

**BROADBAND AVAILABILITY DATA**

The guidelines indicate applicants should use the FCC Form 477 or NTIA National Broadband Availability Map as a starting point for determining availability of broadband access.

**If the FCC Map and/or speed test data show an area as already served with 25Mbps/3Mbps does that mean an area is ineligible to receive funding?**

This program supports projects that lack adequate, reliable access to 25Mbps/3Mbps. Applicants are required to show that a demonstrated need exists. Applicants are encouraged to ‘make the case’ for areas where available mapping data may overstate availability. As outlined in the grant guidelines, data -supported justification may include community survey data, constituent letters, constituent speed tests, etc. from a majority of impacted households/businesses within the proposed service area.

**Are the FCC Form 477, NTIA and KOBD invested area maps the ultimate source for broadband availability data?**

The above referenced maps are intended to be an informative guide. Potential applicants should research the availability data, as well as assess the needs of the service area in question in partnership with the local community, municipal leaders and the needs of the local constituents to determine the reality of broadband availability respective to a given Census block and associated geographic addresses. The guiding principal here is to ensure funding requests are not duplicative or overbuilding into areas that are already served.

**PROPOSED SERVICE AREA MAP & CENSUS DATA**

What type of service area maps should applicants submit to demonstrate the proposed service area? KOBD is requesting two service area map submissions—one for Public Posting, excluding any proprietary details, and one comprehensively detailed map for internal use. Applicants should mark any proprietary map as such.

The applicant must also submit Census Block data. Applicants are encouraged to include sub-Census block geographic information on proposed service areas, including address points, address ranges, road centerlines, land-parcel identification numbers (APN), or tabular data including latitude/longitude columns and the corresponding proposed broadband service data (such as proposed service/technology type, proposed upload and download speed, etc.).

For the Public Map: please draw a polygon to reflect the proposed service area. Please use the color red and opacity of 50%.

**What format of service area map files/data may applicants submit?**

To standardize and accelerate grant review for potential service area evaluation, commonly used industry data formats such as a Shapefile, or Google Keyhole Markup Language file (.KMZ OR .KML) should be submitted. Census Block data and associated sub-Census block geographic information should be submitted as a Spreadsheet (.xls).

**Are applicants required to submit sub-Census block information with the service area map/data?**

The Census Block identifier is required. To the extent possible, applicants should provide sub-Census block geographic information on service availability in the .xls data file as well. Data points provided in the FCC Form 477 process are encouraged such as:

1. Location data – such as address, address range, road centerline, land parcel identification, latitude/longitude, polygon, or other location information.
2. Technology type – Fixed Broadband (and associated type), Wireless Broadband (and associated type) per FCC Form 477 data set definitions.
3. Transmission speeds—Download and upload speeds provided in commonly used industry-defined formats for Megabits per second (Mbps), Gigabits per second, etc.

Data can be submitted in the associated .xls file. For standardization, the technology codes defined in the FCC Form 477 reporting process will be utilized.

To ensure consistency of future project development and data aggregation, the following data formats will not be accepted:

- Portable Document Format (.pdf)
- Image Files (.jpeg, .jpg, .png, .gif)
- Any other proprietary file formats

**Should applicants be using the 2010 or 2020 Census data for any mapping data they provide to describe their proposed service area?**

Applicants should provide their proposed service areas in 2010 census block designations. Current data sources used to assess the eligibility of service areas proposed are in Census 2010 geographic designations. Census 2020 geographic designations will be used once the FCC Form 477 public data sets transition to the 2020 census block designations.

**EXTENSIONS, BUDGET & MATCHING FUNDS**  
**CONTINGENCIES & SUPPLY CHAIN ISSUES**

**Will there be contingencies for delays that are outside of our control, such as supply chain problems?**

The time period for the Year 2 grant projects has been extended to 18 months (instead of 12 months for Year 1 grants) to assist in managing the potential risk involved with supply chain delays. Applicants are required to propose projects that can be reasonably completed within the 18 month project period.



**BUDGET & MATCHING FUNDS**

**Must matching funds be designated for certain expenses?**

Matching funds may be designated only for eligible expenses directly related to the construction of the broadband infrastructure construction project.

**Do the matching funds have to cover 50% of proposed grant expenses?**

The required matching funds amount is set at 50% of the total project cost. How the funds are applied to eligible grant expenses is flexible. Matching funds do not have to be applied as 50% of each line item.