52

We highly encourage you to start the process now, if you haven't already. At a minimum, you should start the process no later than November 1st.

#### 11:02

We also remind you that a Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System, or DUNS number, is required to submit the application. You can either call or do this process online as referenced in this slide.

# 11:15

Last, please adhere to all deadlines. The CMC application is due December 1st at 11:59 PM Eastern Time.

#### 11:24

And on behalf of the CMC team, I wish you good luck on submitting your application and remind you that our team is here to help you if you have any questions.

#### 11:33

Next, Kevin Hughes will walk you through the project implementation and planning process.

# 11:42

**Kevin Hughes** 

Thanks, Michell. And I'm Kevin Hughes, a broadband program specialist here at the CMC grant, and my role today will be to discuss some key points that will assist you in terms of getting ready to submit your applications for the CMC grant, specifically with regards to project implementation and planning.

# 12:08

One of the key points of the application process, and the application itself, is the Project Narrative. As such, the Project Narrative must identify specific tasks, measurable milestones, and performance outcomes, resulting from the proposed project activities. Your Project Narrative must include the following information: the Executive Summary, and that summary must not exceed two

pages. Then, also, eligibility requirements. And so a description of the eligible entity applying for funds must be on your application.

#### 12:54

Now, I want to stress that the applicant must be an eligible HBCU, TCU or MSI. And I'll repeat that one more time. All interested applicants for the CMC grant must be an eligible HBCU, TCU or MSI.

#### 13:16

You have to be a university or college that is eligible to apply for these grant funds. Even in the case of a consortium, the college or university has to be the key applicant.

# 13:29

Applicants must provide a table of funded projects, participants, and unfunded informal collaborators that include: a table of all organizations that will participate in and contribute to the proposed activities in alphabetical order; all members of the consortium, if applicable; [and] the organization's name, address, administrative role, scope of work, and proposed funding amount.

# 13:58

Additionally, with regards to resumes of key personnel, which is also required, this must include resumes of no more than five key personnel to the project and limit one page for each. Subrecipient resumes of key personnel are not needed.

# 14:17

This slide basically breaks down the Project Narrative submission requirements and your project justification. And so, in this area, we need the applicant to provide a description of the primary goals of your project [and] description of the community needs and challenges. For example, what problem does your project hope to solve?

# 14:41

Who will the project address or target? Who will the project benefit directly? What are the targeted census tracts and what are the project constraints? What are the key deliverables? And are there any risks and how are they being mitigated? Is the project innovative? And if so, explain.

### 15:05

Here on this slide as well, I'll draw your attention to the table where there are key criteria that are part of the NOFO for the CMC grant, which also are very, very important and must be addressed, and you see them listed here.

# 15:22

When it comes to project activities, you will need to provide details about the specific grant funded activities you plan to carry out. Describe who will plan, implement, and manage the project. Include the lead organization and principal partner organizations.

# 15:38

Include the project schedule, which shows the project deliverables, significant milestones, and the sequence of the project activities.

With regards to project results and evaluation, describe the project's intended results, how the project will be evaluated and the benefits of the project. Describe the project's performance measures, and include proposed metrics, data plan for collection, and other evaluation methodologies. If applicable, describe any planned tangible products from the project.

#### 16:13

And that concludes my area for today. I hope that it has been helpful. And now I will toss it over to my colleague from the NIST grants department Mercedes Martinez, grants specialist from NIST, who will give you the NIST grants recap. Mercedes, over to you.

# Mercedes Martinez

# 16:39

Thank you, Kevin, for that overview of the project narrative. I am Mercedes Martinez, grants specialist with the NIST grants office. Today, we're going to discuss some final application and budget topics to help with your application preparation.

#### 16:52

Specifically, I'll provide a recap of the grants topics covered in the previous webinars, then I'll present a few budget topics of interest, and wrap up with some final application reminders. Let's get started!

#### 17:04

For our recap, we want to remind you of the material we covered in the past webinars. Recordings and slides for these presentations are available on the past events page on the BroadbandUSA webpage.

# 17:14

In July, we introduced the NIST grants office. We're partnering with NTIA to administer and manage the CMC Pilot Program.

#### 17:22

We introduced the administrative requirements and financial management standards, which apply to this program. Finally, we described the general principles for cost allowability.

### 17:32

In August, we presented on the application submission process. Specifically, we walked through the main steps needed to start your application. This includes a setup of sam.gov and grants.gov. We walked through the application components, standard forms, and additional required documents needed for a complete application package.

# 17:51

We covered the SF-424 application form, and the SF-424A budget form. Finally, we covered the budget component of the application. The budget is comprised of the SF-424A budget form, the project spreadsheet, and budget narrative.

In September, we did a deep dive of the budget. We walked through each cost category in the SF-424A and shared the type of information needed to provide a clear budget.

#### 18:18

The project budget spreadsheet showed detailed calculations for each cost and activity. The budget narrative will fully justify each cost and provide enough detail to show the reasonableness and necessity of the cost.

#### 18:31

Last month, we reviewed important pre-application activities, such as: working on application systems, registrations, and becoming familiar with the NOFO. We also walk through the SF-424 application form page by page.

#### 18:45

Please review the past webinars for more details on these topics.

# 18:50

Last webinar, Ming outlined the budget cost categories listed in the SF-424A budget form. We want to define and site some references for you to consider as you prepare your budget. Bear with me as I elaborate on the following.

# 19:04

First, let's talk about indirect costs. Indirect costs are those costs incurred for common or joint purpose, benefiting more than one cost objective, and not readily assignable to the cost objectives specifically benefited without effort to support disproportionate to the results achieved.

# 19:22

Indirect costs are typically allocated to a project according to an approved rate. Note cost must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs, may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both.

# 19:37

If indirect costs are included in the proposed budget, provide a copy of the approved negotiated agreement. Ensure you're accurately applying the approved rate.

#### 19:46

If you incorporate costs in your budget and the rate used was not established by a cognizant federal agency, you will be required to obtain a rate in accordance with the DOC standard terms and conditions in the case your project is selected for funding.

# 20:02

There is a final scenario for charging indirect costs to your project. If you do not have a current negotiated indirect cost rate, this includes having only a provisional rate, you may elect to charge indirect cost using the de minimis rate referenced in 2 CFR 200.414. The de minimis is 10% of the modified total direct costs or modified total direct cost, or MTDC.

Modified total direct cost means all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and up to the first \$25,000 of each subaward regardless of its period of performance. On the other hand, a series of costs are excluded from consideration for the MTDC, such as equipment and capital expenditures.

#### 20:53

Next, equipment and supplies. Equipment is the single item of tangible, non-expendable, personal property that has a useful life of more than a year and a value of \$5,000 or more or a cost capitalization threshold established by the applicant organization that is less.

# 21:13

For example, an applicant may classify equipment at \$1,500 with a useful life of a year. Supply means all tangible personal property, other than those described in the definition of equipment on the slide.

# 21:29

According to the definition in 2 CFR 200, a computing device is a supply if the acquisition cost is less than the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-federal entity for financial statement purposes or \$5,000, regardless of the length of its useful life. In the SF-424A and budget narrative, if you include equipment or supplies, review these definitions and your organization's policies to correctly classify these items of cost.

# 22:01

In the project budget and budget narrative, specify each item and quantity, include the unit cost of the item and, as applicable, specify the percentage dedicated to the project. Describe the intended use of the equipment or supplies and how they relate back to achieving the project objectives.

# 22:20

Finally, subrecipients and contractual. A subaward is an award provided by pass-through-entity to a subrecipient to carry out part of the federal award received by the pass-through-entity.

# 22:33

This does not include payments to a contractor. A subaward may be provided through any form of legal agreement, including an agreement that the pass-through-entity considers a contract.

#### 22:45

A contract, as defined in 2 CFR 200, is a legal instrument by which a recipient or subrecipient purchases property or services needed to carry out the project under Federal Award.

#### 22:58

Refer to 2 CFR 200-331 to read more about subrecipient and contractor determinations.

In determining whether an agreement between a pass-through-entity and another non-federal entity cost the latter, the NFE as a subrecipient or a contractor, the substance of the relationship is more important than the form of the agreement.

# 23:22

For subawards, the terms and conditions of the award flow down to the subrecipient.

#### 23:28

Recipients are responsible for monitoring the activities and expenditures of subrecipients and vendors, and are responsible for ensuring that all solicitation documents reflect activities within the scope of the Connecting Minority Communities project.

# 23:45

For the contractual costs category, list every contractual or subaward agreement. Specify the total cost for each agreement and include an itemization.

# 23:55

Identify the proposed activities and explain the types of goods and services needed to carry out the project. Provide a brief description of the scope of work and specific tasks to be performed. Include the anticipated dates or length of time for the performance.

# 24:11

It is important to justify the necessity of each agreement as it relates to the project narrative. We are presenting a lot of information here in hopes that you can refer to it and use as a resource.

# 24:24

Let's move on to our application reminders and helpful tips as you work on and finalize your application.

#### 24:31

Our first reminder is about the systems and steps necessary to initiate an application and complete an application for this NOFO. Because all applications must be electronically submitted through grants.gov, ensure you're taking care of these steps as soon as possible to avoid submission delays.

# 24:49

Organizations must have a DUNS number and active SAM registration.

# 24:54

A federal assistance award cannot be issued if the designated recipient's registration in sam.gov is not current at the time of the award.

# 25:04

DUNS and SAM registration may take several weeks.

For SAM, the free annual registration process in sam.gov generally takes between 3 and 5 business days but can take more than three weeks. An organization's registration should be done in sufficient time to ensure it does not impact the entity's ability to meet required application submission deadlines.

# 25:29

Create a grants.gov account and add a profile. This profile is the applicant organization you as a user represent. You will need the organization's DUNS number to add the organizational profile to the user account. The e-business point of contact (E-biz POC) will assign and authorize and appropriate roles to grants.gov user accounts associated with its organization.

#### 25:51

The E-biz POC will authorize the AOR role. The person with this role will be able to submit your organization's application.

# 26:00

Next, to apply in grants.gov, you'll need to create a Workspace or be part of a Workspace. This is the environment that allows members to work simultaneously within an application. This will also allow you to route the application through your organization for review before submitting.

#### 26:20

You will complete the Workspace and submit through grants.gov. Grants.gov recommends you submit your application package at least 24 to 48 hours prior to the close date.

# 26:31

You can track the Workspace submission with the tracking number automatically assigned to the application.

#### 26:38

On occasion, grants.gov does go down for maintenance, so you don't want to wait until the very last minute to submit your application. Also grants.gov does offer 24/7 support by phone and e-mail.

# 26:52

This next point we haven't brought up before. The NOFO addresses eligibility in section three. Within that we want to remind you that an HBCU, TCU, or MSI must serve as the lead applicant, let's say, in a consortium application.

# 27:08

For successful applications, the lead applicant would be the entity entering into the grant agreement with NTIA and would also assume primary, operational and financial responsibility for completing this project.

# 27:23

As you work on your application, complete the SF-424 form with the lead applicant's information. Additionally, make sure to include letters of

commitment as required for each member of a consortium application. Reminder number three is about your budget preparation.

#### 27:43

Start by identifying the costs associated with your project activities. Make sure these costs cover the project period and reflect only allowable costs.

# 27:53

Check the SF-424 application form item 18. The total federal budget amount requested for the projects should match the three budget documents: the SF-424A budget form, the project budget spreadsheet, and the budget narrative.

#### 28:09

Finally, remember to format the budget spreadsheet and budget narrative according to the SF-424A cost categories, so, personnel, fringe benefits, supplies, travel, etcetera.

# 28:21

As noted in the NOFO, the CMC Pilot Program does not have a cost sharing or matching funds requirement. However, applicants may propose to contribute a binding, voluntary committed non-federal cost share amount. Make sure to complete section C, non-federal resources, of the SF-424A Form, if you propose such non-federal cost share, and also incorporate the necessary details into the project budget and budget narrative.

# 28:51

The final reminder is about attaching documents to your application in grants.gov. I want to highlight this step for attaching the required documents because it's easy to miss. The instructions are provided in section 4.D of the NOFO.

# 29:05

The required application components are listed in section 4.B of the NOFO.

# 29:11

Additional requirements that will be attached to your application include the project narrative, the detailed project budget, and budget narrative, the certification regarding compliance, the indirect cost rate agreement, letters of commitment, and finally, the certification for minority business enterprises, if applicable.

# 29:31

These attachments you prepare, you will have to add to your application package. You will do this through the SF-424 application form. Specifically in item 15 of this form, there is an Add Attachments button. This will create a zip file that allows for transmittal of the documents electronically via grants.gov.

#### 29:53

Finally, here are helpful resources to inform your application and budget preparation.

That's all I have for you today. Thank you for your time. Feel free to contact Ming Qiu, NIST grants officer, if you have any grants management questions as you're preparing your application. Now, it's time for our Q&A panel with today's moderator. Cameron. Back to you.

# 30:24

Thank you, Mercedes, and good afternoon everyone. It's me again. I'm not Cameron, but I'm going to fill in for Cameron.

#### 30:32

And then very shortly, Emy Tseng of the CMC Program team's going to fill in for me, so we're truly embracing the team approach today. So thank you for joining this live session.

# 30:46

I hope you find these answers to these questions as helpful, as well as the information that we've provided in this presentation. So first, I'm going to start off, again, just a general question for Ming. This is a grants office question.

# 31:05

The question is, must vendors of equipment be listed in the application if the items are commonly available? And the questioner added, for example, they plan to buy computer hardware.

# 31:20

Do they need to state the manufacturer or supplier as a partner or a subrecipient? Ming, over to you.

# 31:30

Thank you for that question, so, generally when the subrecipient propose equipment, the proposal should incorporate the part of the subrecipient agreement that the budget proposed so that we can evaluate the equipments that are purchased under the subaward.

# 31:51

And a follow up question. Must vendors of services be listed on the application?

# 31:56

In this instance, the questioner plans to use the funds for IT services that are available from several different vendors.

# 32:06

Should he list or should the institution list of the exact vendor or vendors in the application? Ming, that's another question for the grants office.

# 32:16

So, generally, when you prepare your proposal, the costs proposed in the budget must be justified and explained.

#### 32:27

So, the more information that you can provide to justify the cost, the better, you know, for us to analyze the costs and for review the budgets. Whatever

# Scott Woods

# Ming Qiu

# **Scott Woods**

# Ming Qiu

information that you have to justify the cost should be included in detail to provide that specification.

**Scott Woods** 

32:48

Great, thank you.

32:50

The questions are flowing in for the grants office. We have another one. Is there a general template for the budget?

32:57

Ming, I'll throw that over to you.

Ming Qiu

We do not have a template set for the budget. However, your budget should be consistent as we presented in the previous presentations. When you prepare your budget, the budget spreadsheet and those budgets should mirror the cost categories that are in the SF-424A and your justification is to be consistent and justify the cost in each of the categories. So we do not have a set template for the budget, but the spreadsheets should mirror the costs in the SF-424A, and make sure they are all consistent.

33:37

**Scott Woods** Thank you.

33:40

We have another question here regarding the eligibility requirement, and the question asked [about] the secondary eligibility requirement is for recipients to be in an anchor community within 50 miles of the primary lead applicant.

33:53

The question asked us to talk a little bit more about what is meant by a recipient in an anchor community, and I can take that question. And that's a really good question, thank you. For those of you on the webinar, we addressed this in the rationale and methodology in both the NOFO (I think it's footnote 33, if I'm not mistaken) as well as in the more detailed fashion, the methodology and rationale as explained in the CMC Final Rule. And again, we interpreted this a recipient, an anchor community requirement that was put in by Congress in the Consolidated Appropriations Act.

34:31

And NTIA, we've interpreted that language, if you will, that requirement to mean both the institution and the in-need students of that institution. So when you look back at the Final Rule and you look at that footnote in the NOFO, we explain that. So, again, so as it relates to eligibility, we're talking about the school being eligible, as well as the community. And there's also references to patrons as well in the NOFO. That generally refers to your community based activities that you may propose to do within your anchor community service area, your anchor community eligibility area.

35:11

If you're going to propose any funding, any services, any partnerships pursuant to the consortia requirements, again, those activities must take place in those

qualifying census tracts within the institutions 15-mile radius. We outline the methodology, again, in the rationale of that requirement, both in the CMC Final Rule – we do a little bit more detail there – but we also talk about that in the NOFO. So, thank you for that question.

**Scott Woods** 

35:44

All right, Kevin, I have a question for you. Can any eligible institution, and this goes to eligible permissible activities. Actually, I want to address this to Emy.

35:56

Can an eligible institution propose a project that provides IT and cybersecurity or coding training to students without regard to their place of residence so long as the institution is eligible, they need not qualify those participants based on the income or their place of residence? Emy, I'll throw that over to you.

36:18

Yes, so for any project that provides training to enroll students for an eligible institution, is directly providing training as well as services and devices to their own enrolled students, they do not need to meet the residency requirement. So as long as you are serving your own students, then basically the requirements around anchor communities and such don't apply.

36:50

Thank you very much. Kevin, I'll come to you with this question. If the applicant is a single institution not applying as a consortium, does it still need a letter of commitment?

37:04

If it's a single institution, it would not require a letter of commitment. That designation would be for if they are participating as part of a consortium.

37:34

Correct I think they state here letter of commitment but I think it's the letter that outlines all of the partners. Again, thank you Kevin for answering and addressing that question. All right. Well, this is a really good question, and we have to follow up on this one, but I do want to put this out there, because it's very important.

37:41

The question asked because this program is using federal funds, will Executive Order 14042, and that's the federal government vaccine mandate, apply to all members of the consortium? That's a really good question.

37:55

We've going to parking lot that. We need to run that question through legal for interpretation. We will probably capture this for an upcoming FAQ that we will post to our website. And that's a really good question. For the person who asked that, we will definitely follow up, and we will post that in our next iteration of FAQs that will be coming up on the website. So, please stay tuned for that.

Emy Tseng

Scott Woods

**Kevin Hughes** 

**Scott Woods** 

All right. Next question. Kevin, I'll throw this over to you. It says, do we — meaning the questioner or the institution — do we get to choose the starting date of the project?

38:38

**Kevin Hughes** 

Yes, they do get to choose this starting date of the project, and that must be indicated in their application. The key takeaway is that they adhere to the deadline for the application itself, which is December the first. But the applicant is in the driver's seat for this instance and they can choose the start of their project, yes.

39:12

**Scott Woods** 

And I would also add to that question, Kevin, that there's a two year period of performance that's required under the grant award. So, the applicants should adhere to that in their planning and execution under the CMC Pilot program.

Ming Qiu

Sorry, I was going back to the question earlier that Kevin answered. So, yes, he's correct, what Kevin said is absolutely correct.

39:43

And also, please pay attention to the award, CD-450. That's the period of performance data on the CD-450, that's the official period of performance to your project. So just be mindful of that, the award start date.

39:57

**Scott Woods** 

Absolutely. Ming, we'll come to you. This question is regarding a grant requirement: is there a cap on the percent or amount from a grant award that can be directed to subrecipients?

40:14

Ming Qiu

That's a great question. According to the NOFO, that NOFO does not specify a cap for the amount that goes to subrecipients. So, the short answer to that question is, no. There's no cap, or the amount that is limited to go to the subrecipient. However, in our FAQ, we also address about subrecipients – if you're a subrecipient participating under a lead application, you're not able to apply as a lead applicant at the same time. Just wanted to clarify that there.

40:51

**Kevin Hughes** 

Yeah, I wanted to just piggyback on that really, really quickly, Scott. You know, there is no cap on the award, you know, what the applicant would like to apply for. They are free to apply for anything, any amount that they want for our grant.

41:13

**Scott Woods** 

Absolutely, and if I can caveat that because we've dealt with this question a lot, and actually going to put this in an FAQ as well. Again, we put in the NOFO a reasonable range of funding amount between \$500,000 and \$3 million for the award. We also had a caveat language in that particular paragraph that said that's not a mandatory minimum or maximum.

Again, as Kevin just stated, projects - you do have the right to request no more than that threshold or that range. But also all of you to also be aware, this is a pilot program and we only have \$268 million. Again, you heard me state previously, we understand that the need amongst all of our institutions, you know, greatly exceed the amount of funding that we have in this pilot project. So again, I'm asking for reasonableness in the request understanding that, you know, we have a significant number of schools, and hopefully that will apply, great project that will have to decide from. So again, I'm just asking for reasonableness in that request, but you Kevin is absolutely correct. That funding range is not necessitated a minimum or maximum amount.

#### 42:35

Let's keep it going. These questions are coming in fast. We do appreciate that. This is, I think, a two part answer on this one. I'll ask Ming to address it first and then Emy. It says if laptops are provided to a recipient via the grant, does it need to be returned by the recipient?

#### 43:00

I'm going to build on this further, because I know what the question is asking.

#### 43:03

If the institution has a laptop lending program or laptop distribution program and they are provided, right? They're giving it to the recipient as opposed to lending it, will that recipient have to return that laptop to the office? Will that institution have to track that laptop for the grant funding purposes throughout its useful life? Ming, I'm going to throw it over to you, and I know Emy has a second part answer to that as well. Ming?

# 43:40

In this question here, I think Mercedes explained in the presentation, went through the equipment versus supplies. It really depends on the classification of your institution on the laptop for the case whether or not it is equipment or supplies. And you would follow that guidance to manage that.

# 44:04

If this is equipment, you know you will follow the disposition of the equipment and at the end of the award. And if this is supplies, you will follow that supplies guidance to treat it as supplies.

# 44:15

And if any residual value on your supplies at the end of the award goes over \$5,000 or more, and you will follow this as well, too.

# 44:25

So, the recommendation is that, to follow the 2 CFR 200 guidance regarding disposition of supplies and equipment at the end of the project.

# 44:36

As Ming mentioned, there are grant rules regarding equipment vs supplies, and there's a threshold of \$5,000, which helps determine whether something is the

# Ming Qiu

**Emy Tseng** 

equipment or supplies, so presumably laptops would fall under supplies most of the time.

44:55

However, beyond the actual grant rules that apply, we do have legislative requirements around ensuring that devices are used for the mandated purposes, for the educational purposes and community benefit purposes. And therefore, we will have to implement some kind of reporting requirements around the use of those up those laptops. So, we'll be issuing more guidance around that.

45:29

But my assumption is that, in order to be able to track what's happening with the equipment, that that probably setting up some kind of mechanism or lending would make it easier to be able to report on how the equipment is being used.

45:51

Scott Woods

Absolutely. We have more questions. Thank you for that clarification and answer. We have a question since we have institutions on. This question is can our institution apply an indirect cost rate that is lower then our federally approved rate?

46:09

Ming, I want to address that question to the grants office.

46.13

Ming Qiu

So normally, when you apply for a grant and then you have an approved rate, you are allowed to – under the CMC program specifically, there's no cap on indirect cost rate.

46:26

You know, as long as you have the approved rate [and] justify indirect costs that you're charging on the award, you are allowed to apply that full rate to the award.

46:37

However, if you are now charging less to the indirect cost rate than is approved, there is no prohibition for you to apply less. So you are allowed to apply less than the approved rate, but not more than what is approved.

46:55

Scott Woods

All right, and we also have in the NOFO there is a de minimus rate that is available for institutions to select. Again, we do cover indirect cost rates, agreements, or NICRAs, as they call negotiated indirect cost rate agreements. We addressed that in the NOFO.

47:18

Alright, Kevin, I want – there's a general project question. It says, just want to verify with respect to broadband solutions that are proposed, that these solutions can only be installed on the campus, and not in the surrounding anchor community.

**Kevin Hughes** 

Yes, well, the focus of the CMC grant is for the students and for the university. If you are a consortium, or even if you're the university and you're looking to do something that is within the community that is related to connectivity, you should reach out to us directly and let us talk about that with you.

48:08

However, in general, when it comes to connectivity, we're primarily looking for you to work within the parameters of the university, But again, if it's something else, please give us a call, contact us directly, and we'll be happy to talk with you with regards to that.

48:31

Scott Woods

Absolutely. Thank you, we're getting questions in fast and furious here. Rapid fire here, Ming, must a subrecipient be an eligible entity or can it be a private company as a subrecipient of CMC?

48:54

Yong Ming Qui

I believe the NOFO does not have a requirement for the subrecipient to meet the eligibility in the NOFO, only the requirement for the applicant has to meet the eligibility stated in the NOFO. So the answer to that question is no. But they do have to meet the eligibility to be a subrecipient. Bascially they have to have a UEI number available before the subaward can be made. So that's the only thing that the pass-through-entity needs to verify before the subaward is issued.

49:42

**Emy Tseng** 

I can elaborate a little bit on that, which is one issue in terms of determining whether one of your partners is a subrecipient versus a contractor is that the subrecipient has to have a significant programmatic role, and also the subrecipient will be subject to all the regulations that cover the grant recipient. In terms of reporting requirements and such, it implies more administrative and oversight requirements if you are a subrecipient vs a contractor, so that is something you have to consider and in your application.

50:26

Scott Woods

Thank you for that. Here's a follow up question, Emy, for you.

50:29

For a project that is providing training online, does the 15-mile radius still apply?

50:36

**Emy Tseng** 

OK, well, one thing, I think, I've seen common things that these questions are around that 15-mile radius and when that applies and where it says not. So, in this case, no. Again, any training or services that you provide to your student – for example, distance learning, I think you're referring to here – the institution itself can provide that training and services to their students no matter, regardless of any kind of geographical code requirements. The geographic requirements and income requirements only apply to consortia and community projects. But things that are actually for your own institutional capacity and work with your students is not subject to those restrictions.

# Scott Woods

Thank you very much. And we have a ton of these questions are coming in. Just a follow up on the previous question.

# 51:43

The question asked: they weren't clear on lending of the laptops, can you please clarify if they have to be returned or not? And I think we answered that, is that there are specific rules regarding supplies, there are grant rules regarding supplies, which don't require tracking for items that are less than \$5,000. So, again, you know, we have grant rules, and we'll get into more detail in that. But, again, it depends on how much that that entity, how much that device cost, again, and how the applicant or recipient, in this case, classify that as supplies with a fair market value of less than \$5,000. If that is indeed the case, it would not have to be returned because the government would not have a security interest for for that device, for that computer, for that laptop, for its useful life. So that \$5,000 threshold is what triggers the government security interests and that useful life requirements.

# 52:47

So again, if you have any – you know, we're not answering all of these questions, there are a lot of questions coming in, please feel free to contact us offline. We'll have our e-mail address, our general e-mail address where you can send questions to, and we'll make sure that we will address those questions offline. I want to get to rapid fire to make sure we can get through to some more.

# 53:13

All right, so next question, here we go, are there any limitations on pay for staffing or the awarding of stipends? Can it be used for students, faculty, and staff related to training, internships, professional development, and of training professionals? Emy, I want to throw that over to you.

# 53:33

# Emy Tseng

OK, yes. Staffing, personnel, cost, stipend for things like internships and apprenticeships, are eligible expenses. We strongly believe that there needs to be investment in people as well as technology.

#### 53:51

# Scott Woods

Thank you. Michell, we haven't heard from you yet, so I want to direct a question at you.

# 53:56

The questioner asks that, since they cannot extend broadband services directly, to anchor communities, they're asking us to speak a little bit more about the community role or the anchor role. They state that their project is focused on improving infrastructure on the campus, capital improvements and training. But they're looking for some examples of anchor community roles in this case. Do we have any examples that we can provide, Michell?

Michell Morton

Sure. A good example would be exploring health IT, providing any kind of training to residents to maybe address chronic disease issues, working with a local non-profit could be a good example [and] working within the incubator space as well. Promoting entrepreneurship could be another example of, you know, working within the community.

54:54

And what was the, the rest of the question, sorry?

54:58

**Scott Woods** 

Just examples of anchor community roles and a project that's focused around improving infrastructure on campus and training.

55:09

Michell Morton

I would also use the example of, like, digital navigators. You can use the funding to kind of support students who could be digital navigators within the community anchors, teaching digital literacy, to encourage connectivity or adopting internet connectivity and digital literacy skills.

55:30

**Scott Woods** 

Michell, I'm going to keep you on tap here.

55:32

This is a follow up question: there is discussion in the NOFO about training for the community. Would that training be subject to the 15-mile radius and must partners be located within that 15-mile radius?

55:48

Michell Morton

The training would have to be within that 15-mile radius, yes. The partnerships themselves, I don't believe would have to be in the 15-mile radius but the training itself would be to the residents of the anchor communities.

56:03

**Scott Woods** 

For those qualifying census tracts within the within the 15-mile radius – just like to clarify that. Thank you. Alright, one more question for the grants office. It says is the \$5,000 threshold apply to the aggregate or individual units, i.e. does this transition into equipment if the program calls for ten \$500 computers? Ming, I'm going to kick that over to the grants office.

56:37

Ming Qiu

Sure. Yes.

56:38

Generally, you know, classification for equipment is per unit cost, acquisition cost. I think the \$5,000 does not meet the threshold. That's a federal threshold for \$5,000. If your entity has a lower classification threshold for capitalization purposes that your organization's threshold classify equipment. So your organization classifies equipment that \$5,000, that would be the threshold you will use. And if your organization has a lesser threshold, then you have to use the lesser threshold to classify that as equipment.

Emy Tseng

Again, I would like to elaborate on this whole question. Again, they're not grant requirements about returning the devices, but because there will be reporting requirements of how these devices are used, even if they're not explicit requirements to return them in terms of tracking where these pieces of equipment went to, how are they being used, you might want to structure your actual program, so that, you know, it's a lending program, because there will be reporting requirements as required by the legislation regarding broadband equipment, such as laptops.

Scott Woods

58:09

Thank you. Kevin, I'll come back to you.

58:12

Can CMC funds be utilized for funding capital enhancements to physical structures that will support the objectives of the CMC Pilot Program?

58:24

**Kevin Hughes** 

Well, I would ask for further clarification on that. If they're referring to construction – that was something that I thought we saw a question on that earlier in the chat – construction is not allowable under the CMC grant. New construction is not allowable under the CMC grant. If we're talking about connectivity, you are able to utilize existing conduits or you can install wireless equipment on buildings and things of that nature. You have to be careful also too, because when you're talking about wireless equipment if you're talking about mounting routers, digging holes to mount routers into the ground, you have to be careful with that also because, under the label of construction, anything that would, you know, require the turning of dirt or would require any sort of permits which, you know, placing poles would fall under that realm. You have to be very careful about that so as not to run afoul of the allowable rules of the NOFO.

59:45

**Emy Tseng** 

And just to expand on that, and I know that this question does cause a bit of confusion. Again, while the program prohibits ground disturbing activities that requires state or federal historic preservation, environmental review approvals, as Kevin just stated, the in-building classroom wiring to basically update buildings and the capacity to offer, for example, remote education and video classes, deploying fiber through, again, existing conduit and installing routers and wireless transmission equipment are not necessarily considered construction activities and would be allowable. And I suggest that you contact us more directly, because I know that this is a point of confusion for a lot of those.

1:00:48

Scott Woods

Alright, I'm gonna read this question, and I'm going to transition, Emy, over to you, so thank you very much. Ming, this question is for you. It says, in the budget, should the maintenance and support service costs for specific technology be categorized with their respective technology categories, either as equipment or supplies, or should it be listed under the contractual category?

# 1:01:21

In the budget document, should the maintenance and support service costs for a specific technology be categorized with their respective category, technology category, either as equipment or supplies, or can it be listed just generally under the contractual category? I believe in this question the questioner must have a budget document in front of them and they're outlining where maintenance and support service costs should itemize and list it in their budget documents.

# 1:01:54

Ming Qiu

Yes, so, that's a great question. I mean the contractual or other, I think both would be fine, but the maintenance of the equipment, really a contract is not a part of the equipment costs. So, that would not be listed as equipment that will be listed either in the contractual cost for the maintenance, or in other. Either one place, it will be fine.

# 1:02:21

**Scott Woods** 

Emy, over to you. I have asked that you continue to facilitate. Thank you, everyone for allowing us to be with you today, and we will continue for a few more minutes with the question and answer. So, Emy, over to you, thank you.

**Emy Tseng** 

Alright. I'll answer one. Can a training partner be a for-profit company? Yes. That is, in fact, especially if the company is an MBE are encouraged to partner with minority business enterprises. However, again, the whole consideration as to whether the partner per se from a programmatic viewpoint would be a subrecipient or a contractor. You would need to consider with, again, there's many more requirements in terms of grants administration and reporting for a subrecipient.

OK Michell, here's a question. Can you submit a project that doesn't involve an anchor community and presumably a consortia?

# 1:03:33

Michell Morton

Yes. So, if you are applying as a school just for your campus, you do not have to be a part of a consortium. If you plan to work in an anchor community, then, yes, it would need to be, and work with an MBE or non-profit, then you would apply as a consortium. But no, it's not a requirement if you only know plan to submit it as for your school.

# 1:04:00

And you can also do work in the community without, but if you plan to work with an MBE or non-profit, then you would have to apply as a consortium.

#### 1:04:24

Emy Tseng

Actually, there's a related- can the service used to complete the grant be an individual contractor?

# 1:04:31

For example, if somebody teaches digital skills outside of the established business, or do they have to be a certified MBE to qualify it, to participate in a consortium to work with the HBCU?

1:04:47

Michell, do you want to take that?

Michelle Morton

1:04:50

Sure. As a contractor, you would not have to be. But, in order to work in the consortium of this, you know, recipient is going to serve as a partner in the consortium, then yes, they would have to probably be an MBE or a non-profit.

1:05:07

**Emy Tseng** 

I might as well continue with Michell. Can you give examples of the types of community partners you envision working with the institutions of higher education? I know you mentioned a couple, but maybe you can mention more generally.

1:05:22

Michell Morton

Sure. So, there's so many; digital literacy training partner could be one, it could be a non-profit, or MBE. It could be like a health institution, like a local community health organization. It can be a church, thank you. It could be a non-profit, exactly. It could be even like a local library. It could be a number of institutions that you could work with.

1:06:01

**Kevin Hughes** 

And I really wanted to just piggyback on that. You know, it's the lead applicant, the university or the college, as Michell said, they have the option. They can seek funding or services just for their university or their college solely if they wish, or they can go further and seek to do things within the community. That's their choice. There's no specific mandate on that, the NOFO doesn't call for that. However, we encourage out of the box thinking with regards to applicants putting together their projects. And so, we would like to see, you know, where you can go in terms of the level of services that you can use with this grant.

1:07:00

Michell Morton

And I would also, I agree with Kevin completely and I would also encourage to look at your local government. There are a lot of local governments who have digital inclusion programs, and you may want to partner with them on this application as well.

1:07:16

**Emy Tseng** 

Alright. I'll take one. There's a question about can the program provide training to faculty members for an eligible institution? Yes, training services and actually, equipment can be provided to faculty members, especially to facilitate remote education and also for professional development purposes.

1:07:44

For Kevin, will the grant allow for the upgrade or purchase of training equipment related to telecommunications or information technology?

1:07:55

**Kevin Hughes** 

Yes, it would. That would be allowable under the grant. Again, you would have to adhere to the guidelines of the NOFO so that you do it within the proper constraints. So, you know, primarily the NOFO is for, you know, the students,

the faculty of the institution, as well as working within the community. So, as long as you follow the tenants of the NOFO, you'll be fine with that strategy.

1:08:29

OK.

1:08:31

I actually have a couple of questions related to what we define as students of the eligible institutions. One is, do students need to be enrolled [or] matriculated at that institution to participate? In some instances, summer camp students are not requested to enroll. And so I'm not quite sure if you're referring to maybe like K through 12 students. And note that actually when we talk about students in this context of the eligible institution, we're talking about institutions of higher learning. So really, the focus of the institutional capacity part of the CMC program is really focus on college and university students. However, you may have as part of your consortium, a part of a project that is related to K through 12 education or after school programs. But, in that case, those partners and the students would be subject to the constraints of being within the eligible anchor communities with the 250% - the census tracts

1:09:59

All right, Kevin, there are a couple of questions about deployment and relating to deployment outside off-campus. So if a tribe deploys a fixed wireless network service radius exceeds the boundary of the tribe, is the tribe allowed to provide service and non-tribal customers? And there are a couple other deployment questions off-campus.

1:10:26

That is a great question.

that fit within that 250% income threshold.

1:10:28

For those of us in the fixed wireless industry and with my background, this question is based on the fact that, you know, when you're dealing with wireless technology, they can kind of go above and beyond, right? They can go outside of the 15-mile radius and there's really no way to control that. So I think that for the purposes of the NOFO, you have to make sure that your equipment is within the 15-mile radius. So you have to follow the guidelines of the NOFO.

1:11:11

So your equipment is within the 15-mile radius. If there is bleed over of service that, you know, there's nothing really that could be done to sort of prevent that. But what your goal should be is that you are providing service within that 15-mile radius. That's what the grant is seeking for you to do.

1:11:37

Michell, could you speak a little more about the workforce development aspect of the NOFO and of the CMC program?

**Emy Tseng** 

, ....**,** 

**Kevin Hughes** 

**Emy Tseng** 

1:11:46

Michell Morton

Sure. The CMC grant provides a great opportunity for eligible entities to work with workforce development centers, or to create workforce or career IT path programs, or apprenticeships for students.

1:12:05

The applicant could work, for example, with a Workforce Development Center to focus on maybe career IT training in cybersecurity or machine learning, and then also provide apprenticeships or internships to ensure that students who participate in that program also have an opportunity to get hands-on experience and training as they complete the classes and can transition into an actual job after that.

1:12:41

**Emy Tseng** 

As educational institutions directly provide workforce development training, and subjects in STEM and cybersecurity, those are our part of this program. Talking about training, does the training have to be implemented by an MBE or a non-profit organization, and does that entity have to be included in the grant submission? And so, just to clarify, the training can be done by multiple types of entities, really, in this program.

1:13:18

Again, the whole investment in human capital and human potential is a big part of it. So, the training can be implemented by the institution, by an MBE minority business enterprise, by non-profit organization, by contracting with a private training corporation. And, yes, anybody who is actually part of the consortium does need to be part of the document in the application.

1:14:14

**Kevin Hughes** 

I think we might want to go in to prepare for – after the last question – prepare for going into a final recap, going around our panel and just giving final thoughts. But after this last question though, Emy.

1:14:38

**Emy Tseng** 

Again, there's another question: will you be competitive if you apply as a single institution providing services directly to your students? Michell, do you want to take that?

Michell Morton

Yes. The answer is a resounding yes. Yes, Yes. Yes, yes.

1:14:57

**Emy Tseng** 

No favoring of one type of application over the other, it's on the based on the merits and the level of unmet financial need.

1:15:09

Oh, this is actually a good one, and it relates somewhat to evaluation. Since this is a pilot, what are you expecting? If the funding agency were to extend the pilot, that also goes to what factors do you feel would be helpful, in terms of getting the funding to extend the pilot. Kevin, do you want to take that?

**Kevin Hughes** 

1:15:36

Well I think it's a great question in the sense that, you know, we are, this grant is a pilot program, right? But I think the best advice we can give is that you operate within the confines of what is being offered right now, which is \$268 million, correct? And so, I think it's good to just focus on that for now. I think Congress is doing what they do in terms of looking at growth for our grants and for others that involve broadband connectivity. But I would advise that, you know, a good focus is to just kind of stay in the now, look at what the grant is calling for now and move forward with that. If other funding becomes available, then that's great. And of course, we've been seeing a huge, pent up demand amongst the universities. You, the members on this call who are very, very interested in this grant and, you know, \$268 million can be increased a thousand fold, and it probably still wouldn't address the enormous need that's out there. But again, I would urge us to stay in the now, look at what's available now, work within the confines of the NOFO, and apply, apply, apply.

Emy Tseng

Ming Qiu

1:17:13

Great, thank you. All right, well, why don't we go round robin on any points? Ming, since you haven't - are there any things that you want to emphasize for the potential applicants?

1:17:29

First, thank you for everybody joining the webinar today.

1:17:35

So, one thing, I just want to highlight is the importance that the three budget documents required as part of the application package: the SF-424A, the budget spreadsheet, and the budget narrative. Those are the three separate documents, and they are the different documents comprised as your application, so make sure that when you are ready to submit the application, that those are the three separate documents that you are including as part of your application package.

1:18:08

And also, one thing I just wanted to highlight is that for attaching the additional documents required, other than those mandatory forms, I think that this is very easy to miss in the NOFO section. The NOFO section does state that – I believe in the NOFO section 4.D. of the NOFO – they provide the instructions [of] how to upload those documents. To attach those documents you prepare such as the budget, the budget narrative, you will have to add it to the application package.

1:18:43

You will do this through this SF-424 form, specifically in line item 15 of the form, and there's an attachment button. You click on that, add attachment, and you you can upload those, attach those forms in that section of the 424 form. I know this is very hidden there on the form, but in order to upload those documents, you need to click on the 424 form, item 15 to add attachments, and that's where you upload the budget narrative, budget spreadsheet, and other required forms other than those mandatory forms.

1:19:26

Emy Tseng

Actually, Ming, while you're on, there is a question about indirect cost rates, about is the project considered research or is it training? Many institutions have two indirect cost rates: training or research. My – from a programmatic view regard this as the training. But, I'm not familiar with the different kinds of indirect cost rate.

1:19:51

Ming Qiu

I mean, I think that this is really depending on the proposal structure. I think this is not a research program, this is a training program. So, I think that's more in line with the program. The nature of the program is not research, therefore, I think, research is not probably appropriate in terms of the program requirements. It really depends on the proposal, how it is structured and written the way, you know, it is training or other type of project.

1:20:36

**Emy Tseng** 

OK, actually, sorry, I've put you on the spot again because a lot of grant type questions coming in. Can you speak on pre-award costs recovery? If one applied for a CMC grant and is not awarded, can the applicant request funding for the effort they spent developing their proposal?

1:20:58

Ming Qiu

Yeah, so I think that is actually very clear in the NOFO as well. The NOFO does describe the pre-application expenses up to \$50,000 only if you're awarded. Unfortunately, if your application is not awarded, we are not allowed to reimburse any expenses that was incurred. Basically, those costs incurred at your own risk. You will be able to request reimbursement for the up to \$50,000 if your application is selected and awarded.

1:21:41

**Emy Tseng** 

Michell, do you have any final words of advice for folks?

1:21:47

Michell Morton

Yes. I just would encourage everyone to know if you need help, reach out to us, too. We're happy to provide technical assistance in these applications. I can't stress enough, we're here to help. And we have a CMC team that is versed in, so many subject matters from digital inclusion, broadband, data, outreach, broadband deployment. I would encourage everyone, you know, just to reach out to us if you need assistance.

**Emy Tseng** 

1:22:18 Kevin?

1:22:20

**Kevin Hughes** 

I just wanted to say really quickly, I wanted to encourage, especially our community colleges, to really take advantage of the CMC grant. The CMC grant is an awesome opportunity to receive connectivity, equipment, or IT personnel and support for your university or your college, and there's no match required for this grant. \$268 million is available. The window to apply is open right now. So if you are ready, you can move forward to the grants.gov website and apply for the CMC grant, of course, adhering the requirements of the NOFO. But,

again, this is a great opportunity for universities and colleges all across America and its territories, and I encourage you to take advantage. Emy?

# **Emy Tseng**

1:23:25

OK, great. And, again, there are questions that we haven't answered, and they might be because we have to put them in the parking lot, or else they're too specific right now to answer. However, again, as Michell said, I really encourage you all to reach out for technical assistance. We also have a series of FAQs. And, you might notice that we have multiple documents, because, from these webinars, we actually do develop the FAQs from the questions asked [in the] webinars, as well as the questions that we get directly through our technical assistance, and also our e-mail. So, if the question wasn't answered exactly today, please reach out and also check the FAQs, which we are updating regularly.

# 1:24:21

The other thing, I just want to close out - there was a question about what innovation means in this program. And, I think, really, many aspects about innovation, which I think is really fighting for their innovative approaches, their idea of creating a more inclusive innovation environment, and especially for folks who have been maybe left out of the technology economy and the industry. But, again, it's not just technology innovation. We're really - this is a pilot program. We're really looking forward to all your innovative solutions to issues that are out there in your communities and with your students.

# 1:25:14

Please join us again for the next CMC grant webinar, which is happening tomorrow, and you'll have more chances to ask questions and we'll be here to assist you all. Again, feel free to reach out and we will get back to you as well. Thank you so much.