



Last Mile Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Rev. 5.5.2022[2]

ISP: Will the 50% match apply to each individual partners participation financial contribution or to the collective total of all participants financial contribution?

ORS: The total dollar amount for public funding is \$5,000 per home or 50% of the eligible expense, whichever is less. Private match contribution can be combined from multiple sources.

ISP: Will additional "I need Internet" surveys be considered?

ORS: Yes.

ISP: When partnering with another entity, is the application a joint application or does a single entity file the application and list the other participant?

ORS: A single entity (eligible ISP), must apply and identify other partners.

ISP: The final memo issued last week specified a \$5K cap on the state's match per household. However, the guidelines issued this week do not include the \$5K cap. Can you confirm that the \$5K cap is no longer applicable?

ORS: The \$5,000 cap per housing unit is applicable and does apply.

ISP: If some of these addresses have active service with 10/1 today, is ORS open to awarding up to \$5K for those addresses, or does ORS consider those addresses "served" and ineligible for this program? (With access to what minimum speed does an address no longer qualify for consideration under this program? (10/1, 25/3, 100/20, etc.?)

ORS: Yes, these addresses are eligible. All addresses less than 25/3 are eligible.

ISP: We have already determined that there are a lot of these addresses that a) have internet service greater than 25/3, (b) OR have access to service with speeds greater than 25/3 but have not requested service. Is there a process or contact point for notifying ORS of these addresses and removing them from the list of grant-eligible addresses?

ORS: (a) For those addresses that have service greater than 25/3 (must be cable or fiber), provide to the ORS the type of technology for those addresses. (b) ORS has received notice that certain addresses are currently serviceable by fiber or cable without a contribution in Aid of Construction (AIC) charge to the consumer. ISP's may notify the ORS that certain addresses are currently serviceable but must do so by no later than 5:00 p.m. Thursday April 28th, 2022. A revised list of eligible addresses will be published on Friday April 29th, 2022. Those addresses will be shown as redlined.

ISP: For addresses that already have access to broadband upon request, will a revised list that excludes those addresses be published or distributed at some specific date so that ISPs know not to waste time examining those?

ORS: Yes. See response underlined above.

ISP: In the paragraph you mention the following *"While reviewing this list, if you see an address that you can easily connect to within 10 days using your own funds"*

- Is this 10 business or calendar days?
- Is this 10 Day a requirement? (Due to some situations, we cannot always guarantee an install within 10 days from receipt of an order).

ORS: 10 Business Days is sufficient.

ISP: Is there a way to get the contact information of those addresses that completed the "I Need Internet survey"? This request is only for the addresses that fall within our existing Serving Footprint.

ORS: Yes. For secure access to the raw data, ISP's can log into the SCDigitalDrive hub site using their ArcGIS Online username and download the data, including contact information. Additionally, the ORS will publish a revised list on April 29th, 2022 that will include complete contact information.

ISP: Are the only locations available for funding in the Last Mile Grant Addresses and Census Block April 2022 file?

ORS: No, a minimum of one I Need Internet address must be included in a given grant submission within the proposed project service area. Applicants may submit additional addresses for consideration however they must be within a served area as prescribed in ORS SC Broadband Office September 2021 Eligibility Map (available at: <https://arcg.is/04GS9v1>). Additionally, a list of eligible 2010 census blocks are available in a second tab within the I Need Internet spreadsheet available for download from the ORS Citrix File Share portal. Proposed housing units should not be part of an existing funded area.

ISP: We were also asking is the 10 Day install is an absolute requirement as there are times when we run into situations where we could exceed 10 day delivery.

ORS: The 10 day install is not an absolute requirement, but the ORS does expect ISPs will connect homes that are already serviceable within a very short period of time, (approximately 10 business days).

ISP: Are electric cooperatives eligible to apply for the last mile grant if they do not provide retail broadband service directly to a consumer.

ORS: To be eligible for the last mile grant program all applicants must meet the minimum requirements of the application, which includes the requirement to be registered with the FCC (FRN number), participates in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), as of the date of the application submission, and provide advertised retail broadband rates.

Entities that do not meet these requirements are encouraged to partner with eligible ISPs that do. The eligible ISP must be the applicant for the grant.

ISP: On the last mile application, what if an application will have both FTTP and Coax? The current application will only allow you to select one technology. If we have two technologies for a single application how should this be handled?

ORS: There is no limit on the number of applications an ISP can submit. Please submit a different application for each project and each technology type.

ISP: For Question 2, do you want the stand-alone broadband prices that consumers will be offered, or all bundled offerings (including services like cable, security, and/or voice)?

ORS: ORS would like to know the stand-alone pricing for Broadband/Internet. Certainly, the ISP is welcome to share additional information.

ISP: Will a simple bank letter suffice for the following requirement? "Proof that the applicant has secured necessary funds to meet its 50% financial match requirement".

ORS: Documentation from an accredited financial institution will meet this requirement.

ISP: What are some examples of non-eligible expense related to providing broadband service (Item B in ineligible expenses)

ORS: Broadly, this refers operational expenses of a business that don't relate to infrastructure deployment (I.E. utility bills, salaries and overhead expenses that are not directly related to construction, office space related expenses, etc.)

ISP: Is the \$5,000 cap specified in the last mile grant award calculated based on the average cost per passing or on each individual location within an application?

ORS: The \$5,000 cap is the cost per location, NOT an average cost across all locations in an application.

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ISP: I am finding addresses on the list that we either can already serve and/or will be served once the Rural Broadband grant ending in October is complete. Can I submit these back to your office?

ORS: If you have consumers on the I Need Internet List that are serviceable at this time, please contact them directly and submit the list to ORS. While the period for submitting addresses back to ORS for removal from the LMGP list has passed (the deadline was 5:00pm April 28th 2022), grant applications will be published on ORS' website as part of the LMGP comment period.

ISP: It's my understanding from the WebEx you would like small area applications for each area. We have calls that come in for just one customer. Should we do separate apps for each one of these as well?

ORS: Greater preference will be given to those applications that are providing access to clusters of homes, as opposed to one home/one grant application.

ISP: We have additional areas we know need service (they are repeat callers) – yet they did not show in your list. How should these be addressed?

ORS: A minimum of one I Need Internet address must be included in a given grant submission within the proposed project service area. Applicants may submit additional addresses for consideration however they must be within a served area as prescribed in ORS SC Broadband Office September 2021 Eligibility Map (available at: <https://arcg.is/04GS9v1>). Additionally, a list of eligible 2010 census blocks are available in a second tab within the I Need Internet spreadsheet available for download from the ORS Citrix File Share portal.

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ISP: If a household submits an I Need Internet survey today (May 5th, 2022) and they are within the service area that we are proposing, will we still be considered for funding in that area? Currently, there are no addresses in the spreadsheet issued last Friday that match the area that we would like to serve.

ORS: Yes, if a household submits an “I Need Internet” survey response before May 6, 2022, it can be used as your minimum of one “I Need Internet” addresses in your application. Additional address/addresses must be within a served area as prescribed in ORS SC Broadband Office September 2021 Eligibility Map (available at: <https://arcg.is/04GS9v1>).