

**INTERNET  
FOR ALL**

---

# **THE ENABLING MIDDLE MILE BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM**

---

Project Information – Application Guidance



# Today's webinar will focus on the Middle Mile Program – one of four high-speed Internet programs administered by NTIA<sup>1</sup>



BEAD	DIGITAL EQUITY	TRIBAL	<i>Today's focus</i> <b>MIDDLE MILE</b>
<b>\$42.45B</b>	<b>\$2.75B</b>	<b>\$2.00B</b>	<b>\$1.00B</b>
<b>Broadband Equity, Access &amp; Deployment Program</b>	<b>Digital Equity Act</b>	<b>Tribal Connectivity Technical Amendments</b>	<b>Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure</b>
A program to get all Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to build infrastructure where we need it to and increase adoption of high-speed Internet.	Three programs that provide funding to promote digital inclusion and advance equity for all. They aim to ensure that all communities can access and use affordable, reliable high-speed Internet to meet their needs and improve their lives.	A program to help tribal communities expand high-speed Internet access and adoption on tribal lands.	A program to expand middle mile infrastructure, to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.



# Middle Mile Grant Program will invest in the construction, improvement or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure



**Funding pool**  
\$1.00B

A program to expand middle mile infrastructure, to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Middle mile infrastructure refers to** the mid-section of Internet infrastructure that carries large amounts of data at high speeds over long distances and connects the "backbone" of Internet infrastructure to the "last mile", which connects to end users

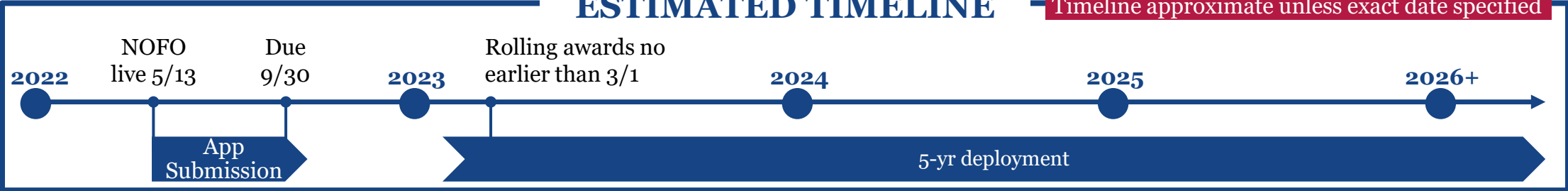
**Entities eligible to apply include a wide variety**, including but not limited to government entities, utilities, companies, and non-profits that provide Internet services

**Example uses of funds:**

- ☆ Construction, improvement or acquisition of facilities and equipment
- ☆ Engineering design, permitting and work related to projects
- ☆ Personnel costs, including salaries and benefits
- ☆ Other costs necessary to program's activities

## ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified



# Today's webinar will focus on Project Information portion of the Middle Mile Grant Program Application



*Today's focus*



**APPLICANT  
INFORMATION**

---

June 30, 2022



**PROJECT  
INFORMATION**

---

July 13, 2022



**BUDGET  
INFORMATION**

---

August 10, 2022



NTIA will only accept applications submitted electronically via its online application portal by September 30, 2022



## NTIA Application Portal

Applications must be received through the NTIA Application Portal no later than 11:59 p.m. EDT on Sept. 30, 2022

*Please contact [middlemile@ntia.gov](mailto:middlemile@ntia.gov) with any questions and [nghelpdesk@ntia.gov](mailto:nghelpdesk@ntia.gov) for technical support with the portal.*

## Application format requirements

- Figures, graphs, images, and pictures should be readable and may be presented in landscape
- Font should be easy to read and 11-point minimum; figures and tables may use smaller type
- One-inch margins on top, bottom, left, and right
- Portrait orientation except for figures, graphs, images, and pictures
- Page size 8 1/2 by 11 inches
- All applications must be typed in English



# There are three sections to complete for the Project Information portion of the Middle Mile Grant Program Application



## PROJECT INFORMATION

---



**Project Details**



**Technical Capabilities**



**Required Documents**



# PROJECT DETAILS

---

# Project Details - Executive Summary

## Executive Summary (6,000 characters)

- **High-level** introduction to the project; no technical jargon
- Provide project purpose:
  - Address how proposal will advance Middle Mile Grant Program/NOFO objectives
  - Provide an overview of proposed route or service area(s)
  - Indicate level of need in service area(s)
- Describe binding commitments made (see Binding Commitment):
  - Connect networks servicing unserved areas
  - Connecting non-contiguous trust lands
  - Offering broadband at reasonable rates, carrier-neutral
- All information in this area should be considered **PUBLIC**.
- Consider writing the **Executive Summary** last for consistency: it should contain no new information.

**Note: Applicants are encouraged to compose narrative responses separately, then copy and paste into the narrative text fields. Save and archive narrative responses for record keeping purposes.**



Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal



Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal



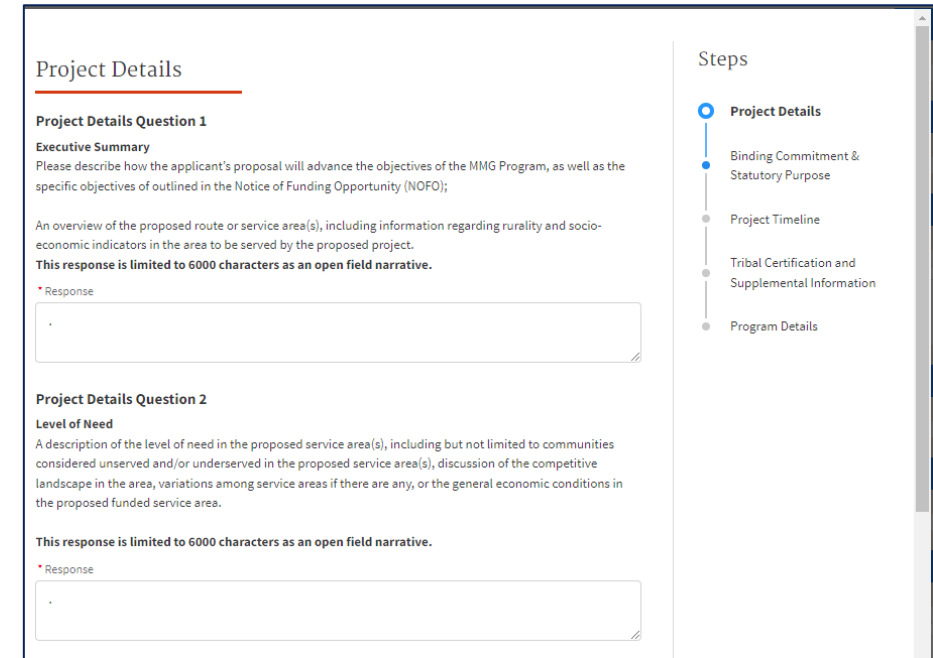
Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal



# Project Details - Level of Need

## Level of Need Narrative (6,000 characters)

- Describe the level of need in the proposed service area(s)
  - Include competitive landscape and variations in service
  - Project value-add
- Confirm proposal is consistent with state broadband plan/priorities and that broadband office(s) were directly consulted
- Note any specific service providers that have expressed interest in utilizing the network to provide last mile service, including degree of interest (e.g., letters of interest, contracts)
- Estimated number of expected users
- Describe general economic conditions in the proposed area
- Provide the most complete picture possible of the existing state of broadband infrastructure in the proposed area
  - Include reasons why it is currently insufficient
- Discuss the extent to which the proposed project will meet all broadband needs of the communities within the project area



**Project Details**

**Project Details Question 1**  
**Executive Summary**  
 Please describe how the applicant's proposal will advance the objectives of the MMG Program, as well as the specific objectives of outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO);

An overview of the proposed route or service area(s), including information regarding rurality and socio-economic indicators in the area to be served by the proposed project.  
**This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.**

\* Response

**Project Details Question 2**  
**Level of Need**  
 A description of the level of need in the proposed service area(s), including but not limited to communities considered unserved and/or underserved in the proposed service area(s), discussion of the competitive landscape in the area, variations among service areas if there are any, or the general economic conditions in the proposed funded service area.

**This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.**

\* Response

**Steps**

- **Project Details**
- Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose
- Project Timeline
- Tribal Certification and Supplemental Information
- Program Details

 *Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal*

 *Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal*

 *Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal*

# Project Details - Government & Community Involvement



## Government & Community Involvement (3,000 characters)

- Describe coordination and level of involvement with applicable State, Territory, Tribal, local governments, and other community organizations/partners across public, non-profit, and private sectors
  - Pay particular attention to community anchor institutions involved in the project
- Outline each organization's planned role in the project, including **financial** or **equipment** contributions
- Clarify any benefits received from the project
- Submit additional documentation if available, e.g., letters of support

**Project Details Question 3**

**State Collaboration Acknowledgement**  
NTIA strongly encourages prospective non-state applicants to coordinate and consult with the State Broadband Office or other coordinating body located in the jurisdiction in which the eligible entity proposes to deploy middle mile infrastructure to ensure that the proposal is consistent with the state's broadband plan and priorities. Please confirm collaboration and consultation.

Do you confirm collaboration and consultation with the appropriate organization?

\* Response

Yes

No

**Project Details Question 4**

**State and Local Collaboration Narrative**  
Please provide information on the applicant's coordination with applicable State, Territory, Tribal, and local governments, including their awareness of the proposed project and any potential impact to respective service areas; and

Information regarding the applicant's involvement and coordination with community organizations or other relevant partners in the proposed service area.

**This response is limited to 3000 characters as an open field narrative.**

\* Response

Save and Next

 Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal

 Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal

 Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal



# Project Details – Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose



## Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose

**Confirm via Y/N** that the eligible entity will make a binding commitment to prioritize **at LEAST ONE** of the following per Section 60401(e) of the IIJA in questions 1-3:

### Question 1:

Connecting Middle Mile Grant infrastructure to last mile networks that service unserved areas

### Question 2:

Connecting non-contiguous trust lands

- Describe in narrative (1,000 characters)

### Question 3:

Offering wholesale broadband service

**Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose**

**Binding Commitment**  
As directed by Section 60401(e) of the Infrastructure Act, each applicant must make a binding commitment to prioritize at least one of the following via the funded middle mile network. The commitment should be described in the Executive Summary.

**Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose Question 1**  
Will the project connect middle mile infrastructure to last mile networks that provide or plan to provide broadband service to households in unserved areas?  
\* Response  
 Yes  
 No

**Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose Question 2**  
Is the project connecting non-contiguous trust lands?  
\* Response  
 Yes  
 No  
Please describe:  
\* Response

**Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose Question 3**  
Do you commit to offering wholesale broadband service at reasonable rates on a carrier-neutral basis?  
\* Response  
 Yes  
 No



Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal



Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal



Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal



# Project Details – Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose cont.



## Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose

**Confirm via Y/N** that the eligible entity meets **at least TWO** of the following five requirements in questions 4-8 in order to receive priority in programmatic review

### Question 4:

Adopts fiscally sustainable Middle Mile Grant strategies (*ref Budget Narrative*)

### Question 5:

Commits to offering non-discriminatory interconnect to parties that request it (*ref Interconnect Policy*)

### Question 6:

Identifies specific terrestrial and wireless last mile broadband providers that have (i) requested interconnection and (ii) demonstrated sustainable plans/funding sources for interconnection (*ref Level of Need Narrative*)

Submit financial documents that demonstrate anticipated revenues associated with MM projects, e.g., financial studies & analyses

- Purpose: Validate revenues are sufficient for long-term provision of service

**Statutory Purpose**  
As directed by Section 60401(d)(2) of the Infrastructure Act, the MMG Program will prioritize applications that meet at least two of the following five criteria:

**Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose Question 4**  
The eligible entity adopts fiscally sustainable middle mile strategies. This strategy should be described in the Budget Narrative.

Do you attest to this?  
\* Response ⓘ  
 Yes  
 No

**Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose Question 5**  
The eligible entity commits to offering non-discriminatory interconnect to terrestrial and wireless last mile broadband providers and any other party making a bona fide request. This policy will be described in the Interconnect Policy.

Do you attest to this?  
\* Response ⓘ  
 Yes  
 No

**Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose Question 6**  
The eligible entity identifies specific terrestrial and wireless last mile broadband providers that have(i) expressed written interest in interconnecting with middle mile infrastructure planned to be deployed by the eligible entity; and ii) demonstrated sustainable business plans or adequate funding sources with respect to such interconnection. This may be demonstrated in the Level of Need narrative of the Exec Summary.

\* Response ⓘ  
 Yes  
 No

**Note: Required Financial Documentation is uploaded with Budget Narrative**

 Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal

 Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal

 Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal



# Project Details – Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose cont.



## Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose

Confirm via Y/N that the eligible entity meets **at least TWO** of the following five requirements in questions 4-8 in order to receive priority in programmatic review

### Question 7:

Identified supplemental investments or in-kind support to accelerate completion of project (*ref Project Timeline Narrative*)

### Question 8:

Demonstrated MMG infrastructure will benefit national security interests (*ref National Security Interests Narrative, next slide*)

**Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose Question 7**

The eligible entity has identified supplemental investments or in-kind support (such as waived franchise or permitting fees) that will accelerate the completion of the planned project. Such acceleration may be described in the Project Timeline narrative.

Do you attest to this?

\* Response

Yes

No

**Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose Question 8**

The eligible entity has demonstrated that the middle mile infrastructure will benefit national security interests of the United States and the Department of Defense. The benefits may be explained in the Benefitting National Security Interests Narrative.

Do you attest to this?

\* Response

Yes

No

**Note: As directed by Section 60401(d)(2) of the IIJA the Middle Mile Grant Program will prioritize applications that meet at least two of the five criteria.**

 Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal

 Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal

 Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal



# Project Details – Benefitting National Security Interests



## Benefitting National Security Interests (1,000 characters)

Include project's benefits to national security, e.g.:

- Redundancy and resiliency of telecommunications networks that support broadband services
- Other commercial telecommunications services
- Protection of critical national infrastructure (power grid, transmission facilities)
- Border security
- Physical infrastructure sensors
- Monitoring, etc.

**Benefitting National Security Interests Narrative**  
Relevant considerations here include, but are not limited to, whether the funded middle mile infrastructure will increase the redundancy and resiliency of telecommunications networks that support broadband services, other commercial telecommunications services, protection of other critical national infrastructure (e.g., the national power grid and power transmission facilities), border security, or other physical infrastructure sensor and monitoring.

This response is limited to 1000 characters as an open field narrative.

\* Response

[Previous](#) [Save and Next](#)



Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal



Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal



Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal





# Project Details - Project Timeline



## Project Timeline

### Question 1:

Applicants must select the number of years for the project (1-5)

### Question 2:

Enter a narrative (3,000 characters) that demonstrates:

- a) Project Path
- b) Capital Investment Schedule
  - Demonstrate yearly buildout
- c) Potential Acceleration
  - Explain if the project can be accelerated with supplemental investments or in-kind support
- d) Completion Objectives
  - Consider network design, securing licenses, site preparation, inside/outside plant deployment, operational support systems, and network testing

**Project Timeline**

**Project Timeline Question 1**

Project Duration  
Number of Years

\* Response

**Project Timeline Question 2**

**Project Timeline Narrative**

The narrative requires the Applicant to describe a project with critical path, including key milestones for implementation of the project, preparations, and risk factors; and a capital investment schedule evidencing that the applicant will complete build-out and the initiation of service within five years of the date on which the entity receives the grant and will meet interim buildout requirements set forth herein and in any other binding document.

If the project is able to be accelerated with supplemental investments or in-kind support to meet a statutory purpose, this should be explained.

This response is limited to 3000 characters as an open field narrative.

\* Response

**Steps**

- ✓ Project Details
- ✓ Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose
- Project Timeline
- Tribal Certification and Supplemental Information
- Program Details

**Notes: Round-up years if timeline range is not a whole integer**



Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal



Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal



Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal



# Project Details - Project Timeline cont.



## Project Timeline

### Question 3:

In addition to the narrative, the Applicant's project plan file must be uploaded




**Project Timeline Question 3**


**Project Timeline File**

Applicants are asked to upload a template which will denote key milestones for implementation of the project, including but not limited to field survey, network design, equipment/material procurement, environmental assessment, permitting, construction, network testing, network activation and completion.

Upload

 Upload Files Or drop files

\* Upload

 Upload Files Or drop files

FileName  Upload Date



Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal



Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal



Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal





# Project Details - Tribal Certification & Waivers

## Waiver of Alternative Requirements Requested

- **ALL** waiver or requirement modification requests to the project must be included here. Should specify necessity:
  - For effective delivery or administration of grants
  - For the construction, improvement, or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure on trust land.
- Check & upload waiver if applicable

## Tribal Land Certification – Unserved or Underserved

- A Tribal Government may certify whether an area within its own Tribal Land is unserved or underserved **based on criteria of its choosing**
- Must provide a statement on Tribal letterhead that:
  - Notes the area being certified as unserved or underserved
  - Explains how the determination was made
  - Provides any supporting information available

### Special Rules exist for Tribal Governments & Native Entities

Waivers & Alternative Requirements may be granted if considered necessary (NOFO III.G.1 )

 Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal

 Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal

 Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal

# Project Details - Program Details

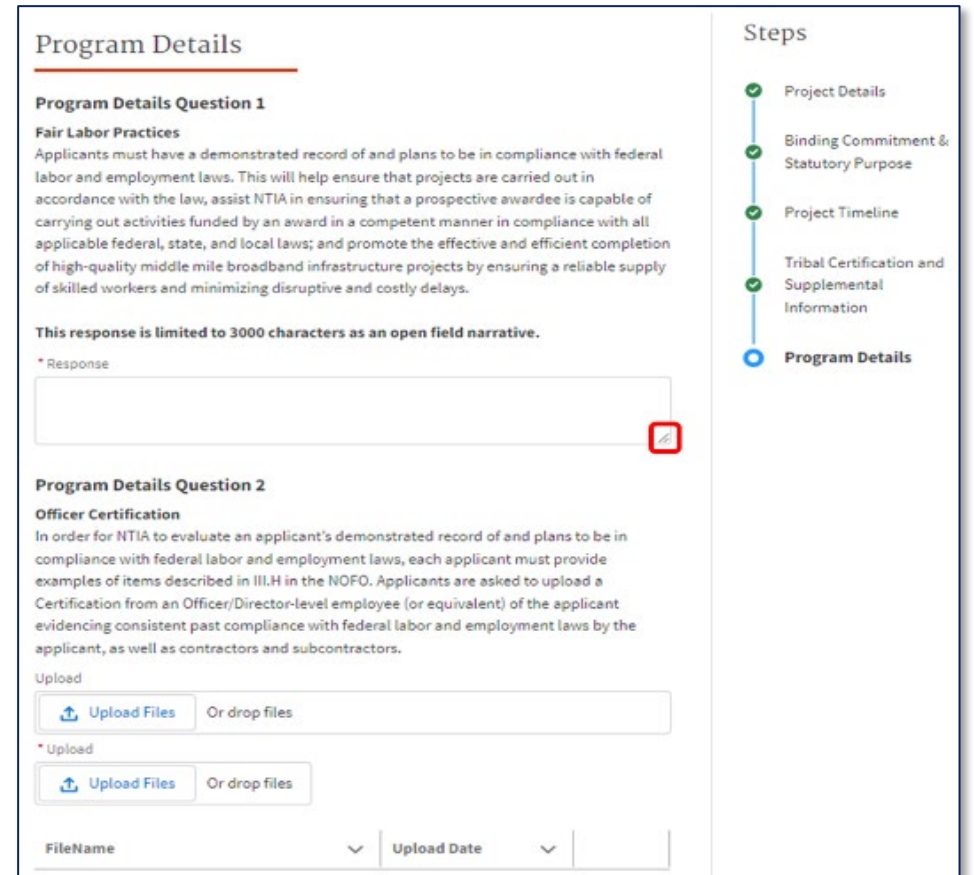


## Question 1 - Fair Labor Narrative (3,000 characters)

- Demonstrate compliance with federal labor and employment laws by providing examples of items described per the NOFO III.H

## Question 2 – Officer Certification

- Upload a certificate from a director-level employee or officer
  - An officer certification is an affirmation of compliance with Fair Labor and Employment Laws by an authorized individual within the company.



**Program Details**

**Program Details Question 1**  
**Fair Labor Practices**  
Applicants must have a demonstrated record of and plans to be in compliance with federal labor and employment laws. This will help ensure that projects are carried out in accordance with the law, assist NTIA in ensuring that a prospective awardee is capable of carrying out activities funded by an award in a competent manner in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws; and promote the effective and efficient completion of high-quality middle mile broadband infrastructure projects by ensuring a reliable supply of skilled workers and minimizing disruptive and costly delays.

This response is limited to 3000 characters as an open field narrative.

\* Response

**Program Details Question 2**  
**Officer Certification**  
In order for NTIA to evaluate an applicant's demonstrated record of and plans to be in compliance with federal labor and employment laws, each applicant must provide examples of items described in III.H in the NOFO. Applicants are asked to upload a Certification from an Officer/Director-level employee (or equivalent) of the applicant evidencing consistent past compliance with federal labor and employment laws by the applicant, as well as contractors and subcontractors.

Upload

Upload Files Or drop files

\* Upload

Upload Files Or drop files

FileName Upload Date

**Steps**

- Project Details
- Binding Commitment & Statutory Purpose
- Project Timeline
- Tribal Certification and Supplemental Information
- Program Details**



Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal



Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal



Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal



# Program Details: Highly Skilled Workforce & Workforce Development



## Question 3 – Highly Skilled Workforce Narrative (3,000 characters)

- Applicants must submit a plan for ensuring that the project workforce will be appropriately skilled and credentialed as per NOFO III.I

## Question 4 – Advancing Workforce Development Narrative (3,000 characters)

- Provide examples of advancing workforce development through appropriate investments in a diverse and well-trained workforce as per NOFO III.J

**Program Details Question 3**  
**Highly Skilled Workforce**  
To ensure that applicants have the technical and operational capacity to carry out the project, applicants must submit a plan for ensuring that the project workforce will be an appropriately skilled and credentialed workforce (including by the applicant and each of its contractors and subcontractors). The plan for a highly skilled workforce should include the information described in III.I in the NOFO.

**This response is limited to 3000 characters as an open field narrative.**

\* Response

**Program Details Question 4**  
**Advancing Workforce Development**  
A skilled workforce is critical to meeting infrastructure buildout timelines under the Infrastructure Act and connecting households across the country to reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband. A well-trained workforce will also allow for the safe deployment of sustainable networks. To meet the workforce needs of the MMG Program, applicants must make appropriate investments to develop a skilled, diverse workforce. Each applicant must provide as part of its application examples of items described in III.H in the NOFO.

**This response is limited to 3000 characters as an open field narrative.**

\* Response

 *Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal*

 *Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal*

 *Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal*



# Program Details: Climate Resiliency & Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination Law



## Question 5 – Climate Resiliency (3,000 characters)

- Demonstrate that weather and climate-related risks related to Middle Mile Grant program infrastructure projects have sufficiently been accounted for and there are plans to combat those per NOFO III.I

## Question 6 – Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination Law Compliance

- Y/N: Applicants must agree to set nondiscrimination requirements by future binding commitment set forth by the legal authorities listed per NOFO III.L

**Program Details Question 5**  
**Climate Resiliency**  
Please demonstrate that the applicant has sufficiently accounted for current and future weather- and climate-related risks to new MMG Program infrastructure projects. In particular, each applicant should clearly demonstrate how it is conducting the items listed in III.I in the NOFO.

This response is limited to 3000 characters as an open field narrative.

\* Response

**Program Details Question 6**  
**Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination Law Compliance**  
Prior to distributing any MMG Program funding to a prospective awardee, NTIA will require the prospective awardee to agree, by contract or other binding commitment, to abide by the non-discrimination requirements set forth in III.J in the NOFO.

Do you agree to abide by the non-discrimination requirements?

\* Response

Yes  
 No

[Previous](#) [Save and End](#)

 Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal

 Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal

 Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal



# TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES

Questions 2 through 4 are limited to 3000-character narrative responses

## Upload Certification of Technical Capability

## Technical Overview Narrative (3,000 characters)

- Applicant must describe targeted last mile service objectives, including last mile service provider letters of commitment or contracts
- Applicant must describe proposed service offerings. This includes the pricing of the services to be offered over the proposed facility

**Note: Applicants are encouraged to upload supplemental documentation.**

Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal

Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal

Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal

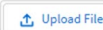
**Technical Capabilities Question 3**  
**Competitive Landscape**  
The Applicant should describe existing middle mile offerings in the area, if any, including competitor data if applicable. This should include a description of the proposed service offerings, including the pricing and technology of the services to be offered over the proposed facility. Where possible, Applicant's project should be able to demonstrate a decline in middle mile costs that are likely to flow through to consumer broadband prices.

This response is limited to 3000 characters as an open field narrative.

\* Response

Applicants are encouraged to upload supplemental documentation.

Upload

 Upload Files Or drop files

FileName	Upload Date
----------	-------------

**Technical Capabilities Question 4**  
**Interconnect Policy**  
The Applicant must describe in detail the nondiscrimination, interconnection, and network management practices that would be adopted for the project facilities. The Applicant should describe how it will comply with nondiscrimination and interconnection obligations, particularly with connectivity to the public Internet and physical interconnection for the exchange of traffic. In addition to describing network management practices, the Applicant should disclose any practices in place to block access to illegal or harmful content.

This response is limited to 3000 characters as an open field narrative.

\* Response

[Save and Next](#)

## Competitive Landscape Narrative (3,000 characters)

- Applicant should be able to demonstrate decline in Middle Mile Grant costs that are likely to flow through to consumer broadband prices

## Interconnect Policy (3,000 characters)

- Describe network management practices that will comply with nondiscrimination & interconnection obligations while blocking access to illegal & harmful content
- Applicant will include the URL to the publicly available interconnection policy and verify that such policy is to be offered in perpetuity.

### When Completing Narratives

- Compose narrative responses offline, then copy and paste into narrative text fields
- Save and archive narrative responses for record keeping purposes



Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal



Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal



Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal



# Technical Capabilities



**Determine Technology Details:**  Fiber Optic Technology  Wireless  Other

For Question 1, if 'Fiber Optic Technology' is selected, applicant must click radio button to select a response to the expanded section.

If 'Fiber' is selected, a mandatory narrative field will auto populate and applicant must certify that upon completion of project, BB service speeds will be no less than 1 Gigabit per second for downloads and 1 Gigabit per second for uploads within designated parameters.

**Technology Details**

**Technology Details Question 1**  
Type of technology to be used in proposal:

\* Response

Fiber Optic Technology  
 Wireless  
 Other

If Other, please describe:

\* Response

-

Each applicant of an award to build middle mile infrastructure using fiber optic technology shall certify that the proposed project, upon completion, will include direct interconnection facilities that will facilitate the provision of lit broadband service, at speeds not less than 1 Gigabit per second for downloads and 1 Gigabit per second for uploads to anchor institutions located within 1,000 feet of the middle mile infrastructure, as detailed in the Template CAI below.

Do you agree to certify to the above?

\* Response

Yes  
 No

An eligible entity applying for a middle mile grant may seek, and the Assistant Secretary may grant, a waiver of the requirements set out in the previous paragraph, in full or in part, to the extent the eligible entity demonstrates that the requirement is not technically or economically feasible.

Do you plan to apply for a waiver? If yes, please attach the waiver application in the Application Workspace, the Application Information section, Required Documents under Required Document Question 4 "Additional Waiver Upload".

\* Response

Yes  
 No

If a Wireless or Other technology type is proposed, a certification statement is optional.

**Note: Applicants selecting 'Fiber' must upload Template Community Anchor Institution (CAI)**



Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal



Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal



Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal





# Technical Capabilities



## Network Route Map

- Project area highlighting unserved/underserved areas
- Pre-existing service area with current service levels
- Physical path of network's transmission medium
- Points of interconnection
- Wireless towers & associated coverage areas
- Anchor Institutions within 1,000 feet

### Network Route Map must delineate between network & facilities that are:

1. Part of the Applicant's/key partners' existing network;
2. Proposed as part of this project;
3. Leased from a third party;
4. Utilized under some alternative arrangement; or
5. Relevant to interconnection with either Last Mile or Middle Mile service providers

**Technology Details Question 3**  
**Network Route Maps**  
Applicants should provide a physical network map that includes the following (if applicable):

- The Project Area and those unserved and underserved areas which it will enable.
- Applicant's pre-existing service area that demonstrates current service levels.
- The physical path of the network's transmission medium (e.g., backbone and lateral cable routes, microwave links), transmission type, technology, operating bandwidth, capacity (e.g., dark vs. lit strand count), and cable placement (e.g., aerial, burial) should be displayed.
- Points of interconnection (purely passive and non-environmentally controlled nodes, e.g., splice points are optional):
  - Provider Facilities
  - Collocation Facilities
  - Private Interconnection Points with partnering service provider/private network
- Wireless towers and associated coverage areas.
- Anchor institutions within 1,000 feet, if desired.
- Additionally, the maps should delineate between network and facilities that are:
  - Part of the Applicant's/key partners' existing network;
  - Proposed as part of this project;
  - Leased from a third party;
  - Utilized under some alternative arrangement; or
  - Relevant to interconnection with either Last Mile or Middle Mile service providers.

**PLEASE NOTE: Only ESRI Shapefiles will be accepted and uploaded.**

Upload

Or drop files

FileName	Upload Date
----------	-------------

**Note: Only ESRI Shapefiles will be accepted and uploaded (.shp, .shx & .dbf)**



Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal



Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal



Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal



Applicants are required to complete fields

OMB Control No. 0660-0046  
Expiration Date: 11/30/2022

**Middle Mile Grant Program Applicant Submission Data Specifications**

Applicants of the NTIA Middle Mile program must include all interconnection points on the network proposed as well as route miles. Applicants should provide data in the following formats specified below to complete their applications.

**Interconnection Points**

<b>Description:</b>	Applicants must submit a table with information on all proposed interconnection points for the network. This table has three required fields: Point Name, Latitude and Longitude (see descriptions below). Additional fields specified below are optional or will be added by NTIA post application processing.
<b>Acceptable Data Formats:</b>	csv, xls, xlsx, txt (with proscribed headers)

**Fields**

	Field Name	Field Type	Field Description
<b>Required Fields</b>	Point Name	TEXT	Name or unique ID used to identify the point within the applicant's own system.
	Latitude	DOUBLE	Latitude (Y) of the point location in decimal degrees (accurate to at least 4 decimal places)
	Longitude	DOUBLE	Longitude (X) of the point location in decimal degrees (accurate to at least 4 decimal places)
	Type	TEXT	The type of point, Point-of-Presence (PoP), Hub, Splice Point, etc.
<b>Optional Fields</b>	Description	TEXT	Any additional descriptive information the applicant may wish to provide, limited to 255 characters.
<b>NTIA Added Fields</b>	NTIA Grant ID	TEXT	This field will be added in Salesforce after the data is submitted and populated with the applicant's unique NTIA ID for application processing purposes.

**Route Miles**

<b>Description:</b>	Applicants must submit a GIS file to show the location of the route miles proposed. The file must contain two required fields: Segment Name and Technology (see descriptions below).
<b>Acceptable Data Formats:</b>	Zipped Shapefile (shp, shx, dbf and other supporting files)

**Fields**

	Field Name	Field Type	Field Description
<b>Required Fields</b>	Segment Name	TEXT	Name or unique ID used to identify the line segment within the applicant's own system.
	Technology	TEXT	Technology used in the network segment: Fiber, Cable, DSL
<b>NTIA Added Fields</b>	NTIA Grant ID	TEXT	This field will be added in Salesforce after the data is submitted and populated with the applicant's unique NTIA ID for application processing purposes.

## Data Submission Specifications



Applicants must complete and upload the “Data Submission Specification Template” with information for all interconnection points proposed for the network. All three required fields of the template must be completed:

- Point Name
- Latitude
- Longitude

This should accommodate information for all interconnection points proposed for network access, points to Last Mile service providers, Internet peering points, and towers.



Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal



Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal



Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal

# Technical Capabilities

## Network Logical Diagram

Applicant must provide network diagrams that including all network elements and the capacity, facilities, and mileage between each element. The diagram must denote the network elements that already exist while explicitly demonstrating:

- Links between the network nodes
- Internet access peering points
- Proposed aggregation node facilities that will serve as egress point
- Points of interconnection and collocation facilities
- For Wireless Systems, the antennae height, proposed frequencies, and approximate coverage area for each access point

## Environmental Narrative (1,000 characters)

- Applicants must comply with environmental regulation (e.g., National Environmental Policy Act)
- Applicants must include site and aerial photographs

### While developing the Network Diagram

- Indicate points of interconnection for third party service providers and Internet peering points.
- Show miles between points, use of existing ducts or poles/overlay versus new build, and in-ground versus aerial, and lateral versus backbone.
- Denote basic equipment types and capacity figures at key aggregation nodes.



*Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal*



*Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal*



*Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal*

# REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

---

# Required Documents



**Required Project Documents**

**Required Project Documents Question 1**  
**Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement**  
This is a document published to reflect an estimate of indirect cost rate negotiated between the Federal Government and a Grantee's organization which reflects the indirect costs (facilities and administrative costs) and fringe benefit expenses incurred by the organization. This must be completed, if applicable.

Upload

Or drop files

FileName	Upload Date	
Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreemen.pdf-State of California-GRN-000396	06/10/2022	

**Required Project Documents Question 2**  
**Template Table of Funded Partners and Unfunded Collaborators**  
List all funded and unfunded project collaborators, including partners, subrecipients, match providers, major contractors/supplies, details on role/scope of work for project. A fillable Template of Funded Partners and Unfunded Collaborators can be found in found in the MMG ZIP folder.

Upload

FileName	Upload Date	
MMG Template Table of Funded Part. and Unfunded Collaborators.pdf-State of California-GRN-0...	06/10/2022	

## Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement

Each applicant must provide a document that estimates the indirect rate negotiated between the Federal Government and a Grantee's organization which reflects the indirect facilities and administrative costs incurred by the organization. This must be completed, if applicable.

## Template Table of Funded Partners and Unfunded Collaborators

List all funded and unfunded project collaborators and provide details on their scope of work. Fillable Template "Funded Partners and Unfunded Collaborators" must be completed and uploaded



Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal



Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal



Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal



# Required Documents



## Certificate of Operational Capability

Each applicant must supply and upload

- A certification from an officer-level employee attesting to the applicant's operational capability to complete and operate the proposed project.
- A certification attesting that an FCC form 477s and Broadband DATA Act has been submitted from an officer-level employee
- If the Applicant has operated only an electric transmission or distribution service, it must submit qualified operating or financial reports

**Required Project Documents Question 3**


**Certificate of Operational Capability**


Each applicant must supply a certification from an officer-level employee (or individual of comparable rank) attesting to the applicant's operational capability to complete and operate the proposed project.

If the applicant has provided a voice and/or broadband internet access service, it must supply a certification from an officer-level employee (or individual of comparable rank) attesting that it has filed FCC Form 477s and the Broadband DATA Act submission, if applicable, to the extent required during this time period and otherwise complied with the Commission's rules and regulations. Alternatively, the applicant must explain any pending or completed enforcement action, civil litigation, or other matter in which it was alleged to have failed to comply with Commission rules or regulations.

If the applicant has operated only an electric transmission or distribution service, it must submit qualified operating or financial reports that it has filed with the relevant financial institution for the relevant time period along with a certification that the submission is a true and accurate copy of the reports that were provided to the relevant financial institution.

Upload

 Upload Files Or drop files

FileName	Upload Date	
Certificate of Operational Capability.pdf-State of California-GRN-000396	06/10/2022	

**Save and End**



Item uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal



Item input directly into the NTIA Grants Portal



Fillable form uploaded by applicant into the NTIA Grants Portal



# Applicants should pay close attention to application requirements to avoid delays in review



## Common Mistakes

In previous NTIA programs, some of the most common reasons for curing included **missing or incomplete forms**. Additional curing reasons included:

- Documents uploaded in incorrect file type, format, or template
- Inconsistent or inaccurate information across application narratives, summaries, and forms
- Incorrectly selecting Y/N options
- Password protected documents that cannot be opened
- Images and text in uploaded documents are blurry and cannot be clearly read

➤ Ensure that all NTIA required forms, templates, and documents related to Applicant Information have been **uploaded** into the NTIA Grants Portal, including:

- Network Logical Diagram
- Network Route Maps (ESRI Shapefile only)
- Data Submission Specification Template
- Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
- Table of Funded Partners & Unfunded Collaborators
- Certificate of Operational Capability
- Certificate of Technical Capability
- Other Technical Capabilities documents, as needed
- Tribal Waivers & Certifications, as applicable

➤ Ensure that Project Name and budget information are consistent across all forms





# Applicants should implement best practices to make certain the application is prioritized and not delayed



## Best Practices

---

- Thoroughly read through the NOFO for a comprehensive understanding
- Communicate, connect, and collaborate with your broadband offices
- Draft narrative information offline and save forms for record-keeping purposes
- Copy and paste all narratives from separately saved documents
- Always use NTIA provided templates when available
- Confirm that all required forms are properly completed prior to upload
- Ensure that summary information is consistent across all forms; write the Executive Summary last
- Do not include non-public information in the Executive Summary
- Document that the eligible entity meets at least TWO or more statutory requirements in questions 4-8 so the application is prioritized in programmatic review







## Additional resources about the Middle Mile Grant Program

- 1 Visit the [InternetForAll.gov](https://InternetForAll.gov) for additional information on federal funding programs
- 2 Engage with your State or territory regarding their plans to improve high-speed Internet access
- 3 Submit questions to [middlemile@ntia.gov](mailto:middlemile@ntia.gov)
- 4 Attend future NTIA webinars, including program-specific application guidance webinars for applicants





**INTERNET  
FOR ALL**

**Programmatic inquiries**

**Sarah Bleau**

Middle Mile Director  
Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth  
National Telecommunications and  
Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230  
Phone: (202) 482-2048  
Email: [middlemile@ntia.gov](mailto:middlemile@ntia.gov)

**Grant Management inquiries**

**Scott McNichol**

NIST Grants Officer  
Grants Management Division  
National Institute of Standards and  
Technology 325 Broadway  
Boulder, CO 80305  
Phone: (303) 497-3444  
Email: [scott.mcnichol@nist.gov](mailto:scott.mcnichol@nist.gov)

---

**Media inquiries**

**Stephen F. Yusko**

Public Affairs Specialist  
Office of Public Affairs  
National Telecommunications and  
Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW,  
Room 4897  
Washington, DC 20230  
Phone: (202) 482-7002  
Email: [press@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:press@ntia.doc.gov)

**For specific inquiries, please contact the appropriate office**

