

Category	Question	Answer
Guidelines	<p>We are working to determine the areas which we can apply for the ADGP. I assume that we can count fiber runs through served areas if they had to be done in order to get to an eligible block as we have been able to do under previous grant programs but wanted to confirm prior to starting to develop our numbers. Of course, no drops or expense for customers in those served areas, just the fiber line to get from the office to the eligible blocks.</p>	<p>Applicants must submit GIS shapefiles and total eligible expenses for the complete project build reflecting all construction work performed (served and unserved areas), the SCBBO will clip GIS data provided to only unserved areas. See page 8 and 9 of the guidelines for an illustrative example.</p>
General	<p>If an entity participates in ACP now, but did not start doing so until after June 2022 are they still eligible?</p>	<p>The ISP must currently be participating in ACP at the time the ADGP grant period opened.</p>
GIS	<p>It is requested that ISPs provide the FCC serviceable locations. Per CostQuest's license, providers may not provide that information with any state. One way that this may be obtained is if the state has their own license. Does SC have a license with CostQuest to obtain fabric data?</p>	<p>The SCBBO has a license with Costquest, and with it the ISPs can submit fabric data to the SCBBO. All license holders are able to freely share with each other without violating CostQuest's License. This was clarified by the FCC in 2022.</p>
GIS	<p>Will there be a specific data dictionary for GIS mapping for this grant?</p>	<p>No, data attribution for line data is not required but the name of the file must be consistent with the corresponding project name identified in the budget tab of the grant application for a given project so that GIS linework can be associated with the correct project budget. The FCC fabric location data that is required needs to be in the same format that FCC/Cost Quest provides when downloaded.</p>
General	<p>When submitting costs incurred for installing customers (drops, ONTs, etc.), should we include all customers connected on the project ...in both funded and non-funded areas? We understand the process for calculating percentage of mainline expense based on the GIS data, but the percentage of funded customers won't be the same. For example, percentage of customers in funded areas may be 75%, but the mainline cable percentage may only be 50%. OR should we only include installation costs for customers inside eligible census blocks.</p>	<p>Include all data and cost for the entire project, regardless whether its inside or outside an unserved area.</p>

With salaries being listed as an ineligible cost. What would be an accepted method to calculate and show proof of expense /payment for construction labor and/or equipment installation for companies that have in-house construction crews and do not use contractors?

For those companies that used their own employees to construct the network, place the expense in the 'other' category, noting that it is internal construction expense, sufficient backup in compliance with US Treasury guidelines will be required. Project Management time is excluded. Additionally, ORS' expectation is there will be no outside construction contractor expense submitted if in-house employees performed the work.

Application

Good afternoon. I am wondering if a project began in 2020 but was completed between 03/15/2021-06/30/2022 can we get reimbursed for part of this project if it was completed within this time frame?

Yes, you can submit an application for any project that was in progress before March 15, 2021, and was fully functional by 6/30/2022. Only those projects fully functional by 6/30/2022 are considered eligible for this grant program.

Guidelines

Does the entirety of a project have to begin by 03/15/2021 and end by 06/30/2022 in order to get reimbursement?

**Will the Feb. 2nd presentation and recording be made available?**

No, the slide deck will be posted.

**What if we have two separate legal entities are involved do you want two separate applications?**

Yes

**Can you only submit 5 projects per application since only 5 project tabs are listed? Are 5 projects the maximum you can apply for?**

No, there is no limit on the number of projects you can submit; however, the Excel template only supports 5. For example, if you have 9 projects, submit one with 5 and another with 4. DO NOT MODIFY THE SPREADSHEET TEMPLATE. It will mess up the formulas. The SCBBO will likely merge the applications after submission; however, we reserve the right to do so on a case-by-case basis.

**Are local governments an eligible applicant or is it restricted to ISPs only?**

No, ADGP is restricted to eligible residential ISPs only.

**Is there a customer per mile requirement?**

No

**If invoices must be made to the ISP, what about Third Party Partners or Funding Sources who do work and lease dark fiber?**

There is not enough information to respond to this question. Please provide more context.

**What if service cable used to serve eligible locations is on opposite side of the road in a block that is ineligible? Will this cable be clipped and removed?**

SCBBO will buffer 100 feet around the eligible census blocks to avoid this but drops outside the eligible census blocks are not eligible.

**Will ORS be releasing more guidance on the reporting requirements?**

The grant agreement will have links to federal resources for reporting requirements.

**If an applicant does not currently participate in ACP, will proof that they are going through the steps to offer ACP be accepted?**

No

**If a project was built not anticipating ARPA funding and didn't follow all the procurement requirements is it eligible?**

Per the State's grant management consulting firm, BABA does not apply.

**Do material/stores overhead expense qualify for reimbursement?**

Overhead expense of any kind is not eligible.

**Will we need to identify cable constructed through an ineligible block that had to be built to serve the eligible area?**

Yes, submit line work for everything constructed between March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**For a parent entity that owns multiple ISP's and has eligible projects for each ISP - will the Parent apply, and each individual ISP be on their own project tab - or would each ISP need to submit their own separate packages?**

Each ISP needs to submit their own application.

**Should we submit shapefiles as a whole, not by project, or by project with a field for each project named on the poly line data?**

GIS Data and FCC Fabric Locations must be submitted separately for each project.

**If a company usually apply engineering services to be spread across jobs, will this qualify for reimbursement, or will we have to show that the engineering services were specifically for a qualified job?**

For external engineering expense, you can allocate among projects, assuming the engineering work was done for the projects for which you are seeking reimbursement. Please note, the expense had to have for engineering work done after March 15, 2021.

**What if part of a project expense occurred prior to 03/15/2021 and the rest of it completed by 06/30/2022 is that not allowed?**

No project expense incurred prior to March 15, 2021 is allowed. The only exception to this is materials pulled from inventory.

**Are application costs allowable?**

No

**Would an ISP with multiple members need to apply on behalf of each member and list each member as a separate project? Can the application dollars include equipment owned by both the member and the ISP, including electronic equipment placed in the household?**

Please describe what you mean as 'members'? Are the members different legal entities? Equipment in the home is not an allowable expense.

Application

**Section 1.6.1 of the guidelines refers to a GIS template. Is this the same template from the previous ARPA grant or is there a new one? If there is a new template, where is it located?**

GIS

**How many speed tests and/or billing statements are needed to prove the network was functional? Looking for a percentage of the initial customers.**

ORS is requesting a good distribution of speed test and or billing statements across the whole project area that was submitted. There is not a certain number but there needs to be enough to prove the project area is functional.

Application

**In many cases when looking through our Work Orders for projects that we want to submit for ADGP, the equipment was purchased several months prior to 3-15-21 in preparation for the upcoming project but was installed within the given dates for the ADGP. Can we submit the equipment expenses that fall prior to 3-15-21?**

Yes. Materials pulled from existing inventory is an eligible expense.

Guidelines

South Carolina Broadband Office,

I hope that you all are doing well. I had a question regarding the eligibility of builds for the ADGP grant.

In the ADGP PowerPoint the requirements state:

“Must be Internet Service Provider (ISP) that:

- Offers residential service and has previously filed:
  - ✓ FCC Form 477 (June 30, 2022) with SCBBO
- Currently participates directly, or with partner, in:
  - ✓ FCC’s Affordable Connectivity Plan (ACP)
- Provide an affordable high-speed Internet plan
  - ✓ Without income requirements
  - Have made service available to homes
    - ✓ Unserved areas based on the SCBBO Sept. 2021 Eligibility Map
- Constructed wireline service capable of 100 Mbps symmetric (down/up)”

Would wireline services that were built to serve business and cell towers (for customers internet access) and pass residential homes be eligible for reimbursement?

Guidelines

No this would not be eligible for ADGP reimbursement

We had to purchase dark fiber from a 3rd party to use as trunking fiber to connect our existing network to the new fundable area that was built during this allowable timeframe. Is the cost of this dark fiber purchase an allowable expense?

General

This is not an allowable expense.

When looking at the pricing portion of the application I see the following question:

If no, what’s the duration? (What does this question mean?)

Application

The question relates to the low cost plan offering required as part of the grant program. If the price listed in the grant application is an introductory price for a finite period of time please indicate how long the price is available to the consumer.

Good morning, I see on item J on the updated guidelines that you have added

The applicant has provided to the SCBBO the following information, on a confidential basis: (1) mapping information, including fiber or cable lines accurately depicting the location of the project; (2) the residential and commercial addresses passed by the project for which reimbursement is sought based on the January 2023 FCC Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric; and (3) the applicant has provided to the SCBBO speed tests for all broadband serviceable locations that currently have service in the project area and the current plan subscribed to for each location.

The US Treasury requires a speed test and latency recording for each structure currently connected as part of project reporting under the ARPA SLFRF Grant Program

Are you asking for a speed test from each individual customer? These projects are all FTTN and can provide adequate symmetrical FTTN speeds of speeds up to 1000Mbps/1000Mbps.

Guidelines

Where can we locate the GIS template mentioned in the ADGP application?

Data attribution for line data is not required but the name of the file must be consistent with the corresponding project name identified in the budget tab of the grant application for a given project so that GIS linework can be associated with the correct project budget. The FCC fabric location data that is required needs to be in the same format that FCC/Cost Quest provides when downloaded.

GIS

If eligible work is performed during the project timeline window but was invoiced after June 30, 2022, will that invoice be eligible for funding from ADGP?

Yes, if the invoice was for work performed between March 15, 2021 and June 30, 2022. The invoice needs to clearly state the period for which the work was performed

General

We have a project that began before the 3/15/21 date, and it completed before the 6/30/22 date. So, we want to confirm ORS wants us to submit the mainline mapping data for entire project? Then, do we only show expenses on the application for work done between 3/15/21 and 6/30/22? If so, then the expenses are not for the entire project and do not match up exactly with the mapping data submitted. Is this how we need to do this?

The applicant must only submit expenses and mapping data that occurred during 3/15/21 - 6/30/2022 time period.

Application

When must the speed tests required per the updated guidelines be submitted?

As part of the post-construction list of addresses that have been connected, this will be required after a grant award, but prior to payment.

General

Guidelines	<b>Does each speed test for the ADGP have to have latency reported with each individual test?</b>	Yes.
General	<b>If a project was completed during the project window, but the invoices arrived after June 30, 2022, would these invoices qualify for ADGP funding?</b>	Yes, if the invoice was for work performed between March 15, 2021 and June 30, 2022. The invoice needs to clearly state the period for which the work was performed
Application	<b>There is a requirement for the speed test and latency, however the customer premise equipment deployed is not capable of testing. In lieu of providing speed tests can we provide the Vendor Equipment specifications combined with Customer bills to substantiate speed ordered/deployed? Do the samples of customer bills, speed test, and latency, need to be supplied in the application itself or is that provided post award? If post award for all of these, would they all fall under the May 11, 2023 deadline?</b>	No. Speed and Latency tests are a US Treasury requirement for all structures connected that are associated with reimbursement from ARPA SLFRF funds. The post-construction list of addresses will be required after a grant award, but prior to payment.
Application	<b>In section 1 of the application the question concerning the aid in construction, we are NOT submitting any funds for reimbursement that had aid in construction and this question reads a little strange, should the answer be yes or no?</b>	This section of the grant application refers to Confirmations. If the applicant DID NOT charge aid in construction, the applicant should state Yes, confirming the "Applicant did not charge aid in construction (AIC) for any projects listed in their grant application.
Application	<b>Do the speed tests, latency, and customer bills need to be submitted at the time of application submission, or is that a post-award requirement?</b>	As part of the post-construction list of addresses that have been connected, this will be required after a grant award, but prior to payment.
Application	<b>If the Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) for installed broadband does not have a built-in speed and latency testing capability would the Vendor specifications on the equipment be considered an acceptable substitute for speed and latency submission?</b>	No. Speed and Latency tests are a US Treasury requirement for all structures connected that are associated with reimbursement from ARPA SLFRF funds.