



Funding Amount: \$162 Million

Program Name

Advance Colorado Broadband Capital Projects Fund (Advance-CPF) Grant Program

Funding Amount

Up to \$162 million from ARPA Capital Projects Fund (CPF)

- Colorado counties designated as either Tier I or Tier II
 - **Tier I** – allocates roughly 75% or \$121 million, to counties with the highest above median percentage of Unserved
 - **Tier II** – allocates remaining 25% or \$40 million, across all counties based on need
 - [CPF Funding Allocation Tiers by County](#)

Key Dates

- **March 27** – CPF guidelines and mapping challenge window opens
- **April 28** – Public comment period and mapping challenge close
- **June 14** – Grant Portal and Workbook Webinar: [register here](#)
- **June 20** – Application Window Opens – UPDATED
- **September 22** – **Application Submission Deadline – UPDATED**
- **September 23** – Review and remediation period begins
- **November 6** – Award notices sent

Eligible Applicants

- Internet service providers
- Units of local government
- Federally recognized tribes
- Nonprofit cooperative organizations
- Partnerships between private entities, public entities, or public private partnerships

Eligible Areas

- **Priority Unserved Area** – locations lacking access to any terrestrial service providing 25/3 Mbps service
- **Unserved Area** – locations lacking access to reliable, wireline service providing at least 25/3 Mbps
- **Underserved Area** – locations lacking access to reliable, wireline service of at least 100/20 Mbps but have wireline service of at least 25/3 Mbps
- Eligible Location Challenge will be conducted in two phases:
 - **Phase 1** requires participation in the FCC Broadband Data Collection (BDC) challenge process with a copy of submissions submitted to the CBO by **April 28**



- **Phase 2** challenges must be submitted within 10 business days after publication of Grant Program Awardees
- [Eligible Location Challenge Instructions](#)
- [Eligible Location Challenge Intake Form](#)

Eligible Projects

- Maximum grant request for a single application is \$20 million
- Multiple applications may be submitted

Application Content

- Applicant Information and Attestation
- Project Narrative should include the following:
 - Reason grant is needed at this time
 - Implications, if any, on the priorities laid out in Executive Order D2022 023 and the Colorado Broadband Roadmap
 - Timeline of project
 - Location(s)
 - Number of households, community anchor institutions, and eligible addresses passed
 - Information about service offerings
 - Permitting requirements
 - Pole attachment requirements
 - Information on Funding Sources
 - Applicant experience
 - Network technology and equipment
 - Description of backhaul infrastructure
- Community Support Letter
- High Level Network Design, Proposed Routes, and Proposed Funded Service Areas
 - Maps included proposed network path layer, location points, points containing network electronics and splitters, and polygons outlining all proposed funded service areas
 - Identification of backhaul infrastructure and point(s) of internet connectivity
- Project Financials
 - Capital costs
 - Budget and funding sources
 - Proforma cash flow
- Proposed Services
- Audited Financials
- Conflict of Interest Statement
- Authorization to Apply
- Supporting Documentation

- Opportunity Evaluation
- Effective Grant Writing
- Track Record of Success



Scoring Criteria

Numerically Scored Evaluation Criteria

- Needs-Based Evaluation – **up to 50 points**
- Gigabit Speed Evaluation – **up to 20 points**
- Financial Evaluation – **up to 30 points**
- Technical and Readiness Evaluation – **up to 20 points**
- Broadband Development Impact – **up to 50 points**
- Applicant Designation – **10 points for one category per application**
- Subsidized ACP Service – **up to 20 points**

Pass/Fail Evaluation Criteria

- Matching Funds Evaluation – Yes or No
- Special Zones or Districts – Yes or No

Match Requirements

- Determined by the proposed funded service areas' designation as a Tier I or Tier II area
 - Tier I areas require a minimum match of 25%
 - Tier II areas require a minimum match of 50%

Buildout Requirements

- Period of performance is 24 months after execution of grant agreement
- Funded projects must deliver 100 Mbps symmetrical internet speed
 - Unless significant topographic, geographic, or financial impracticability exists
- Must participate in the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

Middle Mile

Middle mile connections that facilitate last mile connections will be considered

Eligible Costs

- Network and access equipment costs
- Outside plant costs
- Reasonable make-ready and one-time pole licensing costs, excluding pole attachment fees
- ROW, leases, easements, and similar costs for access to develop infrastructure
- Equipment shelter, land, site preparation, and site restoration costs
- Cost-of-service drops installed and the network demarcation point (e.g., NID or ONT) during the grant program period of performance
- Testing, including infrastructure testing and turn-up, as well as speed testing as required by the Capital Projects Fund Project and Expenditure Report User Guide
- Engineering and project management costs for designing and constructing the proposed project



- Tower costs, including the construction of new towers (where required infrastructure does not exist) and costs involved with structural changes to existing towers
- Other upfront costs: Upfront costs not covered in other categories, such as site preparation, permits, required licenses, sales tax applicable to new equipment purchases, shipping and warehousing expenses, and miscellaneous minor material
- Long-term leases, defined as leases for a duration longer than 1 year, of facilities required to provide broadband service on the proposed project
- Reasonable contingency fees
- Indirect costs at approved Federally Negotiated Indirect Rate or 10% de minimus rate
- While allowable, the CBO strongly discourages Applicants from applying for reimbursement for salary and benefits for internal labor costs due to the extensive documentation requirements

Ineligible Costs

- Internal administrative activities
- Fundraising activities
- Computers or office equipment
- Software, such as management or accounting software
- Vehicles
- Equipment owned or leased by the customer, including routers and modems, and any other costs beyond the network interface point
- Operating expenses
- Expenses incurred prior to the date of the grant award contract execution by all parties
- Leases of less than one year
- Acquisition of any spectrum licenses
- Payment of interest or principal on outstanding debt instruments, or other debt service costs
- Fees or issuance costs associated with the issuance of new debt
- Satisfaction of any obligation arising under or pursuant to a settlement agreement, judgment, consent decree, or judicially confirmed debt restructuring plan in a judicial, administrative, or regulatory proceeding
- To support or oppose collective bargaining
- Expenditures on ineligible costs cannot be used as any proposed match
- Infrastructure unable to provide 100/20 Mbps and no scalability 100 Mbps symmetrical
- Satellite or mobile services

Links & Emails

- [Advance Colorado Broadband CPF Grant Program](#)
- [Advance Colorado Broadband CPF Grant Program Guidelines](#)
- [CPF Funding Allocation Tiers by County](#)
- [Advance-CPF Grant Application Webinar](#)
- Submit questions or comments to: CBO@state.co.us

- Opportunity Evaluation
- Effective Grant Writing
- Track Record of Success