

**Overview: Georgia Broadband Program
Enabled by State’s Fiscal Recovery Fund
August 2021**



Key Elements	Details
Program Name	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Fiscal Recovery Fund
Statutory Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
Funding Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$300 million allocated for broadband
Key Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application Filing Period: August 1st – 31st Proposal Review by Broadband Infrastructure Committee: September 8th – 22nd Application Presentations: Week of September 27th Award Announcements: After October 18th Funds Required to be Obligated: December 31, 2024 (but can be spent until 12/31/26)
Qualifying Service Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Unserved Communities</u>: Areas that lack a wireline connection that reliably delivers minimum speeds of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload
Network Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Minimum Speed</u>: Offer at least symmetrical 100 Mbps download and upload speeds, unless impracticable due to topography, geography, or financial cost; preference for fiber technology
Eligible Entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Government Entities</u>: State Agencies, County governments, City or township governments, Special district governments <u>Professional Associations and Organizations</u>: Industry Trade Associations, Business Organizations, Trade or Professional, Non-Profit Organizations
Application Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Register for a Georgia Grants Account</u>: Requires EIN and DUNS number <u>Complete Grants Application</u>: Components include: summary, narrative, description of issue, project design, implementation, capabilities/competencies, plan to capture data requirements, budget, matching funds, supporting documentation, agreement to grants terms/conditions.
Scoring Framework	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Description of the Issue (15%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant identifies the specific problem the jurisdiction seeks to address and how it was impacted by COVID-19. The applicant describes the process used to assess, analyze, or determine the nature of the problem. If applicable, the applicant explains gaps in resources and impact due to COVID-19 Project Design and Implementation (30%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant specifically describes how the project will accomplish the expected outcomes by providing the objectives and performance measures applicable to the project. The application includes a comprehensive timeline (as an attachment) that identifies milestones, numerically lists deliverables, and indicates who is responsible for each activity. The applicant specifically demonstrates broader impact to communities, jurisdictions, or industries. Capabilities and Competencies (15%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant fully describes the applicant’s capabilities to implement the project and the competencies of the staff assigned to the project. The applicant specifically describes the level of support for the project, as well as the expertise of the individual(s) who will be responsible for managing the project.

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	<p>4) Performance Measures (10%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The applicant demonstrates understanding of data collection to meet reporting requirements. – The applicant identifies the person(s) who will collect the data, who is responsible for performance and outcome measurement, and how the information will be used to guide the impact of the program. – Applicant demonstrates an understanding of the performance indicators and programmatic data requirements for the category in which they applied. <p>5) Budget (15%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The applicant has submitted a budget that is complete, cost- effective, and allowable. <p>6) Matching Funds (15%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The applicant has submitted a project that leverages funds available from other sources to maximize impact and is requesting funds that will be used to match these funds.
Reporting Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awardees subject to several broadband reporting requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Data on speed/pricing, miles of fiber, cost per mile and passing – Number of households, businesses, and institutions projected to have increased access to broadband and other usage metrics (e.g., speed performance)
Digital Inclusion Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Adoption</u>: Program also funds programs that provide assistance to households to support Internet access or digital literacy; such programs fall under public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic, not broadband infrastructure
Key Reference Links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Website: https://opb.georgia.gov/state-fiscal-recovery-fund-application-information • Press Release: https://gov.georgia.gov/press-releases/2021-06-29/gov-kemp-announces-georgia-jobs-and-infrastructure-committees • Application Landing Page: https://cares.georgia.gov/grantopportunities/
Contact Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jen Wade, Grant Manager <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Email: jennifer.wade@opb.georgia.gov; Cell Number: 404-782-6172
Member of Broadband Proposal Review Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russell McMurry - Commissioner, Georgia Department of Transportation • Jannine Miller - Planning Director, Georgia Department of Transportation • Christopher Nunn - Commissioner, Georgia Department of Community Affairs • Teresa MacCartney - Acting Chancellor, University System of Georgia • Greg Dozier - Commissioner, Technical College System of Georgia • Shawnzia Thomas - Executive Director, Georgia Technology Authority • Richard Woods - State School Superintendent, Georgia Department of Education • Eric Toler - Executive Director, Georgia Cyber Center • Michael Nix - Executive Director, Georgia Emergency Communications Authority • Frank Smith - Deputy Executive Director, State Properties Commission • Sen. Blake Tillery - Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee • Rep. Terry England - Chairman, House Appropriations Committee • Rep. Clay Pirkle - Secretary, House State Properties Committee • Rep. Patty Bentley - Secretary, House Higher Education Committee • Rep. Jodi Lott - Governor’s Floor Leader • Sen. Bo Hatchett - Governor’s Floor Leader • Sen. Harold Jones - Secretary, Senate Ethics Committee • Sen. Steve Gooch - State Senate Majority Whip