

**BROADBAND
ACCELERATION GRANT
PROGRAM 6.0 (BAG 6.0)**

Office Of Broadband Development

April 27, 2026

KANSAS
COMMERCE

Welcome

- Program Overview
- Grant Timeline and Eligibility Criteria
- Financial Information
- Project Categories
- Public Comment Procedures for Last Mile and Line Extension Programs
- Middle Mile Program
- Common to all Applications





Program Overview

Broadband Acceleration Grant Program, Year 6 (BAG 6.0)

The BAG 6.0 Grant Program provides **\$16.3M** in funding for:

- Last Mile Broadband Infrastructure enabling end user locations with a minimum of 100/20 Mbps speeds
- Line extensions that extend current fiber or HFC cable networks deeper into rural communities
- Middle Mile infrastructure to reduce overall costs in delivering broadband to end users capable of symmetrical speeds of 10G

"We recognize the urgent need to bridge the digital divide so households and businesses across Kansas can succeed now and in the future. With the wide range of entities that are eligible for these funds, we are encouraging collaboration and innovative approaches to getting more Kansans and communities connected." - Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of the Department of Commerce, David Toland.



Changes From Previous 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
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 from Existing	5,280 feet	N/A	N/A
Applicant Match	50%	50%	50%
Co-Investment Match	Minimum \$1	Minimum \$1	Minimum \$1
Maximum Grant Amount (in millions)	\$2.0	\$2.0	\$1.0
Minimum Unserved Threshold	100%	80%	80%
Preconstruction Planning, Design or Preconstruction Engineering Costs Associated with the Project	Allowable as in-kind match only	Ineligible Cost	Ineligible Cost
Reimbursement Schedule	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
Regional Award Distribution	Target Priority	Target Priority	Target Priority

Changes From Previous Programs (cont'd)

	Current Program	Previous Programs	
Program Attribute Changes	BAG 6.0	BAG 5.0	BAG 4.0
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
Provisionally awarded BEAD Locations	No	N/A	N/A
Locations previously awarded by state programs	No	No	No
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	Yes	Yes
Active Participant in Federal Subsidy Programs	Encouraged, but not required	Encouraged, but not required	Required
Letters of Support	Required	Required	Encouraged, but not required



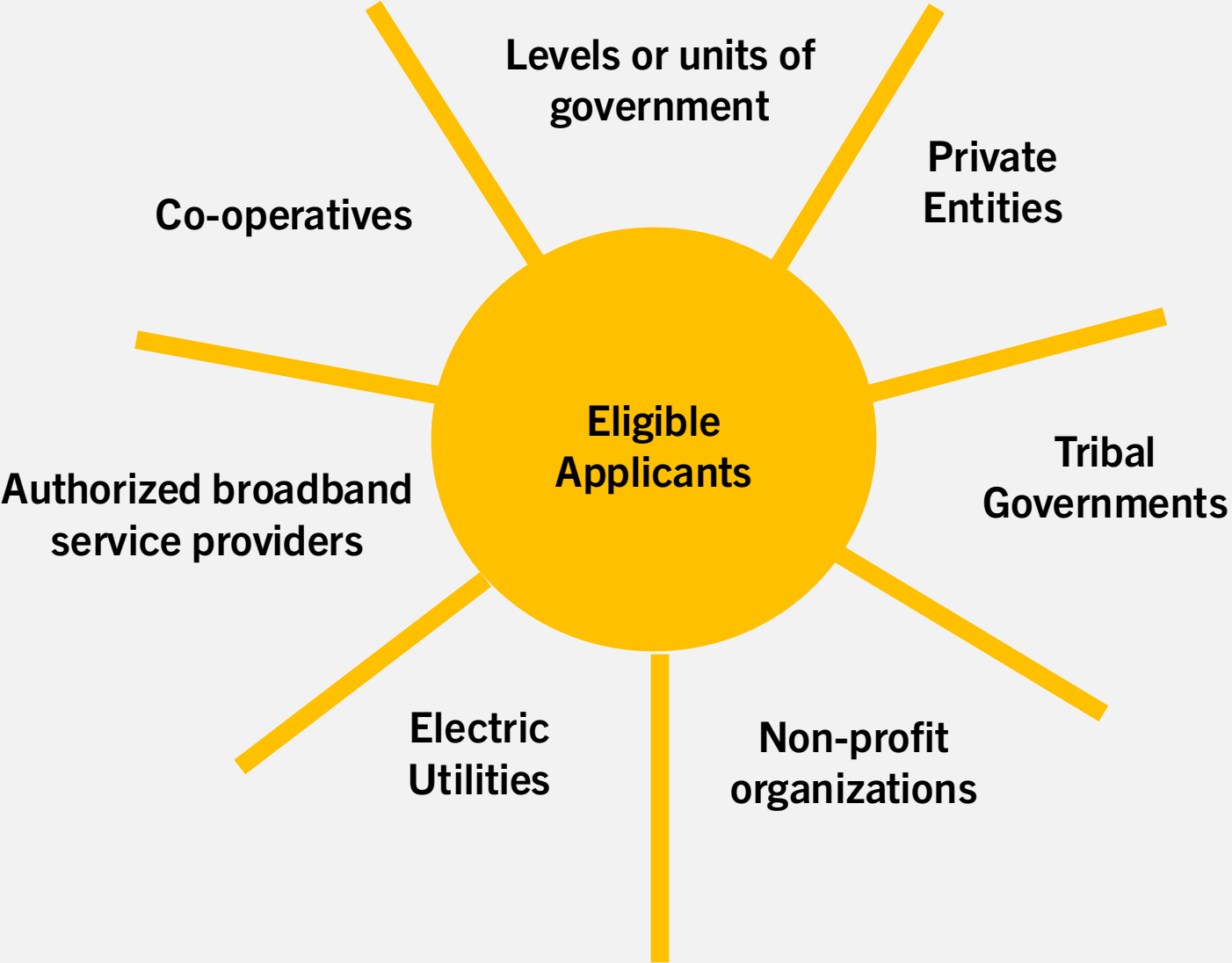
Grant Timeline & Eligibility Criteria

Grant Timeline



- April 27, 2026: Guidelines Posted/Grant Webinar
- April 27, 2026: Application Window Opens (5pm CT)
- June 12, 2026: Application Window Closes (5pm CT)
- June 8, 2026: Begin Application Reviews
- 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)
- August 31, 2026: Begin Applicant Interviews
- September 8, 2026: Leadership Review
- After September 29, 2026: Awards Announcement
- October 7, 2026: Contract Executions Complete

Eligible Applicants



Eligible Projects

- Last mile broadband infrastructure enabling end-user locations
- Line Extension Projects
- Middle Mile Projects

Ineligible Project (Examples)

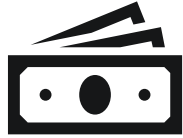
- Public wi-fi hotspot connections or locations
- Digital literacy programs
- Equipment distribution programs



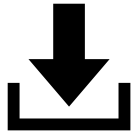


Financial Information

Applicant Match



A 50% match is required for all project categories within the program.



In-kind match may be used for up to 99% of the total match required.

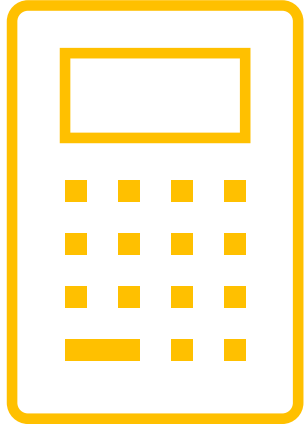


Co-Investment funds may be used to off-set applicant's required match amount.

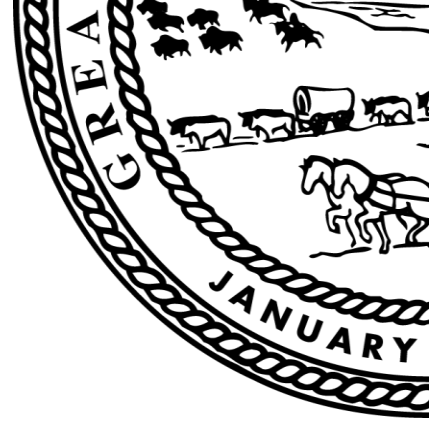


Additional points will be awarded if applicants provide incremental match beyond 50%.

In-Kind Match



- May comprise up to 99% of the 50% required match
- May include Pre-application Preconstruction Planning Design or Preconstruction Engineering Costs associated with the project
- Must be able to justify valuation of in-kind amounts at time of application
- Additional guidance available in the [KOBD BAG 6 In-Kind Match Guidance document](#)



Co-Investment



- Minimum co-investment amount is \$1.00.
- Applications with less than the \$1.00 minimum amount will not be considered for an award.
- May be used to off-set applicant's required match amount.
- Is a scored category with up to 1.75 points
- Source may be local, county, eligible state programs, economic development groups, outside investors, etc.

Eligible Costs

Up to 50% of capital expenses directly related to the deployment of a qualified broadband project, including:

Construction Costs



Project and
Facilities
Construction



Construction
Related
Engineering



Direct Labor



Installation and Test:
Network and End User



Construction
Permitting

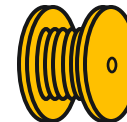
Equipment



Supplies



Materials



Costs incurred after 04/27/2026 are eligible for reimbursement

Ineligible Costs

Obligation / Debt Servicing



- Satisfaction of any obligation
- Payment of interest or principal on outstanding debt instruments

Operational Expenses



- Operating expenses
- Short-term operation leases
- Maintenance expenses
- Indirect labor costs (fringe/benefits, travel, meals, lodging, paid time off, etc.)

Capital Assets / Infrastructure



- Acquisition of spectrum licenses
- Infrastructure not directly related to service provision for an end-user in the proposed area
- Long-term capital asset purchases/leases may, on a case-by-case basis, be eligible with appropriate cost allocation based on use during the project period
- Preconstruction engineering and related costs are ineligible for reimbursement, they may only be used as in-kind match



Ineligible Telecommunication Items



- Items prohibited in the [2019 National Defense Authorization Act](#) (NDAA) (also see 2 CFR [200.216](#) and [200.471](#))
- Applies to recipients and sub-contractors

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.



Economically Distressed Counties

- 53 economically distressed counties
- KOBD will consider an area economically distressed if either the 2023 per capita BEA PCPI or PCMI metric is below the 80% threshold.
- The counties listed can also be found at the Stats America website via Measuring Distress: StatsAmerica.

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	



Project Categories



Last Mile & Line Extension Projects

Last Mile & Line Extension Project Goals

- Address a critical broadband need of the community to be served
- Provide broadband service to unserved locations within the proposed service area
- Enable access to an affordable and reliable high-speed broadband connection
- Provide a minimum of 100/20 Mbps speed to the end user, with scalability to at least symmetrical 10 Gbps



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.

Last Mile & Line Extension Project Attributes

Program Qualifying Speeds	100/20 Mbps
Regional Award Distribution	Target Priority
Certified CAF II/RDOF areas eligible for award	Yes, under certain conditions
Provisionally awarded BEAD Locations	No
Locations previously awarded by other federal or state programs	No
Maximum Grant Award (in millions)	\$2.0
Minimum Unserved Threshold	100%
Middle Mile	Last Mile Projects: Yes, if necessary to enable last mile service Line Extension Projects: No, not eligible for funding

Line Extension Qualification Details



Qualifying line extension BSLs:

- Locations within 5,280 feet (1 mile) or less of existing fiber or HFC cable segment providing broadband services but is not being served by fiber or HFC based services. Lack of service could be due to:
 - ✓ Excessive drop fees
 - ✓ Cable segment not passing current broadband serviceable locations
- Locations must have a BSL location ID

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.

Eligible Areas

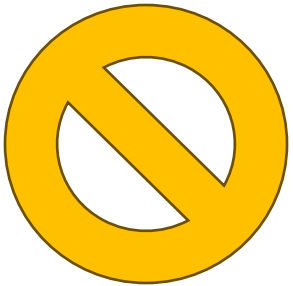
- Any *Unserved* last mile area or qualifying location that is unserved is eligible for funding.
- Service areas or selected locations within an application are not required to be contiguous.
 - ✓ Non-contiguous areas >10 miles apart in same application must include explanation of how the economic and community impact is the same for the proposed areas.
- Certified CAF II and RDOF areas may be eligible for reinvestment based on certain conditions

Unserved: 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.



Ineligible Areas

- Areas receiving funding for broadband expansion from other sources, including but not limited to:
 - ✓ BEAD broadband service locations (BSLs)
 - ✓ Areas awarded Broadband Acceleration grants for years 3, 4 or 5
 - ✓ 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 (RDOF) with more than 100/20 Mbps wireline/fiber speeds enabled
 - ✓ Areas awarded United States Treasury Capital Projects Fund (CPF) broadband infrastructure grants
 - ✓ Any other federal broadband program encumbering BSLs approved for deployment



BSLs included in an application later determined to be ineligible by KOBD will be removed from and not funded if application is selected for an award.

CAF II and RDOF Area Reinvestment Eligibility

Areas that have received “final authorization” for CAF II/RDOF awards will be considered eligible if the original awardee:

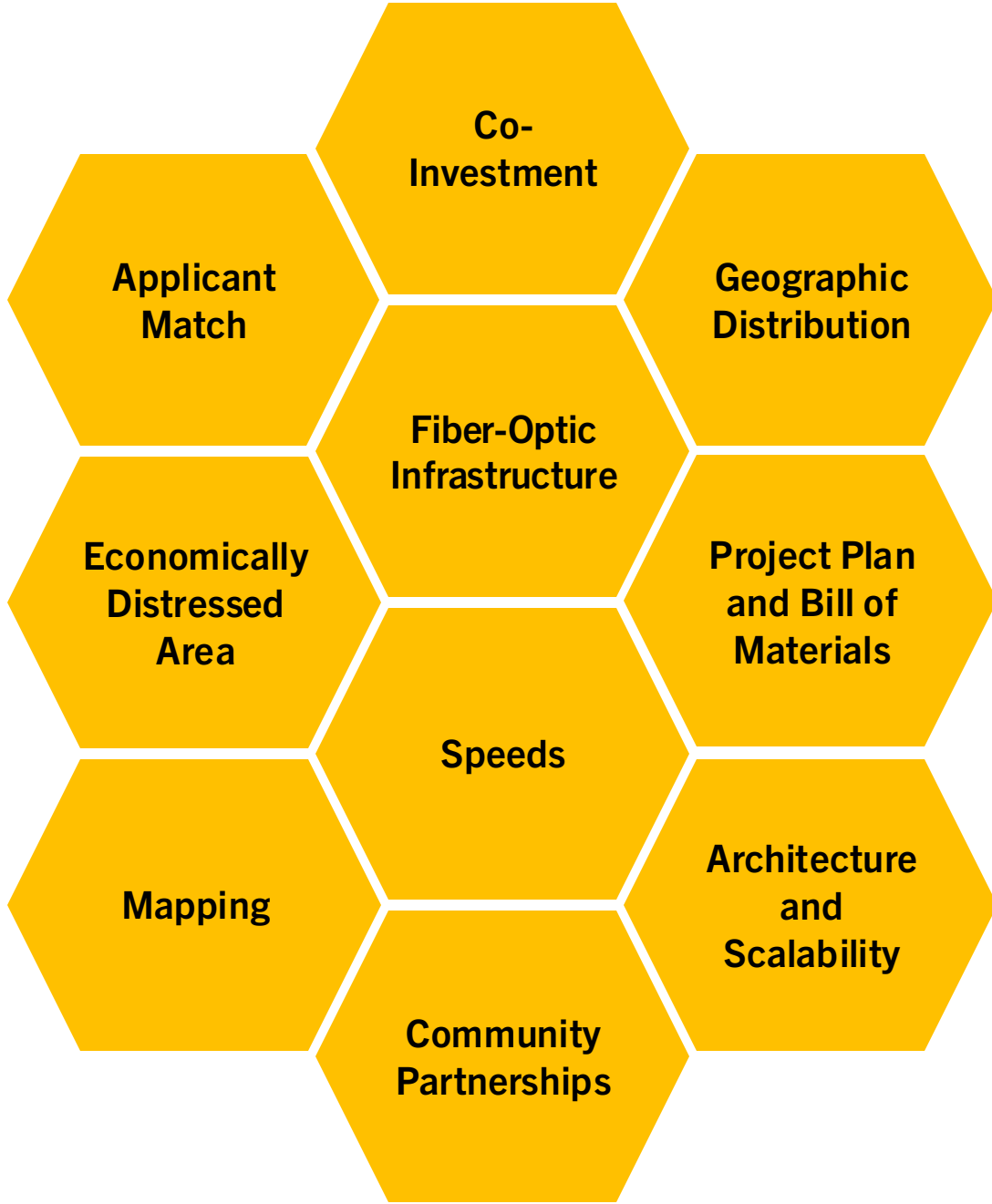
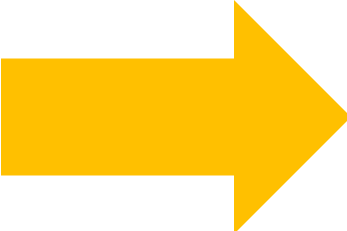
- Has defaulted or is at risk of defaulting
- Has materially missed deployment milestones
- Is unlikely to complete deployment within the applicable federal timeline

KOBD will make final reinvestment eligibility determinations based on documented evidence, public comment and applicant response.



Last Mile & Line Extension Application Priorities

Projects that address critical broadband needs focusing on unserved areas:





Middle Mile Projects



Middle Mile Project Goals

- Reduce transport costs connecting last mile solutions.
- Encourage the expansion of Middle Mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting, in general, unserved and underserved areas to the Internet backbone.
- Promote broadband connection resiliency through the creation of alternative network connection paths.
- Improve affordability in already served markets.
- For recipients to offer wholesale and retail access to the funded fiber based middle mile infrastructure, in perpetuity

Middle Mile Project Attributes

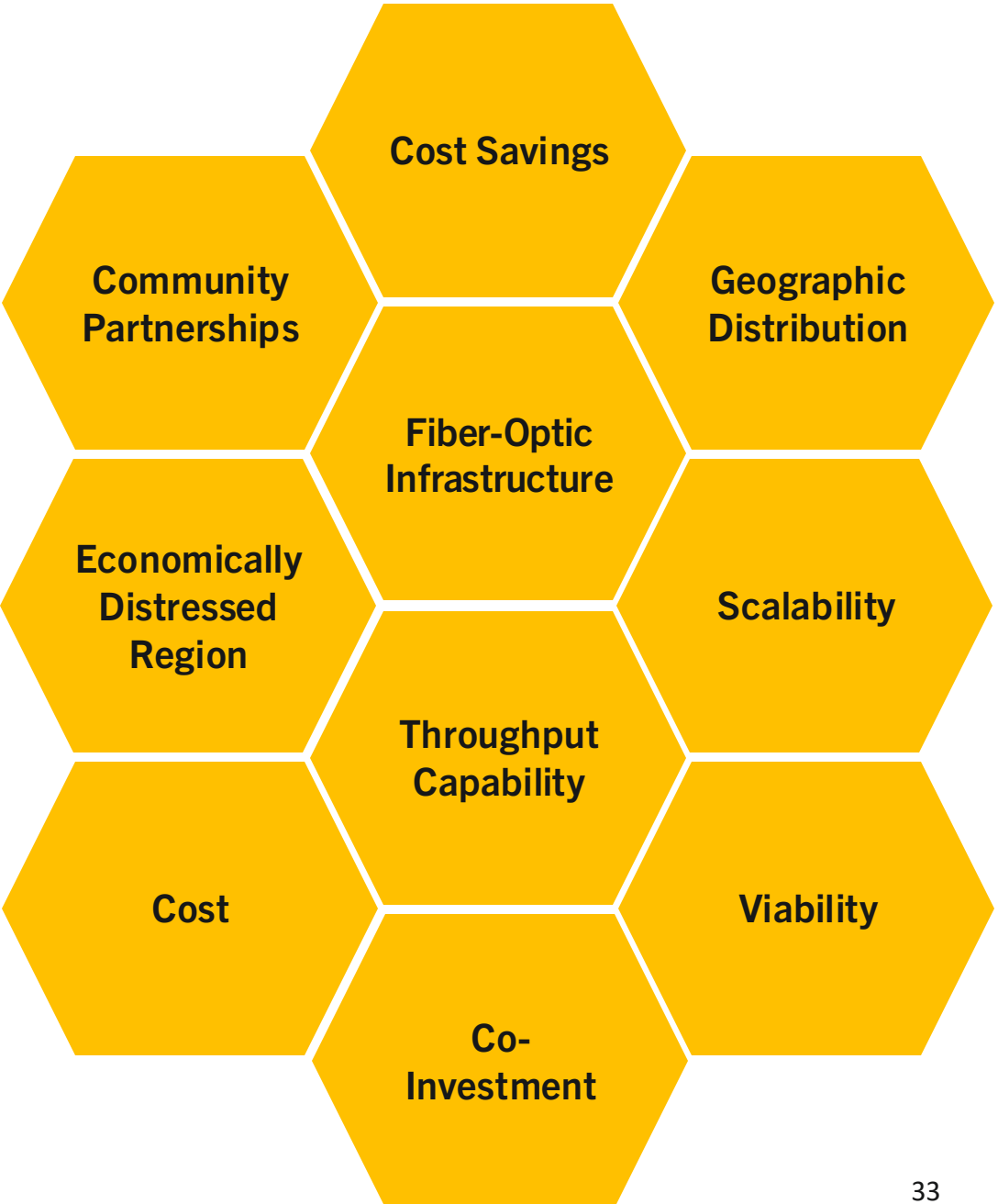
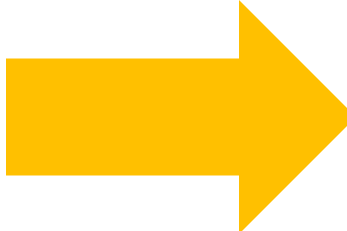
- Able to support a minimum of 10 Gbps symmetrical speeds with latency of 100 ms or less.
- Facilities proposed must be in the State of Kansas.

If facilities cross state boundaries, only the portion within Kansas will be eligible for funding



Middle Mile Application Priorities

Projects that address lack of middle mile or high-cost middle mile preventing last mile broadband expansion



Questions and Answers



Public Comment & Applicant Response

Public Comment Period

The public comment period is intended to:

- ensure transparency and best use of taxpayer funds
- provide an opportunity for providers, elected officials, and constituents to express support or concerns with an application or its proposed service area.

Public Comment Categories

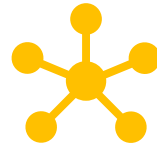
**Service Areas with
Projects Underway**



**Service Areas with Projects
Planned But Not Underway**



**Service Areas
Where Broadband
Already Exists**



Other



Note: When public comments are accepted against an application, KOBD will use the “Application Overlap” process to determine further application consideration for funding

Service Areas With Projects Underway

- Public comments shall contain information demonstrating that the provider has begun construction activities.
- The project must provide a minimum of 100/20 Mbps services.
- Challenger must submit proof that work has started on a project to complete broadband infrastructure within applicant's proposed service area.
- Service area and associated Location IDs must be submitted via FCC Broadband Data Collection Service Availability templates

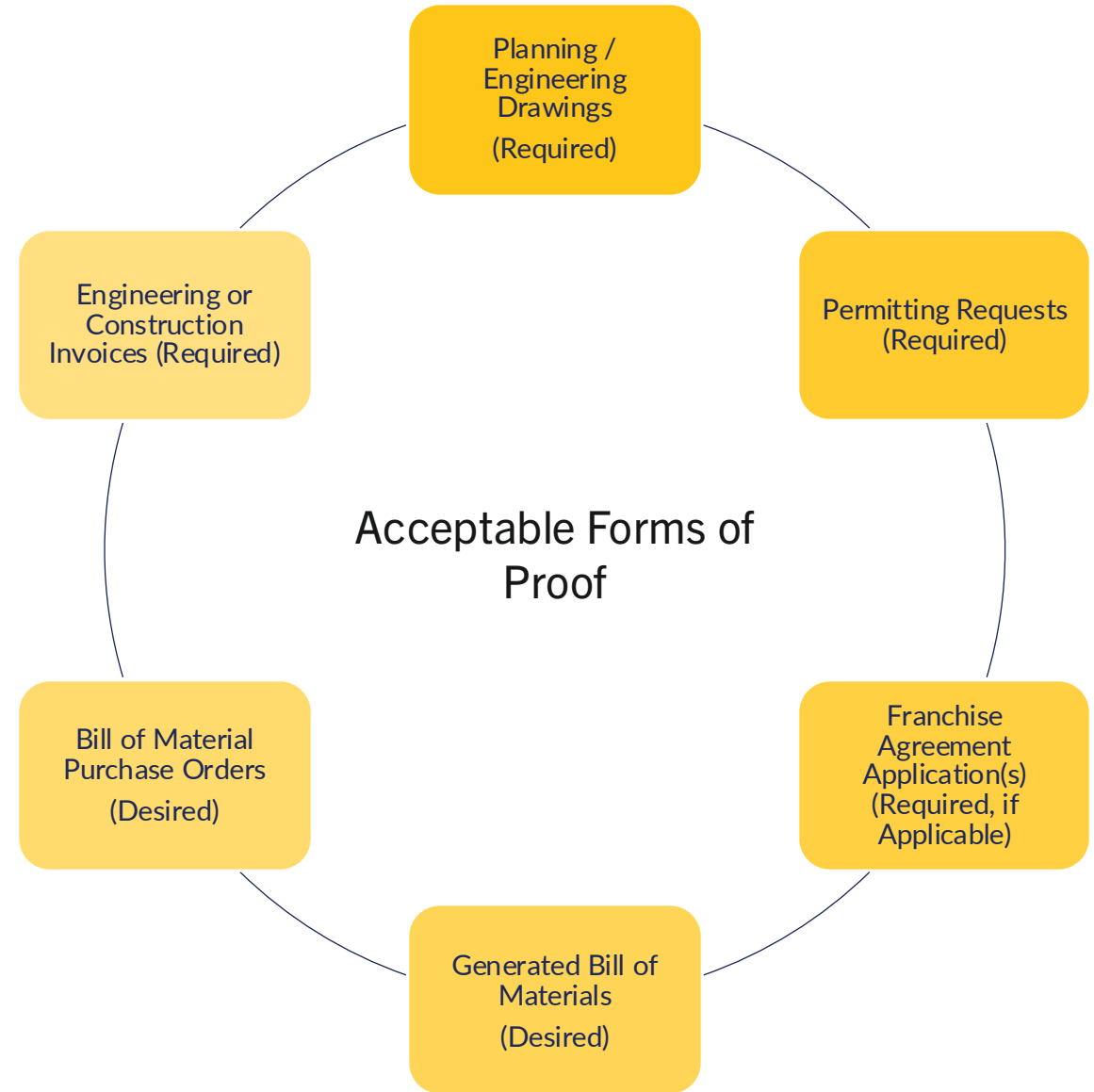
Compliance Requirements if Challenger does not comply



Prohibit challenger from submitting challenges on any future KOBD administered grant applications for two years



Prohibit challenger from applying for any grant programs administered by KOBD for the following two fiscal years



Service Areas With Projects 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.
- If challenge is successful, compliance requirements will be applied.

Challenger Required Data / Commitment

100/20 Mbps minimum speed	Proposed service area map in .kmz format
Complete 18 months after grant awards date	Protested locations identified
Funded by "challenger" service provider	Heat maps included in .kmz file (if applicable)
Service area and associated Location IDs must be submitted via FCC Broadband Data Collection Service Availability templates	


If applicant's proposal is denied, challenger subject to compliance

Compliance Requirements

- ⊘ Prohibit challenger from submitting challenges on any future KOBD administered grant applications for two years
- ⊘ Prohibit challenger from applying for any grant programs administered by KOBD for the following two fiscal years

Service Areas Where Broadband Already Exists

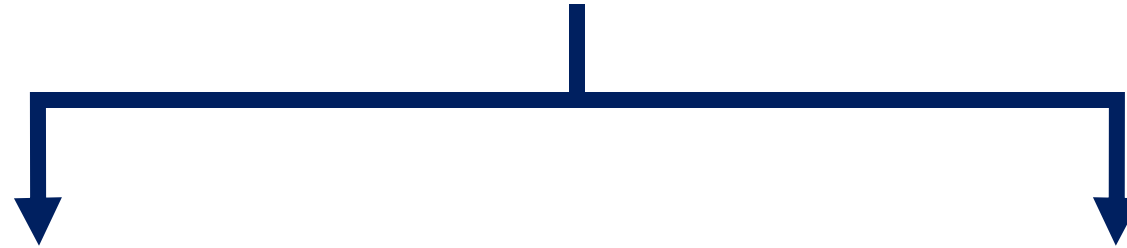
- Requires a provider submitting a challenge to provide speed test results in the proposed project area in which the provider submitting the challenge states that broadband service is currently available at minimum speeds of 100/20 Mbps across entire footprint
- Public comment from challenger must include the following information for consideration:

Speed Tests	
Proof Required	
Requested Data Set	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speed test provider• Downstream speed• Upstream speed• Latency• Physical address• 5% of locations within overlapping area
Data Set Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data source and methodology used to develop• Data collected from July 2025 or later• Raw data available

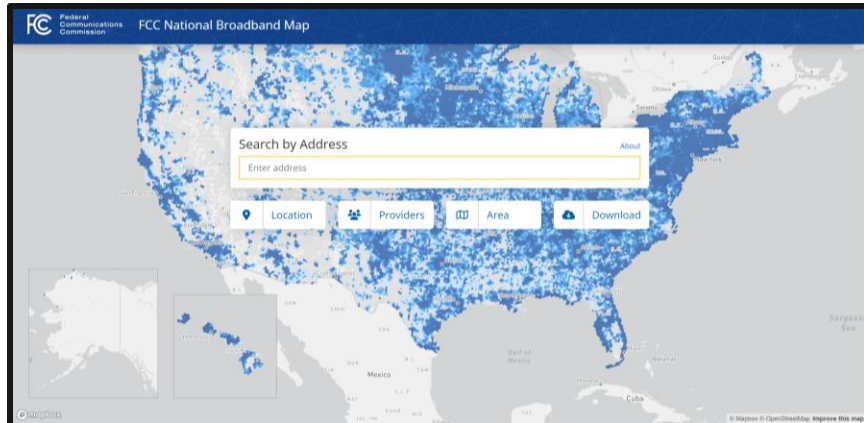
Project Need

Broadband Availability Check

Checking Location Served Status

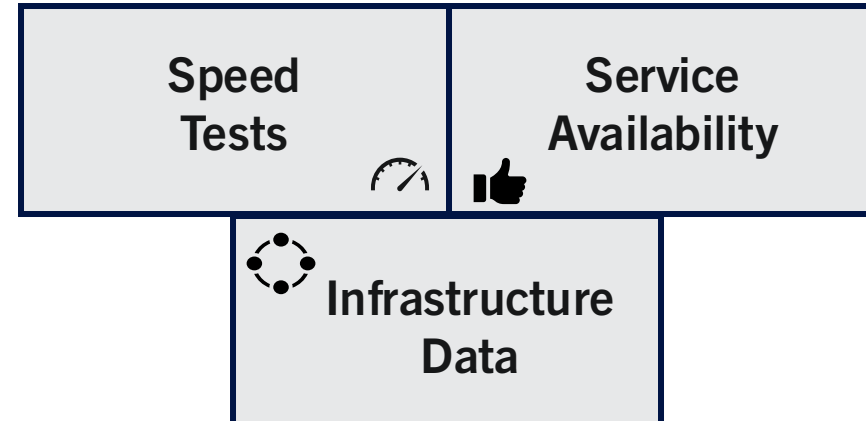


**FCC Broadband Data Collection
(BDC) Fabric: Service Availability**



<https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home?version=jun2022>

**Other Acceptable Data
(Optional)**



Other Acceptable Data (Optional)

FCC Broadband Data Collect Service Availability data may contain inaccurate or unvalidated information. Other acceptable data to demonstrate that the proposed service area is, in fact, unserved are:



Speed tests



- Survey or date and time stamped speed test data for a majority of consumers in the designated area



Service availability



- Documentation from the website of reported service provider stating service is unavailable in this area or for a specific address



Infrastructure data



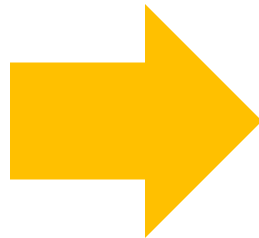
- Documentation of a lack of infrastructure in an area

Other

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

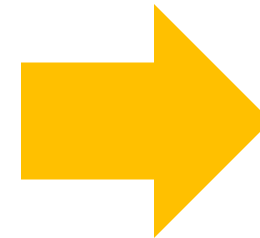
Input Examples

- Effective use of taxpayer funds
- Cost
- Procedural
- Project area adjustment
- Legal



Claim(s) Assessment

- Evidence examined
- Conduct interview(s) as needed
- Evidence viability determined



Determination

- Public comment evidence substantiates an application change or not
- Application modification required or not

Degree of impact to previous programs: All “Other” public comments were not accepted in previous infrastructure programs – all due to lack of sufficient evidence

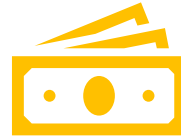
Areas Where Middle Mile Already Exists

Public comment from challenger must include the following information for consideration

Pricing Structure

Middle Mile Segment Comparison

**Proof
Required**

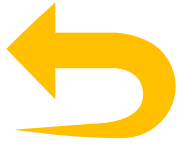


**Requested
Data Set**

- Provide and speed tiers of existing middle mile pricing structure
- Explanation on why current solution and pricing structure is sufficient, should not be improved upon or augmented

- .kmz map showing current infrastructure overlaid with proposed middle mile project
 - Provide benefit summary of current solution such as speed, scalability, resiliency, communities served, why existing middle mile solution is sufficient for the region / community
-

Public Commenter's Responsibilities



- Validated public comments in the “Planned But Not Started” and “Construction Underway” will cause KOBD to re-direct funding away from those areas targeted to receive qualifying broadband services
-



- Validated public comments prevent part, or all, of an application from moving forward - KOBD requires that organizations submitting public comments in these categories provide quarterly project updates, at KOBD's prompting, regarding their “in-progress” project until the project is completed
-



- A “No Response” for quarterly update requests will assume there is no progress to report, and, as a result, the ability to submit public comments and applications for other grant programs will be considered for suspension starting from when KOBD's first due date is missed

Applicant Response

An applicant response to a public comment is helpful to:

- Acknowledge that the public comment was seen by the applicant
- Enable the applicant to refute the public comment information
- Bring to bear additional information regarding the proposed service area or existing service availability information that was not provided at the time of application



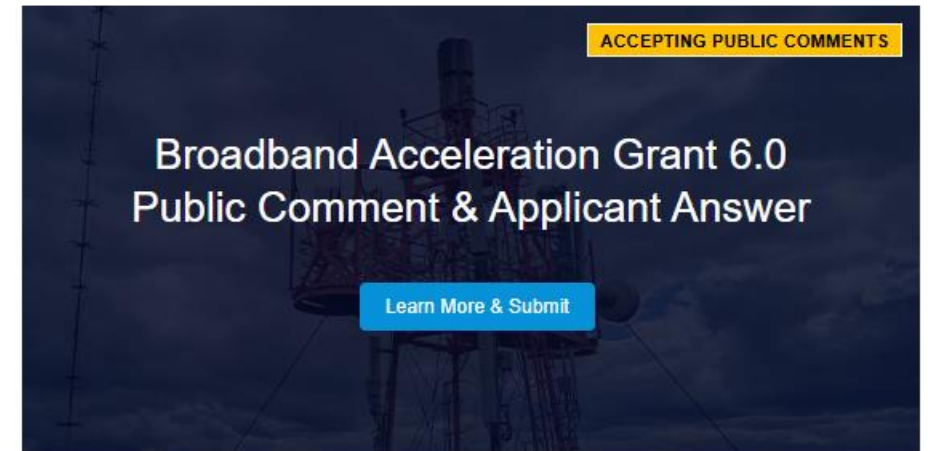
- If there is no applicant response to the public comment:
 - Lends credence to the public comment, high likelihood that contested service area would be de-selected from the application
 - KOBD will only rely on the public comment content to resolve the public comment



- If there is an applicant response, KOBD will use the applicant feedback when resolving the public comment

Submission Process

- Submit Public Comments and Applicant Responses in the Department of Commerce grant portal.
- Portal Log-in: [KDC Grant Portal](#)
- After log-in, click on the Non-Funding Programs module, locate the BAG 6 icon and click on the *Learn More & Submit* button
- [User Guide](#) available on the KOBD website.





Applications

Best Practices

- **Continued Focus on Economically Distressed Areas**
- **Target Unserved Areas**
 - Unserved vs. Underserved – unserved is the priority
 - Trend to continue for the foreseeable future
- **Supporting Documentation Preparation** – surveys, testimonials, speed tests to support proposed service area.
- **Align Application Deliverables With Program Priorities**
- **Speeds: Meet Minimum Program Speeds**
- **Ensure Application Information Is Provided**
 - Mapping (public and private)
 - Budget and BOM is filled out
- **Adoption**
 - Adoption is the key focus of building the broadband infrastructure
 - Affordability translates to adoption
- **Scalability**
 - Fiber solution encouraged
 - Capable of 10G or higher
 - Service offerings reflecting symmetric capability



Last Mile & Line Extension Application Evaluation

<u>Application Section</u>	<u>Sub-Categories</u>	<u>Approximate Weighting</u>
Application Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project justification• Community benefits• Economically Distressed Areas• Partnerships	35%
Technical Project Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delivered speed• Future proofing / scalability• Proposed service area validation• Degree of Unserved	50%
Financials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial standing of company• Confirming financing is available to support match• Confirming project costs and budget• Applicant Match + Co-Investment	15%

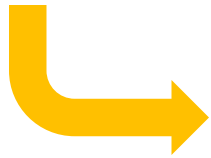
Middle Mile Application Evaluation

<u>Application Section</u>	<u>Sub-Categories</u>	<u>Approximate Weighting</u>
Project Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project justification• Community benefits• Cost Savings• Overall Benefit	35%
Technical Project Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solutions to be offered• Technology solution• Future proofing / scalability	50%
Financials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial standing of company• Confirming financing is available to support match• Confirming project costs and budget• Applicant Match• Co-Investment	15%

Application Overlap

What happens when two or more applications have overlapping proposed service areas?

Evaluate each application on its own merit



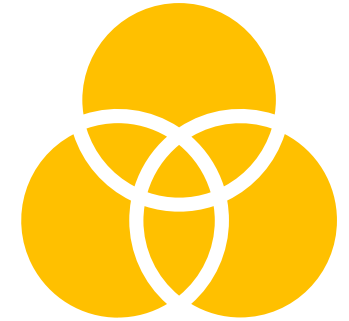
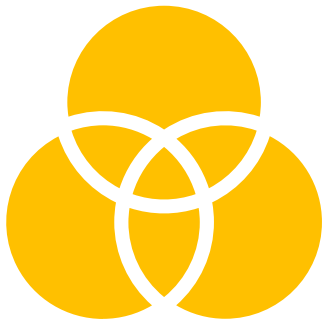
In the event of overlapping proposed service areas, the highest scoring application becomes the primary candidate for funding



If a scoring tie, the best solution is selected based on overall benefit to the community – speeds available, price points, locations passed, etc.



The lower scoring application is evaluated against remaining application pool, if applicant agrees that the application remains viable after extracting the overlapping location IDs



Note:

- Overlapping applications may not be the highest scoring proposals in their peer group
- As such, applicants may never be contacted when an overlapping condition occurs

Application 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 bankruptcy in the last ten years; the applicant 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.



Application Assurances (cont'd)

- If a private entity, the grant applicant has been operating in the State of Kansas for no fewer than three (3) years.
- 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).

Application Assurances (cont'd)



- 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.

Post-Award Compliance & Accountability



Compliance

Monthly Report:

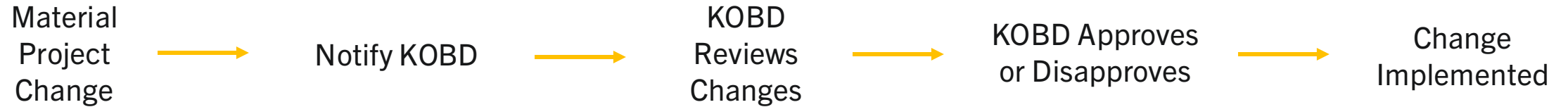
- A narrative update on the status of the project, including notification of any delays.
- A monthly budget expenditure report of the project.
- A monthly .pdf containing supporting project expenditure documentation for reimbursement requested (i.e., Invoices/receipts).
- Monthly fund disbursement will be made based on expenditure report and supporting documentation.



Closeout Report:

- Validation of infrastructure project
- Route segment completion, .kmz maps, throughput tests, latency, and network performance validation
- Expenditure report and supporting documentation for reimbursement requested (i.e., Invoices/receipts)
- Highlights/Hurdles









Material Project Change Process



- Advance approval from KOBD is required for any material change to the approved project.
- Expenditures made without prior approval may be deemed unallowable and may not be reimbursed.
- If there is any doubt to materiality of the potential project changes, awardees must engage KOBD to determine materiality.
- Failure to engage KOBD to determine materiality prior to change implementations may also result in a reduced budget and / or clawback actions.

What Are Material Project Changes?

Examples of material changes include, but are not limited to, the following:

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



Let's Talk.