



Funding Amount: **\$151.5 Million**

Program Name

Broadband Expansion and Accessibility of Mississippi (BEAM) Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Grant Program

Funding Amount

Up to \$151.5 million from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Capital Projects Fund (CPF) divided into 3 categories:

- Category 1: Broadband Infrastructure – up to \$116.4 million
- Category 2: Line Extension and Deployment – up to \$20 million
- Category 3: ARPA Broadband Communities – up to \$15 million
- Maximum award: \$5 Million for a single project

Key Dates

- **June 8** – Notice of Funding Opportunity Released
- **June 15** – Application Window Opens
- **July 17 – Application Window Closes**
- **BEAM Review**
- **Preliminary determinations published, 30-day comment & objection period**
- **BEAM investigation of comments & objections, then final determinations published**

Eligible Applicants

- A company, firm, corporations, LLCs, partnership, or association, authorized to do business in Mississippi that:
 - Has been providing broadband service to at least 100 residences and business in Mississippi for at least 3 consecutive years,
 - Is an electric power association's broadband affiliate, or
 - Has demonstrated financial, technical, and operational capability in building and operating a broadband network

Eligible Areas

- **Unserved Area** – no access to a fixed, terrestrial connection supporting at least 100/20 Mbps

Eligible Projects

- Funded projects must deliver 100 Mbps symmetrical internet speed
 - Unless significant topographic, geographic, or financial impracticability exists
 - If the project will not meet the 100/100 Mbps requirement, applicant must provide detailed justification of why it is impracticable
- Must participate in the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)



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- Limited to new construction or related to the upfront investment associated with installing and/or upgrading existing broadband facilities on a one-time improvement basis
- Located in an unserved area seeking to provide broadband services to residences, businesses, and community anchor institutions
- Invests in capital assets designed to enable work, education, and health monitoring
- Address a critical need resulting from/or made apparent or exacerbated by COVID-19
- Designed to address a critical need of the community to be served by it
- Projects that incidentally cover served addresses may be reimbursable if the expenditure is not solely to benefit a served address, but customer drops, installations, and equipment at incidentally served addresses are not eligible for reimbursement
- Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to sustain the project for a minimum of 5 years
- The period of performance ends on December 31, 2026

Application Content

- Organization Profile
- Project Area
- High Level Design
- Project Scope
- Bill of Materials
- Project Budget
- Pricing Structure
- Project Scalability
- Community Engagement Impact
- Applicant must be registered with the application portal

Selection Criteria

- Project Description – **up to 10 points**
- Project Schedule – **up to 20 points**
- Regulatory Compliance – **up to 40 points**
- Project Readiness – **up to 20 points**
- Project Impact – **up to 20 points**
- Community Support and Engagement – **up to 10 points**
- Enrollment in the Affordable Connectivity Program – **up to 15 points**
- Speed & Pricing – **up to 20 points**
- Objective Scoring – **up to 190 points**
 - Download Speed After Build – **up to 50 points**
 - Upload Speed After Build – **up to 75 points**
 - Match Percentage – **up to 65 points**

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



Eligible Costs

- Costs associated with completing the application
- Pre-project development costs and uses, including data-gathering, feasibility studies, community engagement and public feedback processes, equity assessments and planning, needs assessments permitting, planning, architectural design, engineering design, and work related to environmental, historical, and cultural reviews
- Costs of repair, rehabilitation, construction, improvement, and acquisition of real property, equipment (e.g., devices and office equipment), and facilities (e.g., telecommunications equipment, including infrastructure for backhaul, middle (if necessary to provide last-mile service), and last mile networks)
- Costs of long-term leases (for terms greater than one year) of facilities required to provide qualifying broadband service, including indefeasible right-of-use (IRU) agreements and capital leases
- Personnel costs including salaries and fringe benefits for staff and consultants required for carrying out a Capital Project
- Ancillary costs necessary to operationalize and put the capital assets to full use, including costs to increase broadband adoption and improve digital literacy
- Costs associated with monitoring of and reporting on projects in compliance with BEAM requirements, including award closeout costs
- Costs associated with collecting and measuring performance data and conducting activities needed to establish and maintain a performance management and evaluation regime related to projects funded by the CPF program

Ineligible Costs

- Acquisition of spectrum licenses
- Operating expenses
- Short-term (one year or less) operating leases
- Payment of interest on principal or outstanding debt instruments, or other debt service costs incurred prior to March 15, 2021
- Fees or insurance 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, arbitration, administrative, or regulatory proceeding
- Support or oppose collective bargaining

Links & Emails

- [BEAM CPF Broadband Grant Program](#)
- [BEAM CPF Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)
- [BEAM CPF Application Questions](#)
- Please submit questions to info@beam.ms.gov

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