**Questions & Answers:**

**ADECA NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program Grant Requests for Applications Webinar**

1. Q: “Will slide deck be available afterwards?”

A: Yes, it is posted on our website.

1. Q: “Will NTIA be requiring a EA and FONSI?”

A: CTC will prepare any necessary National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) compliance documentation and will work with ADECA and the selected partner to identify any needs to satisfy application requirements.

1. Q: “What is CTC's and ADECA's intent/objective coming on board with this request inside of 30 days of the due date?”

A: Numerous ISPs identified an interest in partnering with the state. It was determined that asking for applications was the best way to determine the strongest project.

1. Q: “Is there a value in working with ADECA and not a local entity?”

A: ISPs are encouraged to work with local entities, if appropriate.

1. Q: “Why is ADECA selecting one partner? Are they looking to partner with one partner statewide and not several partners for a number of projects?”

A: As noted previously, the applications are due to NTIA in just a few weeks. Therefore, it was determined, one strong project with one partner would be most advantageous to the state.

1. Q: “To be clear, you're only selecting one of us? The NTIA application will not be for multiple projects of multiple providers?”

A: Yes, but other eligible applicants in the state may be applying.

1. Q: “What if a Region seeks to proceed without ADECA. Is there a reason a qualified entity can’t proceed with local officials?”

A: No, ISPs may partner with other eligible applicants.

1. Q: “What about areas that the one applicant doesn't serve? What is the purpose if only one area and one company receive funding?”

A: We are anticipating that the grant award will be relatively small. It was determined that the most impact would be achieved through one targeted area, versus numerous spread-out project areas. There are numerous sources of funding becoming available in the near future that could also be leveraged by potential applicants.

1. Q: “If you guys are only selecting one of us, what makes one company more likely to be selected than another? Can you define future proof? I am assuming 10gig capable and no WISPS.”

A: We will be revieing what is submitted against the criteria published by NTIA. We will be selecting the project that appears to be the strongest application and most likely to be awarded by NTIA.

1. Q: “Does this need to be a minimum $5Million project?”

A: No.

1. Q: “In Table 1 - Technical Requirements provided, the type of service only lists fiber to the premises. Are fixed wireless players eligible too?”

A: Yes, but maximum points will be awarded to future proof options.

1. Q: “Has ADECA/CTC identified the areas that are not served and did not receive RDOF funding? Where are the areas that are still not served and eligible for this funding?”

A: Please review the state map at <https://adecagis.alabama.gov/broadband2019/> and the RDOF map at <https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/maps/auction-904-updated-jun20-eligible-areas/>

1. Q: “What is left in Alabama that is considered ’unserved’ that was not covered with RDOF?”

A: Please see Question 12.

1. Q: “Has ADECA/CTC identified the areas that are not served and did not receive RDOF funding? Where are the areas that are still not served and eligible for this funding?”

A: Please see Question 12.

1. Q: “Is this aid in general or applicable to the area we are trying to apply for?”

A: NTIA funds as awarded would apply only to the proposed project and project area.

1. Q: “Will Alabama county funding provided for broadband under the Treasury's State/Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery funds a show stopper, or do they just need to be disclosed (if applicable)?”

A: No. However, ARPA funds cannot be used as the non-federal voluntary match.

1. Q: “If a prior NTIA grant was cancelled or in default, does that affect application to this grant?”

A: Please provide information about such cancellation or default in your RFA response. While we don’t anticipate this will be an issue, transparency is important to framing the grant narrative.

1. Q: “Will Davis Bacon Rates be required?”

A: Yes.

1. Q: “Are fixed wireless players eligible too?”

A: Yes, see previous discussion.

1. Q: “You said RDOF areas are not eligible. Is that a criteria from NTIA or ADECA?”

A: NTIA. Please be sure any proposed routing does not include last mile infrastructure requests for RDOF areas. Middle mile can traverse RDOF areas, but cannot propose service.

1. Q: “My company has been in discussion with several cities about responding to the NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Grant.  One of the cities forwarded the ADECA webinar, is the plan to respond under the ADECA umbrella?  If so, how do we address the limitations of the grant which I believe is capped at $30M?  Will a state response increase the cap limit?”

A: ADECA intends to submit one application for one project with a single partner. Therefore, if an ISP is working with another eligible applicant, the ADECA application should not affect any other eligible applicants or their grant ceiling.

1. Q: “Is this a sole source contract? One applicant for the entire state?”

A: ADECA will be the applicant. We intend to partner with one ISP for a single project. We don’t anticipate a sole source procurement process, but rather something similar to a grant sub-award with ADECA being the Grantee and the partner being the subrecipient. NTIA has developed a unique method for what they are calling a partnership that doesn’t really fit traditional procurement/contract procedures, nor does it fit a traditional grantor/grantee relationship. We plan to submit one application for one project with a single partner. The project does not have to have a statewide scope.