

From: [Collier, George T](#)
Cc: [greatgrant](#); [Sural, Jeffrey R](#)
Bcc: COVID-19 and GREAT Grant Program Guidance
Monday, March 23, 2020 5:17:00 PM
[GREAT Payment Request Instructions Final.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
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Subject:
Date:
Attachments:
Importance:

Dear Grantee –

I hope this email finds you, your family, and co-workers doing well. Please excuse the length of this email. I would like to provide as much information as I can without overwhelming your inbox with multiple emails. This email will provide:

1. The latest information from the State of North Carolina about COVID-19 and
2. GREAT Grant program guidance.

Latest Information on COVID-19

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We are in unprecedented times right now. The State is aware of the strains imposed on all facets of life because of the COVID-19 pandemic. NC DHHS has set up the following website for important information related to the virus:

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina>

We appreciate the assistance many of your organizations have taken to provide internet access to communities across the state. As you know, many are being asked to work remotely and kids across the state are going to virtual school. We appreciate and thank all of you that have notified our office of what you are doing to help with this issue. We have compiled a list of new and existing free or affordable service offerings from vendors across the state. **If you are offering free or affordable options for high-speed internet during this time, please contact us at COVID.vendor.ideas@nc.gov.** We will include your information on the following website:

<https://www.ncbroadband.gov/covid19broadband/>

GREAT Grant Guidance

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We would like to inform you of the following:

Our office is dedicated to assisting you during this difficult time. As you know, currently, your executed contract (grant agreement) states in Exhibit C that our office will only accept financial

requests for payments from the grant on a quarterly basis.

As of March 23, 2020, we will accept payment requests on an as needed basis during the COVID-19 pandemic or until further notice. We intend to resume the quarterly cadence at some point in time. We will notify you accordingly and in a timely manner of this change. Please note that you must still comply with the obligations detailed in the contract including the terms in Exhibits B and C that outline the criteria for obtaining reimbursements.

2. Over the last few months we have been testing our on-line payment submittal process. A few of your fellow grantees have been beta testing the payment process and I am pleased to say that all have been paid. I'm sure there will be some issues, but I will be there every step of the way. Attached is a step by step guide on how to access the on-line portal to submit a payment request. Please carefully review this document.
3. As of now and until further notice, our office is restricting travel. I will need to cancel any appointments we have made for a site visit. I kindly ask that you and your staff be safe and healthy as you continue to work on your GREAT Grant projects. Also, if possible, please take any pictures of construction. This will help with documenting progress and evidence of work when we are audited in the future. If there are delays to your construction or deployment as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, please notify me as soon as possible with a detailed explanation on how this has affected your project.

Please be safe and healthy.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact at 919-210-9236 or George.Collier@nc.gov

Sincerely,

George T. Collier

George T. Collier
State Broadband Liaison
Broadband Infrastructure Office
North Carolina Department of Information Technology
919-210-9236 (Cell)
george.collier@nc.gov

[Website](#) [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#)



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