

DEEP ConneCTed Communities Grant Program

Question Period: March 1, 2024 – May 3, 2024

Responses Posted: May 7, 2024

The questions have been organized by theme and may have been edited for clarity.

Number	Question	Response
1	Can applicants include line items in the project budget form that are not listed among the examples?	<p>The project budget template may include line items in addition to or instead of the examples listed, but the applicant must select the appropriate category from the drop down provided.</p> <p><i>Please refer to pages 7-8 of the Application Guidance, for information on eligible uses of funds.</i></p>
2	Is headend equipment an allowable cost?	<p>Allowable costs include the cost of repair, rehabilitation, construction, improvement, and acquisition of real property, equipment, and facilities (e.g., telecommunications equipment, including infrastructure for backhaul, middle, and last mile networks). Therefore, headend equipment is an allowable cost so long as it is directly related to upfront investment associated with installing and/or upgrading existing broadband facilities on the proposed project on a one-time, capital improvement basis. Note that costs for facilities that exclusively benefit served locations are not permitted.</p> <p><i>Please refer to pages 7-8 of the Application Guidance, for information on eligible uses of funds.</i></p>

<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p>What is considered the network demarcation point?</p>	<p>The network demarcation point refers to where a service provider’s broadband network connects with a customer’s equipment and is often the point where the service provider’s responsibility for broadband service ends, and the customer responsibility for broadband service begins. The exact point may vary by technology and location but will generally be located on or inside a building, or in a piece of equipment, such as a router or modem.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p>	<p>If a municipality waives permitting fees for its own application, could that amount be counted toward matching contributions even though in-kind contributions are not allowable under the program?</p>	<p>In-kind contributions cannot count toward the match requirement. Understanding that a match requirement could deter participation in the program by small and nontraditional providers, in marginalized or low-income communities, or could threaten affordability, DEEP may waive the match requirement under certain circumstances. In order to be considered for a waiver, an applicant must submit documentation supporting their eligibility under of one of the categories outlined in the Application Guidance.</p> <p><i>Please refer to page 10 of the Application Guidance, for information on match requirements and match waivers.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p>	<p>Which costs should be included in the project budget? If applying for a match waiver, how should that be reflected in the form?</p>	<p>All applicants must include a completed project budget form which includes proposed matching contributions, including derivation of costs and documentation of cost estimates. The budget should include total project costs with a descriptive name for each capitalized item or group of items in each category whether grant eligible or not.</p> <p>If applying for a match waiver, applicants must complete the forms supposing a 25% match, but will have the opportunity to indicate in the application portal that they are seeking a match waiver per the Application Guidance.</p>

6	<p>The number of Multi-Dwelling Units (MDU) listed on broadband maps is not always reflective of the actual number of units in the building. Can an applicant add columns to the location lists to identify the correct number of units? Would this be necessary for the application and if so, what evidence would be required?</p>	<p>The MDU Unit Count column of the location data submission form may be filled out with the applicant's best understanding of unit count based on available data, including evidence in addition to the FCC's National Broadband Map. While no additional evidence is required at the time of the application, DEEP may request additional information to verify the accuracy of unit count during application review, before execution of any grant agreement, and/or in the course of project reporting.</p> <p><i>Please refer to page 13 of the Application Guidance, for information on Data to Substantiate Underserved Areas.</i></p>
7	<p>Would DEEP consider proposed edits to the sample grant agreement?</p>	<p>The CCGP sample agreement is currently being revised to a limited extent in order to be tailored to the grant program. However, once the contract template is set and approved by the Attorney General's Office there will be little opportunity for edits. For those terms and conditions in the agreement that are required by state law, there will be no opportunity for edits.</p>