



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY

Division of Broadband and Digital Equity

2021-2022 GREAT GRANT

INFORMATION SESSION FOR ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

FEB. 14, 2022

NATE DENNY

DEPUTY SECRETARY
DIVISION OF BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY

ANGIE BAILEY

DIRECTOR
BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE OFFICE

Key Success Metrics



Households with broadband internet access



Households with broadband internet subscriptions



Households with children with broadband internet subscriptions



Adoption rates across racial subgroups

- Native American
- Black
- Latinx
- White

N.C. Today

N.C. 2025

"95.5%"

98%

73%

80%

81%

100%

57%

80%

64%

80%

68%

80%

76%

80%

OBJECTIVES FOR TODAY

- Key points of this application round
- Overview of the NC OneMap GREAT Grant Mapping Tool
- Answering your questions

PURPOSE OF THE GREAT PROGRAM

To facilitate economic development through the deployment of broadband to unserved areas of the state

APPLICATION WINDOW

- Opened: Jan. 31
- Deadline: April 4

GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION

<https://www.ncbroadband.gov/grants/great-grant-federal/great-grant-2021-2022>

Website contains:

- Key dates
- Program guidelines
- Directions to access online application portal
- FAQs
- Information session recording

GUIDELINES & PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Federal
ARPA-funded
program

Guidelines
developed under
Section 38.4.(a) of SL
2021-180 and U.S.
Treasury Guidance

\$350M in total
funds available

Private providers or
cooperatively
organized entities

Unserved areas
without access to
25:3 speed

Tier 1, 2, and rural
census tracts in
Tier 3 counties

A single grant award
cannot exceed
\$4 million

Awards for projects
in any one county
cannot exceed
\$8 million

Defined scoring
criteria

Matching awardee
funds required

Minimum speeds of
100:20, scalable to
100 symmetrical by
Dec. 31, 2026

5-year service
agreement

SOURCE OF FEDERAL FUNDS & REQUIREMENTS

State Fiscal Recovery Funds

- Exempt from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements*
- Exempt from Davis-Bacon Act labor requirements unless project is over \$10 million*
- * Maybe subject to these requirements if other federal financial assistance programs are part of the project
- Awardees are required to participate in the **Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)** or provide a broad-based affordability program to low-income consumers like the ACP
- Follow the Uniform Guidance 2 CFR 200
- Register for a D-U-N-S number
- System Award Management (SAM.gov) ID
- Debarment Certification

SOURCE OF FEDERAL FUNDS & REQUIREMENTS

Capital Projects Fund

- Exempt from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements*; however, awardees may complete an environmental checklist
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SUMMARY OF GUIDELINES

Key Definitions & Provisions

KEY DEFINITIONS - UPDATED FOR THIS ROUND

- Eligible Project
- Eligible Economically Distressed County
- Broadband Service
- Unserved Area
- Partnership

PROVISIONS - UPDATED FOR THIS ROUND

- Protest Process
- Partnership criterion
- Cost per household and business
- Base speed multiplier
- Speed Requirements for Deployments
- Opportunity for Additional Points

SUMMARY OF GUIDELINES

Eligible Projects/Activities

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES

An eligible project is a discrete and specific project located in an unserved area of an economically distressed county seeking to provide broadband service to prospective broadband recipients.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES

Eligible projects do not include middle mile, backhaul, and other similar projects not directed at broadband service to end users.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES

If a contiguous project area crosses from one eligible county into one or more eligible adjacent counties, for the purposes of this section, the project shall be deemed to be located in the county where the greatest number of unserved households are proposed to be served.

ELIGIBLE COSTS

Costs directly related to the construction of broadband infrastructure and extension of service for an eligible project:

- Easements (one-time fees)
- Materials (fiber, equipment, etc.)
- Construction/Installation
- Testing

INELIGIBLE COSTS

- Overhead or administrative costs
- Recurring operating costs or maintenance
- Backhaul infrastructure - must facilitate last-mile service towards specific end-users
- Towers - may be eligible, but applicants encouraged to utilize vertical assets already in place or easily installed as much as possible

PROJECT TIMELINE

5-Year Service Agreement

- **Deployment Project Period:** Two years from the effective date of the grant agreement
- **Maintenance Period:** Following the deployment phase, service must continue to be made available to those households and businesses for the remainder of the five-year agreement period.

SUMMARY OF GUIDELINES

Eligible Areas, Ineligible Areas and Mapping Data

ELIGIBLE AREAS

Areas without Internet service, reliably*, providing transmission speeds of 25:3 Mbps (wireline or fixed wireless) - considered “unserved”

- Applicants identify the areas they wish to apply to serve
- Applicants can apply for funding to serve census blocks OR portions of census blocks

*Reliably is a term described in the US Treasury FAQ document for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

IDENTIFYING ELIGIBLE AREAS - WHERE TO START

Suggested data to provide baseline information as you develop your areas:

- Census block boundaries in the eligible economically distressed county
- Census blocks with less than 25:3 Mbps, according to the FCC Form 477 Data (entire blocks)
- Ineligible blocks
 - Eligible Economically Distressed Counties, Protected Areas, Previous GREAT Grant Awards
- Other data as outlined in the Guidance Document

IDENTIFYING ELIGIBLE AREAS - OTHER DATA

- Applicants may choose to utilize other sources of data, including field data, as part of their planning and application development
- If utilizing other sources of data to identify unserved locations, applicants must provide a detailed narrative describing their **methodology** for determining the proposed funding area is unserved and eligible for funding
- Protest Process is built into the Application Review Process, and BIO will conduct its own evaluation based on data available, including field tests when necessary

INELIGIBLE AREAS

Areas where a private provider has been designated to receive funds through other State or federally funded programs designed specifically for broadband deployment shall be considered served if:

1. Such funding is intended to result in construction of broadband in the area within 18 months, or
2. For the duration of the federal funding program for that area, or
3. If the funding recipient is otherwise in good standing with the funding agency's regulations governing the funding program.

BASELINE DATA FOR IDENTIFYING ELIGIBLE AREAS

<https://www.nconemap.gov/pages/broadband>

The screenshot displays the NCONEMAP.gov broadband data interface. The main map shows North Carolina with various data layers overlaid, including county boundaries, broadband survey response reporting, and areas ineligible for GREAT grants. The map is centered on the state, showing major cities and geographical features like the Appalachian Mountains and the Coastal Plain.

About

Zoom in on the map to display the North Carolina AddressNC Data. Address data can only be selected if the address points are visible in the map.

In the **Select Tool** (located at the bottom of the map), check the box next to the AddressNC Layer (located underneath green Select Button), ensure the **Select Button** is activated (Dark Green), and then click to create a polygon around Address points to select those locations. Double-click to finish drawing your selection area and the selected address points will be highlighted in blue. To add to the selection

Legend

- Previous GREAT Grant Awarded Areas
- NC County Boundary
- FCC RDOF Auction 904 Phase I Results - INELIGIBLE FOR GREAT
- Federal Broadband Grant Award Areas Combined - INELIGIBLE FOR GREAT
- Tier3 Counties' Non-Rural Tracts from Legislation - INELIGIBLE FOR GREAT

Layer Visibility

Layers

- Previous GREAT Grant Awarded Address Locations
- AddressNC_v1
- Previous GREAT Grant Awarded Areas
- NC Broadband Survey Response Reporting Less Than 25% Service (EASTEST AVAILABLE)

Select

Select

Layer

- AddressNC_v1
- Parcel Boundaries

Find address or place

Esri, USGS | Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS | Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS

POWERED BY esri

DOWNLOADABLE DATASETS & SHAPEFILES

From NC OneMap webpage:

- Census blocks with less than 25/3 Mbps, according to the FCC Form 477 Data (entire blocks)
- NC Broadband Survey data
- Ineligible areas

This is built on top of the AddressNC - NC Statewide Address Data

Live Demonstration

BEN SHELTON, GISP

PROJECT MANAGER

N.C. CENTER FOR GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS

SUMMARY OF GUIDELINES

Application Materials

APPLICATION MATERIALS

Basic applicant information	Proposed # of households	Proposed # of businesses	Description of project area, ID of locations, maps, and mapping data	Base speed to all locations throughout project area
Total project cost	Excel spreadsheet of itemized costs with methodology	Proof of financial solvency	Evidence of proposed partnership	Evidence of support from community
Technical report	Statement of qualifications	Assessment of current level of broadband access in proposed area	Description of proposed services, advertised speeds, pricing structure at project completion	Description of adoption plan
		Confirm if engineering services or construction will be contracted or completed by in-house staff		

SUMMARY OF GUIDELINES

Protesting an Application

PROTEST PROCESS

All applications must be publicly posted for at least 20 days prior to award.

PROTEST PROCESS

Eligible Entity that can submit a protest is “A broadband service provider currently providing broadband service in a project area proposed in an application.”

PROTEST PROCESS

Protesting ISP can only submit a protest if the:

- Proposed project covers an area that is a protected area as defined in our Guidance Document

OR

- Proposed project area contains 10% or more of total households with access to broadband service

PROTEST PROCESS

Every protest must:

- Be in writing
- Accompanied by all relevant supporting documentation as defined in the Guidance Document Protest
- Must include specific addresses
- Broadband service must be available to the exterior of the structure at the specific addresses indicated

*Protesting ISP bears the burden of proof

PROTEST PROCESS

Decision Process

- BIO will review data and adjudicate
- Written decision issued by Secretary
- Decision at least 15 days prior to application approval
- BIO will share decisions with the protesting party and the relevant applicant(s). Areas declared ineligible released to applicants.

PROTEST PROCESS

Decision Process

- If protest granted for a project area, applicant will be notified to revise the application to:
 - amend proposed project areas (i.e., less locations deemed ineligible)
 - revise the budget

SUMMARY OF GUIDELINES

Scoring/Match

SCORING AND MATCH

Competitive

Sliding points
scale

Highest score
receives priority
for funding

BIO will review
application and give
"final" score

BIO will
verify match
requirement

SCORING CRITERIA

Defined in authorizing legislation

The criteria and description on how to earn points is in Section 5 of the Guidance Document

Opportunity to earn points in each criterion:

- Partnership - Up to 4 points
- Unserved Households in a County - Range from 1 - 3 points
- Percentage of unserved HH to be served - Range from 1 - 3 points
- Unserved Business(es) to be served - Range 1 - 3 points
- Cost Per Household or Business - Range 7 - 9 points or Zero Points
- Base Speed Multiplier - Based on minimum speeds offered to project area*

Minimum Speeds	Score Multiplier
100:20 Mbps up to 100:100 Mbps	1.00
100 Mbps, symmetrical	2.00
Greater than 100:100 Mbps	3.00

- Additional Points - Community Broadband Playbook - 1 point
- Additional Points - County Match - Range 1 - 7 points

SCORING CRITERIA

Implementation “Formula”

- Partnership + Unserved HH in a County + Percentage of unserved HH to be served + Unserved Business(es) to be served + Cost Per Household or Business = Initial Score
- Initial Score x Base Speed Multiplier* = Subtotal Score
- Subtotal + Community Broadband Playbook + County Match = Final Score

Applications that do not adequately explain how they can reliably provide broadband speeds indicated, or do not adequately address scalability of service to 100 Mbps symmetrical by Dec. 31, 2026, maybe deemed ineligible for consideration

SCORING - TIE BREAKER

BIO shall give priority to the application proposing to serve the highest number of new households at the lowest cost per household

MATCHING FUNDS

Determined by application score

Up to 50% of match may be from third-party funding or other grants*

Highest score receives priority for funding

Match can be used only toward eligible project costs for GREAT Grant

*County ARPA Funds and Unrestricted General Fund Revenue Eligible

50%

12.0 points or less

45%

Greater than 12.0, but less than 17.5

40%

17.5, up to 22.0

30%

Greater than 22.0

MATCHING FUNDS

*Potential Match Reduction - Regardless of Score

County Financial
Contribution
partially ARPA

25%

County share
is partially
comprised of
ARPA funds

County Financial
Contribution
entirely ARPA

15%

County share
is all ARPA

SUMMARY OF GUIDELINES

Compliance

HIGHLIGHTS FEDERAL COMPLIANCE

State Fiscal Recovery Funds

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- Follow the Uniform Guidance 2 CFR 200
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- Awardees are required to participate in the **Affordable Connectivity Program** (ACP) or provide a broad-based affordability program to low-income consumers similar to the ACP

HIGHLIGHTS FEDERAL COMPLIANCE

Capital Projects Fund

- Exempt from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements*; however, awardees may complete an environmental checklist
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CONTRACT TERMS - REPORTS AND MILESTONES

- Number of prospective broadband recipients that have access as a result of this project
- Average monthly subscription cost
- Disclosure of any changes to data caps if different from the application

*Contract terms will be detailed in the grant agreement

CONTRACT TERMS - REPORTS AND MILESTONES

- Construction period milestones
- Financial documentation related to the match
- Financial documentation related to grant reimbursements
- Any other state or federal conditions to satisfy the grant agreement

*Contract terms will be detailed in the grant agreement

CONTRACT TERMS - CLAW BACK PROVISION

A grant recipient shall forfeit the amount of the grant received if it fails to perform, in material respect the obligations established in the agreement. Two specific provisions in our authorizing legislation that would constitute a repayment:

- Failure to provide the minimum advertised connection speed claimed in the base speed multiplier

OR

- If the applicant claims the base speed multiplier of less than 100 symmetrical, the technology must be scalable to 100 symmetrical by December 31, 2026. Failure to provide 100 Mbps, symmetrical, will result in repayment of funds.

Amount forfeited: the amount disbursed plus interest at a rate per NCGS 105-241.21 (interest on taxes).

Registering as an Applicant

REGISTERING AS AN APPLICANT

<https://www.ncbroadband.gov/grants/great-grant-federal/>

NCDIT NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Division of Broadband and Digital Equity

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Grants

GREAT Grant (Federal)	Awareness & Digital Literacy	Broadband Make-Ready Accelerator Grant	Capital Project Funds
Completing Access To Broadband (CAB) Grant	State Fiscal Recovery Funds	Stop-Gap Grant	Other Resources

REGISTERING AS AN APPLICANT


<https://www.ncbroadband.gov/grants/great-grant-federal/great-grant-2021-2022>

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- [Download the 2021-2022 GREAT Grant guidance](#)

Application Instructions

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**Required for the application.*

Please send any questions or comments about the Great Grant 2021-2022 application round to greatgrant@nc.gov.

REGISTERING AS AN APPLICANT

<https://ncid.nc.gov>

NCID Tips



NCID

NCID Login

[Forgot Username](#)
[Forgot Password](#)
[Unlock Account](#)

[Need Help?](#) [Register!](#)

REGISTERING FOR AN NCID

<https://ncid.nc.gov>



North Carolina Identity Management



New User Registration

Please indicate your user type from one of the following categories:

Individual

Request access to the State of North Carolina services as an individual or citizen.

Business

Request access to the State of North Carolina services on the behalf of a business.

State Employee

Currently employed or assigned to work for an agency within the State of North Carolina government.

Local Government
Employee

Currently employed or assigned to work for a North Carolina county or municipality.

This system is the property of the State of North Carolina and is for authorized use only. Unauthorized access is a violation of federal and state law. All software, data transactions, and electronic communications are subject to monitoring.

REGISTERING TO ACCESS APPLICATION PORTAL

<https://www.ebs.nc.gov/sap/crmaccess/index.html>

Enterprise Business Services (EBS) External Access Request Application

User ID Information

*Agency:

If you already log into ebs.nc.gov (Enterprise Business Services), enter your current User ID:

*Last Name:

*First Name:

Middle Name:

*Organization Name (Legal Name of Entity - Registered with the NC Secretary of State):

Organization Name 2 (DBA):

*Organization Address:

*City:

*State (select from drop down):

REGISTERING FOR D-U-N-S NUMBER

<https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/>

dun & bradstreet

To access the Import Safety Portal go to <https://importregistration.dnb.com/> and the Apple Develop Program go to <https://developer.apple.com/support/D-U-N-S/>

[Begin D-U-N-S Search/
Request Process](#)

[About the D&B
D-U-N-S Number](#)

[Frequently Asked
Questions \(FAQ\)](#)

[D&B, SAM, Grants
Contacts](#)

[D&B's Privacy
and Data Policy](#)

[Accessibility](#)

Welcome to the D&B D-U-N-S Request Service for US Federal Government Contractors and Assistance Awardees

If you are getting ready to apply for a federal contract or assistance award, you've come to the right place. The first step is to get your D-U-N-S Number. We will assign the nine-digit, unique D-U-N-S Number free of charge to a valid business entity based on their legal business name and physical location.

Select **D-U-N-S Search/Request Process** to begin. From here you can:


- **Do a quick search to see if you already have a D-U-N-S Number**
 - If you find your D-U-N-S Number, you can email it to yourself.
- **Request a D-U-N-S Number**
 - The request form takes approximately five minutes to complete.
 - D&B has controls in place to mitigate fraud and protect data integrity. Please be patient while we run these checks. It usually takes one to two business days to get your new D-U-N-S Number.
 - Once our checks are complete, you'll get an email (to the email address you provide on the request form) with your new D-U-N-S Number. Make sure @dnb.com is not blocked.


Contact www.dnb.com/govtduns if you have technical difficulties.

REGISTERING FOR SYSTEM AWARD MANAGEMENT (SAM) IDENTIFIER

<https://sam.gov/content/home>

Home Search Data Bank Data Services Help

 **SAM**.GOV®



The Official U.S. Government System for:

- Contract Opportunities**
(was fbo.gov)
- Contract Data**
(Reports ONLY from fpds.gov)
- Wage Determinations**
(was wdol.gov)
- Federal Hierarchy**
Departments and Subtiers
- Assistance Listings**
(was cfda.gov)
- Entity Information**
Entities, Disaster Response Registry, and Exclusions
- Entity Reporting**
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Register Your Entity or Get a Unique Entity ID


Register your entity or get a Unique Entity ID to get started doing business with the federal government.

Get Started

Renew Entity

 **Check Registration Status**

Already know what you want to find?

Select Domain... ▼ e.g. 1606N020Q02 

NCDIT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

<https://www.ncbroadband.gov/grants/great-grant-federal/great-grant-2021-2022>

[Home](#) [Broadband 101](#) [Digital Divide](#) [Broadband Survey](#) [Grants](#) [Assistance](#) [Data & Reports](#)

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START YOUR APPLICATION FROM BROADBAND SITE

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ACCESS EBS APPLICATION PORTAL

<https://www.ebs.nc.gov/irj/portal>



**Enterprise
Business
Services**

User *

Password *

Passwords are case sensitive

[Login Help](#) * [Browser Support](#)

NEED ASSISTANCE?

GREAT Grant Questions

- <https://www.ncbroadband.gov/grants/great-grant-federal/great-grant-2021-2022>
- GREATGrant@nc.gov
- broadbandmapping@nc.gov

Application Help: Support Services Team

- (919) 707-2208
- DOTITSAPSupportServices@ncdot.gov

NCID Support

- <https://it.nc.gov/support/ncid>
- (919) 754-6000