

**INTERNET
FOR ALL**

Digital Equity Act of 2021 Competitive Grant Program Applicant Training Part 7: Final FAQs

Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

*Administered by the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and
Information Administration (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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General Competitive Grant Program Overview FAQs

General Competitive Grant Program Overview



- Who is eligible to apply to the Competitive Grant Program?
- Are Native Entities eligible to apply to the Competitive Grant Program?
- Are the entities in U.S. Territories that served as the Administering Entity for the Planning Grant Program and Capacity Grant Program U.S. Territory set-asides eligible to apply for the U.S. Territory set-aside under the Competitive Grant Program?
- How will applications be evaluated during Initial Eligibility and Administrative Review?
- How will applications be evaluated during Merit Review?
- How will applications be evaluated during Programmatic Review?



General Competitive Grant Program General Application FAQs

General Application Questions



- What must be included in an application for the Competitive Grant Program?
- What should Eligible Entities include in the Competitive Grant application Project Narrative?
- What happens if an application is found to be incomplete during the Initial Eligibility and Administrative Review?
- How will organizational capability be evaluated in the application?
- Can an Authorized Representative submit multiple applications?
- Will NTIA retain unsuccessful applications submitted for the 2024 Competitive NOFO and consider them for future Competitive NOFOs?
- Who can an applicant contact if they have problems in the NTIA Grants Portal (NGP)?



General Competitive Grant Awards and Funds/Allowable Uses/Consolidated Budget Form

Awards and Funds/Allowable Uses/Consolidated Budget Form



- What are the allowable uses of Competitive Grant Program funds?
- Is there a Cost Sharing or Match requirement?
- What are some sources of cost sharing or matching funds?
- What happens if the cost share or matching requirement is not met?
- Can federal funds be used for cost sharing or matching funds?
- Is match (both in-kind and cash) subject to the 10% caps on Evaluation and Administrative Costs?*



Awards and Funds/Allowable Uses/Consolidated Budget Form



- Can an Eligible Entity receive Competitive Grant Program funding if it is receiving other sources of Federal or State funding for broadband?
- What should Eligible Entities include in a Consolidated Budget Form?
- What costs are subject to the 10% Administrative Cap? What costs are not subject to the 10% Administrative Cap?*



General Competitive Grant Subrecipients

Subrecipients



- In the application, can applicants propose subgranting funds to unknown subrecipients or running a subrecipient selection process during the award period?
- Are partnerships from entities across U.S. States and Territories permitted under a single application?



Additional Resources

Additional Resources



- Department of Commerce Office of Acquisition Management's [Financial Assistance Policy](#) – Provides financial assistance regulations, policies, and guidance that shape the financial assistance environment within the DOC, including:
 - **Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions:** This document sets out the standard terms and conditions applicable to DOC financial assistance awards.
 - **Department of Commerce Grants and Cooperative Agreements Manual:** This document sets forth DOC guidance on federal award administration and provides DOC with a uniform set of minimum procedures to govern the award lifecycle.
- [Digital Equity Act at a Glance](#) - Provides certain key information on the Digital Equity Act of 2021
- [Digital Equity Act Programs](#) - Provides an overview of the Digital Equity Act Programs and specific information for the Competitive Grant Program
- [Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program Get Ready One-Pager](#)– Provides basic information and tips for applicants to get ready for the Competitive Grant Program
- NTIA's [System for Award Management Guidance for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Program Applicants](#) - Provides guidance on how to access, register, and complete required documentation in SAM.gov
- [Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 200 \(2 CFR Part 200\)](#) - Contains the regulations on awarding and administering federal grant funds. On April 22, 2024, OMB published updates to 2 CFR 200 in the [Federal Register at 89 FR 30046](#). These updates will apply to all awards issued under the DE Competitive Grant Program. An unofficial redline of these updates was published by the Chief Financial Officers Council, and is available on the [CFO.gov website](#).



Applicants should consider the following resources when completing their Competitive Grant Program Consolidated Budget Form



Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program Consolidated Budget Form Guidance

- This guidance provides a comprehensive overview of the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program Consolidated Budget Form and details key considerations for each tab and cost category.



Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program Application Guidance

- This guidance document provides an overview of Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program components, requirements, and best practices.



Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program Consolidated Budget Form Sample

- This sample Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program Consolidated Budget Form provides examples of recommended language to include in a strong Consolidated Budget Form.



Digital Equity Competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

- The Competitive Grant Program NOFO provides a description of the specific program and its Consolidated Budget Form requirements



THANK YOU

