

# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

**Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund**

## **Program Plan Awards and Best Practices**



## About This Webinar

The U.S. Department of the Treasury is providing this webinar and other resources for informational purposes.

The descriptions provided in this document are non-exhaustive, do not describe all terms and conditions associated with the use of Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (Capital Projects Fund), and do not describe all of the eligible and ineligible uses that may apply to this funding.

Any Capital Projects Fund funding received will be subject to the terms and conditions of the agreement entered into by Treasury and the respective recipients.



# Agenda

**SECTION 1:** Welcoming Remarks

**SECTION 2:** Award Announcements

**SECTION 3:** Use of Funds -- Recap

**SECTION 4:** Best Practices



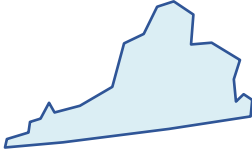

**SECTION 5:** Q&A



# **SECTION 1: Welcoming Remarks**

## **SECTION 2: Award Announcement**

# First CPF Awards – Broadband Infrastructure

	<b>Louisiana</b> 	<b>New Hampshire</b> 	<b>Virginia</b> 	<b>West Virginia</b> 
<b>Award Amount</b>	<b>\$176.7M</b>	<b>\$50M</b>	<b>\$219.8M</b>	<b>\$136.3M</b>
<b>Locations to Be Served</b>	<b>88,500</b> <i>(estimated)</i>	<b>15,000</b> <i>(estimated)</i>	<b>76,873</b>	<b>20,000</b> <i>(estimated)</i>
<b>Use of Funds</b>	LA will use 100% of CPF allocation for a competitive grant program to fund broadband infrastructure investments for locations without access to 25/3 Mbps	NH will use ~40% of CPF allocation to fund a local internet service provider to reach the most rural parts of the state currently lacking adequate internet service	VA will use 100% of CPF allocation to fund seven projects already selected from VA's established competitive grant program focused on serving locations without access to 25/3 Mbps	WV will use 100% of CPF allocation for three competitive grant programs that will focus on funding last mile connections for locations without access to 25/3 Mbps
<b>Funding Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPF-funded <i>GUMBO</i> is one piece of a five-year plan that leverages other federal broadband funding to achieve statewide universal access</li> <li>• CPF will serve ~25% of locations still lacking internet access in LA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program criteria encourages the maximum number of locations to be served at the lowest cost, and prioritizes affiliation with local governments, non-profits, and co-ops</li> <li>• CPF will serve ~50% of locations still lacking internet access in NH</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once-in-a-generation ARPA funds will keep VA on track to achieve universal broadband access by 2024</li> <li>• CPF will serve ~28% of locations still lacking internet access in VA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding designed to reach areas hardest to serve due to low population density, rurality</li> <li>• CPF will serve ~10% of locations still lacking internet access in WV</li> </ul>

# Virginia to receive \$220 million federal grant to expand broadband networks for high-speed internet

# Four states receive first allocations of \$10B broadband fund

By LEAH WILLINGHAM June 7, 2022



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June 7, 2022  
6:55 AM EDT  
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Technology

## U.S. Treasury approves first state projects from \$10 billion COVID broadband fund

By David Lawder and David Shepardson

2 minute read



# THE ADVOCATE

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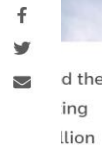
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## More than 88,000 Louisiana homes, businesses to gain high-speed internet with new federal funding

CAPITOL NEWS BUREAU PUBLISHED JUN 7, 2022 AT 12:52 PM | UPDATED JUN 7, 2022 AT 5:49 PM



## **SECTION 3: Use of Funds - Recap**



# Use of Funds

The Capital Projects Fund authorizes funding for projects that meet the following criteria:

1. Invest in capital assets designed to directly enable work, education, and health monitoring.
2. Be designed to address a critical need that resulted from or was made apparent or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency.
3. Be designed to address a critical need of the community to be served by it.

A key priority of the program is investments in **broadband infrastructure and digital connectivity**, but recipients have flexibility in selecting how they would like to deploy Capital Projects Fund grant funding to address critical needs identified within their communities.



**Broadband  
Infrastructure Projects**



**Digital Connectivity  
Technology Projects**



**Multi-Purpose  
Community Facility  
Projects**



**Case-by-Case  
Reviews**

# Use of Funds

## Program Funds need to focus on key requirements and encouragements:

- **Connectivity:** Investments in capital assets to get people connected to the internet (i.e. broadband infrastructure projects or digital connectivity devices).
- **Future-Proof:** Design build standards for broadband infrastructure programs **MUST** be 100:100 Mbps symmetrical unless impracticable; Fiber is encouraged.
  - If impracticable then build 100:20 Mbps scalable to 100:100 symmetrical.
- **Affordability:** Subrecipients **MUST** participate in ACP where available.
  - Subrecipients providing broadband services should provide a low-cost option so that families in need can afford the service.
- **A Menu of Options:** Encourage prioritization of broadband networks owned, operated by, or affiliated with local governments, non-profits, and co-operatives.
- **Community Consultation, Engagement, and Feedback:** Include information and/or data on how the funds will address critical needs of the communities to be served.

**All Grant Plans and Program Plans must be submitted no later than  
September 24, 2022.**

## **SECTION 4: Best Practices**

# Grant Plan Overview

States, territories, and freely associated states must complete a Grant Plan.

- A **Grant Plan** provides an overview of the anticipated use(s) for funds and the amount per category.
- Grant Plans include the following:
  - **Executive summary**
  - **Allocation Table**
  - **Program Plan(s)**
- Funds will be made available on a rolling basis as Grant Plans and Program Plans approved.
- Recipients are permitted to submit additional documents to respond to questions.
- CPF Recipients are responsible for ensuring **all identification numbers provided are active** throughout the entire CPF grant performance period
- Treasury reserves the right to publicly share information from a Recipient's CPF Grant Application, Grant Plan, and Program Plan(s).

**All Grant Plans and Program Plans must be submitted no later than  
September 24, 2022.**

# Program Plan(s) Summary

## Program Plans

- Program Plans are generally **5-10 pages in length**
- Program Plans require the following:
  - **Use Code Questionnaire (1A, 1B, 1C, 2)**
  - **Program Narrative**
  - **Program Budget**
  - **Pre-Award Cost Annex (if applicable)**
- Program Plans do **not** have to be submitted all at once
- Recipients will have an **opportunity to revise and resubmit** portions of their Program Plan(s)
  - Revised Program Plans will be submitted as a new document uploaded to the Portal.
  - Note that any additional information submitted by a Recipient related to the Program Plan will be treated as part of the Program Plan.

## Best Practices & Tips - General

- Detailed timeline and milestones related to administering the program during the period of performance.

**Tip:** Describe the financial, managerial, and institutional capability by, for example, detailing previous experience managing similar grant program, increasing staff to oversee program, or partnering with outside organizations or agencies for program assistance.

- Include an **estimate of the number of locations** (i.e., households, businesses, etc.) to be served by the CPF investment.
- Where applicable, provide the following to Treasury: Subgrant application announcement; subgrant application/RFP; subrecipient scoring rubrics; subaward grant agreement; and description of outreach to eligible applicants.
- If applicable, list **all other federal and state funding streams** used to supplement the proposed project(s).
- Make sure the requested amount of funding for a Program Plan is consistent across all submitted documents.

**Tip:** Recipients are required to publish the description (e.g., make public in recipient's program guidance, publish on recipient's program website, etc.) of their process for considering affordability in their project selection process and must provide this information in their Program Plan.

# Best Practices & Tips – Broadband Infrastructure Projects (1A)

Treasury requires Broadband Infrastructure Projects to meet or exceed speeds of 100/100 Mbps symmetrical unless impracticable. In cases where the impracticability justification will be used, the program must be designed to reliably meet or exceed 100/20 Mbps and be scalable to a minimum of 100 Mbps symmetrical in the future.

**Tip:** Recipients should develop a process to assess subrecipient project proposals that do not meet speeds of 100/100 Mbps symmetrical to determine whether it would in fact be impracticable to deliver the required speeds. Factors to consider may include excessive deployment costs per location or geographic barriers. Recipients must include specific data sources relied on to develop this process and provide a description of that process.

## West Virginia

- **Data:** Extensive data gathering initiative to create Target Area Address Map
- **Identification of challenges:** Lack of ISPs, Low Population Density, Mountainous Topography
- **Project evaluation:** prioritize financially and technically feasible projects + network validation, field inspections and field verifications
  - Applicants proposing DOCSIS networks required to detail ability to scale

# Best Practices & Tips – Broadband Infrastructure Projects (1A)

**Describe the process followed to address affordability in the project specifications and selection criteria.**

**Tip:** Treasury encourages the use of data from surveys, community engagement, existing studies, or other data to determine affordable broadband service for the areas to be served. For example, recipients may cite pricing data, the characteristics of a basic service, latency, non-recurring costs, data caps, or whether the application of ACP will reduce the monthly fee to an amount less than the average monthly service fee for that community.

## Louisiana

- **Community engagement:** Public meetings in targeted communities indicates that residents feel as though broadband service packages are too expensive, with too few options.
- **Application evaluation:** GUMBO grant program scoring criteria gave additional points to applicants offering low-cost broadband service.
- **Grant agreement:** State will work with the awardee during the grant agreement period to offer more affordable options, or should the awardee refuse, remove the awardee from consideration.
  - Grant agreements will also include reporting requirements and monitoring processes to certify compliance with established pricing structures.



## Best Practices & Tips – Broadband Infrastructure Projects (1A)

Provide details about the initial and ongoing (i.e., post project implementation) community engagement efforts.

### Virginia

- **Community Involvement:** The program is structured to engage communities by having local governments being the primary eligible applicants.
- **Project evaluation:** Scoring criteria considers the involvement of local NGOs and community support organizations involved in the project, as well digital literacy and digital equity activities.
  - For example, successful applicants have engaged libraries in their project roll out plans to help residents understand the value of broadband and how to use connected devices.

## Best Practices & Tips – Broadband Infrastructure Projects (1A)

**Provide evidence of how critical need was assessed and determined-lack of access, affordability, reliability, or other.**

**Tip:** List all relevant federal and state data used throughout the planning process.

### New Hampshire

- **Critical Need-Access:** NH Households lacking connection speeds that support multiple users being online simultaneously, or lacking connection at all, have been disproportionately impacted by the transition to a more remote lifestyle. NH plans to prioritize bringing service to these households, through infrastructure and more affordable, service offerings to support bridging the digital divide and mitigating risks of increased hardship, whether they be economic, education, or health related.

# Best Practices & Tips

## Digital Connectivity Technologies (1B)

- Proposed devices are for public distribution or made available in a public facility.

**Tip:** Ownership of CPF Digital Connectivity Technology devices must be retained by the recipient or subrecipient.

- The Program Plan describes the types of digital devices and their uses.
- Recipient describes how the compliance and subrecipient monitoring described in the Program Plan will be conducted.

## Multi-Purpose Community Facilities (1C)

- The MPCF has been designed to ensure investments funded using CPF funds will jointly and directly enable work, education, and health monitoring.
- The Program Plan demonstrates that the proposed use will be operational by December 31, 2026.
  - The proposed MPCF must also provide services for at least five years after the completion of the project.

**Tip:** 1C Program Plans must demonstrate that the investment serves a community with a demonstrated community need and that the facility is publicly accessible to that community.

- Recipients should provide assurance that the operations and maintenance (O&M) costs necessary to operate the project past the CPF grant period of performance have been considered and a financial structure is in place to pay those costs.
  - Note that CPF award funds may not be used for O&M costs.
- The Program Plan provides assurance that the recipient or, if applicable, subrecipients retain ownership of the CPF investment.

## SECTION 5: Q&A

## Question 1

**If proposing a subgrant program, when should a recipient (the state) provide the subgrant application announcement, subgrant application, RFP, subaward grant agreement, and any other relevant information to Treasury?**

## Question 2

**How can a recipient describe their institutional, managerial, and financial capability to properly manage and administer CPF funds?**

## Question 3

**What information should be included when providing timelines and milestones related to administering the program during the period of performance?**

## Question 4

**How do you update or submit a revised Grant Plan, budget allocation table or Program Plan?**



# Thank you.



**For More Information:**

Please visit Treasury's Capital Projects Fund website [treasury.gov/CPF](https://treasury.gov/CPF)

**For Media Inquiries:**

Please contact the U.S. Treasury Press Office at (202) 622-2960

**For General Inquiries:**

Please email [CapitalProjectsFund@treasury.gov](mailto:CapitalProjectsFund@treasury.gov) or your Treasury point of contact.