BROADBAND ACCELERATION GRANT PROGRAM
YEAR 6
(BAG 6.0)

Version 1.0

April 27, 2026

Broadband Acceleration Grant

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BROADBAND ACCELERATION GRANT PROGRAM
YEAR 6 (BAG 6.0)

Overview

Kansas Office of Broadband Development (KOBD), housed within the Kansas Department of Commerce, was established to ensure that all Kansans can 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 in Kansas, 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 (BAG 6.0) Program will invest $16.3 million in FY 2027 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 capital expenses in the deployment of broadband to unserved areas in three distinct funding categories: 1) Last Mile, 2) Line Extension and 3) Middle Mile. 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 line extension locations, and middle mile segments.
- Deploy reliable broadband solutions with speeds at or greater than 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps (100/20 Mbps) upload.
- Deploy middle mile segments supporting speeds at or greater than symmetrical 10 Gbps

Noted Changes in the BAG 6.0 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 5.0 and 4.0 BSLs, and any other federal or state broadband program encumbered BSLs (excluding RDOF and CAF II) approved for deployment. If BSLs are included in an application that is later determined to be part of BEAD, previous State of Kansas or other federally sponsored broadband programs as mentioned above, they will be removed from the application and will not be funded. KOBD will use the latest FCC BDC fabric version (Version 7) at the time of scoring to determine BSL eligibility. If Version 8 becomes available for final adjudication, that may be used for final funding eligibility.

The following table summarizes the major changes between previous capital projects and the BAG 6.0 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 6.0 Program after minor modifications.

Table 1: BAG 6.0 Program Comparison to Previous Capital Programs

	Current Program	**Previous Programs**	
Program Attribute Changes	**BAG 6.0**	**BAG 5.0**	**BAG 4.0**
Total Funding Available	$16.3 Million	$23 Million	$10 Million
Maximum Individual Award	$2 Million	$2 Million	$1 Million
Program Qualifying Broadband Speed - Last Mile and Line Extension	100/20 Mbps	100/20 Mbps	100/20 Mbps
Program Qualifying Speed – Middle Mile	10 Gbps symmetrical	N/A	N/A
Line Extension Maximum Length	5,280 feet	N/A	N/A
Applicant Match	50%	50%	50%
Co-Investment Match	Minimum $1	Minimum $1	Minimum $1
Minimum Unserved Threshold	N/A	80%	80%
Reimbursement Schedule	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
Regional Award Distribution	Target Priority	Target Priority	Target Priority
Preconstruction Planning, Design or Preconstruction Engineering Costs Associated with the Project	Eligible Cost as In-Kind Match	Ineligible Cost	Ineligible Cost

Certified RDOF Areas Available for Award	Yes, if defaulted or missing implementation deadlines	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 (last mile and line extension only)	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, as determined by KOBD	Yes, as determined by KOBD	Yes, as determined by KOBD
Active Participant in Federal Subsidy Programs	Encouraged, but not required	Encouraged, but not required	Required
Letters of Support	Required	Required	Encouraged, but not required

Background

The program phase, launching on April 27th, 2026, is currently in year six (BAG 6.0) of the IKE Program and will award $16.3 million in this cycle.

The program was 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 (3) years, and $10 million annually for the following seven years. KOBD is initiating the Broadband Acceleration Grant (BAG 6.0) Program which is a focused effort in three project categories within the State of Kansas:

- Last mile broadband infrastructure and associated middle mile capabilities
- Line extensions
- Middle mile

Project Category Descriptions

Last Mile Projects and Associated Middle Projects

The BAG 6.0 Program will focus on the deployment of last mile 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 5 (BAG 5.0) program, 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 is impracticable because of geography, topography, or excessive cost, other technologies such as a hybrid fiber/fixed 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.

The BAG 6.0 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. Last Mile proposals, including a middle mile component necessary for the provision of last mile services will also be considered for funding and are encouraged to be submitted.

Line Extensions Projects

KOBD will allocate BAG 6.0 last mile funding for construction projects that extend existing fiber or HFC cable networks and enable broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) with fiber or HFC based broadband services. Qualifying BSLs are locations within 5,280 feet (1 mile) or less of an existing fiber or HFC cable segment that is currently providing broadband services but is not currently served by qualifying broadband services. Proposals for Line Extension projects that include a middle mile component will not be accepted.

Middle Mile Projects

The intent of the Middle Mile project category is to reduce transport costs connecting last mile solutions to the underlying internet carrier's points of presence, thereby reducing the overall service provider connectivity costs which are preventing rural broadband deployments. The program will also encourage the expansion of middle mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting, in general, unserved areas to the backbone of the internet. Additionally, it will promote broadband connection resiliency through the creation of alternative network connection paths that can be designed to prevent single points of failure on a broadband network.

The middle mile facilities proposed in the application must be located in the state of Kansas. If proposed end-to-end middle mile facilities cross state boundaries, funding may only be used for the portion that is within the state of Kansas and applicants must demonstrate:

- That a significant benefit is provided to Kansans for the portion that is being proposed within Kansas and,
- What the overall benefit is of the total project

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Eligible Applicants

Applicants for last mile, line extension and middle mile project categories 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 thirty (30) 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.

- April 27: Guidelines Posted Grant Webinar / Application Window Open
- June 12, 2026: Application Window Closes (5pm CT)
- June 15, 2026: Public Comment Window Opens
- June 26, 2026: Public Comment Window Closes (5pm CT)
- June 29, 2026: Opening of Applicant Response Period
- July 10, 2026: Applicant Response Period Closes (5pm CT)
- June 15, 2026: Begin Application Reviews
- August 31, 2026: Begin Applicant Interviews
- September 15, 2026: Leadership Review
- September 30, 2026: Awards Announcement
- October 1, 2026: Contract Executions Complete

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

Application Procedures

- KOBD will conduct a webinar informing potential applicants of the BAG 6.0 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: 7 business days

Funding Availability

- Total Funding Available: $16.3 Million
- Minimum Award Amount: N/A
- Maximum Award Amount: $2 Million
- Period of Performance: 24 months from contract execution
- Minimum required applicant match: 50% of total project cost
- Minimum required co-investment: $1

KOBD may choose to award grants across all project categories or any one project category depending on the compelling information provided by the applicant pool. The Kansas Department of Commerce expects to announce selected grantees on or after September 30, 2026.

Eligible Projects

Applications will be accepted for the three project categories listed below:

- Last mile and associated middle mile broadband infrastructure that connects to the end-user customer's on-premises telecommunications equipment.
- Line extension projects
- Middle mile projects

Ineligible Projects

Ineligible projects include, but are not limited to the following:

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

Eligible Costs

The BAG 6.0 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:

1. Installation and/or acquisition of middle mile and associated 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. In this category, middle mile expenditures are eligible only when necessary to provide last mile service.

2. Installation and construction of line extensions to provide broadband access to additional residential, business and community anchor institution locations. Line extensions are defined as extending existing fiber or HFC cable networks to enable broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) with fiber based broadband services. Qualifying BSLs are locations within 5,280 feet (1 mile) or less of an existing fiber or HFC cable segment that is currently providing broadband services but is not currently served by fiber-based services.
3. Installation and construction of middle mile solutions for the purpose of 1) reducing transport costs connecting last mile solutions to underlying internet carriers points of presence, 2) encouraging the expansion and extension of middle mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting, in general, unserved areas to the backbone of the internet and 3) promoting broadband connection resiliency through the creation of alternative network connection paths that can be designed to prevent single points of failure on a broadband network.

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 April 27, 2026 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

Match Requirement

Similar to previous Broadband Acceleration Grant (BAG) Programs, KOBD is implementing a required 50% applicant match model for all project categories within the BAG 6.0 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

In-kind match

Matching funds may include an in-kind match of up to 99% of the total match. An in-kind match requires valuation documentation and is subject to KOBD's determination and approval of whether the proposed in-kind match is allowable, reasonable, and allocable. 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. Examples of possible in-kind match may include:

- Preliminary engineering and preliminary network design prior to award.
- Donated equipment such as cabling, conduits, cabinets, splice trays, poles, routers, switches, modems, and hubs.
- Reduced/waived pole attachment fees/right-of-way charges and donated easements.

For further details regarding in-kind matching, please see the In-kind Match Primer posted publicly on the KDC website.

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.

For this program, co-investment funds can offset up to 100% of the applicant's match amount.

For example, if project A has a project budget of $100,000 and a co-investment of $10,000, project A would need to provide at least $40,000 to meet the minimum 50% of application match of $50,000 required otherwise. The minimum co-investment amount is $1. Applications with less than the $1 minimum co-investment amount will not be considered for an award. Eligible sources

of co-investment funds may 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.).

Funding Priorities

The following items are BAG 6.0 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 6.0 program 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
- For last mile and line extension project categories, 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.). Additionally, service providers are also encouraged to partner with local housing agencies to take advantage of programs that benefit multi-dwelling units. The applicant should be an established service provider that has been operating for a minimum of three (3) years in the State of Kansas. Applicants that do not meet this threshold may be considered on a case-by-case basis if they demonstrate comparable operational experience, financial capacity, and technical capability.

Broadband Acceleration Grant

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.).

Applicant Assurances

- Under perjury of law, I/organizational representative attest that the applicant has not been party to a lawsuit involving a state or federal Agency involving a dispute relating to any state and/or federal grants managed by the applicant; the applicant has not filed for bankruptcy in the last ten years; the applicant has not been delinquent on any federal or state debt, including unpaid taxes; the applicant does not have any officers that have been convicted of a felony financial crime in the last ten years.
- 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 agrees 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 6.0 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.

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.

Program Inquiries

Questions regarding the application process will be accepted from the start of the application window, April 27, 2026, to the end of the application window on June 5, 2026, 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 June 4, 2026. Questions received on June 5, 2026, may or may not be posted publicly prior to the application window closing.

Application Review and Evaluation

The BAG 6.0 application evaluation for all project categories 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 (last mile and line extension) or degree of transport price structure improvement (middle mile) enabled for sale as a wholesale provider by the project. Final scores will be assigned by ranking the projects highest to lowest by number of locations passed or cost structure improvement.

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%

Additional Middle Mile Application Evaluation Criteria

Following the Application Review and Evaluation criteria listed above, the middle mile projects evaluation will be based on the application's overall quality, including the Project Proposal, Technical Project Plan, and financial information presented. KOBD will evaluate applications based on projects that optimize stewardship of public infrastructure dollars through collective investment. A key component for this program is to recognize a substantial reduction in middle mile transport costs. Applicants must demonstrate the likelihood of material reduction in end-user broadband prices resulting from funded middle mile infrastructure (i.e., by demonstrating decline in middle mile costs that are likely to flow through to consumer broadband prices). The applicant

will provide before and after cost structure parameters associated with the current and proposed middle mile solution. Proposal assessment criteria will include, but not be limited to, the ability to offer the following capabilities:

- Build middle mile infrastructure using fiber-optic technology
- Anticipated impact to Kansans
- Anticipated cost structure improvements and benefits to Kansans
- Reduced middle mile transport costs (before and after project implementation)
  - Port costs
  - Mileage
  - Transport bandwidth
  - Set up fees
  - Other
- Cost reasonableness
- Scalability
- Speeds delivered and associated latency
- Impacts to last mile service affordability – current and anticipated middle mile price points for purchasing service providers
- Technical viability
- Partnerships/community support
- Improving the redundancy or resiliency of existing middle mile infrastructure
- Ability to serve anticipated last mile networks, and to meet the increasing needs of the households, businesses, and anchor institutions in the areas linked by the middle mile facilities at issue
- Improved connectivity points for underlying service providers offering, or soon to be offering rural broadband services

Scoring Rubric

The Scoring Rubrics are available via the link below and on the program website.

- Last mile projects
- Line extension projects
- Middle mile projects

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 several 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 September 30, 2026

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) do 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 45 days post-final reimbursement request
    - Maintain complete and accurate grant records, including all documentation, for a minimum of five (5) 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 an approved logo to acknowledge grant funding in all publications.

Compliance

KOBD will provide a collaborative partnership and overall support for BAG 6.0 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)

Reimbursement processing will occur monthly with disbursements made soon after.

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)
- Budget variances greater than 10% within a budget category

Concurrent 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 claw back 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 claw back 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 or middle mile segments 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 (last mile and line extension projects only)
- 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 (last mile and line extension projects only)
- Grantees will be required to submit middle mile pricing being offered to internet service providers to validate actual cost savings realized (middle mile projects only)
- 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 6.0 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.

KOBD's Reimbursement Processing

Reimbursement processing will occur monthly with disbursements made soon after, 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 may 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 by end of day on the first business day after the 5th of the month.

- Late submission of the progress report may delay reimbursement.
- Automated Clearing House (ACH) transfer is the required method of payment.

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:
Bill Abston
Executive Director
Kansas Office of Broadband Development
915 SW Harrison St
Suite 250
Topeka, KS 66612
Email: Bill.Abston@ks.gov
Phone: (785) 296-9941

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.

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

Last Mile and Line Extension Program Overview

Last mile and line extension project grants will facilitate broadband access to unserved areas or locations with demonstrated need and may include residential, business, and community anchor institution locations. Unserved is defined as a designated geographic area or location(s) 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.

Eligible Areas

Any unserved last mile area or qualifying location that is unserved is eligible for funding. Proposed service areas or selected locations are not required to be contiguous within an application. However, for last mile projects, 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. CAFII and RDOF areas are eligible for investment for those areas that have not been built, subject to public comment adjudication. Middle mile expenses for associated last mile projects are eligible for grant funding only when necessary for the provision of last mile services described in the application. Middle mile expenses associated with line extension projects are not eligible for funding. Service providers may submit multiple last mile and line extension project applications.

Line Extension Qualification Details

Qualifying line extension BSLs must be locations within 5,280 feet (1 mile) or less of an existing fiber or HFC cable segment that is currently providing broadband services but is not currently served by fiber or HFC based services. This could be due to:

1. Excessive drop fees – fees that are charged by the broadband service provider to the end user to offset the costs of extending cable from the existing cable segment to the customer's location beyond the broadband service provider's maximum drop length, OR
2. A cable segment not passing current broadband serviceable location(s) which occurs when a cable segment has not been extended to or by a broadband serviceable location (BSL) such that it can be served by a broadband service provider within 10 business days of a service order being placed.

Funding will be considered for single or multiple locations that have excessive drop fees or are not currently enabled (passed) with fiber or HFC cable.

Note: The use of the term "cable" represents the generic term for fiber cable and HFC cable going forward in this document.

Individual locations may be submitted for funding consideration. An individual location submission must be identified by an address and BSL location ID, cable extension length, cost per location passed and total cost. The submission must include a bill of material documenting all

materials, labor and electronics needed to complete the project. The location extension length must be less than or equal to the maximum qualifying extension length of 5,280 feet.

Multiple locations may also be submitted as one package for funding consideration. A multiple locations submission must include an address and BSL location ID for each location, and a bill of material documenting all materials, labor and electronics needed to complete the project. Multiple locations submitted as one project must have an **average** cable line extension length equal to or less than 5,280 feet to qualify for funding. Locations submitted do not need to be in a contiguous service area or polygon.

Examples of average cable line extension length submissions are provided below for clarity:

Example 1: Service Provider A submits 10 BSLs with line extension lengths ranging from 1,200 feet to 12,000 feet.

BSL Number	BSL ID	Length (ft)
1	1234567890	3,000
2	1234567889	6,000
3	1234567888	2,000
4	1234567887	3,500
5	1234567886	1,200
6	1234567885	2,400
7	1234567884	1,800
8	1234567883	7,250
9	1234567882	12,000
10	1234567881	3,150
Average		**4,230**

The average length of the 10 BSLs included in the line extension proposal is 4,230 feet and is below the maximum line extension length of 5,280 feet. This group of BSLs qualify for funding consideration.

Example 2: Service Provider B submits six (6) BSLs with line extension lengths ranging from 1,000 feet to 14,000 feet.

BSL Number	BSL ID	Length (ft)
1	1234567890	1,000
2	1234567889	4,800
3	1234567888	5,100
4	1234567887	8,000
5	1234567886	10,000

6	1234567885	14,000
Average		**7,150**

The average line extension length of the six (6) BSLs is 7,150 feet and exceeds the maximum line extension length of 5,280 feet which disqualifies Service Provider B for funding consideration.

Service providers requesting funding in this project category must confirm that they will not charge future drop or construction fees and must inform occupants of the locations enabled that service is available and that no construction or drop fees are associated with ordering the service.

Projects that prioritize the most efficient Line Extension construction methods, including but not limited to installing and splice all fiber and including public and private ROW during the construction period, will be awarded more points.

Line Extension solutions must meet the following criteria:

- Minimum speed: 100/20Mbps, preferably capable of delivering at least 1G symmetrical at the time of implementation.
- Latency equal to or less than 100ms
- Scalability: May extend either a GPON or later generation PON solution.

For both last mile and line extension project categories, 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 or missed timelines under RDOF or similar federal programs for the specific area that a BAG 6.0 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 and 5.0 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 7) at the time of scoring to determine BSL eligibility. If Version 8 becomes available for final adjudication, that may be used for final funding eligibility.

Projects that target economically distressed areas will be scored more favorably.

Given the anticipated oversubscription rate for the BAG 6.0 Program, funding priority may be given to unserved areas or locations 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 minimum program 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 6.0 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

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 screenshot of their Kansas Secretary of State Good Standing status 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. Applicants will also be required to submit the last two (2) years of audited financial statements.

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 cable route(s) and proposed service locations (use yellow for new cable routes; use red for existing cable 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 (fiber) to be funded by the grant
    - 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
    - HYBRID FIBER/FW Public Map (.kmz): Provide a public facing map that depicts the proposed hardline routing (fiber) to be funded by the grant and 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.
    - 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 (Last mile project only)
    - 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 (Last mile project only).

NAMING CONVENTION: ProgramName_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier.

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 6.0 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: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier

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 route, 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 6.0 Program while discouraging unnecessary investment 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 any investment 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.

Please 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 within this document. A KOBD location data template will be provided as part of the application process.

Applicant's Proposed Service Area Data

The applicant must provide the specific locations that will be enabled with their respective proposed service area in .csv file format. The applicant must provide row-by-row input for each location served by the application. Polygon formatted lists will not be accepted.

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: BAG6 Proposed Location List Template.

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

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 Broadband Acceleration Grants for Year 3 (BAG 3.0)
- Areas awarded Broadband Acceleration Grants for Year 4 (BAG 4.0)
- Areas awarded Broadband Acceleration Grants for Year 4 (BAG 5.0)

- Areas awarded Lasting Infrastructure and Network Connectivity (LINC) grants
- Areas awarded NTIA Tribal Broadband Grants
- Areas with certified awards and in service through the FCC Rural Development Opportunity Fund (RDOF) with more than 100/20 Mbps wireline/fiber speeds enabled
- ** - NOTE: If an RDOF subrecipient/awardee has defaulted, or is at risk of defaulting, or has materially missed timelines under RDOF or similar federal programs, RDOF awarded areas become eligible areas for BAG 6.0 applications. For applicants choosing to submit applications in these areas, it is highly recommended that they thoroughly review the public comments section titled "KOBD Policy on Planned-But-Not-Underway Projects and BAG Reinvestment Eligibility"*

- 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 forfeit 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.*

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 6.0 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: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier

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 follow 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:
    - Locations proposed to be served
    - 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
    - Delineate between which plant segments are new or existing
    - End point connections
    - Private/Proprietary marking designation as appropriate
- NAMING CONVENTION: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_

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: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier

If Option B: Fixed Wireless is chosen above:

Technical Infrastructure Proposed: Fixed Wireless

- Note: This section is not applicable to line extension projects.
- 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: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier
    - 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: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier
    - BACKHAUL MAP (.kmz)
        - Point-to-Point (PTP) Backhaul: In Google Earth, draw in the points of each PTP link for review
            - NAMING CONVENTION: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier
        - 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: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier

Provide a FIXED WIRELESS Equipment Spreadsheet (.xls)

- Include worksheets for the RF Equipment, Customer Premise Equipment (CPE), and Backhaul Equipment relative to the proposed project, including the details outlined in the template below:
- 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

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

- 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

Note: This section is not applicable to line extension projects.
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: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier
  - 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: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier
  - 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: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier
    -

Mobile Wireless Equipment File Requirements

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

- 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: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier

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

Mobile Wireless Additional Documents:
Please upload any additional technical reports, predictions, or documents relative to the project which are important to technical consideration or the review process. If there are multiple files, please consolidate them into a single .pdf or .zip.

- NAMING CONVENTION: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier

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: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier

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: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier

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. Applicants should 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: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier

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 6.0 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: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier.
- Last two years of applicant's audited income statement
    - NAMING CONVENTION: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier.
- 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 subsidiaries are not available.
    - NAMING CONVENTION: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier.
    - 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 99% 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: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier.
- 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: BAG6_OrgName_Geographic Identifier

Public Comment Period

To ensure transparency and the best use of taxpayer funds, the application and selection process will include a ten (10) business day public comment period followed by a ten (10) 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".

At the time of submitting respective public comment and applicant response data sets, an attestation will be required stating that each data submission follows 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 public comment and applicant response 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 public comment, and applicant response will be disqualified from consideration

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. 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

- 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 can 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. 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 be completed no later than eighteen (18) months after the date grant awards are made under the program and would be funded by the service provider
- Current Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Broadband Data Collection Fabric information for their proposed project service area as of June 30, 2025 (Version 7)
- 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 can 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

Reinvestment Eligibility and Planned-but-Not-Underway Projects

Notwithstanding other eligibility restrictions, broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) associated with federally funded projects, CAFII and RDOF, may be eligible for BAG 6.0 funding if the original awardee has defaulted, materially missed deployment milestones, or is otherwise unlikely to complete deployment within the applicable federal timeline. KOBD will make re-investment eligibility determinations based on documented evidence, public comment, and applicant response. These provisions supersede general prohibitions on CAFII and RDOF. If re-investment is pursued, applicants must demonstrate substantially increased service capability and scalability compared to the existing service that is to be deployed as part of the federally funded project commitment. Expected scalability of the technology is derived from reasonable, available projections based on product roadmaps from same, or similar vendors and products over the next five (5) years. Additionally, if the applicant is the subrecipient of a federal program award and is re-investing, applicant must demonstrate that the program allows a change of technology solution, if pursued, provide the original timeline to complete, and supports the ability to apply existing grant funding to the BAG 6.0 program project. BAG 6.0 funds may only be used to partially fund the difference between current program cost and updated cost for reinvestment (up to 50% of the cost difference based on eligibility).

KOBD Policy on Planned-But-Not-Underway Projects and BAG Reinvestment Eligibility

Purpose

This policy establishes how the Kansas Office of Broadband Development (KOBD) will evaluate claims by broadband providers that service will be delivered within 18 months in areas otherwise eligible for BAG program reinvestment. The goal is to ensure timely, reliable broadband deployment while remaining technology-agnostic and transparent in program administration.

18-Month Standard

KOBD will use 18 months from public comment submission as the maximum reasonable delivery window.

Projects Completing Beyond 18 Months
If a provider cannot credibly demonstrate project completion within 18 months:

- The service area remains eligible for BAG reinvestment.
- No additional documentation is required beyond standard challenge processes

Projects Claiming Completion Within 18 Months
Providers asserting they will complete deployment within 18 months must submit all required documentation:

- Signed provider commitment letter (KOBD template)
- Construction schedule and milestones
- GIS/.kmz service area and infrastructure maps
- Broadband Serviceable Location data aligned with FCC Fabric
- Minimum/maximum speed capability by location
- Procurement documentation including:
    - Build / Purchase Orders
    - Bill of Materials
    - Funding commitment and source documentation
    - Wireless coverage heat maps (if applicable)

KOBD reserves the right to request more information or clarification as needed. Submission of complete documentation does not guarantee acceptance; it enables KOBD to evaluate credibility and risk.

Evaluation Method

KOBD will determine whether claims are credible, feasible, and sufficiently certain using the following criteria:

- Delivery Timeline Credibility
- Funding Certainty
- Procurement & Readiness (including BOM & orders)
- Engineering Maturity & Data Integrity
- Provider Performance Risk (including RDOF status)

Projects must demonstrate:

- Realistic ability to complete within 18 months
- Secured funding
- Meaningful procurement activity
- Advanced engineering design
- A proven ability to deliver

If documentation or performance history indicates significant risk of non-completion, KOBD may deem the project not credible, and the area will remain eligible for BAG reinvestment.

RDOF Consideration
If a provider has defaulted, is at risk of default, or has materially missed timelines under RDOF or similar federal programs, that history will be considered in determining delivery risk.

Decision Outcome
A project area will be excluded from BAG reinvestment only when KOBD determines the provider's documentation demonstrates:

- Credible and funded construction plans
- Material readiness
- High likelihood of completion within 18 months

Otherwise:

- The service area will remain eligible for BAG reinvestment.

This framework ensures:

- Kansans receive broadband as soon as reasonably possible
- Providers are treated fairly and consistently
- Public funds are used responsibly and transparently
- The State avoids delays caused by speculative or unsupported project claims

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 May 21, 2026
- 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. Public comments submitted with intent to challenge the status of a BSL and have it reclassified as a non-BSL will not be considered valid challenges under this public comment process. Applicants wishing to challenge the validity of a BSL status as a potential non-BSL should submit a challenge with the FCC using the following resource provided by the FCC: https://help.bdc.fcc.gov/hc/en-us/articles/8554187214107-Fabric-Challenge-Process.

Fixed Broadband Supporting Data and Required Attestations

All 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, public comments, and applicant responses.

Applicant Response Period

Upon completion of the public comment period, KOBD will notify each applicant of such challenge(s). The applicant shall have ten (10) 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.

At the time of submitting the respective public comment and applicant response data sets, an attestation will be required stating that each data submission is compliant 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 public comment and applicant response 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 public comment, and applicant response will be disqualified from consideration

KOBD will evaluate the information submitted in a challenge and will not award a grant if the information submitted is credible and/or prevents reinvesting in infrastructure where qualifying broadband speeds exist. By submitting a challenge, applicants agree that KOBD reserves the right to adjudicate challenges and the subsequent validity of the challenge based on its sole discretion.

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.

Middle Mile Program

Program Overview

The intent of this program is to reduce fiber-based transport costs connecting last mile solutions to the underlying internet carriers points of presence, thereby reducing the overall service provider connectivity costs which are preventing rural broadband deployments. The program will also encourage the expansion and extension of middle mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting, in general, unserved areas to the backbone of the internet. Additionally, it will promote broadband connection resiliency through the creation of alternative network connection paths that can be designed to prevent single points of failure on a broadband network.

Guidelines

The Middle Mile Program is intended to address the following priorities:

- Facilitate deployment of high-speed fiber based broadband networks to currently unserved areas
- Improvement of affordability in already served markets
- Offer wholesale and retail access to the funded fiber based middle mile infrastructure, in perpetuity

Eligible Areas

The middle mile facilities being proposed in the application must be located in the State of Kansas. If proposed end-to-end mile facilities cross state boundaries, funding may only be used for the total project amount within the State of Kansas portion and applicant must demonstrate:

- That a significant benefit is provided to Kansans for the portion that is being proposed within Kansas and,
- What the overall benefit is of the total project

Speed Guidelines

The middle mile solution must be able to support a minimum of 10 Gbps symmetrical speeds and a latency equal to or less than 100 milliseconds.

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 screenshot of their Kansas Secretary of

State Good Standing status 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. Applicants will be required to submit their last two (2) years of audited financial statements.

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 the following:

- Primary Organizational Contacts (Project and Technical)
- Total Project Amount, Grant Funds Requested and Matching Amount
- City(s) and County(s) where middle mile facilities will be built or augmented
- Fiber strands enabled end-to-end
- Initial middle mile capacity to be enabled
- Number of internet backbone providers targeted for interconnection
- Miles of fiber cable to be placed in service
- Estimated price reduction for proposed middle mile transport services versus existing middle mile carrier pricing

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 + Program Identifier)
- Requested Grant Amount
- Total Project Amount
- Applicant Match Amount
- Co-Investment Amount
- Counties in the Proposed Service Area
- Cities in the Proposed Service Area
- Proposed Infrastructure Type
- Proposed Download/Upload Speed

- 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

Cost Reduction

A key component for this program is to recognize a substantial reduction in middle mile transport costs. Applicants must demonstrate the likelihood of material reduction in end-user broadband prices resulting from funded middle mile infrastructure (i.e., by demonstrating decline in middle mile pricing that are likely to flow through to consumer broadband prices). The applicant will provide before and after pricing structure parameters associated with the current and proposed middle mile solution, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Port pricing
- Mileage
- Transport bandwidth
- Equipment
- Set-up fees
- Other

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 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 improvements planned and potential impact it will have
- 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 and include details for the proposed middle mile segment(s). 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%)
- 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 (fiber) to be funded by the grant
      NAMING CONVENTION: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier

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, if the area is 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
- A description of the project relative to the expected improvement of middle mile cost structure, infrastructure resiliency, and broadband quality for Kansans

Technical Project Plan

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

- Proposed service area description
- Explanation of why the specific set of capabilities is included in the project including improved reliability or redundancy that will be enabled.

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 middle mile transport technologies being implemented within the project
- The number of fiber strands within the fiber cable
- Explanation of why this area was chosen and is unlikely to be served without grant funding

- Explanation of terrain or other factors contributing to cost
- Explanation of how the proposed infrastructure has sufficiently accounted for current and future weather/climate related risks
- Service-level options, including speed and latency to be offered
- Transport pricing to be offered as a wholesale provider to other carriers
- Transport pricing improvements compared to current transport pricing available

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: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier

Network Architecture Diagram

Applicants must provide a diagram reflecting the way the network devices are placed and connected for the proposed overall middle mile solution. The diagram must reflect an end-to-end view of the network, including any redundant paths showing network resiliency capabilities and connectivity speeds between devices as requested below:

- Network connection point/connection to the point of presence
- Optical networking equipment
- Router(s)
- Headend/central office/controlled environmental vaults
- Associated fiber cable connecting segments and end points
- 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 fiber route, including connections to wireless towers if enabled
- Identification of point of presence (POP) connectivity or tie-point(s) to existing network, last mile fiber, and middle mile fiber

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
- Operational Validation Plan

The approved program template can be found on the BAG 6.0 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: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier

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. Scalability and futureproofing are defined as the ability to achieve beyond 10 Gbps symmetrical through initial deployment or the capability to upgrade with minimal incremental investment. As such, applicants are highly encouraged to implement electronics within their respective middle mile architecture that can deliver a minimum of 10 Gbps symmetrical speeds or greater at the time of project build. Additional points will be awarded during the application evaluation process should electronics be implemented that can scale higher than symmetrical 10 Gbps in the applicant's proposed projects.

Applicants must upload evidence to demonstrate the scalability and capabilities of the proposed project's technology to include the following:

- Current technology levels
- Ease of middle mile segment expansion beyond funded application(s)
- Speed and latency levels
- Scalability beyond 10 Gbps middle mile segments
- Resiliency and failover
- Ability to support or offer incremental broadband services post implementation
    - NAMING CONVENTION: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier

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. All applicants must complete and submit a budget using the Budget Template provided, located on the BAG 6.0 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: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier.
- Last two years of applicant's audited income statement
  - NAMING CONVENTION: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier.
- 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 the parent organization if audited financials for operating the subsidiary are not available.
  - NAMING CONVENTION: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifiern.
  - 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 99% 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: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifier.
- 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: BAG6_OrgName_GeographicIdentifiert

Public Comment Period

To ensure transparency and the best use of taxpayer funds, the application and selection process will include a ten (10) business day public comment period followed by a ten (10) 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 Middle Mile Projects Underway

The public comment shall contain information demonstrating that the provider has begun construction activities for middle mile projects that are already underway. The service provider must submit proof that work has started on a project to complete middle mile infrastructure in the applicant's proposed middle mile route. Examples of evidence to prove that a middle mile project is underway would be:

- Planning and/or engineering plans and associated drawings
- Permitting requests
- Project bill of materials
- Purchase orders for equipment on the bill of materials
- Invoices for engineering or construction activities for middle mile 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
- The specific access technology used to deliver the middle mile solution
- Evidence that a minimum of 10 Gigabits per second can be supported by the middle mile solution
- A map in .kmz format detailing the underway project's service area containing the following:
  - A network map showing specific locations of planned transport segments, start and end points, and proposed internet points with internet backbone providers. The network map will be submitted in .kmz format
  - Polygon defining the service in which the infrastructure is being placed

- Fiber routes specified within the service area polygon

Additionally, the public comment must demonstrate that the challenger's project complies with items in this document's Assessment Criteria, Scalability, and Cost Reduction to ensure cost structure and program goals are met through the middle mile project underway. Failure to do so will negate the public comment so that a cost-effective middle mile solution can be awarded which meets the program goals.

Public Comments Regarding Middle Mile Projects Planned but Not Underway

For middle mile projects that are proposed where projects are planned but not underway, the public comment shall contain information demonstrating that the service provider has begun the projects planning phase. If these conditions are met, KOBD will consider denying the applicant's proposal. However, to do so, public comment from the challenger must include the following information as noted for consideration:

- Provider commitment that a minimum of 10 Gigabits per second can be supported by the middle mile solution
- Provider commitment that the stated project would 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
- Planning and/or engineering plans and associated drawings
- The specific access technology used to deliver the middle mile solution
- Using the project area map submitted by the applicant, a map indicating where the protested middle mile fiber segments are within the proposed project area
- A map in .kmz format detailing the planned, but not underway project's service area containing the following:
  - A network map showing specific locations of planned transport segments, start and end points, and proposed internet points with internet backbone providers. The network map will be submitted in .kmz format
  - Polygon defining the service in which the infrastructure is being placed
  - Fiber routes specified within the service area polygon

Additionally, the public comment must demonstrate that the challenger's project complies with items in this document's Assessment Criteria, Scalability, and Cost Reduction to ensure cost structure and program goals are met through the middle mile project underway. Failure to do so will negate the public comment so that a cost-effective middle mile solution can be awarded which meets the program goals.

Public Comments for Areas Where Middle Mile Service Already Exists

For public comments that are submitted for areas where middle mile infrastructure already exists, KOBD will require the challenger to provide the following information:

- A network map showing specific locations of current transport segments, start and end points, the network map will be submitted in .kmz format
- Polygon defining the service in which the infrastructure is located
- Fiber or other infrastructure routes specified within the service area polygon
- Speeds tiers enabled between transport segment(s) and proposed internet connection points, and associated port speeds available with internet backbone providers
- Current cost structure and middle mile transport pricing
- Proposed actions to substantially reduce transport costs compared to current costs and timeline to implement

Please label any proprietary information so that it may be kept confidential where applicable in accordance with state and federal law.

The public comment must demonstrate that the challenger's existing middle mile infrastructure complies with items in this document's Assessment Criteria, Scalability, and Cost Reduction to ensure cost structure and program goals are met through the middle mile project underway. Failure to do so will negate the public comment so that a cost-effective middle mile solution can be awarded which meets the program goals.

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 ten (10) 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 reinvesting in infrastructure where qualifying

broadband speeds exist. By submitting a challenge, applicants agree that KOBD reserves the right to adjudicate challenges and the subsequent validity of the challenge based on its sole discretion.

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 middle mile services to the proposed project area of the "planned but not underway" identified in the public comment 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 middle miles services 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 middle mile 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.

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 of 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 to help offset capital outlay associated with a project. Applicants

may use co-investment to reduce the required 50% match required under the program. This can include in-kind contributions.

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 capita BEA PCPI or PCMI metric is below the 80% threshold.

Table 6: Economically Distressed Counties in Kansas			
Allen	Doniphan	Kearny	Rice
Anderson	Edwards	Kingman	Riley
Atchison	Elk	Labette	Russell
Barton	Ellsworth	Lincoln	Saline
Bourbon	Finney	Lyon	Seward
Brown	Ford	Montgomery	Stevens
Chase	Franklin	Morton	Sumner
Chautauqua	Geary	Neosho	Wabaunsee
Cherokee	Graham	Norton	Wilson
Cheyenne	Hamilton	Osage	Woodson
Cloud	Harper	Pratt	Wyandotte
Comanche	Haskell	Rawlins	
Cowley	Jackson	Reno	
Crawford	Jewell	Republic	

The counties listed above can also be found at the Stats America website via Measuring Distress: StatsAmerica.

Interconnect
The physical linking of two networks for the mutual exchange of traffic on non-discriminatory terms and conditions.

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 6.0 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

Broadband Acceleration Grant

For purposes of the BAG 6.0 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.