

Round 3 Scoring Criteria (Total of 250 points)

Criterion 1: Project Description and Readiness (0 to 65 points)

- Degree to which the proposed technology solution and the project area is clearly described;
 - Justification of a technology solution that does not deliver or can not be scaled to at least 100/100 speeds
 - Explain the geographical, topographical, or excessive costs justifications of not delivering scalable 100/100 speeds
- Sufficiency of detail in the application to assess whether the proposed solution is logical and capable of achieving the project goals;
- Degree to which the task descriptions are clear, detailed, timely, and reasonable, resulting in a high likelihood that the proposed scope of work will succeed in meeting the project goals;
- Identification of key execution risks and mitigation plan;
- Initial five year service (speed tiers and pricing) offered at or above speed stated in the application at affordable prices, including unbundled broadband service.
- Demonstration of overall project readiness. Examples include sound engineering and design plan, secured financing, permits and/or approvals secured or in place, thorough and complete project schedule and tasks, and evidence of readiness to build, manage and operate the project.
- Detailed Engineering Design and Project Area Map. Details regarding the technology, design, and network routes:
 - Clear, detailed boundaries of project area with passings indicated;
 - Census blocks clearly marked in project areas;
 - Clear, detailed network route map that is consistent with route miles;
 - Technology specifications that clearly indicate purported speeds and network indicators can be met;
 - Vendors details (for new technologies);
 - **Note:** Professional Engineering certification is required as a threshold factor.

Criterion 2: Project Impact (0 to 20 points)

- Extent to which the applicant provided evidence that the proposed project is for an area served at speeds lower than actual 25 Mbps downstream;
- The potential impact of the project on advancing economic development within the proposed project area, including agribusiness, other at-home businesses, and telework; and
 - Residents: ability to telework, remote learning engagement, new housing starts, etc.
 - Businesses: degree of competitiveness, market expansion, workforce development, job creation, attracting new business establishments, etc.
 - Farmers and agricultural use customers: farming efficiency and productivity, new applications for precision agriculture, etc.
 - Connected institutions: enhancement to capabilities to execute mission in more effective and efficient manner (across schools, libraries,

hospitals, clinics, social service centers, community gathering centers, etc.)

- Other: public safety improvements; other complementary infrastructure improvements; etc.
- Economic impact: workforce training and development, employment search, and other individual and community economic advances meeting the specific challenges resulting from the pandemic within the proposed project area;
- Social impact: improvements in educational, healthcare, and other individual and societal gains within the proposed project area;
- Degree to which the need for funding is described:
 - Financial metrics including rate of return and payback periods with and without the requested grant amount with all supporting details;
 - Details that quantitatively equate the specific grant amount to the gap in the business plan;
 - Demonstration of prior attempts to finance similar project, and explanation/evidence of shortcomings to raising capital.

Criterion 3: Community Support and Engagement (0 to 15 points)

- How the project supports the program objectives and previous broadband planning efforts in the proposed project area;
- Degree to which project fits into an existing community strategic plan;
- Recent survey data that covers broad spectrum of community with statistically meaningful results regarding level of need, gaps, and project support;
- Evidence of community support and demonstration of community engagement. This may include, but is not limited to, “personalized” letters of support, attendance at events/meetings demonstrating community engagement at-large, and planning/organizing events for community members; and
- Engagement with stakeholders outside of the project team, which may include residents, businesses, community leaders, project partners, elected officials, community broadband task force, etc.; and
- Degree to which project will include local hires and provide opportunities for local hires such as apprenticeship programs, job fairs, and training programs;
- Commitment to sustain the project for at a minimum of five years.

Criterion 4: Technical Qualifications and Resources (0 to 10 points)

- The capability of the Project Manager and the proposed team to address all aspects of the proposed work with a high probability of success. The qualifications, relevant expertise, and time commitment of the individuals on the team;
- The availability and sufficiency of the facilities and equipment to support the work;
- The availability and sufficiency of any proposed work force that will be contracted to complete the project;
- The reasonableness of the budget for the proposed project and objectives; and
- Demonstrated the financial capacity to complete the proposed project scope.

Criterion 5 – Economically Disadvantaged Student Household Service Packages (0 to 15 points)

- Service offerings and price points reflect to meet unique needs of economically disadvantaged student households and their affordability levels;
- Upload speeds that reflect unique circumstances of increased remote learning;
- Special rates and discounts for devices that enable remote learning;
- Offerings that enable purchase of unbundled Internet at reasonable price points without obligations.

Criterion 6: Objective Scoring (total of 125 points)

Household, businesses, and anchor institutions passed (0 to 60 points)

	Speed After Build				
# of Passings	50/5	100/20	100/100	500/500	1GB/1GB
1-50	0	0	10	25	45
51-250	0	0	15	30	50
251-500	0	0	20	35	55
501+	0	0	25	40	60

Grant Request Amount (0 to 65 points)

Match Percent of Eligible Project Costs	Points
35-49%	0
50-59%	30
60-69%	40
70-74%	50
>75%	65