



Broadband Governing Board Meeting

State of Oklahoma

August 16, 2022



Agenda

- Governing Board Requests
- Middle Mile (MM) Grant Fund Program Business Case
- Capital Project Fund (CPF) Application Key Decisions
- Timeline and Next steps



The Oklahoma Governing Board has requested assistance from Guidehouse on the following:



BEAD Planning Application – *Submitted 8/15 by OMES*

For Discussion Today



Evaluation of the Middle Mile (MM) Grant Program – Due 9/30



Development and submission of the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Grant Plan and Program Plan – Due 9/24



As needed support for evaluating mapping options available to the state



Recommendation: Oklahoma should encourage others with the right technical knowledge to apply to the Middle Mile Grant Program

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Application
Due 9/30

Funding Pool: \$980 million
Awards between \$5M-\$100M

Middle mile infrastructure refers to the mid-section of Internet infrastructure that carries large amounts of data at high speeds over long distances and connects the "backbone" of Internet infrastructure to the "last mile"

Entities eligible to apply include a wide variety of entities, including but not limited to government and Tribal entities, utilities, companies & non-profits that provide Internet services

Example uses of funds:

- Construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment
- Engineering design, permitting, and work related to projects
- Personnel costs, including salaries and benefits
- Other costs necessary to program's activities

RECOMMENDATION

Oklahoma should encourage others apply to Middle Mile (MM) Grant Funding as opposed to leading an application due to:

(1) *Technical and competitive nature of the grant*

- The technical engineering and network design, data analysis, and narrative development required of applicants is beyond the capabilities of what most state/local governments could develop independently (e.g., mapping pre-existing service levels, physical path of network's transmission medium, points of interconnection with provider facilities, etc.)
- Other potential applicants (e.g., ISPs) will have an advantage in the submission process due to their industry knowledge and proprietary data

(2) *Time constraints*

- It is unlikely Oklahoma has sufficient time to hire necessary technical broadband consultants/network engineers to design a competitive project
- Given competing deadlines with **Capital Projects Fund Plan (Due 9/24)**, better use of time is to focus efforts on CPF, which is non-competitive

ISPs or entities like OCAN are best positioned to apply for this competitively awarded funding



Oklahoma has decided to use the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund for a Broadband Grant Program. Applications are due September 24th

**Oklahoma allocation:
\$167.7M**

Description: The American Rescue Plan Act allocated \$10 billion to U.S. Treasury for payments to states, territories, and tribal governments “to carry out critical capital projects directly enabling work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to the public health emergency”

APPLICATION OVERVIEW

1. **Grant Plan:** A brief description of the objective(s) intended to be achieved with CPF grant funds, and the Program(s) expected to be funded
2. **Program Plan for Broadband:**
 - i. Questionnaire
 - ii. Program Narrative
 - a. Program summary: Description of program objectives, project eligibility and selection criteria, timeline, key milestones, application process, etc.
 - b. Eligibility: Explanation of communities to be served by broadband projects and how the communities with critical needs were identified
 - iii. Program Administration
 - iv. Program Budget

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

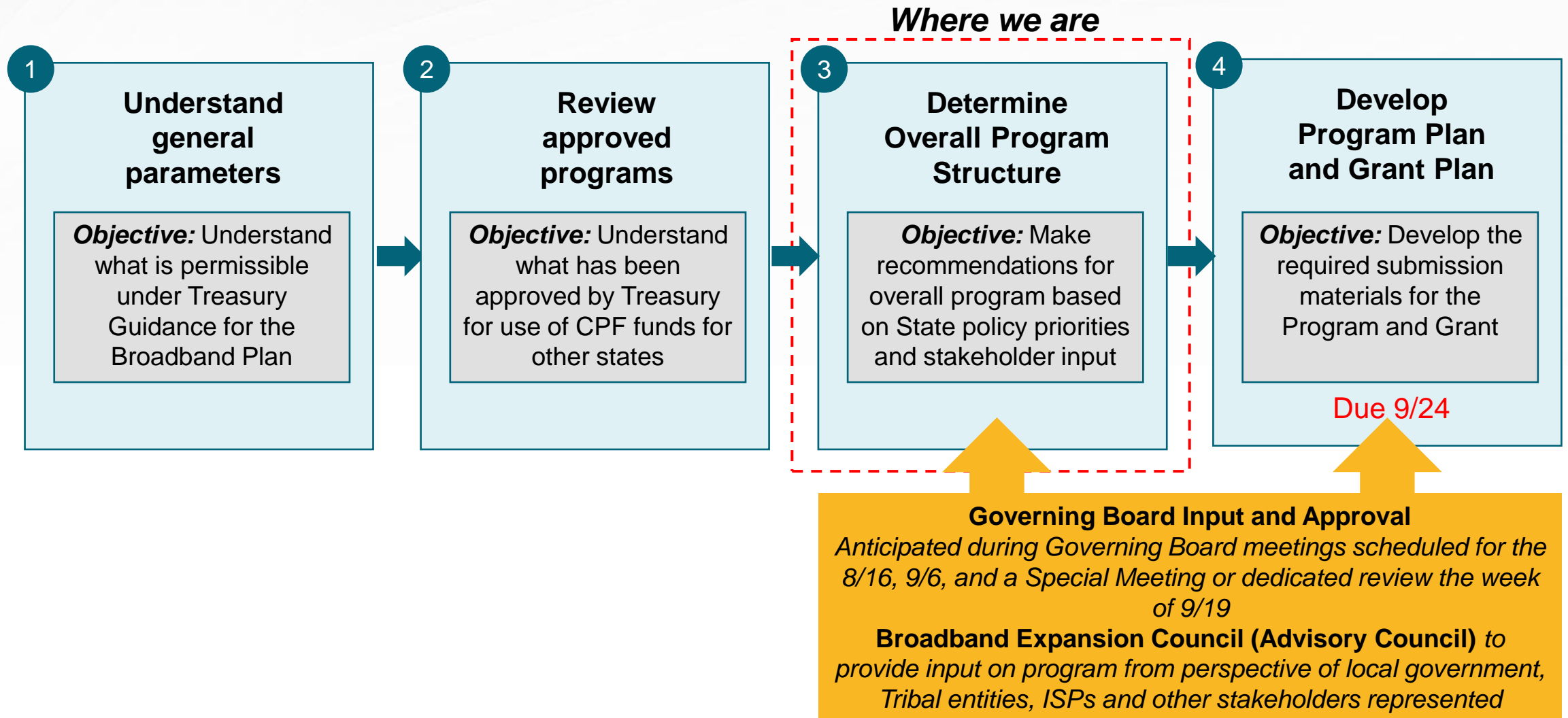
Timeline approximate unless exact date specified

Projects must reach substantial completion before 12/31/2026





CPF Broadband Grant Program Development Process



Three guiding principles will inform the recommendations for developing Oklahoma's State Broadband Grant Program

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

(1) Treasury Guidance Adherence to clear Treasury Guidance will be the first principle used to inform program plan recommendations for Oklahoma

(2) Consistency across approved plans Where clear Treasury Guidance is not available, look for consistency across CPF Plan submissions by approved states

(3) Oklahoma Policies Alignment with Oklahoma's existing broadband policy planning documents and priorities

(4) Flexibility In the absence of (1), (2), (3), develop recommendations that allow for the greatest flexibility for the Program

Program Plan Component	Treasury Guidance
Program Parameters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Type: Statewide competitive broadband grant program • Eligible projects: Connects unserved and underserved communities*; technology agnostic; delivers speeds of at least 100/100 Mbps (100/20 Mbps scalable with documented exception)**; last-mile and middle-mile • Eligible Applicants: Internet Service Providers (ISPs), Political subdivisions (e.g., towns, cities, counties), Tribal Entities, Non-profits and Community Anchor Institutions, Utilities (e.g., Electric Cooperatives, Muni Cooperatives, and Investor-Owned Utilities)
<i>Additional Program Plan components that will be developed with the input of the Governing Board Policy Subcommittee and Broadband Advisory Council in alignment with the guiding principles above. These include but are not limited to the following:</i>	
Program Objectives	• TBD
Grant Matching	• TBD
Evaluation Criteria	• TBD
Program Administration	• TBD

* Definitions for unserved and underserved based on Treasury Guidance: Unserved – lacking a fixed terrestrial connection that supports at least 100/20 Mbps; Underserved – lacking a fixed terrestrial connection that supports between 100/100 Mbps & 100/20 Mbps

** Treasury Guidance stipulates that projects are eligible that achieve 100/100 Mbps. 100/20 Mbps with documented exceptions are also eligible



Plan development will entail working with the Governing and Advisory Boards and Policy Subcommittee

		August				September				
		0 (8/1)	1 (8/8)	2 (8/15)	3 (8/22)	4 (8/29)	5 (9/5)	6 (9/12)	7 (9/19)	8 (9/26)
Activities	Kick-off/scoping									
	Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Grant Application Development									
	Middle Mile Fund Business Case									
	BEAD Application									
	Supporting on potential mapping resources as needed									
Milestones	Complete draft of BEAD proposal by Wednesday									
	Review CPF Key Decisions/ MM Business Case with Governing Board									
	Partial draft of CPF application									
	Review partial draft with Governing Board									
	Full draft of CPF application									
	Review final draft with Governing Board									
	Final CPF Submission									
	Special GB session?									

★ BEAD Application Due (8/15)
 ★ Broadband Governing Board Meeting (8/16, 9/06, 9/27)
 ★ Capital Projects Fund Submission Deadline (9/24)