BROADBAND ACCELERATION GRANT PROGRAM
YEAR 5 and YEAR 6
(BAG 5.0)

Version 1.1

October 1, 2025

Broadband Acceleration Grant

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Overview

Kansas Office of Broadband Development (KOBD), housed within the Kansas Department of Commerce, was established to ensure that all Kansans have the opportunity to live, work, learn, and compete in a global economy by improving universal access to quality, reliable, and affordable broadband. The Broadband Acceleration Grant (BAG) program, the first state-funded competitive broadband grant initiative, focuses on expanding broadband infrastructure to bring high-quality internet service to Kansas homes, businesses, and communities. The importance of this effort became especially clear in 2020, as the demands of remote learning and work, telehealth services, online business, e-government, and everyday quality of life highlighted the urgent need for reliable broadband across the state.

The Broadband Acceleration Grant Year 5 and Year 6 (BAG 5.0) Program will invest $23 million in FY2025 to help bridge the digital divide in Kansas. Individual awards of up to $2 million will be made to projects that expand access to high-quality, reliable broadband, with priority given to unserved areas, economically distressed communities, and locations of compelling need. Applicants are encouraged to work with community leaders and stakeholders to develop strategic and scalable projects that close critical access gaps, enhance quality of life, and strengthen the economic vitality of Kansas communities.

Purpose and Goals

The Broadband Acceleration Grant Program is a critical program in Kansas' plan to address broadband gaps. The Program is designed to offset the capital expenses in the deployment of broadband to unserved areas. The goal of this program is to facilitate broadband access to all Kansans while promoting practices that increase deployment and encourage adoption.

Goals

- Target economically distressed areas unlikely to receive broadband service without state or federal funding
- Focus on enabling last mile and middle mile locations.
- Deploy reliable broadband solutions with speeds at or greater than 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps (100/20 Mbps) upload.

Noted Changes in the BAG 5.0 Program as Compared to Previous Capital Programs

Applicants must submit projects that exclude Kansas' Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) broadband serviceable locations (BSLs), encumbered BAG 4.0 BSLs, and any other federal or state broadband program encumbered BSLs approved for deployment. If BSLs are included in an application that are later determined to be part of BEAD, previous State of Kansas or other federally sponsored broadband programs, they will be removed from the application and not be funded. KOBD will use latest FCC BDC fabric version (Version 6) at the time of scoring to determine BSL eligibility. If Version 7 becomes available for final adjudication, that will be used for final funding eligibility.

The following table summarizes the major changes between previous capital projects and the BAG 5.0 Program. This table can be used to understand the similarities and differences of the program and be used as a reference to help determine if previously unawarded applications are a good fit for the BAG 5.0 Program after minor modifications.

Table 1: BAG 5.0 Program Comparison to Previous Capital Projects

	Current Program	Previous Programs	
Program Attribute Changes	**BAG 5.0**	**BAG 4.0**	**BAG 3.0**
Total Funding Available	$23 Million	$10 Million	$5 Million
Maximum Individual Award	$2 Million	$1 Million	$1 Million
Program Qualifying Broadband Speed	100/20 Mbps	100/20 Mbps	100/20 Mbps
Applicant Match	50%	50%	50%
Co-Investment Match	Minimum $1	Minimum $1	Not Required
Maximum Grant Amount (in millions)	$2.0	$1.0	$1.0
Minimum Unserved Threshold	80%	80%	80%
Preconstruction Planning, Design or Preconstruction Engineering Costs Associated with the Project	Ineligible Cost	Ineligible Cost	Ineligible Cost
Reimbursement Schedule	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
Price Freeze	N/A	N/A	N/A
Regional Award Distribution	Target Priority	Target Priority	Target Priority
Certified RDOF Areas Available for Award	See Determination of the Available Broadband Service section	See Determination of the Available Broadband Service section	See Determination of the Available Broadband Service section

Fiber-Based Focused	Yes + other technologies considered for award	Yes + other technologies considered for award	Yes + other technologies considered for award
FCC Service Availability Database	Broadband Data Collection Fabric and Service Availability Data	Broadband Data Collection Fabric and Service Availability Data	Broadband Data Collection Fabric and Service Availability Data
Compliance with Uniform Guidance 2 CFR Part 200	Yes	Yes	Yes
Active Participant in Federal Subsidy Programs	Encouraged, but not required	Required	Required
Letters of Support	Required	Encouraged, but not required	Encouraged, but not required

Background

The program phase launching on October 3, 2025, is currently in year five (BAG 5.0) of the IKE Program, which combines Year 5 and Year 6 into a single round and will be awarded $23 million in this cycle.

The program launched in 2020 and is in the process of investing $85 million over ten years toward bridging the digital divide in Kansas. It was created as a direct result of broadband modernization funding provided through the Kansas Department of Transportation's Eisenhower Legacy Transportation program (IKE) in the 2020 legislative session. Administered by KOBD, the program allots $5 million annually for the first three years, and $10 million annually for the following seven years. KOBD is initiating the Broadband Acceleration Grant, Year 5 and Year 6 combined into a single round (BAG 5.0) Program which is a focused effort to improve last mile broadband infrastructure and associated middle mile capabilities as applicable within the State of Kansas.

The BAG 5.0 Program will focus on the deployment of broadband infrastructure to bring access to high-quality internet service to Kansas homes, businesses, and communities in areas of critical need that are not currently served by a reliable broadband solution with speeds at or greater than 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps (100/20 Mbps) upload. Aligned with the previous Broadband Acceleration Grant Year 4 (BAG 4.0), fiber-optic infrastructure will be the preferred solution to deliver the intended outcome as it provides a future-proof investment for bandwidth scalability as technology evolves with future bandwidth requirements. However, if it would be impracticable because of geography, topography, or excessive cost, other technologies such as a hybrid fiber/wireless solution, hybrid fiber coaxial solution, licensed fixed wireless access and licensed by rule fixed wireless access, will be considered to deliver a minimum of 100/20 Mbps.

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The BAG 5.0 Program will deliver speeds that meet or exceed 100/20 Mbps. However, KOBD will continue to prioritize capabilities that support scalability to 1 Gbps symmetric services and higher. All locations being served and funded through this program will be required to adhere to the minimum speeds listed above. Middle mile coupled with last mile solutions will also be considered for funding and are encouraged to be submitted.

Eligible Applicants

Applicants must be authorized to provide broadband services in the proposed area. Eligible applicants include:

- Political subdivisions or entities of political subdivisions
- Tribal Governments
- Corporations
- Limited liability companies
- Co-operatives
- Electric Utilities
- Partnerships or other business entities
- Non-profit organizations
- Those authorized to provide broadband services in the proposed service area

Grant Timeline

The application window will be open for twenty (20) business days. Applicant interviews for selected applications will follow the applicant response windows, which will be followed by Kansas Department of Commerce leadership grant selection and award announcements.

- October 1, 2025: Guidelines Posted
- October 3, 2025: Grant Webinar / Application Window Open
- October 31, 2025: Application Window Closes (5pm CT)
- November 3, 2025: Public Comment Window Opens
- November 7, 2025: Public Comment Window Closes (5pm CT) / Opening of Applicant Response Period
- November 14, 2025: Applicant Response Period Closes (5pm CT)
- October 31, 2025: Begin Application Reviews
- November 20, 2025: Begin Applicant Interviews
- December 16, 2025: Leadership Review
- After December 17, 2025: Awards Announcement

KOBD reserves the right to request additional information regarding applications throughout the application review period.

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Application Procedures

- KOBD will conduct a webinar informing potential applicants of the BAG 5.0 Program grant opportunity, and the guidelines will be posted online for applicants to review.
- To apply for the grant award, applicants will be invited to submit information on an established online portal. Online application link can be found here: Application Portal
- Questions and submission of additional documentation should be directed to kdc_broadband@ks.gov
- Applications that are incomplete or missing documentation will not be reviewed for rating or considered for funding.

Estimated Time to Complete Application: 5 business days

Funding Availability

- Total Funding Available: $23 Million
- Minimum Award Amount: NA
- Maximum Award Amount: $2 Million
- Expected Number of Awards: 20
- Period of Performance: 24 months from contract execution
- Minimum required applicant match: 50% of total project cost
- Minimum required co-investment: $1

The Kansas Department of Commerce expects to announce selected grantees by the end of 2025. If selected, you may only incur eligible expenditures when the grant contract agreement is fully executed, and the period of performance date has started.

Eligible Projects

Last mile or middle mile broadband infrastructure that connects to the end-user customer's on-premises telecommunications equipment.

Eligible Areas

The purpose of the grant is to facilitate broadband access to unserved areas with demonstrated need and may include residential, business, and community anchor institution locations. Unserved is defined as a designated geographic area in which all households or businesses are without qualifying broadband service supporting at least 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload speeds. See Key Definitions section for further "Unserved" details.

Proposed service areas are not required to be contiguous within an application. However, non-contiguous areas more than 10 miles apart within the same application must include an explanation of how the economic and community impact is the same for the proposed areas.

Middle mile expenses are eligible for grant funding only when necessary for the provision of last-mile services described in the application. Service providers may submit multiple applications.

RDOF areas with a status of "Winning Bidder/Awarded", "Ready to Authorize" or "Received Authorization of Support Notice" will be considered eligible if RDOF award winners have defaulted for the specific area that a BAG 5.0 applicant is submitting an application.

Applicants must submit projects that exclude Kansas' Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) broadband serviceable locations (BSLs), encumbered BAG 4.0 BSLs, and any other federal broadband program encumbering BSLs approved for deployment. If BSLs are included in an application that are later determined to be part of BEAD, previous State of Kansas or other federally sponsored broadband programs, they will be removed from the application and not be funded. KOBD will use the latest FCC BDC fabric version (Version 6) at the time of scoring to determine BSL eligibility. If Version 7 becomes available for final adjudication, that will be used for final funding eligibility.

KOBD will continue to prioritize project areas that have not been awarded funding for service that meets or exceeds 100/20 Mbps. Projects that target other priority areas such as unserved locations, economically distressed areas will be scored more favorably.

Given the anticipated oversubscription rate for the BAG 5.0 Program, funding priority may be given to unserved areas where there are no potential funding opportunities or grants already awarded.

Speed Guidelines

- The minimum qualifying program speed is 100/20 Mbps. It is expected that this service speed and an associated price point are included as part of the customer offer within the application. To meet the minimum qualifying 100/20 Mbps speed, a service provider must offer 100 Mbps downstream coupled with a 20 Mbps upstream service speed or higher. Any speeds lower than 20 Mbps upstream, coupled with 100 Mbps downstream speeds will not meet the minimum program requirements. See "Unserved" and "Served" definitions in Key Definitions section for further details
- If a 100/100 Mbps symmetric speed is already in the service provider's portfolio or a service provider has aligned to symmetric speeds within their broadband portfolio, the 100/100 Mbps service speed will be accepted as meeting the program the minimum speed. It is expected that this service speed and an associated price point are included as part of the customer offer within the application. This is intended to prevent rework within the service provider community and minimize any impacts to existing customer portfolios

- If a service provider's minimum portfolio speed is greater than the minimum program speed of 100 Mbps, KOBD will accept a speed greater than 100 Mbps in lieu of the minimum program speed. However, the speed must be symmetric. It is expected that this service speed and an associated price point are included as part of the customer offer within the application
- If the minimum speed proposed is greater than 100 Mbps, the higher speed will still be evaluated against the affordability goals since the intent is to enable affordable high-speed broadband within the communities the application will serve. See "Affordability Goals" section for guidance
- Symmetric services are encouraged to be proposed to ensure Kansans have the greatest flexibility to maximize concurrent application use and digital economy participation

Affordability Goals

- The affordability target for a 100 Mbps speed solution is defined as approximately $60 per month, or less. This includes 100 Mbps asymmetric and symmetric services
- Service providers are encouraged to offer a 100 Mbps service with a $60 per month or less price point outside of the assistance of the federal subsidy
- If a service provider's minimum program speed is greater than 100 Mbps and is proposed in the application (per Speed Guidelines section), the service provider should target a price point of approximately $60 per month, or less, to meet the program affordability intent
- Service providers will be measured against this goal within the BAG 5.0 Program but will not be required to maintain this threshold. There is not a timeframe required but the preference is 100/20 Mbps or 100/100 Mbps at a rate of $60 per month for three (3) years. Should the applicant be selected for an interview, the applicant will be asked to define what a reasonable amount of time is during the interview. Please reference the Key Definitions section for detail regarding the Affordability Goal

Ineligible Projects

- Public Wi-Fi hotspot connections or locations
- Digital literacy programs

Eligible Costs

The BAG 5.0 Program will cover up to 50% of eligible construction related project expenses for an eligible broadband project. Eligible broadband project expenses are terrestrial capital expenses directly related to the construction costs associated with the broadband infrastructure build required for installation and/or acquisition of middle-mile and last-mile broadband infrastructure to provide broadband access to additional residential, business and community anchor institution

locations. Last mile is defined as the final leg connecting a broadband service provider's network to the end-user customer's on-premises telecommunication equipment. Middle-mile expenditures are eligible only when necessary to provide last-mile services.

Examples of eligible construction related project expenses are project construction, construction permits, construction of facilities, engineering, network equipment, supplies, materials, direct labor, installation and testing of network and end-user services.

Grant expenses must be incurred, and funds *expended* during the project period per the official grant agreement. Funds may be used for costs incurred on or after October 3, 2025, subject to approval.

Ineligible Costs

Ineligible costs include, but are not limited to:

- Acquisition of spectrum licenses
- Operating expenses related to the proposed application/project
- Short-term operation leases
- Satisfaction of any obligation
- Payment of interest or principal on outstanding debt instruments
- Maintenance expenses related to the proposed application/project
- Infrastructure not directly connected to service provision for an end-user in the proposed area
- Indirect labor costs (fringe/benefits, travel, meals, lodging, paid time off, etc.)
- Long-term capital asset purchases/leases, although cost allocation for use during the project period will be considered on a case-by-case basis
- The costs of active State or Federally funded project areas providing qualifying speeds of 100/20 Mbps or higher are not eligible if the project deployment timeline is within twenty-four (24) months or project areas that have been encumbered by State or Federal grant funds but not yet built or in service
- Preconstruction planning, design or preconstruction engineering associated with the project

Match Requirement

Similar to previous Broadband Acceleration Grant (BAG) Programs 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 and 4.0, KOBD is implementing a required 50% applicant match model for the BAG 5.0 Program. Additional points will be awarded if applicants can provide incremental matching funds beyond the 50% match. An example of an applicant providing incremental matching funds beyond the required applicant match is below:

- Required applicant match is 50% per program guidelines
- Applicant decides to match at a 60% value
- Incremental application scoring points will be awarded for the additional 10% of total project cost matched by the applicant

Matching funds may include an in-kind match of up to 50% of the total match. An in-kind match requires valuation documentation and is subject to KOBD's approval. For federal grants or federal broadband funding, applicants must check with federal funding sources to determine the allowability of applying the federal funding to this state funded grant program.

Co-Investment Requirement

KOBD recognizes the value of partnerships between service providers and co-investment sponsors that identify gaps in broadband infrastructure and establish community priorities. Because of this, applicants are required to include co-investment funds as part of their application. Eligible sources of co-investment funds can be from the local, county, and eligible state programs or other contributors (examples: local ARPA funds, County Commission grants, private sector investments, non-profit contributions, etc.). For this program, co-investment funds can offset the applicant's match amount. The minimum co-investment amount is $1. Applications with less than the $1 minimum co-investment amount will not be considered for an award.

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Funding Priorities

The following items are BAG 5.0 funding priorities:

- Critical broadband needs within a community or rural area
- Lack of access to an affordable, reliable high-speed broadband connection
- Geographic Distribution of Grant Funds: The State of Kansas may geographically distribute awards to ensure that all Kansas regions can participate in connecting Kansans
- Serve Economically Distressed Counties that are unserved*
  * - as defined in Key Definitions section

To ensure the best use of public funds, KOBD encourages partnership projects that maximize public infrastructure through shared investment, such as scalable, long-term co-investment initiatives.

The Broadband Acceleration Grant seeks projects that will:

- Address priorities for areas that are unserved, economically distressed and areas with compelling needs
- Incorporate partnership and community engagement and/or collective investment funding
- Share project information and associated proposed service area data in full transparency for a defined public comment period
- Meet fiscal requirements including a 50% funding match for the proposed project
- Be constructed, installed and operational within 24 months from the award date
- Commit to required documentation, communications, monitoring, reporting and validation requirements
- Service providers will be encouraged to be active participants in federal subsidy programs prior to application submission to optimize digital opportunities, including partnering with school districts and colleges to raise awareness of subsidy programs (i.e., Lifeline, Emergency Connectivity Fund, etc.). Service providers are also encouraged to partner with local housing agencies to take advantage of programs that benefit multi-dwelling units. The applicant must be an established service provider that has been operating for a minimum of three years in the State of Kansas.

Authority

The Broadband Acceleration Grant was created as a direct result of broadband modernization funding provided through the Kansas Department of Transportation's Eisenhower Legacy Transportation program (IKE) in the 2020 legislative session. Kansas Statutes Annotated, § 68-2314c(k) (2025) assigns administration of the program to Kansas Office of Broadband Development.

Release of Information

Information submitted to the Kansas Department of Commerce relating to the application may be subject to the Open Records Law (K.S.A. 45-215 et seq.).

Application and Submission Instructions

Application Content

As part of the application process, all applicants must demonstrate compliance with state requirements and provide information that reflects their organizational capacity to successfully manage grant funds. Applicants are required to submit a current Certificate of Good Standing issued by the Kansas Secretary of State and a valid Tax Clearance Certificate from the Kansas Department of Revenue, confirming that the organization is properly registered with the state and up to date on all tax obligations.

In addition, applicants will complete a capacity assessment designed to evaluate organizational readiness, financial stability, and program management capability. The information provided in the capacity assessment, together with the Certificates of Good Standing and Tax Clearance, will generally fulfill the State's need for financial documentation. However, applicants may be asked to submit audited financial statements if the scope of funding, size of the organization, or results of the capacity assessment indicate that additional verification is necessary.

This information ensures that awarded funds are directed to organizations that are financially sound, compliant with state requirements, and positioned to deliver on the objectives of the program.

Key Project Data

Key project data will be captured for the applicant and the project, including:

- Primary Organizational Contacts (Project and Technical)
- Total Project Amount, Grant Funds Requested, and Matching Amount
- City(s) and County(s) impacted
- Projected download and upload speeds of the proposed project
- Number of locations enabled: households, businesses, and community anchor institutions

General Project Information

All required document uploads are shared in the Application User guide.
Applicant must provide the following information:

- Project Contact Information
- Project Name (Organization Name + Geographic Identifier)
- Proposed Target Reach

- Unserved Area: Defined as a designated geographic area in which households or businesses are without a reliable broadband connection supporting at least 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload speeds. See Key Definitions section for further details
- Economically Distressed Area: KOBD will consider an area economically distressed if either the 2023 per capita BEA PCPI or PCMI metric is below the 80% threshold. See Key Definitions section for the list of all Kansas counties that qualify as economically distressed
- Total Project Amount
- Applicant Match Amount
- Co-Investment Amount
- Counties in the Proposed Service Area
- Cities in the Proposed Service Area
- Broadband Data Collection Fabric for the Proposed Project Service Area
- Proposed Infrastructure Type
- Proposed Download/Upload Speed
- Number and Type of Locations Proposed to Be Served
  - Households
  - Education Institutions
  - Healthcare Organizations
  - Businesses
  - Municipal Organizations
  - Libraries
  - Total Community Anchor Institutions

Project Proposal *Publicly Posted*

Applicants will be required to detail their Project Proposal in the application. Please ensure responses to Project Proposal questions do not contain proprietary content as this information will be posted to KOBD's program website for public comment.

The Project Proposal must include the following:

- An executive summary of the project: This narrative overview should include the goals of the project, needs addressed, a description of the proposed service area, community partners involved, service partners involved, stakeholders involved, and the intended impact
- A description of the location (City(s), County(s), etc.), proposed service areas, and anticipated improvements
- Goals of the project need to include whether the proposed area is unserved, economically distressed or state the compelling need
- The proposed infrastructure and access improvements planned, including the number of proposed households, community anchor institutions, businesses, or other organizations to be served by the project
- The short and long-term investment benefit to the community and service area proposed

Service Area Map *Publicly Posted*

Applicants will be required to upload a file containing a Public Proposed Service Area map to be published on the program website for public comment.

The public service area map must document the proposed service area including details for the proposed service locations. The public map should be in .kmz format.

The public map will reflect all details that need to be disclosed for the public comment phase of the program, including:

- An outlined shaded service area of the proposed area to be served
- The fiber route(s) and proposed service locations (use yellow for new fiber routes; use red for existing fiber routes, with opacity of the shaded proposed service area at 50%)
- Wireless projects: RF prediction map depicting the location of the transmitter, its footprint, and proposed service locations identified
- A legend defining all unique data points on the map
- Any of the maps that apply to the respective technology solution or solutions being proposed:
    - FIBER Public Map (.kmz): Provide a public facing map that only depicts the proposed hardline routing (coax or fiber) to be funded by the grant
        - NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_PUBLIC_FIBERMap
    - HFC Public Map (.kmz): Provide a public facing map that only depicts the proposed hardline routing (hybrid fiber coax) to be funded by the grant
        - NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_PUBLIC_HFCMap

- FIXED WIRELESS PUBLIC MAP (.kmz): Provide an RF prediction map depicting the location of the transmitter and its footprint. The map should only indicate coverage areas where -78dBm or better is met
  - NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_PUBLIC_FixedWirelessMap
- MOBILE WIRELESS Public Map (.kmz): Provide an RF prediction map depicting the location of the transmitter and its footprint as follows. The Map should only indicate coverage areas where -102dBm or better is met
  - NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_PUBLIC_MobileWirelessMap

Community Partners: Narrative

Applicants must provide a narrative describing any community partners associated with the project's planning, promotion, adoption, or use. Describe each party's commitment and role in the project. Include any community anchor institutions (CAI) such as municipalities, chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, educational institutions, healthcare organizations, libraries, public safety, or other CAIs, along with businesses, non-profits, and other community stakeholders.

Community Partners: Letters of Commitment, Letters of Support

Applicants must provide letters of commitment outlining the explicit commitment and role of committed partners, and letters of support to reinforce narratives provided. For multiple partners, applicants are requested to consolidate letters into a single .pdf or .zip file.

Each letter should include the following:

- Dated letter with official organization's logo at top of letterhead
- Body of letter identifying the partner relationship and the role of the organization in the project
- Approving person's signature authorizing the commitment

Letters of commitment from the partners must include the following additional details:

- Planning, Engineering, and/or Construction partners
  - Validated estimated costs in proposed budget
  - Confirmation of their ability to complete their specific service/role in the project within the performance period
- Co-Investment partners
  - Co-investment funding source
  - The amount of co-investment
  - The specific broadband infrastructure program they are applying the co-investment funds to (i.e., the name of this program)

- Financial partners
  - Verification that the applicant has sufficient funds available to provide the minimum applicant match amount for the project
  - Letter must include the applicant match amount

Justification for the Project

Provide a narrative to justify the need for this project and relevant data indicators to support the effort. Provide evidence to make a compelling case for the project relative to the proposed service area. This information should include the following:

- A description of how this project addresses the critical need of the community to be served
- A description of the proposed service area, including whether the area is unserved, economically distressed, or if a specific, compelling need exists
- A description of how this project will address lack of access to a reliable high-speed broadband connection and/or affordable reliable broadband

Adoption, Affordability and Digital Opportunity Efforts

Adoption is a vital aspect of the success of these projects. Applicants will be asked to describe activities planned to increase adoption awareness. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate the affordability of the products and services within the proposed service area and how this will address current barriers to broadband access in their project proposal. Applicants are also encouraged to partner with local housing agencies to take advantage of programs that benefit multi-dwelling units. If applicable, applicants must include the following in their narrative:

- Describe any activities planned to increase adoption awareness
- Describe any resources the applicant will be contributing to the adoption efforts (i.e., digital literacy training, marketing campaigns, surveys, low-cost service options, etc.)
- Provide supporting documentation that shows the organization is participating in subsidy programs to optimize digital opportunities and adoption including partnering with school districts and colleges to raise awareness of subsidy programs such as Lifeline, Emergency Connectivity Fund, etc., if applicable.
- For the BAG 5.0 Program, KOBD defines affordable broadband services as a $60 per month or less service providing 100/20 Mbps or greater speeds. See the Affordability Goals section for further detail

Technical Project Plan

The Technical Project Plan details the technical elements of the proposed infrastructure build including:

- One contiguous proposed service area
- Proposed service area includes non-contiguous areas more than 10 miles apart
- Providing an explanation of how the economic and community impact is the same for the proposed areas

Technical Project Summary

Applicants must provide a technical summary of the proposed project including the following information:

- Overview of proposed improvements and scope of the project
- The specific access technology or technologies being implemented in the project (Copper, Coax Cable, Fiber to the Premise, Licensed Fixed Wireless, Licensed By Rule Fixed Wireless and Unlicensed Fixed Wireless)
- Explanation of why this area was chosen and is unlikely to be served without grant funding
- Explanation of terrain, population density or other factors contributing to cost
- Service-level options, including speed and latency to be offered
- Density per square mile of the proposed service area

Service Partners: Narrative

Describe any service partners or subcontractors associated with the project's deliverables related to deployment and service delivery, including each partner's role in the project.

Service Partners: Letters of Commitment

Applicants must upload letters of commitment from each service partner and subcontractor, if applicable. If provided, applicant must combine multiple letters into a single .pdf or .zip file with the following file naming convention:

- NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_ServicePartnerLetters

Network Architecture Diagram

Applicants must provide a diagram reflecting the way the network devices are placed and connected to serve the broadband needs of the end user. The diagram must reflect an end-to-end view of the network from the customer premises equipment to the internet point of presence, including any redundant paths showing network resiliency capabilities and connectivity speeds between devices as requested below:

- For fiber-based networks, at a minimum, the diagram must include network connection point/connection to the point of presence, router(s) types, optical line termination units, optical network termination devices, customer premises modems, central office/controlled environmental vaults, middle mile, and associated fiber physical connectivity types
- For hybrid fiber coax-based networks, at a minimum, the diagram must include cable modem, distribution hub or head end equipment, middle mile and associated physical connectivity types
- For wireless-based networks, at a minimum, the diagram must include customer premises equipment, speed of connection, physical medium/spectrum being used from tower to customer premises, equipment enabling tower signals, connectivity from tower to internet point of presence, middle mile and associated physical connectivity types

- Include a comprehensive high-level network architecture diagram for the project and upload a single .pdf or .zip file

Proprietary Detailed Map of the Proposed Area

The private map will reflect all details of the public map; plus, other proprietary information needed by KOBD to fully evaluate the application of the proposed service area and must include the following:

- Identification of each proposed last mile fiber routes, including connections to wireless towers if enabled
- Identification of handholes, point of presence (POP) connectivity or tie-point(s) to existing network, last mile fiber, and middle mile fiber
- Identification of each location to be enabled. Each location will be identified by its respective broadband serviceable location (BSL) identification so that each location is easily identified on GIS maps for the proposed network in .kmz format

Determination of the Available Broadband Service

KOBD desires to enable as many unserved areas as possible within the BAG 5.0 Program while preventing any overbuilding in areas with qualifying broadband speeds (100/20 Mbps). To accomplish this goal, the proposed service area information will be compared with the FCC's BDC data set to assess the Degree of Unserved (DoU) on a per-location basis using the Copper, Cable, Fiber to the Premise, Licensed Fixed Wireless, Licensed By Rule Fixed Wireless and Unlicensed Fixed Wireless service FCC BDC data sets. As such, each applicant will provide location data for their proposed service area for their respective application submission(s) so that the evaluation can occur post application submission. Applicants must adhere to the Fixed Broadband Availability Data Specifications Requirements section which provides the details regarding the formatting of the requested data. KOBD reserves the right to invalidate any application, public comment, or applicant response to a public comment should there be non-compliance with the data formatting requirements.

KOBD will determine the DoU by comparing the proposed service area location enablement with the existing broadband service availability documented in the FCC's BDC data set.

To ensure submitted applications target unserved areas, KOBD will only accept applications with a DoU of 80%. An unserved area is defined as a designated geographic area in which households, businesses, community anchor institutions, government buildings, etc. and associated location IDs are without a reliable broadband connection supporting at least 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload speeds (see "Unserved" details in Key Definitions section). The DoU can be calculated with the following equation:

Number of Location IDs without 100/20 Mbps services within the proposed service area

$$\text{DoU} = \frac{\text{Number of Locations IDs within the proposed service area}}{\text{Number of Locations IDs within the proposed service area}} = \%$$

KOBD encourages applicants to calculate an application's DoU prior to submission to ensure it meets the 80% DoU criteria. Technologies claiming ubiquitous coverage across all locations over a physical medium known to have service degradation based on distance from central offices/head ends/towers will be assessed in greater detail. Submitted broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) that are designated as "served" by an unreliable technology such as unlicensed fixed wireless or mobile wireless may, after evaluation by KOBD, be excluded from the equation's numerator based on ubiquitous coverage capabilities or other supplemental data provided by the applicant.

Refer to the most current FCC Broadband Data Collection tool data to determine existing broadband service levels and identify unserved areas with the proposed service area map.

All attached files requested within the Determination of the Available Broadband Service section must be uploaded in Comma Separated Value (.csv) format. The files must also match the specifications in the Fixed Broadband Availability Data Specifications Requirements section within this document.

Applicant's Proposed Service Area Data

The applicant must provide the specific locations that will be enabled with their respective proposed service area in both .csv file **AND** polygon format. The applicant must provide row-by-row input for each location served by the application. The data set format is listed in the Fixed Broadband Availability Data Specifications Requirements Section and complies with the FCC's BDC data set submission requirements and supports both the Locations list and Polygon submission formats.

Locations

- Applicants provide a list of locations that will be served by the proposed service area where the locations are based on the FCC's Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric. This list should be provided on the KOBD template named: BAG5_EvidenceDataProposed

Polygon

- Applicants provide a polygon representing the availability of the provider's service in acceptable GIS format (see Fixed Broadband Availability Coverage Maps Section for specific data format details). GIS formatted file must be zipped prior to providing.

NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_EvidenceDataProposed
Upload as a zip file.

Applicant's Existing Service Area Data

The applicant must identify the specific locations in their existing service area in both .csv file **AND** polygon formats. The applicant must provide row-by-row input for each location served by the application. The data set format is listed in the Fixed Broadband Availability Data Specifications Requirements Section and complies with the FCC's BDC data set submission requirements and supports both the Locations list and Polygon submission formats. Either format is acceptable to submit in the application process.

Locations

- Applicants provide a list of locations in their existing service area where the locations are based on the FCC's Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric. This list should be provided on the KOBD template name: BAG5_EvidenceDataExisting.

Polygon

- Applicants provide a polygon representing the availability of the provider's service in acceptable GIS format (see Fixed Broadband Availability Coverage Maps Section for specific data format details). GIS formatted file must be zipped prior to providing.

NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_EvidenceDataExisting.
Upload as a zip file.

Fixed Broadband Supporting Data and Required Attestations

All applicants, public comment providers and applicant respondents to public comments must comply with the FCC's "Broadband Data Collection: Data Specifications for Biannual Submission of Subscription, Availability, and Supporting Data" document dated March 30, 2023. Section 7, Fixed Broadband Supporting Data (https://us-fcc.box.com/v/bdc-availability-spec) defines the specific data attributes of the defined service area and associated location IDs when submitting location data in support of applications, public comments, and applicant responses to public comments. At the time of submitting respective data sets, an attestation will be required stating that each data submission is in compliance with FCC BDC standards on how the respective provider generated their coverage information.

KOBD will also require an attestation from each provider stating that their submitted data sets were uploaded into the FCC's BDC upload tool and passed all the accuracy tests prior to submitting to KOBD. If the data was not validated through the FCC BDC accuracy tests and is submitted, the associated application, public comment, and applicant response will be disqualified from consideration.

Other Data Providing Evidence of Unserved Area

As the FCC is collecting challenges for locations where there are qualifying speed service availability discrepancies between service providers and end users, some challenges may not be resolved before the BAG 5.0 Program application window closes. As such, KOBD will accept and evaluate the following data to determine broadband service availability as applicable:

- Speed test survey data for consumers in the designated area. KOBD will accept speed test data time stamped on or after the date in which proposed applications are submitted for public comment, November 3rd, 2025
- Documentation of existing infrastructure attributes indicating unserved areas
- Documentation from website of reported service provider stating that service is not available in the proposed project area
- Letters from residents, community representatives and other stakeholders that attest to a lack of qualifying broadband service speeds (100/20 Mbps) and meet the "Unserved" criteria as defined in the Key Definitions section

Data may be in .pdf, .doc, .xls, or other commonly available formats. Multiple documents should be combined into a single .zip or .pdf file.

NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_OtherEvidenceData

Broadband Service Availability Justification

If an applicant's proposed service area includes broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) that are served by 100/20 Mbps speeds or higher (see "Served" definition in Key Definitions section), the applicant must provide justification on why the proposed service area includes these locations. Specifically, for the locations where the FCC BDC data shows an existing service provider offering speeds equal to or greater than 100/20 Mbps, the applicant must explain why grant funding should be used to enable speeds that already meet or exceed program requirements.

The presence of existing infrastructure with qualifying broadband speeds of 100/20 Mbps or location ID alone does not disqualify an area from the grant process. For example, fiber for residential service may be constructed in an area but service is not yet available to specific locations, or the address lacks a service drop that can be provided within ten (10) business days of service order. Additionally, fiber might run through an area but not be available for residential services along that route (e.g., backhaul service to a tower location). A broadband serviceable location (BSL) will be deemed ineligible if service is available with a reliable broadband connection of 100/20 Mbps speeds at specific locations.

NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_Justification.

Ineligible Areas

Areas already receiving funding for broadband expansion from other sources are ineligible. Ineligible areas include but are not limited to:

- BEAD broadband serviceable locations (BSLs)
- Areas awarded Coronavirus Relief Fund Connectivity Emergency Response Grants (CERG) with more than 100/20 Mbps speeds enabled
- Areas awarded Broadband Acceleration Grants for Year 1 (BAG 1.0)
- Areas awarded Broadband Acceleration Grants for Year 2 (BAG 2.0)
- Areas awarded Broadband Acceleration Grants for Year 3 (BAG 3.0)
- Areas awarded Broadband Acceleration Grants for Year 4 (BAG 4.0)
- Areas awarded Lasting Infrastructure and Network Connectivity (LINC) grants
- Areas awarded NTIA Tribal Broadband Grants
- RDOF areas with the status of "Winning Bidder/Awarded", "Ready to Authorize" or "Received Authorization of Support Notice" that have committed to delivering 100/20 Mbps or greater speeds using a wireline/fiber-based architecture
- Areas with certified awards through the FCC Rural Development Opportunity Fund (RDOF) with more than 100/20 Mbps wireline/fiber speeds enabled
- United States Treasury Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Broadband Infrastructure grant awards
- Any other federal broadband program encumbering broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) approved for deployment

If BSLs are included in an application that are later determined to be part of BEAD, previous State of Kansas or other federally sponsored broadband programs, they will be removed from the application and not be funded.

Note: Areas where applicants forfeited grant awards will remain eligible.

Previous KOBD programs awarded to a municipality to serve community anchor institutions for public safety, or an enterprise-focused award will not be disqualified for a new residential proposal.

NOTE: *Applicants falsifying location eligibility may be subject to grant rescindment and/or restricted from future program participation.*

Fixed Broadband Availability Data Specifications Requirements

Facilities-based providers of fixed broadband service must report data on their service availability and proposed service availability within Kansas for the BAG 5.0 Program in one of two formats:

- A list of locations served by the provider, in a tabular format, where the locations are based on the FCC's Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric, or
- A polygon representing the availability of the provider's service in one of the acceptable GIS formats listed below

Service provider applicants or public commenters must use one of these formats for their fixed availability data and/or public comment challenge data. They may not submit fixed availability data in multiple formats for any one proposed service area or any one public comment challenge data set. Multiple formats may be submitted from one service provider if the data set reflects:

- a separate and/or distinct proposed service area of an application
- a separate and/or distinct existing service area description of two separate legal entities within a provider's line of business
- a separate and/or distinct public comment challenge data set

Regardless of the format chosen, providers of fixed broadband service must base their service availability footprints on the definitions and standards specified in the Broadband DATA Act and adopted by the FCC. Specifically, providers reporting fixed service must identify the specific locations in areas where they have built out their broadband network infrastructure and to which they either currently provide service or could perform a standard broadband installation. A standard installation is defined in the Broadband DATA Act as "[the] initiation by a provider of fixed broadband internet access service [within ten (10) business days of a request] in an area in which the provider has not previously offered that service, with no charges or delays attributable to the extension of the network of the provider."

Fixed Wired Reporting

Providers of fixed wired broadband service must not exceed specific maximum buffer distances around their aggregation points when reporting service availability based on their wired technologies. Buffer distances from the aggregation point to the location served are measured in route distance and must reflect where providers have deployed their last-mile distribution networks. Providers may not create and submit a coverage area based on an aerial (or "as the crow flies") radius around an aggregation point. Below is a summary of the maximum buffer sizes:

- For providers using Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) technologies to offer speeds at 25/3 Mbps or greater, the maximum buffer is a distance of 6,600 route feet from the DSL Access Multiplexer (DSLAM) to the covered premises
    - Providers that make fixed DSL service available at a maximum speed less than 25/3 Mbps in an area will not be subject to a maximum buffer requirement for such areas. However, these coverage areas must include only the areas where the provider has actually built out their broadband network infrastructure, such that they are able to provide service or could perform a standard broadband installation
- For providers using Hybrid Fiber Coax (HFC) technology, the maximum buffer is 12,000 route feet from the aggregation point to the customer premises

- For providers using Fiber to the Premises (FTTP or fiber) technologies, the maximum buffer is 196,000 route feet from the Optical Line Terminal (OLT) to the Optical Network Termination (ONT)
- For all fixed wired technologies, the buffer distance from the aggregation point shall include the drop distance. The drop distance is a maximum of 500 feet from a deployed line or distribution network infrastructure to the parcel boundary of a served location

These buffers are not safe harbors or substitutes for a provider's own determination of the extent of the actual availability of its service. Instead, the buffers are maximum distances that wireline broadband service providers may not exceed in filing their availability data except where a specific exception applies. In their availability reporting, filers should only include locations outside of the prescribed buffers under the following circumstances:

- The filer has served a current or former subscriber using speed and technology
- The locations are in an area in which the provider is receiving or has received universal service support to provide broadband service—or has other federal, state, or local obligations to make service available in the area—and the provider makes service available in that area
- The Federal Communications Commission has granted a waiver to exceed the buffers based on a specific shown by the provider

Terrestrial Fixed Wireless Reporting

Fixed wireless providers that submit availability information in a coverage polygon format must base their coverage on propagation modeling. Fixed wireless providers must use the following parameters in their propagation modeling when generating their coverage for the BDC:

- A minimum 75% cell edge probability
- A minimum 50% cell loading factor and

Receiver heights within a range of four to seven meters

Table 2: Terrestrial Fixed Wireless Reporting Description

Section	Data Item	Entities	Method of Submission	Description/Notes
Fixed Broadband Availability Location Lists	Fixed Broadband Coverage (Location List)	• Fixed Service Providers • Governmental Entities • Third Parties	File Upload	A list of locations (coded from the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric) indicating the extent of a fixed service provider's broadband service area in a tabular format.
Fixed Broadband Availability Coverage Maps	Fixed Broadband Coverage (Polygon Map)	• Fixed Service Providers • Governmental Entities • Third Parties	File Upload	Coverage map(s) with polygon GIS data indicating the extent of a fixed provider's broadband service availability in an area.

Fixed Broadband Availability Location Lists

If an applicant chooses to submit availability data using this format, the file must contain a list of the locations served by a fixed broadband provider. The locations should match and conform to the locations in the FCC's Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric, which will include a unique identifier, the geographic coordinates, and, where available, the address(es) associated with each location.

Because a provider could potentially serve an individual location using multiple technologies, each with its own maximum advertised download and upload speeds, latency flag, and business/residential category, a location can be included multiple times. However, each technology offered to an individual location should have only one record for each combination of location, technology, and business/residential category (in cases where a provider offers a distinct residential service and distinct business service at a location). The record should include a single maximum download speed, maximum upload speed, and latency flag for that technology.

Any service that does not offer maximum advertised speeds that are at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload should be reported as either 10/1 Mbps or 0/0 Mbps based on the guidance in the table below. When service is offered to a location with multiple potential or existing connections, the filer should report the maximum advertised download and upload speeds offered to end users at the location (not the aggregate bandwidth deployed by a provider's network to the building). If no maximum downstream or upload speeds are advertised for the service, enter the speeds that end users should expect to receive.

The file with the list of locations where the service is available must be uploaded in Comma Separated Value (.csv) format and match the specifications in the table below. All values are required.

Table 3: Fixed Broadband Availability Location Attributes (continued next page)

Field	Header	Data Type	Example	Description/Note
Provider ID	provider_id	Integer	131425	A unique 6-digit code generated by the FCC that identifies each service provider. The list of Provider IDs will be posted on the FCC's BDC website at: http://www.fcc.gov/BroadbandData/filers. *- When the entity is a service provider, the values in this field can be null and will be ignored, but the field must be included in the file.*
Brand Name	brand_name	String	Verizon	Name of the entity or service advertised or offered to consumers.
Location ID	location_id	String		A unique identifier for the location served. A Location ID will be included for each location in the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric when the Fabric is made available to filers.
Technology	technology	Integer	50	Code for the technology used for the deployed service. The value must be one of the following codes (see Section 4 for a description of each technology code): 10 – Copper Wire 40 – Coaxial Cable HFC 50 – Optical Carrier/Fiber to the Premises 60 – Geostationary Satellite 61 – Non-geostationary Satellite 70 – Unlicensed Terrestrial Fixed Wireless 71 – Licensed Terrestrial Fixed Wireless 72 – Licensed-by-Rule Terrestrial Fixed Wireless 0 - Other

Table 3: Fixed Broad Band Availability Location Attributes (continued next page)

Table 3: Fixed Broadband Availability Location Attributes (continued on next page)

Field	Header	Data Type	Example	Description/Note
Maximum Advertised Download Speed	max_advertised_ download_speed	Integer	1000	Maximum advertised download speed, in Mbps, offered to the end user(s) at the location. Enter the value as an integer. The system will reject a file if the value in this field is not an integer and does not meet the requirements below. It will not round or truncate decimals. Service Below 25/3 Mbps Regarding the maximum advertised speeds of the service offered, if the download is less than 25 Mbps or the upload is less than 3 Mbps, but either the download or upload speed is at least 200 kbps, then report using one of the following service tiers: 1) If the maximum advertised download speed is less than 10 Mbps or the maximum advertised upload speed is less than 1 Mbps: enter 0. The system will ask the filer to confirm that the service offered falls in this tier. 2) If the maximum advertised download speed is greater than or equal to 10 Mbps and the maximum advertised upload speed is greater than or equal to 1 Mbps: enter 10. For example, speed combinations of 50/2 Mbps (down/up), 10/10 Mbps, and 10/20 Mbps should all be reported as 10 in this field (since they all meet or exceed a 10/1 Mbps speed for both download and upload). Speed combinations of 5/5 Mbps and 10/0.768 Mbps should report 0 in this field (since they do not meet a 10/1 Mbps speed). Service At or Above 25/3 Mbps If the service offered has a maximum advertised download speed that is greater than or equal to 25 Mbps and a maximum advertised upload speed that is greater than or equal to 3 Mbps, enter the value of the advertised download speed in Mbps as an integer. If no downstream speed is advertised for the service, enter the speed that end users should expect to receive.

Field	Header	Data Type	Example	Description/Note
Maximum Advertised	max_advertised_ upload_speed	Integer	1000	Maximum advertised download speed, in Mbps, offered to the end user(s) at the location. Enter the value as an integer. The system will reject a file if the value in this

Upload Speed				field is not an integer and does not meet the requirements below. It will not round or truncate decimals. Service Below 25/3 Mbps Regarding the maximum advertised speeds of the service offered, if the download is less than 25 Mbps or the upload is less than 3 Mbps, but either the download or upload speed is at least 200 kbps, then report using one of the following service tiers: 1) If the maximum advertised download speed is less than 10 Mbps or the maximum advertised upload speed is less than 1 Mbps: enter 0. The system will ask the filer to confirm that the service offered falls in this tier. 2) If the maximum advertised download speed is greater than or equal to 10 Mbps and the maximum advertised upload speed is greater than or equal to 1 Mbps: enter 10. For example, speed combinations of 50/2 Mbps (down/up), 10/10 Mbps, and 10/20 Mbps should all be reported as 10 in this field (since they all meet or exceed a 10/1 Mbps speed for both download and upload). Speed combinations of 5/5 Mbps and 10/0.768 Mbps should report 0 in this field (since they do not meet a 10/1 Mbps speed). Service At or Above 25/3 Mbps If the service offered has a maximum advertised download speed that is greater than or equal to 25 Mbps and a maximum advertised upload speed that is greater than or equal to 3 Mbps, enter the value of the advertised download speed in Mbps as an integer. If no downstream speed is advertised for the service, enter the speed that end users should expect to receive.

Table 3: Fixed Broadband Availability Location Attributes

Field	Header	Data Type	Example	Description/Note
Latency	low_latency	Boolean Integer	1	The offered service is low latency, defined as having round-trip latency of less than or equal to 100 milliseconds based on the 95th percentile of measurements. *- Value must be one of the following codes:* *0 – False* *1 – True*
Business / Residential Category	business_residential_code	Enumerated String {1}	B	Enumerated character identifying whether the service at the location is business-only, residential-only, or offered to both business and residential customers. *Value entered must be one of the following codes:* *B – Business-only service* *R – Residential-only service* *X – Business and Residential service* If distinct residential and business services, each with different maximum advertised download and upload speeds, are offered at the same location, enter those services as separate records, one with R and one with B.

Fixed Broadband Availability Coverage Maps

If a fixed broadband provider chooses to submit availability data as a coverage polygon, rather than the list of locations described in Section 6.1 of the FCC's "Broadband Data Collection: Data Specifications for Biannual Submission of Subscription, Availability, and Supporting Data" (dated December 31, 2025), the data file must contain GIS data with polygon geometries and associated data attributes. The data must be submitted in one of the following GIS data formats: ESRI Shapefile, ESRI FileGDB, GeoJSON, or Geopackage. The required specifications for the data attribute table in the chosen GIS data file are outlined below in Table 4: GIS Data Attributes.

Coverage polygons must only encompass the locations to which the provider either currently provides service or could perform a "standard broadband installation" as defined in the FCC's rules. Each polygon should represent a unique combination of the following fields: providerid, brandname, technology, maxdown, maxup, lowlatency, and bizrescode. When a service provider reports multiple technologies for the coverage areas, the different technologies (such as DSL and fiber) can overlap. In addition, in cases where a provider offers a distinct residential service and distinct business service in an area, each with its own distinct maximum advertised download and upload speed, those coverage areas can overlap. Otherwise, coverage areas for the same technology cannot overlap, and if residential or business mass market service is offered at

different download and upload speed combinations using the same type of technology, the filer should report the highest speeds offered (based on the guidance below). If service is offered at different *maximum* speeds in different areas, the provider must submit separate polygons representing the coverage areas of those different speeds, but the polygons must not overlap.

If no maximum downstream or upload speeds are advertised for the service, enter the speeds that end users should expect to receive.

Providers may split each map up into multiple files to facilitate the generation and submission of the GIS data, as long as the polygons in one file do not overlap with the polygons in another file for the same technology.

GIS Data Attributes

Table 4: GIS Data Attributes (continued on the next page)

Data Attribute Field	Data Type	Example	Description/Notes
providerid	Integer	131425	A unique 6-digit code generated by the FCC that identifies each service provider. The list of Provider IDs will be posted on the FCC's BDC website at http://www.fcc.gov/BroadbandData/filers. *- When the entity is a service provider, the values in this field can be null and will be ignored, but the field must be included in the file.*
brandname	Text	Verizon	Name of the entity or service advertised or offered to consumers.
technology	Enumerated Integer	50	Code for the technology used for the service offered. The value must be one of the following codes (see Section 4 for a description of each technology code): *10 – Copper Wire* *40 – Coaxial Cable/HFC* *50 – Optical Carrier/Fiber to the Premises* *60 – Geostationary Satellite* *61 – Non-geostationary Satellite* *70 – Unlicensed Terrestrial Fixed Wireless* *71 – Licensed Terrestrial Fixed Wireless* *72 – Licensed-by-Rule Terrestrial Fixed Wireless* *0 – Other*

Table 4: GIS Data Attributes (continued on the next page)

Data Attribute Field	Data Type	Example	Description/Notes
maxdown	Integer	100	Maximum advertised download speed offered to the end user(s) at the location in Mbps as an integer. The system will reject a file if the value in this field is not an integer and does not meet the requirements below. It will not round or truncate decimals. Service Below 25/3 Mbps Regarding the maximum advertised speeds of the service offered, if the download is less than 25 Mbps or the upload is less than 3 Mbps, but either the download or upload speed is at least 200 kbps, then report using one of the following service tiers: 1. If the maximum advertised download speed is less than 10 Mbps or the maximum advertised upload speed is less than 1 Mbps: enter 0. The system will ask the filer to confirm that the service offered falls in this tier. 2. If the maximum advertised download speed is greater than or equal to 10 Mbps and the maximum advertised upload speed is greater than or equal to 1 Mbps: enter 10. For example, speed combinations of 50/2 Mbps (down/up), 10/10 Mbps, and 10/20 Mbps should all be reported as 10 in this field (since they all meet or exceed a 10/1 Mbps speed for both download and upload). Speed combinations of 5/5 Mbps and 10/0.768 Mbps should report 0 in this field (since they do not meet a 10/1 Mbps speed). Service At or Above 25/3 Mbps If the service offered has a maximum advertised download speed that is greater than or equal to 25 Mbps and a maximum advertised upload speed that is greater than or equal to 3 Mbps, enter the value of the advertised download speed in Mbps as an integer. If no downstream speed is advertised for the service, enter the speed that end users should expect to receive.

Table 4: GIS Data Attributes (continued on the next page)

Data Attribute	Data Type	Example	Description/Notes

Field			
maxup	Integer	10	Maximum advertised upload speed, in Mbps, associated with the maximum advertised download speed offered to the end user(s) at the location. Enter the value as an integer. The system will reject a file if the value in this field is not an integer; it will not round or truncate decimals. Service Below 25/3 Mbps Regarding the maximum advertised speeds of the service offered, if the download is less than 25 Mbps or the upload is less than 3 Mbps, but either the download or upload speed is at least 200 kbps, then report using one of the following service tiers: 1. If the maximum upload speed is less than 1 Mbps or the download speed is less than 10 Mbps: enter 0. The system will ask the filer to confirm that the service offered falls in this tier. 2. If the maximum upload speed is greater than or equal to 1 Mbps and the download speed is greater than or equal to 10 Mbps **1**. For example, speed combinations of 50/2 Mbps (down/up), 10/10 Mbps, and 10/20 Mbps should all report 1 in this field (all meet or exceed a 10/1 Mbps speed for both download and upload). Speed combinations of 5/5 Mbps and 10/0.768 Mbps should report 0 in this field (since they do not meet a 10/1 Mbps speed). Service At or Above 25/3 MbpsIf the service offered has a maximum advertised upload speed that is greater than or equal to 3 Mbps paired with a maximum advertised download speed that is greater than or equal to 25 Mbps, enter the value of the advertised upload speed in Mbps as an integer. If no upstream speed is advertised for the service, enter the speed that end users should expect to receive.
low latency	Boolean Integer	1	The offered service is low latency, defined as having round-trip latency of less than or equal to 100 milliseconds based on the 95th percentile of measurements. - *Value must be one of the following codes: 0 – False, 1 – True*

Table 4: GIS Data Attributes

Data Attribute Field	Data Type	Example	Description/ Notes
bizrescode	Enumerated Text	B	Enumerated character identifying whether the service in the area is business-only, residential-only, or offered to both business and residential customers.

			Value entered must be one of the following codes: *B – Business-only service* *R – Residential-only service* *X – Business and Residential service* Polygons representing distinct residential and business service areas, each with different maximum advertised download and upload speeds, can overlap.

GIS Data Standards

The following data standards must be followed when providing GIS data sets:

- All files must contain valid GIS data in a supported file format (i.e., ESRI Shapefile, ESRI, FileGDB, GeoJSON, or GeoPackage)
- For ESRI Shapefile or ESRI FileGDB data, GIS data must be submitted as a single .zip archive file
- GIS data must use the unprojected (geographic) WGS84/EPSG:4326 coordinate reference system
- GIS data must contain well-formed 2D vector polygon data according to the OGC (Open Geospatial Consortium) rules
- GIS data must contain only closed, non-overlapping polygons
- Any variation in any of the required fields necessitates the creation of a separate polygon showing the relevant coverage. In other words, each polygon must have a single value for each of the following fields: technology code ("technology"), maximum advertised download speed ("maxdown"), maximum advertised upload speed ("maxup"), low latency flag ("low latency"), and business/residential code ("bizrescode")

Project Plan and Milestones

Applicants must upload a project plan in Excel format using the approved program template that includes details relevant to each stage of the project, milestones for each phase of the project, covers the entire project period, and aligns to the proposed project budget.

At a minimum, the plan should incorporate the following:

- Preconstruction Planning - Engineering
- Permitting - Leasing - Licensing
- Construction
- Equipment Installation
- Project Implementation
- Adoption and Marketing Outreach
- Operational Validation Plan

The approved program template can be found on the BAG 5.0 program website. Applicants must consolidate multiple files into a single .pdf or .zip file and must follow the naming convention for one or multiple files submitted:

- NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_ProjectPlan

Technical Infrastructure Proposed

Four technology infrastructure solution outlines are identified below. When submitting application data, applicants will select from one of the following infrastructure solutions that best represents the solution being proposed within the application and then following the guidance contained within the specific "Technical Infrastructure Proposed" section as applicable. All backhaul/middle mile infrastructure needed to support the respective proposed last mile solution must be included in the documentation.

- Option A: Fiber to the Premise (FTTP)
- Option B: Fixed Wireless
- Option C: Mobile Wireless
- Option D: Hybrid Fiber Coax (HFC)

If Option A: Fiber To The Premise is chosen above:

Technical Infrastructure Proposed: Fiber to the Premise

- Provide a detailed description of the proposed fiber project [Text Box]
- In addition to the PUBLIC MAP provided earlier, provide a detailed "PRIVATE"/"PROPRIETARY" map in .kmz uploaded as a .zip file. Please provide a .kmz map of the project (uploaded as a .zip file) to include:
    - Routes of all new plant to be funded by the grant
    - Existing plant (coax or fiber) feeding the proposed build-out
    - Delineate routing between types: coax and fiber
    - Delineation between which existing plant segments are new or existing
    - End point connections
    - Private/Proprietary marking designation as appropriate
- NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_PRIVATE_FIBERMap

Provide A Fiber Equipment Spreadsheet (.xls)

This will capture the type of equipment used within the solution and must include manufacturer and model number for the following at a minimum:

- Head end
- Access gear
- Cabinets
- NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_FIBEREQUIP

If Option B: Fixed Wireless is chosen above:

Technical Infrastructure Proposed: Fixed Wireless

- Provide a technical overview of the fixed wireless solution proposed [Text Box]
- FIXED WIRELESS PROJECT MAPS: [Upload] In addition to the PUBLIC Project Map uploaded earlier, please provide the following .kmz project maps for the fixed wireless project proposed. These "PRIVATE"/"PROPRIETARY" maps should be labeled as such
- FIXED WIRELESS PROJECT MAPS *PROPRIETARY* Internal Review only (.kmz):
    - SERVICE AREA MAP: Provide a polygon of the desired geography to be covered by the project. The map should only include areas where -78dBm or better is met. The map should also include the following:
        - Points inside the polygon of all CPE locations for fixed wireless connectivity
        - Points for the locations of base station equipment
        - NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_PRIVATE_ServArea
    - RF PREDICTION MAP: Provide an RF prediction map depicting the location of the transmitter, its footprint, and a map legend. Use an RSSI scale of -70dBm, -80dBm, -90dBm. The map should also include:
        - Base stations
        - Where CBEs are located in RF coverage
        - Basic antenna orientation
        - NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_PRIVATE_RFPredict
    - BACKHAUL MAP (.kmz)
        - Point-to-Point (PTP) Backhaul: In Google Earth, draw in the points of each PTP link for review
            - NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_PRIVATE_BackhaulPTP
        - FIBER Backhaul map should include:
            - Routes of all new plant to be funded by the grant
            - Point connections
            - Delineate routing between types if needed: coax and fiber
            - NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_PRIVATE_BackhaulFiber
- Provide a FIXED WIRELESS Equipment Spreadsheet (.xls) with worksheets for the RF Equipment, Customer Premise Equipment (CPE), and Backhaul Equipment relative to the proposed project to include the details outlined in the template below:
    - NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_FixedWirelessEQUIP
- Provide an RF data worksheet to include the following:
    - Base station equipment

        - Manufacturer
        - Model Number
        - EIRP
    - Base station antenna information
        - Manufacturer
        - Model number
        - Azimuth
        - Down tilt
        - Center Line
- Provide a Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) worksheet, documenting manufacturer and model number, to include the following:
    - The standard CPE configuration is to be used in the project
    - CPE antenna information including:
        - Center line
        - Gain of antenna
- Backhaul Equipment worksheet to include equipment appropriate to the backhaul. Applicant must identify the type of backhaul by the worksheet label (Backhaul PTP or Backhaul) and include manufacture and model number for every device:
    - Backhaul - Point to Point (PTP) Equipment worksheet to include every PTP link location:
        - PTP Radio Equipment
        - PTP Antenna information
            - Azimuth
            - Down tilt
            - Center line
    - Backhaul-Fiber Equipment worksheet to include:
        - Head end
        - Access gear
        - Cabinets
- Define the clutter terrain resolution utilized in the RF predictions:
    - 30m
    - 10m
    - 1m
    - 3D
    - Other
- Provide projected capacity per base station expectations
- Provide projected/designed subscription throughputs
- Provide oversubscription ratios
- Describe the MIMO allocation:

- 2x2
- 2x4
- 4x4
- Other

If Option C: Mobile Wireless is chosen above:

Technical Infrastructure Proposed: Mobile Wireless

Applicants must provide a technical summary of the mobile wireless solution proposed:

- REQUIRED ("Private"/"Proprietary") (.kmz). Applicant must upload a Service Area Map, an RF Prediction Map, and a Backhaul Map as outlined. Upload these as a SINGLE ZIP FILE using the naming convention provided. These maps should be labeled "Private"/" Proprietary" and be in a .kmz format:
  - SERVICE AREA MAP: Provide a polygon of the desired geography to be covered by the project. The map should only include areas where -102dBm or better is met. Map should be noted as "Proprietary" and include the following:
    - Points inside the polygon of all CPE locations for fixed wireless household connectivity
    - Points for the locations of base station equipment
    - NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_PRIVATE_ServiceArea
  - RF PREDICATION MAP: Provide an RF prediction map depicting the location of the transmitter, its footprint, and a map legend. Use an RSRP scale of -92dBm, -102dBm, -106dBm. Identify this map as proprietary. Please include the following:
    - Base stations
    - Where CBEs are located in RF coverage
    - Basic antenna orientation
    - NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_PRIVATE_RFPrediction
  - BACKHAUL MAP
    - If the Point to Point Backhaul drawing is in .kmz format, then in Google Earth, draw in the points of each PTP link for review. Format must be .kmz
    - NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_PRIVATE_BackhaulPTP

Mobile Wireless Equipment File Requirements

Provide a Mobile Wireless Equipment Spreadsheet in .xls format to include manufacturer and model number, with the following worksheets: RF Base station equipment and the Backhaul equipment. Upload as a single spreadsheet.

- NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_MobileWirelessEQUIP
- RF data worksheet should include the following:
    - Base station equipment
        - EIRP
    - Base station antenna information
        - Azimuth
        - Down tilt
        - Center line
- Backhaul Equipment worksheet to include equipment appropriate to the backhaul proposed:
    - Backhaul - PTP Equipment worksheet to include every PTP link location
        - PTP radio equipment
        - PTP antenna information
            - Azimuth
            - Down tilt
            - Center line
- Backhaul-Fiber Equipment worksheet to include:
    - Head end
    - Access Gear
    - Cabinets
    - Typical equipment used
    - NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_MobileWirelessEQUIP

Once the worksheets are completed, please complete the following in the application:

- Provide description of engineered hand-off levels in RSRP
- Please describe channel size (5-80)
- Provide projected capacity per base station expectations
- Provide oversubscription ratios
- Describe the MIMO allocation
    - 2x2
    - 2x4
    - 4x4
    - Other

Please upload any additional technical reports, predictions, or documents relative to the project important to technical consideration or the review process. If multiple files, please consolidate into a single .pdf or .zip.

- NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_TechnicalAttachments

If Option D: Hybrid Fiber Coax (HFC) is chosen above:

Technical Infrastructure Proposed: Hybrid Fiber Coax (HFC)

- Provide a detailed description of the proposed HFC project
- In addition to the PUBLIC MAP provided earlier, provide a detailed "PRIVATE"/"PROPRIETARY" map in .kmz uploaded as a .zip file. Please provide a .kmz map of the project (uploaded as a .zip file) to include:
    - Routes of all new plant to be funded by the grant
    - Existing plant (coax or fiber) feeding the proposed build-out
    - Delineation on which portions are new or existing
    - Point connections
    - Delineate routing between types: HFC and fiber
    - Identify the map as "Private"/ "Proprietary"
- NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_PRIVATE_Hybrid

Provide A Hybrid Fiber Coax Equipment Spreadsheet (.xls)

This will capture the type of equipment used within the solution and must include manufacturer and model number for the following at a minimum:

- Head end
- Access gear
- Cabinets
- NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_HFCEQUIP

Long Term Investment Viability/Scalability

KOBD is interested in making long-term broadband investments that will prevent near-term electronics upgrades from occurring and "leapfrogging" other infrastructure programs to accelerate high-speed broadband services to Kansas. As such, if fiber infrastructure is used in proposed service area projects, applicants are highly encouraged to implement electronics within their respective architecture that can deliver up to 10 Gbps symmetrical speeds or greater at the time of project build. Additional points will be awarded during the application evaluation process should 10 Gbps or greater capable electronics be implemented in the applicant's proposed projects.

Applicants must upload evidence to demonstrate the scalability and capabilities of the proposed project's technology. Include current technology levels, ability to upgrade, and latency levels. Scalability and futureproofing are defined as the ability to achieve up to 10 Gbps symmetrical or

greater speeds through initial deployment or the capability to upgrade with minimal incremental investment.

- NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_Scalability

Budget And Financial Requirements

Project budget and financial submission requirements include the following:

- Budget Narrative
  - Provide explanation of costs that correspond with the information included in the project budget spreadsheet
  - Provide the necessity and basis for costs
  - Reflect only allowable costs consistent with project scope
- Project Budget and Bill of Materials
  - Upload a project budget and bill of materials according to the appropriate infrastructure template (Fiber, Hybrid Fiber Coax (HFC) or Wireless). All applicants must complete and submit a budget using the Budget Template provided, located on the BAG 5.0 program website. The Budget Template includes all the associated bill of materials. Submissions that do not meet the minimum required applicant match may not be reviewed or considered for funding
  - NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_Budget.
- Last two years of applicant's audited income statement
  - NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_Financial.
- Matching funds and in-kind match
  - ✓ Bank verification letter that proves there are sufficient funds for the minimum required applicant match amount. Submissions that do not provide a bank verification letter or acceptable alternatives may not be reviewed or considered for funding. Other acceptable proof demonstrating sufficient funds is noted below:
    - Companies (Public or Private) providing a bond rating from Moody's, Standard and Poor's, or Fitch of Investment Grade at the time an application is submitted
    - Companies may provide financial information of parent organization if audited financials for operating subsidiary are not available.
  - NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_BankVerification.
  - ✓ If an applicant is providing in-kind match, applicants must upload documentation that validates the in-kind match being submitted with the project. Applicants will be requested to combine multiple files into one .pdf or .zip file
    - In-kind match valuations must not exceed 50% of the 50% required project match. All claims for reimbursement for in-kind contributions will be analyzed using criteria similar to the program descriptions available here and claims for in-kind contributions should be reasonable

  - KOBD and the Kansas Department of Commerce will ultimately have the discretion to determine if an in-kind contribution is acceptable or not
  - NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_In-Kind.
- Co-Investment
  - Letter of commitment from the co-investor.
  - Should be on letterhead of the co-investor, include a commitment to provide the identified amount of co-investment and be signed by a party with the authority to make such commitment/co-investment.
  - NAMING CONVENTION: BAG5_OrgName_Geographic Identifier_Coinvestment

Applicant Attestations

- The grant applicant is in good financial standing with the State of Kansas
- The grant applicant is not currently involved in pending litigation in association with previous Kansas-sponsored broadband infrastructure grant projects
- The grant applicant is not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participating in covered transactions by any federal department or agency
- If a private entity, the grant applicant has been operating in the State of Kansas for three (3) years or more. The grant applicant has not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for the commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property
- The grant applicant is not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (federal, state or local)
- The grant applicant has not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated for cause or default
- The grant applicant is participating in subsidy programs to optimize digital opportunities (i.e., Lifeline, Emergency Connectivity Fund etc.), if applicable.
- All applicants will be required to agree to accept the terms and conditions of the grant agreement at the time of application submission. A template grant agreement will be posted on the KOBD website.
- The grant applicant agrees that if awarded funds through the BAG 5.0 Program, the grant agreement will be executed within 7 business days of receipt from Commerce. If the agreement is not executed within 7 business days, the Kansas Department of Commerce reserves the right to reallocate funds

- All applicants will attest that each FCC BDC data submission for their respective proposed service area and State of Kansas service area is in compliance with FCC BDC standards on how the provider generated their coverage information
- All applicants will be required to sign the Department of Commerce Confidentiality Agreement at the time of application submission

Required Attachments

Attachments and support materials must be uploaded into the application through Salesforce. Attachments and support materials will not be accepted by any other method. Required attachments are required for eligibility. The required attachments are listed in the Application User Guide.

Submission Instructions

Refer to the Application User Guide for detailed instructions on completing and submitting an application.

Late Applications

To maintain a fair application process, the Kansas Department of Commerce will not accept late grant applications.

For emergency circumstances please email KDC_Broadband@ks.gov to discuss any extenuating circumstances that led to late submission.

Public Comment Period

To ensure transparency and the best use of taxpayer funds, the application and selection process will include a five (5) business day public comment period followed by a five (5) business days applicant response period. This process is intended to allow providers, elected officials, and constituents to either express support or inform KOBD of any issues or concerns with an application or its proposed service area. All comments expressing concern collected during the public comment period will be considered “challenges” and are subject to public disclosure. Public comment submitters will be deemed as “challengers”.

Public Comments Regarding Service Areas with Projects Underway

For service areas where projects are already underway, the public comment shall contain information demonstrating that the provider has begun construction activities. The project must provide a broadband network in the proposed project area with access to the internet at speeds equal to or greater than 100 Mbps for downloading and 20 Mbps for uploading. The service provider must submit proof that work has started on a project to complete broadband

infrastructure in the applicant's proposed service area. By submitting a public comment for this particular scenario, applicants will be obligating themselves to fund and build these locations with or without additional funds such as from the BEAD program or any other enforceable commitment. Evidence to prove that an infrastructure project is underway must include all items listed below:

- Planning and/or engineering plans and associated drawings
- Permitting requests
- Application for franchise agreement (if applicable)
- Project bill of materials
- Purchase orders for equipment on the bill of materials
- Invoices for engineering or construction activities for building broadband infrastructure in proposed service area
- Provider commitment that the stated project would complete no later than twelve (12) months after the date grant awards are made under the program and would be funded by the service provider. A template letter of commitment will be provided by KOBD that must be used and signed by the provider
- The specific access technology (fiber, hybrid-fiber coax, licensed fixed wireless, licensed by rule fixed wireless or unlicensed fixed wireless) or combination of technologies being used to deliver the broadband solution
- A map in .kmz format detailing the underway project's service area containing the following:
    - Number of serviceable locations, each marked with Broadband Serviceable Location (BSL) identifier within the proposed project area, including the speeds those serviceable locations are able to receive
    - Polygon defining the service in which the infrastructure is being placed
    - Fiber or other infrastructure routes specified within the service area polygon
    - No other format other than .kmz will be accepted

Evidence submitted will be deemed proprietary in nature and not subject to disclosure where applicable in accordance with state and federal law. Challenger must provide a current Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Broadband Data Collection (BDC) Fabric data set for the proposed project service area that documents the area under construction.

Public Comments Regarding Service Area With Projects Planned But Not Underway

For proposed service areas where projects are planned, but not underway, the public comment shall contain information demonstrating that the service provider has begun the planning phase of the project. By submitting a public comment for this particular scenario, applicants will be obligating themselves to fund and build these locations with or without additional funds such as from the BEAD program or any other enforceable commitment. If these conditions are met, KOBD

will consider denying the applicant's proposal. However, to do so, the public comment from the challenger must include all the following information for consideration:

- Provider commitment to completing construction of the broadband infrastructure and providing a broadband network to the proposed project area with speeds equal to or greater than 100/20 Mbps
- Provider commitment that the stated project will complete no later than eighteen (18) months after the date grant awards are made under the program and would be funded by the service provider. A template letter of commitment will be provided by KOBD that must be used and signed by the provider
- Current Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Broadband Data Collection Fabric information for their proposed project service area as of Dec 31, 2024
- Minimum/maximum speeds available in the proposed project service area
- Populated template for locations within proposed service area in accordance with the "Existing Broadband Service Availability Data For Proposed Service Area" section
- A map in .kmz format detailing the proposed service area containing the following:
  - Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) within the proposed project area, including the speeds those serviceable locations are able to receive
  - Polygon defining the service in which the infrastructure is being placed
  - Fiber or other infrastructure routes specified within the service area polygon
  - Locations of any towers or wireless radios to be used to deliver the broadband service
- Using the project area map submitted by the applicant, a map indicating where the protested serviceable locations are within the proposed project area
- Heat maps (if applicable) indicating received signal strength indicator (RSSI) in the challenged area for wireless services

Public Comments For Areas Where Service Already Exists

KOBD will require a provider submitting a challenge to provide speed test results in the proposed project area in which the provider submitting the challenge states that broadband service is currently available at minimum speeds of 100/20 Mbps. Such speed test results shall be provided in a way that documents the speed test provider, downstream and upstream speed results, the physical address of where the speed test was conducted, and associated latency. Latitude / longitude or BDF fabric ID will be accepted in lieu of physical address. Where 100/20 Mbps or higher service exists, the public comment must include the following:

- Date and time-stamped speed test data for at least 5% of consumers in the designated area from the date in which proposed applications are submitted for public comment, no earlier than November 3rd, 2025
- Challenger must submit a populated template in accordance with the "Existing Broadband Service Availability Data For Proposed Service Area" section
- A map in .kmz format detailing the proposed service area containing the following:

- Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) marked with an identifier within the proposed project area, including the speeds those serviceable locations can receive
- Polygon defining the service in which the infrastructure is being placed
- Fiber or other infrastructure routes specified within the service area polygon
- Heat maps (if applicable) indicating received signal strength indicator (RSSI) in the challenged area for wireless services

Submissions must provide the data source and/or methodology used to develop this information and provide the raw data used to justify this proposal. Please label any proprietary information so that it may be kept confidential where applicable in accordance with state and federal law.

Other Public Comments

Other public comments include any other feedback that providers, elected officials, and constituents wish to express in support of, or to document concerns, regarding an application or its proposed service area.

Applicant Response Period

Upon completion of the public comment period, KOBD will notify each applicant of such challenge(s). The applicant shall have five (5) business days after notification to provide any supplemental information regarding the challenged application to KOBD (known as Applicant Response Period). If additional broadband service availability information is provided, the information shall follow the template guidelines listed in the "Existing Broadband Service Availability Data for Proposed Service Area" section.

KOBD will evaluate the information submitted in a challenge and will not award a grant if the information submitted is credible and / or prevents overbuilding infrastructure where qualifying broadband speeds exist.

Public Comments Compliance

The following items are applicable in instances where KOBD denies an application for a grant based on "Planned but Not Underway" and "Project Underway" challenges:

- KOBD reserves the right to require a bond, Letter of Commitment (LOC) or financial guarantee from provider submitting the challenge, prior to application denial, to ensure project completion
- If the challenger does not provide broadband internet service to the proposed project area within eighteen (18) months, the challenger may not be able to challenge any grant application or apply for any grant programs within the State of Kansas for the following two fiscal years, starting from the end of the eighteen (18) month period

- If the challenger does not provide broadband internet service to the proposed project area of the "project underway" identified in the public comment within twelve (12) months of the program award, the challenger may not be able to challenge any grant application or apply for any grant programs within the State of Kansas for the following two fiscal years, starting from the end of the twelve (12) month period
- After grants are awarded, KOBD will require all challengers to provide periodic updates on their respective projects claimed to be in the "Planned But Not Underway" and "Projects Underway" status. This ensures that end users in the original applicant's proposed service area will be served by the challenger's broadband given that the original application was denied due to other funding enabling the referenced locations. If the challenger fails to provide periodic updates to KOBD, the challenger may not be able to challenge any future grant application or apply for any grant programs within the State of Kansas for the following two fiscal years, starting from the date the first periodic update request due date is missed
- Applicants and challengers will be notified of the acceptance or denial of any challenges issued.

Program Inquiries

Questions regarding the application process will be accepted from the start of the application window, October 3rd, 2025, to the end of the application window on October 31, 2025, via email to KOBD. KOBD will review all submitted questions and provide a written response as appropriate. Answers will be posted to the KOBD webpage on a weekly basis with a final posting occurring on October 30, 2025. Questions received on October 31, 2025, may or may not be posted publicly prior to the application window closing.

Application Review and Evaluation

The BAG 5.0 application evaluation program will be based on the overall quality of the application, the impact the project will have on the community and the applicant interview. Scoring is comprised of the Application Evaluation, Impact, and Applicant Interview categories with the following weightings:

- Application Evaluation – 60%
- Impact – 30%
- Applicant Interview – 10%

Application Evaluation

- The Application Evaluation will be based on the overall quality of the application, technical, and financial information presented based on the overall weightings listed below. KOBD

will be evaluating applications based on projects that optimize stewardship of public infrastructure dollars through collective investment to include but not limited to:

- Application Quality (35%): Projects that address a critical broadband need and economically distressed area
- Technical (50%): Technical viability, Fiber-Optic prioritization, and service speed improvement
- Financial (15%): Incremental match above the 50% threshold, Co-investment match, applicant financial viability, budget and bill of material information

Impact

- Impact scores will be based on the number of locations to be enabled by the project. Final scores will be assigned by ranking the projects highest to lowest by number of locations passed.

Applicant Interview

- Applicant interviews will be evaluated based on the overall quality of the application, interview quality, community partner presence and support, and overall benefits of the application to the community. Weightings for each category are below:
  - Overall Quality of the Application – 20%
  - Overall Quality of the Interview and Answers to KOBD/Executive Committee Questions – 20%
  - Community Partner Presence and Support During the Interview – 25%
  - Overall Benefits of the Application to the Community In Comparison to the Overall Cost – 35%

Scoring Rubric

The Scoring Rubric is available via the link below and on the program website.

(Continued on the next page; link to PDF here.).)

Downstream/Upstream Scoring Tables

Downstream Improvement Points									
Current Downstream Speed >>>		<10M	10M to 25M	25M to 100M	100M to 200M	200M to 500M	500M - 1G	1G - 5G	5G - 10G
"To Be Offered" Speeds	100M	2.00	1.80	1.60	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	200M	2.20	2.00	1.80	1.20	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	500M	2.40	2.20	2.00	1.40	0.40	N/A	N/A	N/A
	940M / 1G	2.60	2.40	2.20	1.60	0.60	N/A	N/A	N/A
	1G - 5G	2.80	2.60	2.40	1.80	0.80	0.20	N/A	N/A
	5G - 10G	3.00	2.80	2.60	2.00	1.00	0.40	0.20	N/A

Upstream Improvement Points											
Current Upstream Speed >>>		<1M	1 to 5M	5 to 10M	10 to 20M	20 to 50M	50 to 100M	100M to 200M	200M to 500M	500M to 1G	1G+
"To Be Offered" Speeds	20M	1.60	1.40	1.20	1.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	50M	1.80	1.60	1.40	1.20	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	100M	2.00	1.80	1.60	1.40	1.20	0.60	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	200M	2.20	2.00	1.80	1.60	1.40	0.80	0.20	N/A	N/A	N/A
	500M	2.40	2.20	2.00	1.80	1.60	1.00	0.40	0.20	N/A	N/A
	940M / 1G	2.60	2.40	2.20	2.00	1.80	1.20	0.60	0.40	0.20	N/A
	1G - 5G	2.80	2.60	2.40	2.20	2.00	1.40	0.80	0.60	0.40	N/A
	5G - 10G	3.00	2.80	2.60	2.40	2.20	1.60	1.00	0.80	0.60	N/A

Applicant Interview

KOBD will conduct an interview with the final grant candidates and give them an opportunity to 'make their case'. This meeting should include organization and financial contacts, key project personnel, and partners critical to the overall success of the effort. Co-investment projects should include partner investors in the interview, and it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure their participation. Applications will receive points in the interview round for partners who participate in the interviews. Participants should be prepared to speak about specific aspects of the proposed project, the technical project plan, the financial information submitted, and the demonstrated need that supports the project. This interactive meeting will provide an opportunity for prospective subrecipients to call into focus key aspects of the project, the compelling needs of the proposal, and answer the question: "Why should the State of Kansas invest in this project?"

Selection Criteria

Kansas Commerce will announce the amount of funds available for the Broadband Acceleration Grant subject to funding availability. All grant applications approved by the Department of Commerce will be funded according to the process set forth in the following:

All applications received by the deadline will be reviewed for eligibility and threshold criteria, as outlined in the guidelines. Eligible applications will then be reviewed and rated according to the established rubric and scoring matrix.

Kansas Department of Commerce may determine which grant applicants will receive state grant funds based on a number of factors, including:

- Grant reviewer scores
- Geographic distribution of grant applicants
- Services to specified populations
- History of grant applicant as a state grantee
- Applicant's capacity to perform the work
- Pre-award capacity assessment of applicant

All awards must be approved by the Secretary of Commerce.

Award Notification

Kansas Commerce strives to notify applicants of awards in a timely manner. Award announcements are expected after December 17, 2025.

Grant Provisions

The Broadband Acceleration Grant was created as a direct result of broadband modernization funding provided through the Kansas Department of Transportation's Eisenhower Legacy Transportation program (IKE) in the 2020 legislative session. Kansas Statutes Annotated, § 68-2314c(k) (2025) assigns administration of the program to Kansas Office of Broadband Development.

Ineligible expenses include but are not limited to:

- Fundraising
- Taxes, except sales tax on goods and services and payroll taxes
- Lobbyists, political contributions
- Bad debts, late payment fees, finance charges, or contingency funds
- Parking or traffic violations
- Out-of-state transportation and travel expenses. Kansas will be considered the home state for determining whether travel is out of state.

Grant Performance Expectations

The State of Kansas and the Kansas Department of Commerce (KDC) does not have established policies on cost principles, allowable and unallowable costs, or direct and indirect costs. The Kansas Office of Broadband Development (KOBD) will follow federal Uniform Guidance standards (2 CFR 200). This approach ensures alignment with other programs administered by KOBD and maintains consistency across all funding opportunities.

In addition to Applicant Eligibility, all grantees are expected to:

1. Complete all proposal activities within the grant period
2. Include only allowable expenses in the proposal budget
3. Comply with all grant administration requirements:
    - Provide the required information for grant award agreement
    - Sign and return the grant award agreement to Commerce within 7 business days of receipt.
    - Request approval for any changes to the grant award agreement.
    - Complete a final report no later than 30 days post final reimbursement request.
    - Maintain complete and accurate grant records, including all documentation, for a minimum of three years after the end of the grant period.
    - Comply with the requirements of the State of Kansas Policy Against Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, and Retaliation established by Executive Order 18-04.
    - Use the appropriate credit line or approved logo to acknowledge grant funding in all publications. See grant contract for credit requirements.

Compliance

KOBD will provide a collaborative partnership and overall support for BAG 5.0 Program subrecipients by offering technical support related to reporting and compliance requirements, and supporting the applicable federal guidelines as listed in the following paragraphs.

Monthly Reporting

In addition to periodic subrecipient meetings, KOBD will streamline reporting by providing baseline reporting templates and clear expectations for subrecipients participating in the program. The monthly report includes the following:

- A narrative update on the status of the project, including notification of any delays
- A monthly budget expenditure report on the project
- A monthly .pdf containing supporting project expenditure documentation (i.e., invoices/receipts/proof of payment)

Reimbursements will occur on a monthly basis.

Material Project Changes

KOBD acknowledges that changes in the overall implementation plan may be required once a project begins due to terrain challenges, equipment discontinuations, permitting delays or unforeseen circumstances. Material project changes must be disclosed to KOBD immediately and reported on the monthly report. Examples of material changes include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Any deviation from the original approved route layout in terms of segment placement or tower location(s)
- Facilities segments being added or removed from original plan
- Any facilities placement extending outside the defined project area
- Changes to original count of locations to be enabled
- Changes to overall architecture proposed in the application
- Electronics manufacturer and model number changes from original bill of material
- Changing facilities placement approach (i.e. – from buried to aerial fiber placement)
- Total project budget variances greater than 10% of original budget

Concurrently with disclosing the material project change through the monthly report, a change request must be submitted to KOBD documenting the requested change prior to implementation. Upon receipt of the project change notification information, KOBD will review the potential project changes. The changes must be approved by KOBD prior to the subrecipient implementing changes. Changes to the implementation plan without advanced KOBD notification and approval may result in a reduced budget and/or clawback actions. If there is any doubt about the materiality of the potential project changes, subrecipients must engage KOBD to determine materiality. Failure to engage KOBD to determine materiality prior to change implementations may also result in a reduced budget and / or clawback actions. Expenditures incurred without prior approval of KOBD may be deemed unallowable and will not be reimbursed.

Closeout Reporting

Closeout reporting will be required within 45 days of project completion. Project completion and submission of the closeout report are required prior to the final payment. Closeout reporting includes, but not limited to, the following:

- Validation that the broadband infrastructure project build has been completed. This will provide service at the locations and service level speeds specified in the application
- Subrecipients will be required to submit FCC Broadband Data Collection Location ID (BSL) data for each location enabled and .kmz maps for the completed service area.
- Speed tests, associated latency, and network performance validation will be expected on a per location basis upon completion of the project. Speed test results must collect

download, upload and latency results with the same date and time stamp for 5% of all locations enabled within the project. At least one speed test at the highest enabled broadband speed within the speed portfolio must be provided to validate network performance. All other speed tests may be provided at other speeds at or above 100/20 Mbps within the service provider's portfolio

- KOBD will require validation of as-built drawings versus the initial .kmz map submitted with the application through field validation and speed tests as services are turned up at specific locations
- Subrecipients must complete/submit the required financial documents, legal agreements, and reports
- KOBD reserves the right to amend the scope of grant awards or partially fund applications

Accountability

Subrecipients shall create, maintain, and preserve sufficient records to demonstrate their compliance with the requirements of this program. The subrecipient shall provide all required records to KOBD promptly upon written request. KOBD requests may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Information regarding service offering at the pricing and speed levels specified in the application for the duration of the grant period
- The right to recoup funding for incomplete projects or for lack of adherence to program guidelines
- The right to desk or field audit the project at any time. The project may be subject to state and/or federal audits
- Subrecipients are required to retain all records for up to five (5) years after project completion

Applicable Federal Regulations

KOBD will require providers to support building and securing telecommunications networks through adherence to applicable federal guidelines:

- Investments in capital projects must be carried out in ways that comply with applicable federal laws, including the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Among other requirements contained in 2 CFR Part 200, implements certain provisions of the NDAA. It contains prohibitions on the use of grant funds to procure or obtain certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment provided or produced by designated entities, including certain entities owned or controlled by the People's Republic of China. In addition, 2 CFR 200.471 provides that certain telecommunications and video surveillance costs associated with 2 CFR 200.216 are unallowable.

Funds Disbursement

The BAG 5.0 Program is a grant reimbursement program. The program will provide structured reimbursements for validated grant expenditures submitted. Subrecipients are expected to submit supporting documentation for expenditures (i.e., invoices, receipts) and proof of payment, if requested. Subrecipients must submit all required legal and contractual agreements/documents prior to funds disbursement.

Reimbursements

Reimbursements will occur on a monthly basis, following the most recently submitted monthly report. Monthly reporting for subrecipients will begin the first full month after grant award contract execution. Project extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Should actual project costs exceed the proposed/approved budget, subrecipients will be responsible for completing the proposed project without an increase in the grant award. KOBD reserves the right to partially fund projects that are not completed during the approved project period. Reimbursement processing will occur as listed in the Reimbursement Schedule table below:

Table 5: Reimbursement Schedule

Reimbursement Schedule			
Grant Activity Month	**Progress Report Due Date***	**Reimbursement Validation Month**	**Reimbursement Processing Date**
January	February 5	Late February	Mid-March
February	March 5	Late March	Mid-April
March	April 5	Late April	Mid-May
April	May 5	Late May	Mid-April
May	June 5	Late June	Mid-July
June	July 5	Late July	Mid-August
July	August 5	Late August	Mid-September
August	September 5	Late September	Mid-October
September	October 5	Late October	Mid-November
October	November 5	Late November	Mid-December
November	December 5	Late December	Mid-January
December	January 5 (the following year)	Late January	Mid-February

* - If the 5th of the month falls on a weekend or holiday, the report will be due on the business day prior to the 5th of the month.

Late submission of the progress report may delay reimbursement. Automated Clearing House (ACH) transfer is the preferred method of payment and could accelerate reimbursements to subrecipients.

All applications received by the deadline will be reviewed for eligibility and threshold criteria, as outlined in the guidelines. Eligible applications will then be reviewed and rated according to the established rubric and scoring matrix.

Kansas Department of Commerce may determine which grant applicants will receive state grant funds based on a number of factors, including:

- Grant reviewer scores
- Geographic distribution of grant applicants
- Services to specified populations
- History of grant applicant as a state grantee

Release of information

Information submitted to the Kansas Department of Commerce relating to the application may be subject to the Open Records Law (K.S.A. 45-215 et seq.). Confidentiality will not be guaranteed.

Contact Information

For more information about this grant, please contact:

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The Kansas Department of Commerce reserves the right to deviate from these guidelines if it serves the best interests of the agency in carrying out its duties under Executive Order No. 20-67.

Broadband Acceleration Grant

The Kansas Office of Broadband Development reserves the right to execute this program under Kan. Stat. Ann. § 68-2314c(k) (2025)

Key Definitions

Adoption Efforts
Adoption goes beyond access to high-speed internet and speaks to the ability of individuals and communities to harness access for quality-of-life implications. These efforts may include digital literacy training, low-income assistance programs (for equipment and/or broadband service), partnerships with co-working or entrepreneurship organizations, awareness or marketing campaigns, service provision to community anchor institutions and/or additional programing, and other programs designed to meet the needs of the local community.

Affordability Goal
The $60 per month for 100Mb speeds is a suggestion that stems from two sources: 1) The broadbandnow.com state ranking methodology for broadband access uses a criterion of $60 to designate affordable broadband service. The availability of this price point throughout the state affects our state's ranking and is considered a strong source for affordability benchmarks. 2) The White House Broadband Summit established $60 per month as an affordable goal for service providers to achieve.

Applicant Match
The Applicant Match is the monetary contribution of the applicant to the project. At the time of application submission, the applicant must demonstrate available cash reserves in an account(s) of the applicant equal to at least the required amount specified when applying the 50% match rate as defined in the Required Applicant Match section. Matching funds must be used solely for the Project and shall not include any financial assistance from federal sources unless there is a federal statutory exception specifically authorizing the federal financial assistance to be considered as such. An applicant must provide evidence of its ability to comply with this requirement in its application (www.ecfr.gov).

Broadband
Broadband or high-speed internet access allows users to access the internet and internet-related services at significantly higher speeds than those available through "dial-up" services. Broadband speeds vary significantly depending on the technology and level of service ordered. For additional information, visit the source of this information: Getting Broadband Q&A | Federal Communications Commission (fcc.gov).

Co-Investment
Any funds provided by sources other than the applicant such as local, county, and eligible state programs or other contributors.

Community Anchor Institution
Community anchor institution means schools, libraries, medical and healthcare providers, public safety entities, community colleges and other institutions of higher education, and other community support organizations and agencies that provide outreach, access, equipment, and support services to facilitate greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including low-income, unemployed, and the aged (www.usac.org).

Economically Distressed Community
KOBD will consider an area economically distressed if either the 2023 per capital BEA PCPI or PCMI metric is below the 80% threshold or if it has an unemployment rate that is, for the most recent 24-month period for which data are available, is at least 1 percent greater than the national average unemployment rate.

Table 6: Economically Distressed Counties in Kansas		
Allen	Grant	Rice
Anderson	Greenwood	Riley
Atchison	Harvey	Rooks
Bourbon	Jackson	Seward
Brown	Labette	Sumner
Chautauqua	Leavenworth	Washington
Cherokee	Lincoln	Wilson
Clay	Linn	Woodson
Cloud	Lyon	Wyandotte
Cowley	Marion	
Crawford	Marshall	
Dickinson	Montgomery	
Doniphan	Neosho	
Elk	Osage	
Ellsworth	Osborne	
Finney	Ottawa	
Ford	Pawnee	
Franklin	Reno	
Geary	Republic	

The counties listed above can also be found at the Stats America website via http://www.statsameri-ca.org/distress/distress.aspx.

Last Mile
Last mile refers to the network infrastructure that carries signals from the network to and from the end-user premise. Depending on the network design and density of the area served, the actual distance of the last mile can be relatively short or maybe considerably longer than a mile.

Middle Mile
Middle mile refers to the portion of the telecommunications network that connects a network operator's core network to the local network (last mile) plant. Middle mile facilities provide fast, large-capacity connections ranging from a few miles to a few hundred miles.

Partnership
A formal relationship between two or more parties that enter into an agreement for the sake of advancing broadband enablement.

Project
An applicant's proposal to serve qualifying broadband speeds to unserved areas.

Required Applicant Match
The percentage of funds required by the applicant for the program.

Scalability
The capacity to change the size or scale of the broadband architecture to achieve substantially higher speeds (up to 10 Gbps or beyond) with minimal to no investment.

Served
For purposes of the BAG 5.0 Program, a served area is a designated geographic area in which households, businesses, community anchor institutions, government buildings, etc. and associated location IDs can be enabled with qualifying broadband services supporting at least 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload speeds within 10 business days of a submitted service order without extraordinary or excessive drop fees. To meet this served criteria, a service provider must offer 100 Mbps downstream or greater speed coupled with a 20 Mbps upstream service speed or higher. Any speeds higher than 20 Mbps upstream speed, coupled with 100 Mbps downstream speeds or higher will be considered served.

Subsidy
Assistance program applicants are enrolled in to assist with the monthly cost of services (i.e., Lifeline, Emergency Connectivity Fund, etc.).

Unserved
For purposes of the BAG 5.0 Program, an unserved area is defined as a designated geographic area in which households, businesses, community anchor institutions, government buildings, etc. and associated location IDs are not enabled with a qualifying broadband service supporting at least 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload speeds. To meet this unserved criteria, a service provider must offer a) 100 Mbps downstream or greater speed coupled with less than 20 Mbps upstream service speed - any speeds lower than 20 Mbps upstream speed, coupled with 100 Mbps downstream speeds will be considered unserved; 2) less than 100 Mbps downstream speed coupled with 20 Mbps or greater upstream speeds – any speeds lower than 100 Mbps coupled with 20 Mbps or higher will be considered unserved; 3) less than 100 Mbps downstream speed coupled with less than 20 Mbps upstream speed will be considered unserved.