

**INTERNET  
FOR ALL**

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# Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program

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July 25, 2024



# Housekeeping

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## Questions

- Type questions in the Q&A box on the right-hand side of the screen.

## Presentation

- The presentation, along with a recording of the webinar, will be available on the BroadbandUSA website under Events/Past Events.



# Speakers



- **Alan Davidson, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information and NTIA Administrator**
- **Angela Thi Bennett, Digital Equity Director, Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth, NTIA**
- **Michell Morton, Deputy Director, Digital Equity, Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth, NTIA**
- **Charles McKee, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth, NTIA**



# Disclaimer



*This document is intended solely to assist applicants in better understanding the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program and the requirements set forth in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and follow-on policies and guidance for this program. This document does not and is not intended to supersede, modify, or otherwise alter applicable statutory or regulatory requirements, the terms and conditions of the award, or the specific application requirements set forth in the NOFO. In all cases, statutory and regulatory mandates, the terms and conditions of the award, the requirements set forth in the NOFO, and follow-on policies and guidance, shall prevail over any inconsistencies contained in this document.*



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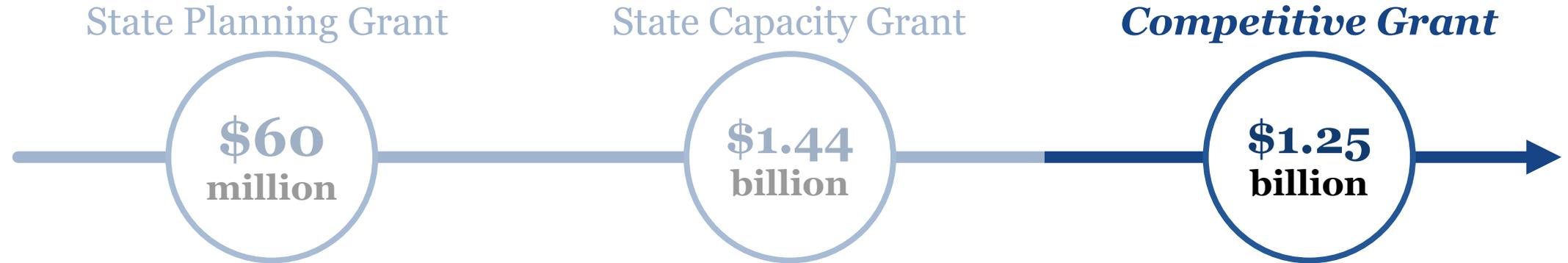
# Introduction to the Competitive Grant Program

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# The Digital Equity Act & the Competitive Grant Program



The Competitive Grant Program is the third digital equity funding opportunity authorized by the Digital Equity Act.



**Who** Open to **U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico**

Open to U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, that **completed the State Planning Program**

Open to **certain entities**, such as political subdivisions, Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Entities, or Native Hawaiian organizations, nonprofits, community anchor institutions, local educational agencies, workforce development organizations. Territories are eligible to apply for a separate set-aside.

**What** Grants will be used to **develop a State Digital Equity Plan**

Grants will be used to **implement State Digital Equity Plans**

Grants will be used to **develop and implement digital inclusion activities**



# Defining Key Terms

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# Defining Key Terms for the Competitive Grant Program



The programs outlined in the Digital Equity Act focus on promoting large scale social and economic change by centering on **digital equity**, **digital inclusion**, and **digital literacy** among the **Covered Populations**.



## **Digital Equity** (47 USC 1721(10))

The condition in which individuals and communities have the information technology capacity that is needed for full participation in the society and economy of the United States.



## **Digital Inclusion** (47 USC 1721(11))

The activities that are necessary to ensure that all individuals in the United States have access to, and the use of, affordable information and communication technologies such as:

- Reliable fixed/wireless broadband service
- Internet-enabled devices that meet the needs of the user
- Applications/online content designed to enable and encourage self-sufficiency, participate and collaboration
- Obtaining access to digital literacy training
- The provision of quality technical support
- Obtaining basic awareness of measures to ensure online privacy and cybersecurity



## **Digital Literacy** (47 USC 1721(12))

The skills associated with using technology to enable users to find, evaluate, organize, create, and communicate information.



# Competitive Grant Program: Covered Populations



The Competitive Grant Program seeks to serve the Covered Populations as defined in the Digital Equity Act (**47 U.S.C. §1721(8)**). Awards will *focus on addressing* the needs of the Covered Populations **not met** by the Capacity Grant Program.



Individuals who live in **covered households** (defined as households with **income of not more than 150% of the poverty level**)



Individuals with **disabilities**



**Aging** individuals



Individuals with a **language barrier**, including individuals who are English learners and have low levels of literacy



**Incarcerated individuals** (as defined by the State or Territory), other than individuals who are incarcerated in a Federal correctional facility



Individuals who are members of a **racial or ethnic minority group**; and



**Veterans**



Individuals who primarily reside in a **rural area**

**Note:** For more information on the Capacity Grant Program and to view the Capacity Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity and Applicant resources, visit: [broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/funding-programs/Digital\\_Equity\\_Capacity\\_Grant\\_Program](https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/funding-programs/Digital_Equity_Capacity_Grant_Program).



# Understanding the Competitive Grant Program

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# What is the Purpose of the Competitive Grant Program?

The purpose of the Competitive Grant Program is to **achieve** digital equity, **promote** digital inclusion activities, and **spur greater adoption of broadband** among **Covered Populations**. The program aims to make progress against several categories of social and economic goals including:



# Principles of the Competitive Grant Program

NTIA seeks applications for programs and activities that ***address gaps in the implementation*** of State Digital Equity Plans, will ***supplement or further advance*** State Digital Equity Plans and/or proposals that ***address barriers that were not identified*** in the current State Digital Equity Plans.

NTIA **encourages** proposals that demonstrate a **broad partnership of entities** with the ability to **administer significant resources** and address the varied concerns of the Covered Populations.

***Partnerships should demonstrate:***



The ability to administer resources

**AND**



Address the varied concerns of the Covered Populations

NTIA encourages innovative approaches that transcend existing Digital Equity programs.

# Focus of Competitive Grant Program Projects

The Competitive Grant Program is the final component of the Digital Equity Act’s framework for addressing digital equity and inclusion. NTIA seeks to fund activities that address the root causes of digital inequities in a measurable way.

*Projects must consider:*



**ALIGNING WITH THE GOALS OF THE DIGITAL EQUITY ACT**

- Prioritizing Covered Populations including their subgroups
- Prioritizing projects with the greatest impact potential



**PROMOTING LONG LASTING, MEANINGFUL CHANGE**

- Addressing systemic barriers and gaps to digital access
- Sustainability



**USING MEASURABLE IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

- Basing activities on objectives that are measurable, achievable, sustainable, timebound, and are designed to address identified disparities directly and logically



**INVOLVING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

- Involving and encouraging stakeholders who are directly affected by the proposed strategies to provide feedback

# Allowable Activities

An Eligible Entity or U.S. Territory to which a Competitive Grant is awarded must use the grant funds to support not less than 1 of the following activities:



### Digital Inclusion Activities



To develop and implement digital inclusion activities that benefit one or more of the Covered Populations.



### Adoption of Broadband



To facilitate the adoption of broadband by Covered Populations to provide educational and employment opportunities to those populations.



### Upgrade Public Access Centers



Construct, upgrade, expand, or operate new or existing public access computing centers for Covered Populations through community anchor institutions.



### Implement Training Programs



Implement training programs for Covered Populations that cover basic, advanced, and applied skills or other workforce development programs, including, for example, digital inclusion projects that address online safety, and work to prevent online harassment and abuse.



### Make Available Equipment



To make available equipment, instrumentation, networking capability hardware and software, or digital network technology for broadband services to Covered Populations at low or no cost.



In the spirit of innovative approaches that transcend existing Digital Equity programs, *applicants may also undertake any other project or activity that the Assistant Secretary finds to be consistent with the purposes for which the Program is established.*

# Prohibited Activities and Uses of Funding



The Competitive Grant Program NOFO prohibits the following activities and uses of funding:

### Prohibition on Supplanting



A grant or subgrant awarded under the Competitive Grant Program **shall supplement, not supplant**, other federal or State funds that have been made available to carry out activities described.

### Prohibition on Profit or Fees



A profit, fee, or other incremental charge above actual cost is **not an allowable cost** under this program.

### Prohibition on Use of Grant Funds to Support/Oppose Collective Bargaining



Grant funds awarded pursuant to this program **may not be used**, whether directly or indirectly as an offset for other funds, **to support or oppose collective bargaining**.

### Prohibition on General Research



Projects **must be limited to serving the Covered Populations** and **may not include general research projects** or academic studies of digital equity or the Covered Populations.

**NOTE:** Applicants CANNOT use Capacity Grant Funds, or funds from any other NTIA funded grant program, for the purposes of completing the Competitive Grant Program Application.



# Competitive Funding Pool



NTIA expects to make individual Competitive Grant Program awards to Eligible Entities, including Native Entities, within a range of \$5,000,000 and \$12,000,000.



## Funding Range

*\$5,000,000 to \$12,000,000*

- Eligible Entities requesting award amounts outside that range **must explain** why their application falls **below/above this range**.



## Remaining Funds

- NTIA will issue one or more additional NOFOs under the DE Competitive Program to issue remaining funds



# Competitive Funding Pool: Focus on Native Entities



As required by the Digital Equity Act, NTIA has set aside five (5) percent (\$37,500,000) of Competitive Grant Program funds for Native Entities and will increase this amount to \$50,000,000 if the fiscal year 2025 funds become available.

**Note:** *Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Entities, and Native Hawaiian organizations may apply for Competitive Grant Program funds on their own behalf, as an Authorized Representative of a partnership, or as a participant in a partnership. To qualify for the Native Entity set-aside, the applicant or Authorized Representative must be a Native Entity, and all intended beneficiaries must be Covered Populations that are members of a Native Entity.*



**Award size will be determined based on number of applications and funding amount requested**



**The application deadline is September 23, 2024**

NOFO Sections II.D and III.A



# Competitive Funding Pool: Focus on Territories



As required by the Digital Equity Act, NTIA has set aside one (1) percent (\$7,500,000) of Competitive Grant Program funds for U.S. Territories and will increase this amount to \$10,000,000 if the fiscal year 2025 funds become available. This set aside is **only** for U.S. Territories, whereas organizational entities in the U.S. Territories can apply to the general pool of funding.

**Note:** *U.S. Territories are not Eligible Entities under the Statute and cannot participate directly in the Competitive Grant Program, so these funds will be made available through a **separate review process** using the **same application requirements**.*



**No individual award will exceed \$2,500,000**



**Award size will be determined based on number of applications and funding amount requested**



**Minimum award amounts are *expected* to be greater than \$1,000,000 (not a required minimum)**



**The application deadline is **October 22, 2024****



# Eligible Applicants: Organizational Entities



The NOFO identifies eligible entities in Section III.A. Entities must have a track record of administering resources and be prepared to support the goals of the Digital Equity Act through funded activities. Eligible Entities are asked to self-identify as one of the applicant entity types listed below:

-  Political Subdivision, Agency, Instrumentality
-  An Indian Tribe, Alaska Native Entity, Native Hawaiian Organization
-  Foundation, Corporation, Institution, or Association
-  Community Anchor Institution
-  Local Education Agency
-  Entity that Carries Out Workforce Development Program
-  Partnership Between Any of the Entities Described Above

 **Clarifications**

**Agencies of a State** includes those responsible for administering or supervising adult education, literacy activities, or providing public housing

**Foundation, Corporations, etc.** must be a not-for-profit entity and not a school

**U.S. Territories** may ONLY apply for the territorial set aside. Native Entities are also eligible to participate in the Native Entity set aside.



# Eligibility Information

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# Eligible Applicants: Authorized Representatives (AR)



NTIA encourages organizations to apply in partnerships. When applying as a partnership, one Eligible Entity must be designated as the applicant for the partnership and serve as the “Authorized Representative.”

## QUALITIES OF AN ELIGIBLE AR



Qualifiers:

- ✓ Is an Eligible Entity per the Competitive Grant Program NOFO
- ✓ Submits a binding Letter of Commitment (“LOC”) from each member of the partnership demonstrating authority to file on behalf of the partners, if applicable
- ✓ **Has not** submitted an application individually or **as the Authorized Representative** for another Competitive Grant Program partnership application



*Did you know...?*

All Eligible Entities must have an Authorized Organizational Representative. An AOR **must have signatory authority** not only on behalf of the organization they work for, but all organizations in the partnership (if relevant)



An AR Eligible Entity may participate as a **member** of more than one partnership so long as it is not the Authorized Representative for more than one partnership



# Eligible Applicants: Authorized Representatives (AR) Cont.



Applicants should know what experiences or events disqualify them from applying as an Authorized Representative

## QUALITIES OF AN ELIGIBLE AR



Disqualifiers:

- ✘ Served/is serving as the Administering Entity (AE) for the Digital Equity Planning Grant Program
- ✘ Served/is serving as the Administering Entity (AE) for the Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program
- ✘ Submitted an application as the Authorized Representative of an Eligible Entity or as a partnership of Eligible Entities



*Did you know...?*

All Eligible Entities that have served or are serving as the Administering Entities for any Digital Equity Act Grant Program(s) are not eligible to apply as an AR for the Competitive Grant Program. !



# Program Requirements and Restrictions

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# Cost Sharing & Matching Requirements



Cost sharing is required for the Competitive Grant Program . NTIA will give additional consideration to applications that exceed the minimum matching requirement during the review process.

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## KEY FIGURES & CONCEPTS:



**Amount of a Competitive Grant Awarded:** The amount of a Competitive Grant awarded may not exceed 90% of the total project cost (i.e., grantees must secure at least 10% matching funds).

*\*The Assistant Secretary may grant a waiver if an applicant petitions for a waiver and demonstrates financial need.\**



**Matching Funds:** Matching funds may be in the form of either cash or in-kind contributions consistent with the requirements outlined in 2 C.F.R. 200.306.



**In-Kind Contributions:** In-kind contributions are non-cash donations of property, goods or services. In-kind contributions must be allowable and allocable project expenses.

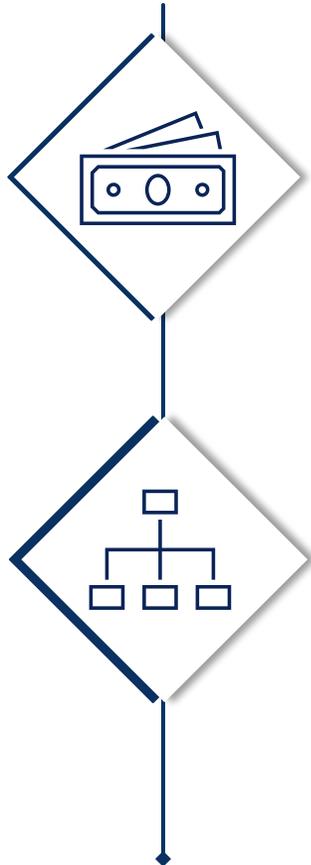
**Note:** Updated 2.CFR.200 requirements will apply throughout the application and post-award period.



# Funding Caps



The following are the funding caps set for the Competitive Grant Program:



## **10% Cap on Evaluation**

A recipient that receives a grant under the Program shall use no more than 10 percent of the grant amount to measure and evaluate the activities supported with the grant amounts.

## **10% Cap on Administrative Costs**

A recipient that receives a grant under the Program shall use no more than 10 percent of the grant amount for administrative costs in carrying out any of the activities described in Section IV.C.1 of the NOFO. The 10% limitation on administrative costs includes the combined total of indirect and direct administrative costs charged to an award.



# Performance Measurement and Evaluation



Recipients and subrecipients are required to incorporate program measurement and evaluation activities as a part of program design and implementation. Information collected should include, but is not limited to:

## Societal and Economic Goals Being Addressed

For each activity or intervention, the grant recipient must **explain** how the activity or intervention facilitates the purpose of the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program, specifically by promoting one or more of the following:

- Economic stability including workforce development and employment opportunities
- Education Access
- Health care access
- Social and civic engagement
- Community access to the benefits of Internet technology

## Analysis of Program Effectiveness

The grant recipient **must submit** an overall assessment of the effectiveness of the programs along with results, protocols, and instruments used to collect data:

- Include whether the intended objectives were accomplished
- Include whether the program resulted in measurable changes in participants from Covered Populations
- Provide data demonstrating progress toward the goals and objectives caused by the project or activity as opposed to other causes
- Show how efficiently the program achieved its goals



# Performance Measurement and Evaluation Metrics



Recipients and subrecipients are required to incorporate program measurement and evaluation activities as a part of program design and implementation. It is recommended that applicants review State Digital Equity Plans for common metrics. Information collected should include, but is not limited to:



**Covered Populations**

**Clearly *identify* the Covered Population or Covered Populations being served**

***Report* the number of individuals that belong to each Covered Population being served**



**Individuals Served**

***Report the total* number of individuals being served**



**Anecdotal/ Personal Experiences**

***Collect and report* anecdotal/personal testimonies that demonstrate the positive experiences generated through the program**



# Infrastructure Act and Additional Reporting Requirements



Grant recipients will be required to submit four types of reports.



### Annual Reports

Grant recipients are required to publicly report for each year during the period of performance.



### Evaluation Report

Grant recipients shall submit a report of each measurement and evaluation performed of the activities funded beginning no later than 15 months after the award date, and annually thereafter. NTIA anticipates requesting this report be submitted in tandem with the Annual Report.



### Financial Reports

Grant recipients are required to submit an SF-425, Federal Financial Report on a semiannual basis.



### Performance (Technical) Report

Grant recipients are required to submit a technical progress report for the period ending June 30 of each year except during initial year of award.

### Report Due Dates

- Annual & Evaluation* : Annually on January 30
- Performance (Technical)*: Annually on July 30
- Financial*: Twice annually on January 30 and July 30

### Note: Human Subjects Research

If research is conducted or supported by the grant award, recipients must review guidance for human subjects research protections and act in accordance with Protection of Human Subjects requirements and reporting



# Federal Award Administration Information

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# Federal Award Notices & Unsuccessful Applications



Applicants will be notified in writing if their application is selected or if their application is unsuccessful.

## Federal Award Notice to Applicants



Applicants will be **notified in writing by the NIST Grants Officer** if their application is selected for an award. The Officer will issue the grant award.



By signing and returning Form CD-450, the **recipient agrees to comply** with all award provisions, terms, and conditions.

## Notification to Unsuccessful Applications



Unsuccessful applicants will be **notified in writing by email and will have the opportunity to receive a debriefing**. Applicants **must make a request within 10 business days of the email or written notification** to receive a debrief from NTIA



NTIA will then work with the unsuccessful applicant to arrange a date and time for the debrief.

## Retention of Unsuccessful Applications



Unsuccessful applications will be retained in accordance with NTIA recordkeeping requirements.



# Administrative and National Policy Requirements



Grant recipients must comply with applicable statutes and regulations, including but not limited to:

 <p><b>UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS, COST PRINCIPLES, AUDIT REQUIREMENTS</b></p>	 <p><b>DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS</b></p>	 <p><b>PRE-AWARD NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS</b></p>
 <p><b>BUILD AMERICA, BUY AMERICA ACT DOMESTIC CONTENT PREFERENCE REQUIREMENTS</b></p>	 <p><b>DOMESTIC PREFERENCE FOR PROCUREMENTS</b></p>	 <p><b>CONTRACTING WITH SMALL AND MINORITY BUSINESSES, WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, AND LABOR SURPLUS AREA FIRMS</b></p>
 <p><b>CYBERSECURITY BEST PRACTICES</b></p>	 <p><b>PRIVACY</b></p>	 <p><b>REPORTING</b></p>

**Note:** Updated 2.CFR.200 requirements will apply throughout the application and post-award period.

NOFO Section VI

For more information on 2.CFR.200 visit: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/22/2024-07496/guidance-for-federal-financial-assistance>



# Transparency, Accountability, and Oversight



Grant recipients have a critical role to play in ensuring that the Competitive Grant Program is implemented in a manner that ensures transparency, accountability, and shall, as appropriate:



Comply with the reporting requirements in the NOFO



Comply with the obligations set forth in the Digital Equity Act, NOFO, 2 C.F.R. Part 200, and terms and conditions



Conduct audits of sub-recipients and award management and report the full results of any audits they conduct



Establish and widely publicize telephone numbers and email addresses for reporting waste, fraud, or abuse

NOFO Section VIII.G.



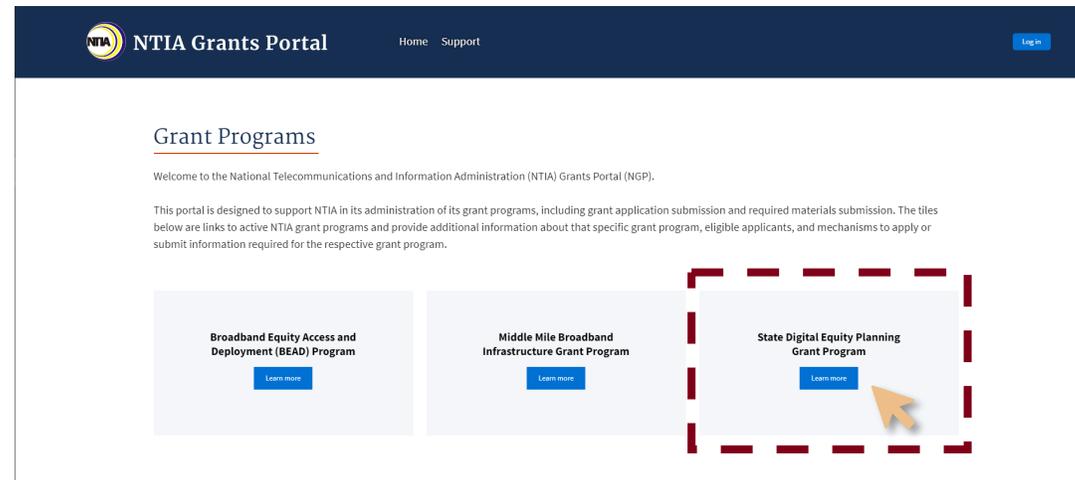
# **General Application Information**

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# How to Apply for the Grant



The Competitive Grant Program has forms and requirements that are unique to the program and require special attention.



**The NTIA Grants Portal can be accessed at <https://grants.ntia.gov>.** From the Grant Programs page, click the Learn More button under “Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program (2024)” to reach the home page. Log in with your account or create an account if you don’t have one. Additional instructions can be found in the Application Guidance.

***\*NOTE: The Application Portal will open: August 14, 2024\****

***Applicants must have an active SAM.gov account and UEI to register for access to the portal.***



# System for Award Management (SAM)



Entities doing business with the Federal government must use the Unique Entity ID (UEI) created in SAM.gov. NOFO Section IV.E describes the System for Award Management (SAM) requirements, including the following:

- ✓ Applicants must provide **evidence of the applicant's registration on SAM.gov**
- ✓ Applicants need to **upload an exported PDF of the SAM.gov profile** of the identified applicant.
- ✓ Applicants must ensure that the documentation includes the following:
  - Legal Name;
  - SAM UEI; and
  - Expiration date of the registration

## **New SAM.gov Users**

Applicants who are new to SAM.gov may register their entity or receive a UEI by signing into SAM.gov and selecting “Get Started,” then “Register Entity.” The free annual registration process in SAM.gov **generally takes between 3 and 5 business days but can take more than three weeks**. Applicants should register early.

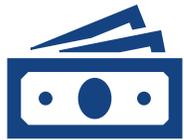


# Standard Application Forms



NOFO Section IV.B.21 identifies the following standard Federal financial assistance forms and documentation that are required for this application:

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**Standard Form 424:** Application for Federal Assistance. Provides basic applicant information to NTIA. Applicants are encouraged to complete the fillable form to ensure they have all necessary information before entering it into the NGP.



**Standard Form LLL:** Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable). Applicants that need to disclose applicable lobbying activities must submit this form.



**CD-511** Certification Regarding Lobbying. Applicants must upload this form to certify that Federal funds have not and will not be used for lobbying in connection with this application.



**Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA)** (as applicable). If indirect costs are included in the budget, applicants must upload a copy of the NICRA if the rate was negotiated with a cognizant Federal audit agency.



# Application Review Process: General

NOFO Section V defines the application review process.



## Initial Eligibility and Administrative Review

This stage ensures applications contain required information and documentation, and that information was submitted in a timely manner.

## Merit Review

Applications that pass Initial Eligibility and Administrative Review will be reviewed and scored based upon the criteria outlined in V.C of the NOFO.

## Programmatic Review

Applicants that receive a score of 70 or higher during merit Review are Qualified for Programmatic Review and will be prioritized and grouped with similarly qualified applications. Programmatic review will result in a ranked list of proposed projects for OICG review.

**OICG Associate Administrator Review and Final Project Selection:** Following the conclusion of the Programmatic Review, the OICG Associate Administrator will review the ranked list of applications and recommend a final list of applications to the Assistant Secretary of Commerce who is the Selecting Official for this program. The Assistant Secretary will submit a final award slate to the NIST Grants Officer, who will give the final approval. The award decisions of the NIST Grants Officer are final. Awards will be made on a rolling basis.

# Application Review Process: Native Entities

Native Entity and Native Entity partnership applications will be considered as part of the Competitive Grant Program review process below.



## Initial Eligibility and Administrative Review

This stage ensures applications contain required information and documentation, and that information was submitted in a timely manner.

## Merit Review

Applications that pass Initial Eligibility and Administrative Review will be reviewed and scored based upon the criteria outlined in V.C of the NOFO.

## Programmatic Review

Applications that receive at least a 70 score during Merit Review will be reviewed under Programmatic Review. Applications determined to be qualified for funding will be put forward for OICG Associate Administrator Review and recommendation to the NTIA Assistant Secretary.

**OICG Associate Administrator Review and Final Project Selection:** Following the conclusion of the Programmatic Review, the OICG Associate Administrator will review the ranked list of applications and recommend a final list of applications to the Assistant Secretary of Commerce who is the Selecting Official for this program. The Assistant Secretary will submit a final award slate to the NIST Grants Officer, who will give the final approval. The award decisions of the NIST Grants Officer are final. If there are insufficient qualified applications to exhaust the set aside, any remaining funds will be made available to Native Entities through future Competitive Grant Program NOFO(s).

# Application Review Process: U.S. Territories



Because U.S. Territories are not Eligible Entities for the Competitive Grant Program, U.S. Territory applications must be considered separately. U.S. Territories must submit application consistent with the instructions in Section IV of the NOFO.



## Initial Eligibility and Administrative Review

This stage ensures applications contain required information and documentation, and that information was submitted in a timely manner.

## Merit Review

Applications that pass Initial Eligibility and Administrative Review will be reviewed and scored based upon the criteria outlined in V.C of the NOFO.

## Programmatic Review

Applications that receive at least a 70 score during Merit Review will be reviewed under Programmatic Review. Applications determined to be qualified for funding will be put forward for OICG Associate Administrator Review and recommendation to the NTIA Assistant Secretary.

**OICG Associate Administrator Review and Final Project Selection:** Following the conclusion of the Programmatic Review, the OICG Associate Administrator will review the ranked list of applications and recommend a final list of applications to the Assistant Secretary of Commerce who is the Selecting Official for this program. The Assistant Secretary will submit a final award slate to the NIST Grants Officer, who will give the final approval. The award decisions of the NIST Grants Officer are final. Any remaining funds will be made available to U.S. Territories through future NOFO(s).



# Next Steps



Applicants for the Competitive Grant Program can prepare for application submission by following the steps outlined below:

- 1 Review NOFO
- 2 Review Eligibility Information
- 3 Register for SAM.gov or check your registration
- 4 Engage Stakeholders
- 5 Identify Partnerships
- 6 Review State DE Plans
- 7 Register for the Competitive Application Webinar
- 8 Review the Application Guidance
- 9 Prepare Application Materials
- 10 Submit application in the Grants Portal



# Key Dates Reminder



Please note the following key dates and deadlines coming up for the Competitive Grant Program.

## Application Due Dates



Complete applications from Eligible Entities, including Native Entities, must be received by the NTIA application portal no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on **September 23, 2024**. (NOFO Section IV.F)

Complete applications from U.S. Territories must be received by the NTIA application portal no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on **October 22, 2024**. (NOFO Executive Summary Section M)

## Issuing Awards



NTIA expects to complete its review, select successful applicants, and begin award processing by Winter 2024. NTIA may, subject to NIST Grants Office Approval, announce awards made under the Competitive Grant Program on a rolling basis. (NOFO Section IV.F)

## Period of Performance



Except for measurement and evaluation activities required under the Digital Equity Act and the NOFO, grant recipients must expend the grant amounts within four (4) years after the date on which the entity is awarded the grant. **No extensions to the four-year Period of Performance or the one-year evaluation period will be granted.** (NOFO Section II.B)





**THANK YOU**

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