



**Washington State Broadband Office (WSBO)**  
**October 4, 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for**  
**Infrastructure Acceleration Grants Pre-Applications**  
**Q&A**

*Updated 10/27/21*

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*Answer:* Yes, guidance for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds allows for projects to serve both unserved and served premises as long as the **objective of the project** is to provide service to the unserved (lacking wireline connection of 25/3). When reviewing projects that are a mix of served and unserved, the SBO will prioritize unserved areas first, followed by improved service for premises lacking reliable service of at least 100/20 Mbps.



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*Answer:* The SBO's authorizing statute ([RCW 43.330.530](#)) defines "Last mile infrastructure" as "broadband infrastructure that serves as the final connection from a broadband service provider's network to the end use customer's on premises telecommunications equipment." "Middle mile infrastructure" is defines as "broadband infrastructure that links a broadband service provider's core network infrastructure to last mile infrastructure."

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Q16. How do we find out if this is on Federally Recognized Tribal Lands / Reservations?

*Answer:* You can go to the Governor's Office of INDIAN AFFAIRS website at <https://goia.wa.gov/resources/tribal-maps>

Q17. Can anyone complete an application on behalf of a town? **\*NEW\***

*Answer:* The applicant must have the authority to sign a binding contract with the state for the grant funds.

Q18. Is there a template for the BAT support letter? **\*NEW\***

*Answer:* No template, no specific requirements, other than the BAT's support for the project.

Q19. If the BAT does not have a meeting during the pre-application window (before October 18), will you accept the support letter as part of the full application being opened in November and allow the pre-application to proceed if it meets all other requirements? **\*NEW\***

*Answer:* Yes.

Q20. If a project partner uses existing staff for some construction work, may those employees be paid at their current wage? **\*NEW\***

*Answer:* For any grant-funded activities, workers must be paid the higher of federal or state prevailing wages. See question #6 for additional details.

Q21. Can a project partner that is not the lead applicant receive grant funds directly from WSBO? **\*NEW\***

*Answer:* Only the entity that is under contract with the SBO may receive grant fund distributions directly from the WSBO. More details related to sub-contractors will be included in the grant contract agreement.

Q22. Can grant funds be used to satisfy federal single audit requirements for grantees who receive \$750,000 or more in federal funds in a fiscal year? **\*NEW\***

*Answer:* Yes, with limitations. Per [Title 2, Subtitle A, Chapter II, Part 200 CFR](#), Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, a non-federal entity that expends \$750,000 or more of federal funds in a fiscal year must have a single or program-specific audit conducted for that year. The federal guidance (§200.425) allows for a “reasonably proportionate share” of the costs of audits required by the Single Audit Act to be reimbursed, with certain exceptions.

Q23. Will a project that does not include a county or a Tribe as a formal partner receive less consideration even if it is a regional project? **\*NEW\***

*Answer:* We require coordination with the county, or Tribe if the project is on federally recognized Tribal lands, and must receive documentation of that coordination. While the county is strongly encouraged to act as a lead applicant for a regional project, it is not strictly required. However, a letter of support from the county is mandatory for a project to be eligible. The letter of support may be provided in the full application completed in November if the project meets all other pre-application requirements.



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*Updated 10/13/21*

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The initiation of consultation and any response from the ILEC must be documented in writing with dates included.

Q2. If the applicant has received ARPA funding directly, are they still eligible to apply for a grant? Can local ARPA funds be used to meet the match requirement?

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*Answer:* Two or more PPSA polygons within the same network would be contiguous, the polygons do not need to be in contact proximity with each other.

Q4. Does the applicant need to be a state or local government to apply?

*Answer:* Eligible applicants include the following entities:  
Local Governments (including Ports and Public Utility Districts);  
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Nonprofit cooperative organizations; and  
Multiparty entities (must include a public partner).

Q5. Is it the intent to have state and local government hire local contractors?

*Answer:* A requirement to hire a local contractor has not been established at this stage. However, the U.S. Department of the Treasury [Compliance and Reporting Guidance for Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Funds](#) (CSLRF) requires reporting on workforce practices. For infrastructure projects over \$10 million, more detailed reporting will be required, including information related to labor agreements, whether the project prioritizes local hires, and how projects use other strong labor standards.

Q6. Will prevailing wage or David Bacon apply to these projects?

*Answer:* Yes. Projects must pay the higher of federal or state prevailing wages. For projects over \$10 million, additional certifications and detailed reporting as required by the Davis Bacon Act (Subchapter IV of Chapter 31, Title 40) will be required.



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*Answer:* The applicant must demonstrate that meeting the minimum match requirement is a financial hardship. Criteria by which hardship will be evaluated will be provided with the full application in November 2021.

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