

## **Grant Scoring Criteria**

The grant scoring criteria is detailed below. Grant applicants were asked to provide information related to the number of connections, readiness and strength of the team, project sustainability, community support plus economic and community impact.

### **120 Points Possible**

#### **Household and businesses passed: 1-20 points**

- Amount of increase in speed from current service to reach speed goals and above combined with number of passings determines points awarded

#### **Grant request amount: 0-10 points**

- Percent of grant request compared to eligible project costs (a higher local match percentage above 50% will result in a higher application score in this category)

#### **Readiness & Strength of Team: 0-20 points**

- Demonstration of project readiness. Examples include a solid engineering and design plan, financing secured, other approvals or permits secured or in process, project schedule thorough and complete, and evidence of readiness to build, manage, and operate the project.
- Comprehensive proposal: partners in place, application complete and well-prepared, budget table complete with planned contingency.

#### **Sustainability: 0-20 points**

- Financial soundness and efficiencies. Examples include identification of eligible costs, leveraging existing broadband, financing is secured, additional costs identified, need for funding clearly identified, financial plan, financial strength demonstrated.
- Organizational capability. Examples include quality/experience of partners and project manager, organizational charts, company history and resumes
- Technical demonstration. Examples include a clear and concise project description, a realistic project schedule that syncs with broadband infrastructure to be provided and the budget table, a clear documentation of areas to be served.

#### **Community Support & Engagement/Partnership: 0-20 points**

- Evidence of community support, including project partners and demonstration of customer interest such as potential/current customer surveys and/or canvasses as to desire/need for improved service, letters of support, and take-rate estimates
- Benefits to community anchor institutions (CAIs). Provide a list of significant CAIs and how they would benefit.

#### **Economic Development & Community Impact Review: 0-30 points**

- Does the project demonstrate economic development impacts and how? This might include documenting via specific impact statements from businesses as to business retention, expansion, and attraction impact, including home-based businesses and telecommuting. Also, evidence of education, health, and public safety benefits and general quality of life improvements.
- Is project area economically distressed? This would include documentation that in the proposed project area, unemployment, poverty, or population loss are significantly greater than statewide average and/or would reference median household income and/or percent of students eligible for free or reduced school lunches.
- Does the project support the goals of any particular county specific plan, area plan, economic development plan or the energy action plan?
- Will the project ultimately support an increase in living wage jobs?