Full and Competitive Application Scoring Criteria

The State of Indiana will award grants to projects that provide the highest return in providing access to the unserved areas for the public costs incurred and meet all of the grant requirements.
Applications will be evaluated against the merit review criteria shown below. All sub-criteria are of equal weight. These criteria reflect information requested in the grant application package. There is a 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.
- o Businesses: degree of competitiveness, market expansion, workforce development, job creation, attracting new business establishments, etc.
- o Farmers and agricultural use customers: farming efficiency and productivity, new applications for precision agriculture, etc.
- o 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.)
- o 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:
  - o Financial metrics including rate of return and payback periods with and without the requested grant amount with all supporting details;
  - o Details that quantitatively equate the specific grant amount to the gap in the business plan;
  - o 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)

# of Passings	Download Speed After Build				
	50	10	100	500	1GB
1-50	0	3	6	17	30
51-250	1	4	10	20	34
251-500	2	5	14	24	37
501+	3	6	17	27	40

# of Passings	Upload Speed After Build				
	5	20	100	500	1GB
1-50	0	1	4	8	15
51-250	0	2	5	10	16
251-500	1	3	6	11	18
501+	1	4	8	13	20

Grant Request Amount (0 to 65 points)

Match Percent of Eligible Project Costs	Points
20-29%	5
30-39%	10
40-49%	15
50-59%	30
60-69%	45
70-74%	55
>75%	65