



Infrastructure Deployment Application Guidance

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program 3

This document is intended solely to assist applicants in better understanding the TBCP 3 program, requirements set forth in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) 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 NOFOs. In all cases, statutory and regulatory mandates, the terms and conditions of the award, the requirements set forth in the NOFOs, and follow-on policies and guidance, shall prevail over any inconsistencies contained in this document.

National Telecommunications and Information Administration
1401 Constitution Ave., NW Washington, DC 20230



C O N T E N T S

1	Introduction	3
1.1	Purpose	3
1.2	Application Guidance Overview	3
1.3	Standard Terms and Conditions for the Department of Commerce Grants	4
2	Application Checklist	7
3	Systems Registrations and Required Roles	9
3.1	System for Award Management (SAM).GOV	9
3.2	Electronic Research Administration (ERA) Commons	10
3.3	Grants.gov.....	10
4	Forms and Documentation Required for All Infrastructure Deployment Applications	12
4.1	Federal Financial Assistance Forms	12
4.2	Certifications Regarding Debarment and Suspension (Appendix A)	12
4.3	Project Information Form (PIF).....	12
4.4	Funded and Unfunded Entity Form	13
4.5	A Tribal Government Resolution or Equivalent Formal Authorization.....	13
4.6	A BEAD Tribal Resolution (If applicable)	14
4.7	Resumes of Key Personnel	15
4.8	Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) with A Cognizant Federal Agency	15
4.9	Infrastructure Deployment Project Narrative.....	16
4.10	Infrastructure Deployment Consolidated Budget Form (CBF)	20
4.11	Network Sustainability Plan	20
4.12	Maps of Proposed Service Areas	21
4.13	Physical Network Diagrams	23
5	Application Submissions Instructions	23
5.1	Grants.gov Submission (Recommended)	24
5.2	Emailed Submission	24
5.3	Mailed Submission	25
5.4	Contact.....	25

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to support applicants in applying for **Infrastructure Deployment (ID)** funding under the **Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP 3)**. For support in applying for Use and Adoption (UA) funding, see the Use and Adoption Application Guidance available on broadbandusa.ntia.gov.

Before preparing and submitting an application, applicants are encouraged to read the statutory authority, the TBCP 3 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), this Application Guidance, and the program pages on broadbandusa.ntia.gov. By carefully reviewing these materials, applicants will help ensure that their application is complete and satisfies the requirements of the program.

Per the TBCP 3 NOFO Section IV.G, applications for this grant can be submitted through *one* (1) of the following methods: (i) through www.grants.gov; (ii) electronic mail; or (iii) postal mail or courier. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their application via Grants.gov.

Completed applications **must be received no later than 11:59p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on September 17, 2026**. Applications submitted by postal mail or courier service must be postmarked or show clear evidence of mailing by the same date and time.

1.2 APPLICATION GUIDANCE OVERVIEW

This document provides instructions to familiarize applicants with each component of the TBCP 3 application, in addition to information on submission methods. The document is structured to include the following sections:

- 2.0 Application Checklist**: A checklist to help applicants prepare and assemble all the materials required for a complete application
- 3.0 Required Roles and System Registrations**: Guidance on identifying key points of contact and system registrations
- 4.0 ID Application Requirements**: Explanation of application materials and other requirements
- 5.0 Application Submission**: Instructions for each method of submission

This document includes callout boxes with extra guidance or reminders. Look for the two (2) symbols used in these callouts:



The triangle with exclamation indicates an important **reminder or requirement that needs close attention.**



The lightbulb highlights **an additional tip, example, or helpful information.**

1.3 STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE GRANTS

Recipients of funding pursuant to this program must comply with applicable statutes, regulations, executive orders and policies including but not limited to:

- Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements: Through 2 C.F.R. § 1327.101, the Department of Commerce adopted Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 C.F.R. Part 200, which apply to awards in this Program. Refer to [2 C.F.R. Part 200](#).
- Department of Commerce Financial Assistance General Terms and Conditions: The Department of Commerce will apply to each award in this Program the Financial Assistance General Terms and Conditions in effect on the date of award. The current version, dated May 19, 2025, is accessible at [Department of Commerce Financial Assistance General Terms and Conditions](#). Refer to Section VII of this NOFO, Federal Awarding Agency Contacts, Grant Rules and Regulations, for more information.
- Pre-Award Notification Requirements: The Department of Commerce will apply the Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements dated December 30, 2014 (79 FR 78390) Refer to Section G. of this NOFO, Federal Awarding Agency Contacts, Grant Rules and Regulations, for more information.
- Environmental and National Historical Preservation Requirements: Awarding agencies are required to analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. 300101 *et seq.*), for applicant proposals and awardee projects seeking funding under the TBCP. Additionally, in accordance with Section 2(a)(1) of Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, before taking an action, the applicant, in coordination with NTIA, must determine whether a proposed action will occur in a floodplain. Applicants with projects containing construction and/or ground disturbing activities are required to submit all required environmental documentation with their application package or describe in their project narrative the physical project location and include photographs, as described above, and how they will comply with applicable environmental and national historical preservation requirements. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain all necessary federal, state, and local governmental permits and approvals necessary for the proposed work to be conducted. Applicants are expected to design their projects so that they minimize the potential for adverse impacts on the environment. Applicants also will be required to cooperate with NTIA in identifying feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposed projects. The failure to do so may be grounds for not making an award. Applications will be reviewed to ensure that they contain sufficient information to allow agency staff to conduct a NEPA analysis so that appropriate NEPA documentation can be submitted to NTIA, along with the recommendation for funding of the selected applications. If additional information is required after an application is accepted for funding, funds can be withheld by NTIA under a special award condition requiring the awardee to submit additional environmental



compliance information sufficient for the agency to make an assessment of any impacts that a project may have on the environment.

- Property Trust Relationship and Public Notice Filings for Grant-Acquired Property: In accordance with 2 C.F.R. 200.316, real property, equipment, and intangible property that are acquired or improved with a federal award must be held in trust by the recipient or subrecipient as trustee for the beneficiaries of the project or program under which the property was acquired or improved. In this connection, NTIA may require the non-federal entity to record liens or other appropriate notices of record to indicate that personal or real property has been acquired or improved with a federal award and that use and disposition conditions apply to the property. Awards issued pursuant to this NOFO may contain specific award conditions pertaining to the use and disposition of grant-acquired property and to a requirement that the recipient or subrecipient file certain public notices (e.g., UCC-1, Covenant of Purpose, Use and Ownership, etc.) with respect to grant-acquired property.
 - Tribal Laws including TERO, Environmental Protections Ordinances, and other applicable Tribal laws enacted by the Tribal Government.
 - The Davis Bacon Act, Public Law 71-798, 46 Stat. 1494 (Mar. 3, 1931) (Davis Bacon Act) is not applicable to the TBCP; thus, Tribes may use their Tribal Force Account Wage Rates in lieu of Davis Bacon Act Wage Rates.
- Build America, Buy America Domestic Content Procurement Preference Requirements. TBCP Broadband Infrastructure Deployment projects present an important opportunity to ensure that American taxpayer dollars are spent procuring needed products and supplies from American workers and businesses, strengthening and growing U.S. domestic manufacturing capacity. Accordingly, all funds made available through TBCP for Broadband Infrastructure Deployment projects must comply with the following requirements:

Pursuant to IJA, Pub. L. No. 117-58, which includes the BABA, Pub. L. No. 117-58, §§70901-52, and Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-22-11,²⁴ recipients of an award of federal financial assistance from the Department of Commerce are hereby notified that none of the funds provided under this award may be used for a project for infrastructure unless:

 - 1) all iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States--this means all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States;
 - 2) all manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States—this means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States; and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard for determining the minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product has been established under applicable law or regulation; and
 - 3) all construction materials are manufactured in the United States—this means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States.
- Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management: Recipients and subrecipients must ensure that the planning, design, and project oversight

phases of the programs and activities funded through the TBCP are consistent with current industry best practices for cybersecurity, such as the NIST Cybersecurity Framework and Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Cybersecurity Performance Goals (CPGs). These performance goals provide a baseline set of cybersecurity practices that are broadly applicable, with known risk-reduction value. NTIA reserves the right to review a recipient's cybersecurity framework and recipients must review the cybersecurity framework of its subrecipients.

- Executive Order 14173: Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit Based Opportunity: Pursuant to Executive Order 14173, 90 FR 8633 (Jan. 21, 2025), Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity, each recipient that accepts a U.S. Department of Commerce financial assistance award: (1) agrees that compliance in all respects with all applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws is material to the government's payment decisions for purposes of section 3729(b)(4) of Title 31 United States Code; and (2) certifies to the Department that it does not operate any programs promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion that violate any applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws.

2 APPLICATION CHECKLIST

The checklist below includes all NOFO requirements for an ID application. The checklist can be used to confirm whether all preparation steps have been taken and whether all required documents and forms are ready for submission.

Infrastructure Deployment Application Submission Checklist		
Section	Preparation	TBCP
3.1	Active SAM.gov Registration	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.1.1	Role appointed: EBiz Point of Contact	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2	Active eRA Account	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2.1	Role appointed: Signing Official (<i>eRA</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.3	Active Grants.gov Account	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.3.1	Role appointed: Authorized Organizational Representative (<i>EBiz, Grants.gov, other legal documentation</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Section	Requirement	TBCP
4.1	SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.1	SF 424 D Assurances for Construction Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.1	CD-511 Certification Regarding Lobbying	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.1	SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2	Certifications Regarding Debarment and Suspension (Appendix A) (Completed through application submission)	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.3	Project Information Form (PIF)	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4	Funded and Unfunded Entity Form	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.5	A Tribal Government Resolution or Equivalent Formal Authorization	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.6	A BEAD Tribal Resolution (If Applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.7	Resumes of Key Personnel	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.8	Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA)	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.9	Infrastructure Deployment Project Narrative Form	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.10	Infrastructure Deployment Consolidated Budget Form (CBF)	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.11	Network Sustainability Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.12	Maps of Proposed Service Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>

Infrastructure Deployment Application Submission Checklist		
4.13	Physical Network Diagrams and System Designs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Download Application Documents		
For TBCP 3 Infrastructure Deployment Applications		Link



3 SYSTEMS REGISTRATIONS AND REQUIRED ROLES

Eligible Entities applying for funding must complete and maintain active registrations in three federal systems: [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov), eRA Commons, and [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov). These registrations must be fully completed before submitting an application, active at the time of submission, and kept current for as long as the organization has an active award or a pending application. Because each system has its own processing timeline, applicants are strongly encouraged to begin registration early. Failure to register properly may result in the applicant being ruled ineligible for funding.

Before beginning the system registrations, please carefully consider who will be assigned as POC and their accessibility and involvement in the application process. Some POC roles, such as the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR), require frequent administrative action, including but not limited to signing on behalf of the award, submitting the application, and communicating directly with the agency.

3.1 SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT (SAM).GOV

An active SAM.gov registration and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) are required at the time of application submission and award. Applicants without an active registration may be deemed ineligible. **Registrations must be kept active and current for the full duration of any pending federal application or active award.**

Pursuant to the NOFO, applicants without an active SAM.gov registration and/or UEI at the time of application submission and award may be deemed ineligible for a grant award by NTIA.

For helpful information on setting up and using a SAM.gov account, follow this link to their website's help section: sam.gov/help.



The annual registration process in SAM.gov is free and generally takes between 7 and 10 business days, but it can take up to 2–8 weeks or longer if issues arise. Applicants should register early.

3.1.1 ROLES IN SAM.GOV

The SAM.gov registration process includes designating an Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC).

- Only one EBiz POC is allowed per UEI.

- The EBiz POC’s responsibilities include (but are not limited to): completing registration in Grants.gov, creating the Organization Applicant Profile, managing Grants.gov access for the organization, and assigning and authorizing applicant roles.



Your SAM.gov username and password are managed by [Login.gov](https://login.gov). Select *Sign In* on SAM.gov to go to Login.gov to sign in or to set up an account. Once you're signed in at Login.gov, you'll be returned to SAM.gov.

3.2 ELECTRONIC RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION (ERA) COMMONS

eRA Commons registration is required and is a one-time, free process that authorizes institutions to apply for federal grants and manage grant activity. Organizations previously registered **do not** need to re-register and can verify status using the eRA Commons search tool. Active SAM.gov registration and UEI are required before eRA registration.

For helpful information on creating an eRA account, follow this link to their website’s help section: era.nih.gov/erahelp.



Registration may take 2-4 weeks. Signing Officials should start as early as possible to avoid any issues that may arise during the registration process.

3.2.1 ROLES IN ERA

The Signing Official (SO) has signature authority and must be the individual to complete registration in eRA. The SO’s responsibility includes creating additional accounts for users within the organization.



The SO must be the same person as the AOR assigned in Grants.gov for the final submission of a grant application.

3.3 GRANTS.GOV

All applicants must have an active Grants.gov account to submit an application using this method. The account must be created using the same email address and UEI (created by the EBiz POC) in SAM.gov.

For helpful information on setting up and using a Grants.gov account, follow this link to their website’s help section: grants.gov/help.



Creating the Grants.gov account typically takes 1 to 3 days. However, the required SAM.gov registration (and obtaining a UEI) is the longest step.

3.3.1 ROLES IN GRANTS.GOV

The AOR is assigned by the EBiz POC in Grants.gov and carries the legal authority to bind an applicant's organization.

The AOR's responsibilities include (but are not limited to): submitting the application for funding, accepting award terms and conditions, and completing required administrative actions throughout the Period of Performance (including amendments, prior approvals, and required reporting).

Given the time-sensitive nature of these responsibilities, the individual designated as the AOR must have the availability, system access, and administrative capacity to complete actions in federal systems in a timely manner.



Prior funding rounds have demonstrated that delays in application processing, award acceptance, and post-award activities may occur where the designated individual does not have sufficient capacity to carry out these functions.

4 FORMS AND DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR ALL INFRASTRUCTURE DEPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS

4.1 FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FORMS

Every applicant is required to submit four (4) standard federal financial assistance forms with their application. Each form must be signed and dated by the AOR. If submitting through Grants.gov these forms should be completed within the Grants.gov Workspace. For mailed or emailed submissions, the standard forms can be downloaded from the [Grants.gov form repository](#) and should be submitted as a PDF.

- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- Assurances for Construction Programs (SF-424D)
- Certification Regarding Lobbying (CD-511)
- Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)



If there are no lobbying activities to disclose, complete the SF-LLL using 'N/A' in the appropriate fields. The **form must still be submitted** with the AOR signature.


4.2 CERTIFICATIONS REGARDING DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION (APPENDIX A)

By signing and submitting an application for funding pursuant to TBCP 3, the applicant is making the certifications set forth in Appendix A of the TBCP 3 NOFO. Applicants are encouraged to read through Appendix A and fully understand what these certifications entail.

4.3 PROJECT INFORMATION FORM (PIF)


Every application must include a Project Information Form (PIF) in the required template Excel file. Complete the Response column according to the instructions for each applicable row. Submit the form as an Excel file and do not lock or password protect. See Section III in the TBCP 3 NOFO for additional eligibility information.

Field Name	Response	Instructions
Applicant Information		
Applicant Name		Provide the name of your Eligible Entity as it matches your name registered in SAM.gov.
Applicant Type (Drop down)		Please select the Applicant Type using the drop-down (Tribal Government, Tribal College or University, Tribal Organization, Alaska Native Entity, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Native Hawaiian Organization).
Consortium Applicant (Y/N)		Are you applying on behalf of a consortium? Please note: If applying as a consortium, only the lead applicant should submit an application. A consortium application submission must contain authorized Tribal Resolutions attesting to participation in the consortium project. Separate names by semicolon ";". If including more than one tribe or organization.
Applicant Tribe(s) or Organization(s)		Please list the participating tribes or organizations as called out in: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (https://www.bia.gov/2025-10-09) Please note: This will be used for Equitable Distribution consideration under TBCP. Alaska Department of Natural Resources (https://www.alaska.gov/2017-04-26/assessments/naar/) U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Native Hawaiian Relations, Native Hawaiian Organization Notification List (https://www.doi.gov/hawaii/1706) U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Native Hawaiian Relations, Nontraditional & Beneficiary Associations List (https://doi.gov/hawaii/nontraditional-beneficiary-associations) The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
Project Type (Drop down)		Please select the Project Type from among New Use and Adoption (NU), TBCP Use and Adoption (TU) or TBCP Infrastructure Development (ID).

 Information and data submitted in the PIF must match the information and data in all other submitted documents.

4.4 FUNDED AND UNFUNDED ENTITY FORM

Every application must include a Funded and Unfunded Entity Form in the required template Excel file. Carefully read the contents of the Instructions tab before beginning. Complete the form by listing all entities associated with the application. Submit the form as an Excel file and do not lock or password protect.

 The Total Federal Award Request (cell G8) of the template must match the Total Federal Request in Section 18 Estimated Funding (\$) of the SF-424 and Total Federal Cost on the Instructions and Summary Tab of the Consolidated Budget Form.

Funded and Unfunded Entity Form								
Insert information for each funded and unfunded entity, including you the applicant.								
Entity Legal Name	Entity Address	Entity Type	Entity Role	Scope of Work	Funded (Y/N)	Funded Entities Only		
						Total Federal Award Request	Legal Identifiers of Entity	
Insert the entity's name.	Insert the entity's address.	Using the drop-down list, identify if the entity is a Tribal Government, Tribal College or University, Tribal Organization, Alaska Native Entity, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Native Hawaiian Organization, or Other.	Using the drop-down list, identify if the entity's role is an Applicant, Consortium Member, Subrecipient (Sub-Awardee), Contractor, or Collaborator (if they will not receive funding).	Please include a description of this entity's scope of work. For consortium members, address their role in the consortium and/or how they will benefit from their membership within the consortium (approximately 100 words or less).	Using the drop-down list, identify if the entity will be funded within this proposal.	Enter the total federal award request budgeted per entity. Please note, total federal award request should represent the total, reasonable costs required to complete the project.	Insert the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) of the entity if the entity is receiving funding.	Insert the Employer Identification Number (EIN) of the entity if the entity is receiving funding.
						Total Federal Award Request: \$		

4.5 A TRIBAL GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION OR EQUIVALENT FORMAL AUTHORIZATION

Each Eligible Entity applying for Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Project funds is required to submit a Resolution of Consent or equivalent formal authorization from each Tribal Government and/or from the Tribal Council of the appropriate governing body upon whose Tribal Lands the broadband infrastructure will be deployed. The Tribal Government Resolution or equivalent formal authorization must express authority to submit an application for TBCP funding. This is required both when the Eligible



Entity is an applicant and when the Eligible Entity is a member of a Consortium. Consortium applications submitted without resolutions from each Tribe named in the application may be deemed incomplete. The resolution should be submitted as a PDF.

- For Tribal Organizations and Tribal Colleges, even when the Tribal Government is a founding member, a Resolution of Consent from the Tribal Government must still be obtained.
- For Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Projects on Tribal Lands in Hawaii, consent must be obtained from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.
- For Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Projects on Tribal Lands, the applicant must notify all Tribal Governments within their proposed service area. Any Tribal Government located in a proposed service area may choose to define the area for which it will require a Resolution of Consent. The area defined by the Tribal Government must include their local presence and Tribal Member Households and be submitted to NTIA. The Tribal Government may use information submitted in other proceedings, such as the FCC 2.5 GHz Tribal Priority Window. If there is overlap between more than one Tribal Governments' definition of their area, the overlapping Tribal Governments will be given an opportunity to cure by working together to resolve this overlap.
- An Eligible Entity making an application for TBCP 3 funds, whether on its own behalf, as an Authorized Representative of a Consortium, or as a participant of a Consortium, must submit a Tribal Government Resolution or equivalent formal authorization from the Eligible Entity providing express authority to apply for TBCP funds or to participate as a member in a Consortium that is submitting an application for grant funds.



To demonstrate express authority, NTIA recommends including the following to support the resolution:

- Name of the Eligible Entity
- Dated after June 17, 2026 (NOFO release date)
- Express authority to file an application for TBCP 3 funds
- Signature of a leader within the governing authority and/or other governing body

An applicant that does not submit the required Tribal Government Resolution or equivalent formal authorization to file an application may be eliminated from review. A Consortium that fails to submit the required Tribal Government Resolution or equivalent formal authorization from each member of the Consortium as described in Section IV.B of the NOFO may also be eliminated from review.

4.6 A BEAD TRIBAL RESOLUTION (IF APPLICABLE)

If applicable, include a BEAD Tribal Resolution of Consent, approving deployment of BEAD services on the applicant's land consistent with the State Broadband Office's Final Proposal under the BEAD program. The resolution should be submitted as a PDF.

4.7 RESUMES OF KEY PERSONNEL

Every application must include one-page resumes of no more than five (5) key personnel. Any information beyond one page for each resume and any additional resumes will not be considered. There is no required template. The resumes should be submitted as a PDF or Word document.



Key Personnel qualifications and experience may be demonstrated by reference to successful implementation of previously received Federal broadband grants (such as programs administered by NTIA, FCC, USDA, etc.).

4.8 NEGOTIATED INDIRECT COST RATE AGREEMENT (NICRA) WITH A COGNIZANT FEDERAL AGENCY

If indirect costs are included in the proposed budget, the applicant must either (1) provide a copy of its Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) or provisional indirect cost rate agreement, if applicable, or (2) elect to use the *de minimis* rate in accordance with applicable federal requirements. The administrative cap applies to the indirect costs charged to the award. The NICRA should be submitted as a PDF.



If submitting a NICRA, check that your NICRA is up

	Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA)	De Minimis (Modified Total Direct Costs)
	Must be used if the applicant receives more than \$35,000,000 in total federal funding and/or has an existing NICRA	Can only be used if the applicant does not have an existing NICRA
What indirect cost rate does it provide?	Depends on an entity's individual agreement, check the agreement for more details	15%
Who provides this rate?	An applicant's cognizant agency (In most cases, the agency that awards that entity the most funding)	The Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.)
What counts towards the indirect cost base?	Each negotiated agreement is different and should be followed exactly	The Modified Total Direct Costs (See 2 C.F.R. 200.414 for more information)

4.9 INFRASTRUCTURE DEPLOYMENT PROJECT NARRATIVE

The ID Project Narrative must provide a description of the overall goals of the grant proposal, the portfolio of activities the grant award would support (hereinafter, the “Project”), and how the Project will promote the goals of this Program.

The ID Project Narrative Template is a required form that should be submitted as a Word document.



The Elements of the ID Project Narrative



4.9.1 ID PROJECT NARRATIVE: TEMPLATE INSTRUCTIONS

The template serves as a tool to capture responses required for the ID Project Narrative submission for the TBCP 3.

Applicants should provide responses under each section heading in compliance with the section’s word or page limit. Responses longer than the limit will not be reviewed or considered beyond the limit. Applicants may not remove or reorder any section or heading. All applicants must complete each section unless indicated as optional. Applicants may respond with “N/A” in any “As Applicable” section that does not apply to their submission.

4.9.2 ID PROJECT NARRATIVE: TEMPLATE SECTIONS

i. An Executive Summary (not to exceed 1,000 words)

The executive summary should include:

- 1) An overview of the goals of the Project
- 2) A high-level description of the major activities
- 3) A description of the Project's objectives
- 4) A description of the Project's locations (e.g., geographic scope and impacted areas)
- 5) A description of the Project timeline on which funds will be expended



If awarded, the executive summary may be used to publicly announce the award. **Do not include any private or sensitive information.**

ii. Status as Eligible Entity (not to exceed 250 words)

A description demonstrating that applicant(s) are in the category of Eligible Entities, as defined in section 905(a)(8) of the Act.



There can only be one applicant per application, and all named members in a Consortium application must be Eligible Entities.

iii. Demonstrated Need (not to exceed 250 words)

Provide a description of the community needs, problems, and challenges that the proposed Project will address. In accordance with Section 905(c)(8) of the Act, applicants proposing to use grant funds for the construction of new broadband infrastructure must prioritize projects that deploy broadband infrastructure to unserved Native American/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian households. The description should include:

- The total number of unserved Native American/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian households, businesses, and community anchor institutions in the proposed service area that are not subject to an enforceable buildout commitment (i.e., those not currently receiving Internet service with speeds of 25/3 Mbps or greater with latency considerations).
- The percentage of total households in the proposed Project service area at or below 150% of the poverty line (based on HHS Poverty Guidelines) and a description of how the total household percentage was calculated, including data source(s) and any other relevant factors. If census tract-level poverty data does not accurately represent the poverty level of the specific geographic area or population being served, applicants should explain the discrepancy and provide supplemental data sources.



Data provided in the Project Narrative must match the data provided in the [Project Information Form \(PIF\)](#).

- Other supporting demographic data that demonstrates a need for services including, but not limited to, unemployment rates, education level, and other relevant data. Provide an explanation detailing how this data was calculated, and the data source(s) used.



The HHS Poverty Guidelines is a table published each year by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services that provides the calculated percentage of poverty line annual and monthly dollar amounts based on household size. There are separate tables for Alaska and Hawaii. The tables are available to view here: [HHS Poverty Guidelines 2026](#)

iv. **Funded Activities**

A description of the specific Projects and activities to be funded by the grant, eligible uses of funds, and the proposed measurable objectives/outcomes. The description must:

- Identify the total number of Unserved Native American/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian households, businesses, and community anchor institutions to be served by completion of the proposed Project and have access to qualifying broadband speeds (**not to exceed 250 words**).
- Describe plans to deploy Qualifying Broadband Service to Native American/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian households, businesses, and community anchor institutions in the proposed Project area that meets quality of service performance measures such that network outages do not exceed, on average, 48 hours over any 365-day period (**not to exceed 500 words**).
- Provide a description of the pricing for the broadband services that the applicant intends to offer compared to existing broadband services near the proposed service area along with a demonstration that the pricing is competitive and affordable in the target market (**not to exceed 500 words**).
- Provide a description of how the proposed broadband solution can be scaled over time and meet the growing needs of the community and households within the service area (**not to exceed 500 words**).
- Provide a plan to ensure access to an adequate workforce for completing deployment, and whether workforce training and development is needed (**not to exceed 500 words**).
- Federally Recognized Tribes that did not receive a TBCP award in the first or second round should include a description of the activities that they would perform if they were only to receive the equitable distribution allocation of up to \$500,000 (**not to exceed 500 words**).

v. **Project Plan**

Applicants must describe all major activities and timelines for implementation including:

- Describe all major project activities and timelines for implementation, including key milestones and when each major project activity will start and end. Describe how

progress will be tracked and how potential risks to the timeline will be mitigated (**not to exceed 500 words**).



Applicants are encouraged to add tables and charts with sufficient details to show planned activities and milestones.

- Describe the overall project plan, including cost effectiveness (e.g., costs for single network and economies of scale for Consortia), service capacity, timeframes for construction, and scalability (**not to exceed 500 words**).
- Describe the proposed technologies in detail, including how the project will leverage existing telecommunications infrastructure and assets. This should include, as applicable, the use of different technologies to ensure cost effectiveness, the use of existing rights-of-way (ROW), fiber networks, middle-mile and backhaul capacity, and any integration with current systems to enhance efficiency, reduce deployment timelines, and maximize overall network performance (**not to exceed 500 words**).



Applicants are encouraged to reference Appendix B in the NOFO to ensure the proposed cost per Broadband Serviceable Location (BSL) is not considered excessive.

vi. Implementation Team

Provide a description of the Eligible Entity applying for funds, and the qualifications and experience of key personnel responsible for implementing the proposed projects, include the following:

- A.** A description of the implementation team and its experience with the programmatic/technical aspects of project management, including past successes and a demonstrated ability to manage large federal grant awards effectively (**not to exceed 500 words**).



If the implementation team includes key personnel from an entity other than the applicant, the entity must be reflected in the Funded and Unfunded Entity Form.

- B.** A description of how the Eligible Entity will manage both funded and unfunded collaborators and any direct support and/or technical assistance implemented to do so. As applicable, include Consortium members and their role in implementation (**not to exceed 500 words**).

vii. Alignment with Existing Program (not to exceed 500 words)

Describe your coordination with your State's Broadband Office, including alignment with the state's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) implementation plan and whether the applicant provided a Tribal Resolution permitting BEAD deployment on tribal land. Additionally, describe your prior experience coordinating with state and federal broadband initiatives.

viii. Environmental and Historical Preservation (not to exceed 500 words)

Include a description of the physical project location(s) and surrounding areas, total extent and method of ground disturbance (if applicable), ground-level and aerial photos of the proposed sites, and ages of any buildings which would be impacted. For buildings that are over 50 years old, provide photos of installation sites, as well as exterior and interior photos of the building.

ix. Justification for Funding Variance (if applicable, not to exceed 250 words)

If an Eligible Entity seeks funding outside of the \$1,000,000 to \$25,000,000 award range, the applicant must explain why their application falls below or above this range and must provide a compelling justification for deviating from this range.

x. Other Funding Sources (not to exceed 500 words)

A detailed disclosure of the source and amount of other Federal, State, or outside funding sources the entity receives, or has applied for, that fund the activities or projects to which the application relates, including, but not limited to, any funding requests through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program; the Capital Projects Fund, the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, or any other federal broadband grant program. Additionally, outline how the proposed project will complement, leverage, or avoid duplication with other publicly funded efforts.

4.10 INFRASTRUCTURE DEPLOYMENT CONSOLIDATED BUDGET FORM (CBF)

Applicants must complete a Consolidated Budget Form (CBF) within the provided Excel file template. All budget information in the Consolidated Budget Form must support the dollar amounts identified in the Eligible Entity's SF-424 and Funded and Unfunded Entity Form, demonstrate that the project or activity meets the eligible use requirements in this NOFO, and reflect only allowable costs that are consistent with the project(s)' scope. Allowable costs are determined in accordance with the cost principles identified in 2 C.F.R. Part 200, including Subpart E.



Applicants are **highly encouraged** to read the instructions on each tab of the CBF.

The budget must account for the recipient's administrative costs, capped at 2% of the grant amount. For this purpose, the 2% limitation on administrative costs includes the combined total of direct administrative costs and indirect administrative costs charged to the award. If the proposed budget includes indirect costs, the applicant must either provide a copy of their approved negotiated indirect cost rate agreement or state that they are electing to use the *de minimis* rate in accordance with 2 C.F.R. 200.414. Applicants must state which indirect cost method they are utilizing in the CBF in the Explanation of Indirect Cost Base column of the Indirect Cost tab.

4.11 NETWORK SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Provide a comprehensive and defined plan for long-term network sustainability that includes:

- Projected revenue
- Operating expenses
- Working capital

- Equipment replacement funding
- Workforce development
- Capacity building



The Pro Forma Financial Projection Template can be used as a guide to provide pro forma financial information and analyses for the proposed project(s), such as balance sheets, income statements, and statement of cash flows. This financial information should be for the **Project** and not the applying entity



Year 1 in the forecast period of the Network Sustainability Plan is recommended to be the first year that the network is functional and not the start of the Period of Performance for the grant award.

Applicants can use any document format to create their Network Sustainability Plan but should cover projections across a 10-year time horizon. A Pro Forma Financial Projection Template is available to use and can be found online at Broadband USA. This template includes line items that may or may not apply and should be modified to fit each applicant’s project.

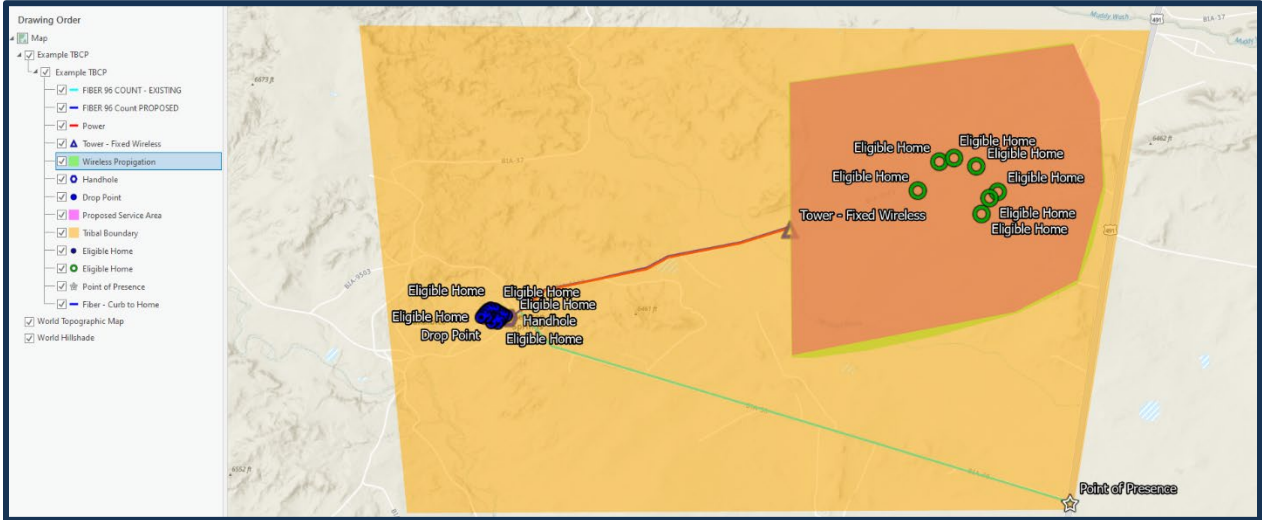
4.12 MAPS OF PROPOSED SERVICE AREAS


To ensure conformity with the NTIA Broadband Analytics and Monitoring (NBAM) platform, applicants must submit GIS shapefiles consistent with the Project Narrative, where applicable. Each layer (e.g. homes to be connected) must have a minimum of three files: .shp (geometry), .shx (index), and .dbf (attributes). Files in the .kmz or .kml format will not be accepted. This format will allow NTIA to efficiently identify critical components of the proposed service area, proposed network, and households, businesses, and community anchor institutions to be served. This format will also facilitate the de-duplication analysis described in the TBCP 3 NOFO.

The GIS Shapefile should include the following data elements as applicable:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed and existing infrastructure (e.g., fiber, wireless towers, power poles, buildings, or structures)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Distance/location of overhead construction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Distance/location of underground construction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Drop points (identify if overhead or underground)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fiber counts
<input type="checkbox"/>	Innerduct size and count
<input type="checkbox"/>	Handholes and testing stations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Power supply and backup power
<input type="checkbox"/>	Backhaul connection
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tribal boundary

The GIS Shapefile should include the following data elements as applicable:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tribal home locations (proposed connections by technology type)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tribal business locations (proposed connections by technology type)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Anchor Institution locations (proposed connections by technology type)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed service area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Last mile connections (proposed and existing)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Points of Presence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed and/or existing network shelter
<input type="checkbox"/>	Census blocks
<input type="checkbox"/>	Network propagation maps

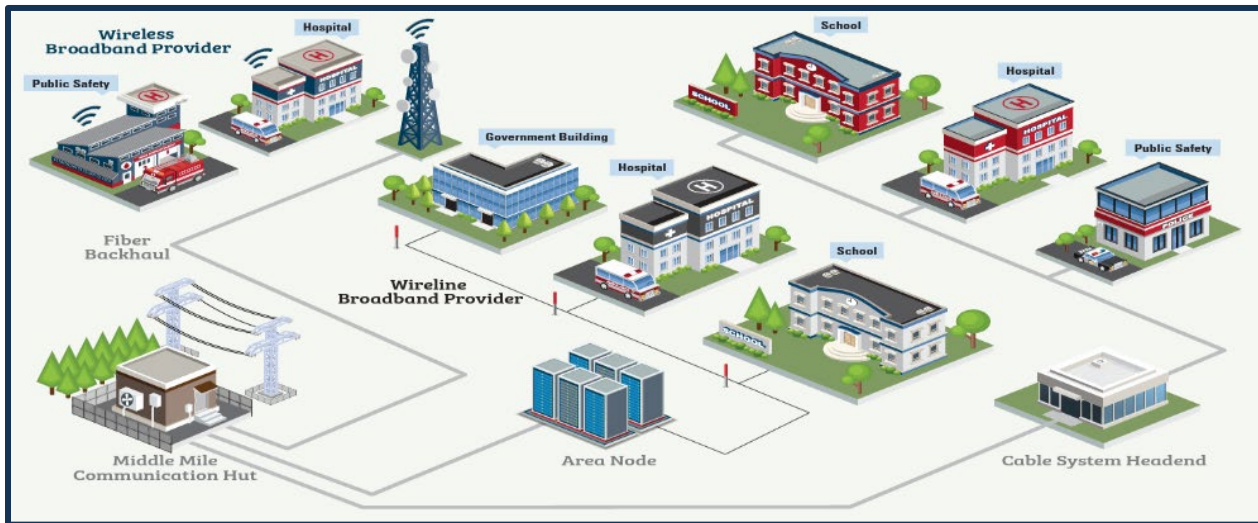
An example of a GIS shapefile has been provided below.



 Applicants should consider including a pdf or image of the GIS shapefile in their application. This is **not required** but is helpful throughout the review process.

4.13 PHYSICAL NETWORK DIAGRAMS

Physical network diagrams and system designs for broadband deployment and construction projects in a PDF format. The network diagram should be a representation of the technical design of the network. System elements should be clearly labeled with the name of the network component they represent. An example of a physical network diagram has been provided below.



5 APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS INSTRUCTIONS

Complete application packages may be submitted through *one* of the following methods: (i) online submission through www.grants.gov; (ii) electronic mail or (iii) postal mail or courier. NTIA strongly encourages applicants to submit applications through www.grants.gov.



Partial or duplicate applications using multiple methods of transmission will not be accepted.

5.1 GRANTS.GOV SUBMISSION (RECOMMENDED)

Grants.gov applicants can apply online using Workspace. Workspace is a shared, online environment where members of a grant team may simultaneously access and edit different forms within an application. See the [Workspace-Overview | Grants.gov](#) for help on setting up Workspace.

For additional resources, including video tutorials, refer to: <https://www.grants.gov/help>

Submission must be submitted by 11:59p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on September 17, 2026. Grants.gov recommends submitting 24-48 hours prior to this deadline to provide you with time to correct any potential technical issues that may disrupt the application submission.

Applicant Support: Grants.gov provides applicants 24/7 support via the toll-free number 1-800-518-4726 and email at support@grants.gov. For questions related to the specific grant opportunity, contact the number listed in the application package of the grant you are applying for.

If you are experiencing difficulties with your submission, it is best to call the Grants.gov Support Center and get a ticket number. The Support Center ticket number will assist NTIA with tracking your issue and understanding background information on the issue.

5.2 EMAILED SUBMISSION

Submissions by email must have all required application documents and forms attached and sent no later than **11:59p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on September 17, 2026.**

Emailed application must be sent to: TBCP3@ntia.gov.

5.3 MAILED SUBMISSION

Submissions by mail can be printed or sent as portable media storage (e.g. CD ROM or USB Drive). Applications submitted by postal mail or courier service must be postmarked or show clear evidence of mailing no later than **11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on September 17, 2026.**

Address for submission:

Margaret Gutierrez Division Chief – Tribal Connectivity and Nation to Nation Coordination

National Telecommunications & Information Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

1401 Constitution Avenue, NW

Room 4878

Washington, DC 20230

5.4 CONTACT

For Program questions:

Phone: (202) 482-2048

Email: TBCP3@ntia.gov

For Grants.gov submission questions:

Website: [Support | Grants.gov](https://support.grants.gov)

Phone: 1 (800) 518-4726

Email: support@grants.gov