

Category	Question	Answer
Application	Where is the application submission portal?	Applicants will use the ORS Citrix ShareFile platform. Access will be granted upon completion of the data access request form. The link is included in the guidelines on page 5 of the CPF guidelines.
Application	The guidelines don't specify how applications should be submitted. Where are such instructions?	Applications are due by 3 pm (EDT) on the date listed in the Schedule of Events above. Applications, all attachments, and GIS Data must be uploaded to the ORS Citrix site under the "Capital Projects Fund 1.0 Applications and Attachments" folder. If an Applicant does not have access to the "Capital Projects Fund 1.0 Applications and Attachments" and the "GIS Data" folder, complete the data access request form located here https://arcg.is/1fiq1j and access will be granted.
Application	For the application(s) that are submitted, will you be adding a subfolder to use in the Citrix CPF Folder when submitting such application(s)? I have access to the Citrix CPF Folder, but do not see subfolder for the applilcation(s).	Folders have been created under each individual ISP's CPF folder
Application	When reviewing the rubric we see that in section 6 'Availability – Broadband Infrastructure' (page 12) that the 5 points will only be given to a FTTP 100/100 Mbps symmetric service, how would the office score an application the proposes to have an overwhelming majority of the locations (80%+) be served by an FTTP architecture with the remainder being served by a HFC 100/100 Mbps symmetric service due to their proximity to existing plant and ensure network and business operation resiliency/efficiency?	See CPF guidelines, page 12 item 6.
Application	The question on Section 1 of the application: "What is your network up-time in the county applied for the last 12 months e.g. 99.99%" If our application spans multiple counties, how should this be handled? Please confirm Regarding that same question: "Uptime from what perspective? All customers, customer groups/service types? Or just our core network?" Please give more detail into what you are looking for with this question.	SCBBO is looking for overall network performance, not customer specific. In the case where the project straddles multiple counties, please include performance for the county where the majority of the network is being built.
Application	The last tab on the application is titled "Data Validation". I don't find anything on this in the guidelines and I am not sure how to answer the last 2 blocks with drop down menus. One is a Yes or No and the last one is Agree or Disagree, but i don't see a question that I am supposed to be answering.	This tab includes the drop down list values that are enabled in all other tabs. No information should be keyed into this tab from the applicant. Please ignore.

Application	If we are applying for a grant as a subsidiary of our parent company, can we utilize the parent company information in the application for things like SAM, FCC FRN, financial statements, ACP participation, etc?	No. Information provided must be for the entity applying for the grant.
Application	As we understand it, our application was disqualified from ADGP reimbursement because the polygon crossed into Cherokee County, and Cherokee County Govt had provided ARPA funding to another ISP--apparently on a county-wide basis. Now, we see numerous address points shown as unserved within Cherokee County for CPF. We intended to apply for CPF funding. Are these address points still going to be considered ineligible because of that previous funding from the County to another ISP? If so, we will exclude those addresses from our applications.	SCBBO can not fund an area already comitted with ARPA funds. County/Municipal ARPA was not removed from the eligibility map. If SCBBO is notified by the county and ISP of an unrelated ARPA invesment the SCBBO will screen those BSLs out.
Application	When completing the budget summary, do we need to round off the amount of requested reimbursement to the nearest dollar amount? Example: If a project cost is \$542,250.10 and we asked for a 60% reimbursement from ORS and the amount came to \$325,350.06 then would we need to round the ORS reimbursement to \$325,350.00?	Yes round up to the nearst whole dollar.
General	If ISP has constructed areas since our last FCC filing that are showing up as CPF Eligible Census Blocks and will be reported on our next filing can we place these on the FPR?	FPR submissions should only reflect work that will be performed and completed between June 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024
General	How were the original 25 Main Street towns determined?	The original 25 Main Street Projects included in the CPF plan approved by US Treasury were provided as illustrative examples only
General	Is it safe to design and plan based on the eligibility map or is it possible that Census blocks may be removed after applications have been completed?	The SCBBO will use all data available to evaluate viability of a proposed project including but not limited to updated availability data from FCC, and any FPR projects that are accpeted which could impact a project.
General	For the FPR filing due 6/16/23, is there a minimum percent of BSL locations served required to include a census block? For example, if our construction plan will only serve 20% of the locations in a census block, can we include this block? We would only submit in our GIS data the 20% of BSL locations that we plan to serve.	There is no percentage requirement for FPR, all structures that will have access upon the completion of the project must be provided as FCC BSL locations only unless the structure is missing from the fabric in which case applicants must provide the address and structure type to the SCBBO.

<p>General</p>	<p>you mentioned that we can't apply for an area a second time if it wasn't awarded. can you speak on this more?</p>	<p>This discussion during the webinar referred to Funded Project Register submissions. An ISP that submitted an FPR under the ARPA SLFRF grant program cycle cannot submit the same FPR site to extend the timeline for completion of the project.</p>
<p>General</p>	<p>Will you make these slides available to the ISP's?</p>	<p>Yes, slides from the CPF webinar will be available on the CPF webpage, https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/investments/state/arpacpf</p>
<p>General</p>	<p>Once an ISP receives a Notice To Proceed for the CPF, do all the projects have to be started simultaneously and reported on each quarter or will the ISP be able to start the projects in such an order that will allow the ISP to make full use of their resources such as construction crews and inventory without having to overextend?</p>	<p>All funded projects will be expected to show material (Construction) progress by the second quarterly report, while a main st project willll need to show material progress by the first quarterly report.</p>

General	<p>Will SCBBO be uploading templates to be used for the FPR filing? This would be for the required engineering timeline and spreadsheet listing census blocks.</p>	<p>ISPs choosing to submit to the FPR should use the eligible census block data and BSL fabric points provided by the SCBBO which were uploaded to Citrix ShareFile site for ARPA CPF - FPR instructions also state:</p> <p><i>The ISP must present the SCBBO with a shapefile that clearly shows the Census 2020 blocks that will be impacted by the project.</i></p> <p><i>The ISP must present a list of Census 2020 blocks in an Excel worksheet.</i></p> <p><i>The ISP must present the SCBBO with a shapefile that clearly shows the fiber/cable routes and FCC Broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) of every home, business, and community anchor institution that will be impacted by the project. Note: ISPs with a valid FCC/CostQuest Tier 2 License Agreement must use the SCBBO BSL Fabric Data available on the ORS Citrix Platform located in the FPR data and documents directory.</i></p> <p><i>a. FCC BSLs must contain all fields from the fabric.</i></p> <p><i>b. Digitized fiber/cable lines should be separated by segments, by technology type, and deployment type, snapped to vertices of adjoining fiber lines. Upon of the project, ISP must submit as-built update depicting actual locations of fiber lines.</i></p>
General	<p>Please clarify the following understanding regarding funding: Non-Main Street project: The ISP must fund a minimum 25%. (Please confirm) Main St Projects: The ISP must fund minimum 10%. If the applicant funds between 76% and 90% of the project costs a 10% in-kind match is required per the guidelines (p. 7 #6), however, during the webinar it was stated that the 10% in-kind match is optional. Please clarify.</p>	<p>Confirmed: Applicants must fund a minimum of 25% match for all non-main street priority areas. Applicants proposing to build a main street project have the option to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1) provide a 10% in-kind match, or 2) fund a minimum of 25% match with no in-kind match requirement</p> <p>Applicants are also reminded main street priority areas are a one-year build and must not go beyond the census blocks designated as a main street priority area for any given project. Main street projects will not count toward the 5 project maximum submission by any parent organization.</p>
General	<p>2) If an application has multiple areas, can they be combined with a priority area? would all areas be eligible for grant funds?</p>	<p>Applicants may apply for funding only in those census blocks that are eligible under the CPF eligibility map and a minimum of one priority area must be included.</p>
General	<p>The instructions for the FPR state:</p> <p>Note: ISPs with a valid FCC/CostQuest Tier 2 License Agreement must use the SCBBO BSL Fabric Data available on the ORS Citrix Platform located in the FPR data and documents directory.</p> <p>We now have access to an FPR folder, but we don't see any FPR BSL Fabric Data in it. Are we supposed to use the BSLs from the main CPF data, or is there supposed to be a separate, FPR-specific BSL data set somewhere?</p>	<p>Applicants must use the BSL points that were eligible for funding under CPF which can be access through the Citrix CPF folder located here: /Capital Projects Fund 1.0/Capital Projects Fund 1.0 Maps and Data/CPF 1.0 Application Map and Data/</p>
General	<p>Is it possible to get a copy of a draft award agreement prior to application submissions?</p>	<p>Once the award agreement is finalized, it will be posted on ORS' website.</p>

General	<p>Did you record the webinar from May 23rd? If so, where can we find it?</p> <p>Thanks!</p>	<p>No. The slide deck has been published to the CPF webpage.</p>
GIS	<p>Is the completed Step 1 Broadband Data License Access form the Step 2 CostQuest Tier 2 license that needs to be uploaded?</p>	<p>Applicants must fill out the form, SCBBO will then provide access for the applicant to upload their CostQuest license agreement, and upon receipt of their license agreement by the SCBBO access will be granted to the CPF 1.0 Application Map and Data folder on Citrix for download.</p>
GIS	<p>Can you please clarify the difference between unserved (red) and partially served (orange)? If it is considered unserved if less than 90% available, I don't understand what partially served is.</p>	<p>Partially Served Areas (orange color on eligibility map) are those 2020 Census Blocks where 90% or more of the structures must be unserved (not served by cable or fiber), and at least one unserved residential structure exists.</p>
GIS	<p>Is the "I Need Internet Survey Results" GIS data available through Citrix or elsewhere? If so could a link be provided.</p>	<p>Results are now published on the ORS Citrix Fileshare folder called "Capital Projects Fund 1.0 Maps and Data". Access to this folder is only granted to those ISPs that follow steps outlined in the guidelines.</p>
GIS	<p>Can you provide a link for the Cost Quest license required to access the data? We previously signed it, but may need to update it. We have the folder but not the data yet.</p>	<p>To get access to the FCC Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric data, eligible providers must execute a license agreement with CostQuest Associates to get access to the Fabric data. Please email nbfsupport@costquest.com if you need assistance or have any questions about accessing the Fabric.</p> <p>Per the FCC's First Fabric Public Notice, "each company's data will contain Fabric records only for the counties that overlap the Census Blocks reported in the filer's Form 477 fixed broadband deployment data."</p>
GIS	<p>In the GIS shapefiles, the ISP is required to show the proposed fiber lines to be constructed along with the associated network junctions. In some cases, these are totally new builds with new network junction locations and the process of drawing the fiber lines and network junctions on the map area pretty clear cut. However, there are a lot of different scenarios for existing ISPs that can make it tricky as to how to draw our project on the maps so that it makes sense to someone who is not familiar with our particular networks. A few examples: If we are extending our network from existing fiber, should we show the existing fiber that feeds the new build on the map in a different color or size so that it doesn't look like it is not connected to any network junction point? Or, if the network junction (distribution location) is not inside the current CPF build, should we show it on the GIS file for the same reasons?</p>	<p>Applicants do not produce any maps, they must only provide data as part of the application submission process. Applicants are encouraged to use the Network Junction layer to depict the location where existing facilities may tie into proposed new facilities. In the event the applicant would like to provide additional context by illustrating where existing fiber/cable lines may reside, it is recommended a new GIS data layer be provided that shows the location(s) of the existing fiber/cable line(s). When the SCBBO plots the junction points, proposed fiber/cable lines, and existing fiber/cable lines it will be clear where existing facilities will tie into proposed new facilities.</p>

GIS	<p>In the template for Proposed Line Work the attribute table contains a field named "LENGTH" and one named "Shape_Leng" are this fields the same? Should they reflect the same data? The data dictionary on mentions one field.</p>	<p>The SCBBO created a template geodatabase including the proposed linework feature class and Shape_Length is a default field that gets produced whenever a new feature class is created inside a geodatabase. If using the geodatabase template, this value will automatically populate units in feet which is the stated projection of the data layer. In an effort to ease access/use for applicants that may not use ESRI ArcGIS software, the SCBBO also exported the feature class to a shapefile format. In doing so, it truncated the field name (shapefiles can only handle a limited amount of characters in the field names found inside the attribute table), and no longer populates with the length for any feature instance digitized inside the data layer. For this reason, the field will not autopoulate in the shapefile, the field does not need to be populated, but the "Length" field does and should likely be a higher number than the fiber length that's cacluated in GIS to account for slack, coils, etc. in the line.</p>
GIS	<p>We understand the requirement is to serve all BSL locations within eligible census blocks; however because the maps are always changing due to ongoing construction, there are eligible locations that we have completed construction to since the CPF eligibility maps were released in early May. We could not include these in our FPR filing because they were completed before June 1st. We need to know how to show these locations that were completed between early May and June 1st that are now served in the GIS data for our CPF applications. If we leave these locations in our file, there will be no line work shown to serve them because we already serve them. If we remove them, then it looks like we are not serving 100% of the locations within the census block. These locations will be reflected in our 6/30/23 BDC filing.</p>	<p>In circumstances like this, the applicant should submit a separate file showing BSL's in the area that already have access</p>
Guidelines	<p>What is the match requirement?</p>	<p>A Minimum of 25% Financial Match is required for Priority Area Projects. A Minimum of 10% in-kind Match is required for Main Street Projects.</p>
Guidelines	<p>What is the actual score awarded for the example given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unserved census blocks chosen that are geographically coincident with two or more of the factors outlined in items above (e.g. an unserved census block includes concentrations of 20 or more K-12 housing units, and is also a DDA)- up to 5 additional bonus points <p>Are those two area's worth a compounding 15+5 with a bonus 5 for a total of 25 points, or simply 20 points?</p>	<p>A single census block that includes a K-12 concentration (15 points) AND a DDA (5 points) would equal 20 points + 5 bonus resulting in 25 total points</p>
Guidelines	<p>Will there be a bond requirement like there was in the last round of funding?</p>	<p>All projects awarded under ARPA CPF 1.0 will require receipt of a construction Bond or evidence of \$100 million in electric or telecommunications plant in production in the State of South Carolina. This is not a requirement during the application submission phase of the CPF grant program.</p>

Guidelines	I may have missed this but can you advise on a deadline date?	Application period closes on 7/17/2023, additional details are provided in the timeline on page 2 of the guidelines.
Guidelines	So we can have 5 submissions as well as 2 separate submissions for the main street areas for a total of 7?	Confirmed.
Guidelines	<p>Does the 30% High Priority Area scoring compound? Example: Is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project includes at least one priority unserved census block(s) with 20 or more K-12 students – 15 points + Project includes at least one priority unserved census block(s) with no ISP currently serving any form of Internet to citizens – 10 points Worth 25 points + • Unserved census blocks chosen that are geographically coincident with two or more of the factors outlined in items above (e.g. an unserved census block includes concentrations of 20 or more K-12 housing units, and is also a DDA)- up to 5 additional bonus points For a total of 30 points (15+10 + 5 bonus)? <p>What about an area that also includes a DDA area for another 5 points; would it be worth 35 total points?</p>	Confirmed.
Guidelines	<p>If we are including a particular funded block within our design, I am assuming that we need to plan to provide access to every address in that block regardless of whether there is a BSL dot on the eligibility map or not, per comments made during the webinar this passed week. Is this correct and does this apply to all 4 categories of available blocks listed on the map.</p> <p>Thanks</p>	Confirmed.
Guidelines	May a single project include eligible census blocks in more than one county?	Confirmed.

Guidelines	The Funded Project Register Guidelines indicate the eligible projects must represent construction that will take place between June 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024. However, the Affidavit appears to have dates from a previous round. Please confirm the applicant is clear to change the dates to June 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024 at the build period to qualify for the Register.	Confirmed. A revised Affidavit will also be published to the ORS CPF webpage for download.
Guidelines	Regarding Funded Project Register (FPR) submissions, projects funded solely by the reporting ISP are dependent on the availability of capital to complete the project by the 6/30/24 deadline. If an unforeseen change in the ISP's available capital occurs that would prevent the project from being completed as described in its FPR submission, would the ISP be subject to any penalties or restrictions on future FPR submissions – assuming that the ISP provided notification of the change in a timely manner?	<p>FPR Guidelines State: Applications must be submitted by an eligible ISP, and the ISP must present evidence to the SCBBO regarding an existing fully funded wireline broadband project that will be constructed at minimum speeds of 100 Mbps download / 20 Mbps upload, with no remaining contingencies.</p> <p>FPR Guidelines further State: At any time, if the ISP is deemed to be submitting false documentation, SCBBO will notify the ISP that the documentation is considered false, and SCBBO will release funds, if available, to deploy broadband infrastructure in the same area. The ISP acknowledges that submitting false or inaccurate data to the SCBBO may result in the exclusion of participation in current and future grant rounds, as well as the ability to submit future challenges and/or comments to the SCBBO.</p> <p>Failure to complete an FPR project by June 30, 2024 may result in release of funds by the SCBBO to deploy broadband infrasature in the same area.</p>
Guidelines	Serve 100% of all structures NOW or as any NEW ones that pop up later?	New development occurring after a notice to proceed is issued is excluded from this provision
Guidelines	Is Davis Bacon thresh hold decrease down go \$5,000,000 this round, is that for the award amount only or for total project cost?	The 5 million threshold is only based on the award amount, not the total project cost including financial match from the applicant.
Guidelines	Our holding company owns the CostQuest User Tier 2 License, but our operating company (the ISP) will be the grant applicant and the entity responsible for performing under any subsequent grant agreement. Under this arrangement, is the ISP eligible to apply for ARPA CPF 1.0 grants? If so, what documentation do we need to provide to validate the relationship between the holding company and operating company?	The ISP must confer with CostQuest as to whether licensing through a holding company flows down to an operating company and/or subsidiary
Guidelines	The application asks ISPs to prioritize each of its applications. How does that prioritization figure into the award decisions?	The SCBBO will consider priorities of competing grant applications for the same area across ISPs.
Guidelines	Can you please define the term "Structures". Does that include barns and outbuildings or just addressable structures?	The term Structure is defined as a Broadband Serviceable Location (BSL). BSL is defined in page 3 of the CPF guidelines.

Guidelines	is there a project area that is considered "too big" what is the ideal project size for each of the 5 grants?	There is no limit on the size of the project except for Main Street projects. Main Street Projects are fixed in their overall size, those Census blocks must be applied for as a group. However, applicants are reminded Priority Area projects must be completed within a 2-year timeframe and Main Street Projects must be completed within a 1-year timeframe with the second year focused on in-kind support on the main street.
Guidelines	Must project areas include full census blocks only ?	This is the intent of the CPF grant program for unserved areas. An Applicant must submit adequate justification in their grant application if they are not providing access to 100% of the structures in the project area. SCBBO maintains sole discretion as to whether any such justification is deemed acceptable. Inadequate justification may result in rejection of the application. Partially served areas will focus on providing access to any remaining structures in the census block which currently do not have access.
Guidelines	Is the cost per structure scored based on requested funds or total project cost?	Total Project Cost
Guidelines	please define "Affordable" ? less than < \$xx.xxx ?	Treasury's guidance provides flexibility for recipients of funds to best determine the threshold of affordability for their communities. ISPs are encouraged to consult with the community as part of the process they undertake to consider affordability and are required to publish the description of their methods for considering affordability in their project selection process. Treasury will also require pricing data as part of program performance and monitoring. ISPs must participate in the Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program, which provides eligible households with discounts on broadband internet access services and devices.
Guidelines	if we are new to the South Carolina Market , ISP cannot get a ACP approval prior to having a customer in SC, we are ACP in NC and VA, is that acceptable for the application process?	Yes. In the event of an award, the ISP must also obtain ACP approval for South Carolina and offer the subsidy to consumers in the State once the network is turned up.
Guidelines	If company files for a "Main Street" area and locations outside the Main Street location should they be separate applications? If we add locations to the Main Street locations would all locations need to be completed in 12 months or just the Main Street locations?	Main streets areas consist of a specially defined list of eligible census blocks. They cannot be modified in any way. Since Main St projects have special features, they must stand alone.
Guidelines	Will applicants receive updated eligible location data, prior to the CPF Broadband Grant Application deadline, as a result of eligible projects submitted to the Funded Project Register?	No.

Guidelines	<p>Question #1) "Applicants shall propose a financial match percentage not to exceed a maximum of 90% for each project submitted." In this example an ISP (applicant) would fund in kind with 10% match and the remaining 90% would be provided from ORS? 10% In-Kind/90% ORS match (please confirm).</p> <p>Question #2) "Should the applicant choose a 75% or less financial match percent, in-kind match is not required" In this example an ISP (applicant) would fund 25% match and ORS would fund the remaining 75% match, the in-kind match requirement(s) would not be required in this scenario? (please confirm).</p> <p>Question #3) Does the Davis Bacon requirement of \$5,000,000 kick in on an individual application basis or does it include all applications under a single holding company level?</p>	<p>Question #1) Confirmed FOR MAIN STREETS ONLY.</p> <p>Question #2) Confirmed FOR MAIN STREETS ONLY.</p> <p>Question #3) Davis Bacon is triggered at the individual project level.</p>
Guidelines	<p>1. Main Street Project Question: If providing the Wifi is that for the entire Blue (main street) project area or just for the downtown area of the town?</p> <p>2. Main Street Project Question: if doing the 10% in-kind and we have 8% of project costs in staffing and computers (item a) can we contribute 2% of network equipment costs to meet the full 10% in-kind requirement?</p> <p>3. Main Street Project Question: If satisfying item A - staffing a location for customer service and we do not select b, c, d, or e - would that still be an eligible Main Street application?</p> <p>4. Main Street Project Question: Can ORS provide the Pupils in Poverty list for the Main Street Project areas? (i.e. how many students for determination of computers/devices)</p>	<p>1. Applicant must provide Wifi for a portion of the area only and clearly indicate where no-cost public Wifi will be available.</p> <p>2. No</p> <p>3. No</p> <p>4. An approximate count is provided in the eligible census block layer for CPF. The field name is called "K12Student".</p>
Guidelines	<p>Main Street Match Question: If we are doing a main street project is it permissible to ask the state for a 80% match, we then do the 10% in-kind, and 10% cash match on our part? Is that allowable under the Main Street Grant Framework?</p>	<p>No.</p>

Guidelines	<p>When looking at the eligible census block layer for CPF, I see the column K12Student. It has a series of different Numbers and then has the word "Yes" This is not an accurate representation of the number of students in poverty within the Main Street ESA area. One address could have multiple students in the category of free and reduced lunch. How can these data fields show us the actual number of overall students, not just addresses that fall into the category of free reduced lunch. Can you please provide more information as to what the numbers mean in this particular column and what the word "Yes" depicts?</p>	<p>See ARPA Capital Project Fund 1.0 Eligibility GIS Data Dictionary PDF documented located on Citrix.</p>
Guidelines	<p>To confirm, financial statements or other financial information submitted with our application, if marked confidential, will remain confidential?</p>	<p>Confirmed.</p>
Guidelines	<p>Would the length of fiber from the mainline to the home be considered an eligible expense?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
Guidelines	<p>Will CPF recipients that meet the \$5 mil Davis Bacon threshold have the two reporting options outlined in the ARPA Contractor Webinar on 12/8/22 (slide #19 of the below file)? Project Employment report or Certify Davis Bacon? Or is this the final treasury rule you are still waiting on?</p> <p>https://ors.sc.gov/sites/ors/files/Documents/Broadband/ARPA%20-%20SLFRF/ORS%20Contractor%20Webinar%2012.8.22.pdf</p>	<p>Unknown at this time. Treasury Guidance continues to change. We do know at this time, however, there will be extensive quarterly reporting due on employment data and regular compliance documentation required for projects with awards \$5 million or greater.</p>