



**Capital Project Fund  
Digital Connectivity Technology  
Program Application Webinar**

Florida Office of Broadband

# Introductions

- Kate Doyle, Interim Deputy Secretary, Division of Community Development
- Leo Garcia, Director, Office of Broadband
- Tonya Pryor, Deputy Director, Office of Broadband
- Paul Wotherspoon, Chief of Broadband Funding, Office of Broadband
- Sean Lewis, Chief of Broadband Initiatives, Office of Broadband

# Agenda

- Capital Projects Fund Overview
- Digital Connectivity Technology Program Overview
- Requests for Payment
- Additional Funding Opportunities
- Questions and Answers

# Capital Projects Fund (CPF)

Established by the U.S. Department of Treasury as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), the Capital Projects Fund program provides funding to carry out critical capital projects that directly enable work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options.

The CPF program allows for eligible applicants to invest in capital assets that address a community's critical connectivity need identified or exacerbated by the pandemic. This includes rural areas, tribal communities, and low to moderate income communities.



# Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Programs

The State of Florida is implementing three programs within the CPF:

- Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP)
    - February – July 2023
  - Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program (MPCF)
    - July – October 2023
  - Digital Connectivity Technology Program (DCTP)
    - Currently accepting applications
- 
- \$13 million is designated for the Digital Connectivity Technology Program.

# Digital Connectivity Technology Program

## **Purpose:**

The primary objective of the Digital Connectivity Technology Program (DCTP) is to provide funds to subrecipients to enhance digital connectivity by providing essential devices, equipment, and training that will directly enable work, education, and health monitoring, located in communities with an identified critical need.

Applicants should ensure that the proposed project is designed to: directly enable work, education, and health monitoring; address a critical need that resulted from or was made apparent or exacerbated by the public health emergency; and address a critical need of the community.

## **Below are examples of eligible uses of DCTP funds:**

- Funds used to acquire and make equipment available to qualifying households and Multi-Purpose Community Facilities.
- Funds used to install equipment and provide instruction on the set-up and use of digital equipment in borrowers homes or facilities.
- Funds used to train DCTP borrowers on how to access and use the internet.

# Eligible Applicants

Applicants eligible to apply for grant awards include:

- Counties
- Municipalities
- Non-profit organizations
- Community Action Agencies serving high poverty areas
- Multi-purpose community facilities

# Local Technology Planning Teams

Active Local Technology Planning Teams (LTPT) will assist communities with identifying critical needs and identifying eligible projects.

- LTPTs are familiar with local communities' digital state and are acutely aware of the challenges and barriers faced by Florida's communities
- LTPTs work with rural communities to help the communities understand their current broadband availability.

Participation and engagement in LTPTs is highly **recommended** to help determine the community's need for digital connectivity devices.

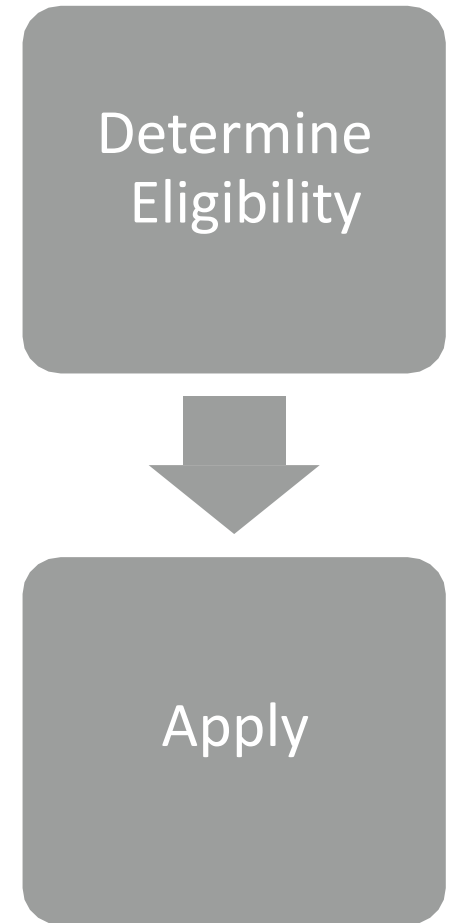
LTPTs should play an active role in the application process.





# Application Overview

- Application submission opened in January 3, 2024 and will close March 4, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. EST.
- Applications will be accepted via the portal only at [www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband).
- Questions about the application process may be directed to [Broadband@Commerce.fl.gov](mailto:Broadband@Commerce.fl.gov).
- There is no limit on the number of projects an applicant can submit.
- There is no limit on the amount of funds a project can request.
- There is no required match of funding, however private leverage is strongly encouraged.
- Awards will be based on a competitive application process.
- Applicants that applied for the Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program can also apply for the Digital Connectivity Technology Program.
- Awards will be issued through a reimbursement process.



# Scoring and Evaluation Criteria

- Applications will be evaluated based on defined scoring criteria.
- There are five major categories for scoring and evaluation, including:
  - Project need
  - Project readiness, deployment, and asset plans
  - Community impact
  - Project budget
  - Project sustainability and organizational capability
- To review the scoring criteria, go to [www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband).



# Considerations When Completing the Application

- Be sure to complete all fields.
- Applicants may designate portions of information provided in their application and/or any supporting documentation as “**Proprietary Confidential Business Information**” or “**Trade Secret**” under section 288.9962, Florida Statutes. Claims of confidentiality must be clearly articulated and made at the time of submittal.
- The Applicant **must identify each portion of the application and/or supporting documentation deemed confidential and provide a redacted version of the same material which may be disclosed**, pursuant to section 288.9962, Florida Statutes, to the Office at the time the claim of confidentiality or proprietary protection is asserted.
- All sections claimed confidential by an Applicant will be kept confidential by the Department.



# Considerations When Completing the Application Cont.

- Applicants should be responsive to the Office in a timely manner if contacted regarding deficiencies in the application.
- Confirm all figures in the project budget for accuracy.
- Be sure that the signatory on the application has the authority to sign the application.
- Do not wait until the deadline to submit or to request technical assistance.
- Submit the application by 5:00 p.m. EST., on Monday, March 4, 2024.
- No late applications will be accepted.



# Creating a Strong Application

When articulating the project in the application:

- Include information regarding an *identified critical need* for the project
- Include community demographic information
- Include information of how DCTP equipment will benefit the target community
- Include information that aligns with the priorities of the program such as:
  - Enabling education, healthcare, workforce, and community support;
  - Project sustainability and resiliency; and
  - Strong local community support.

See DCTP Program Guidelines for additional details at [www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband).

# Documenting Community Support

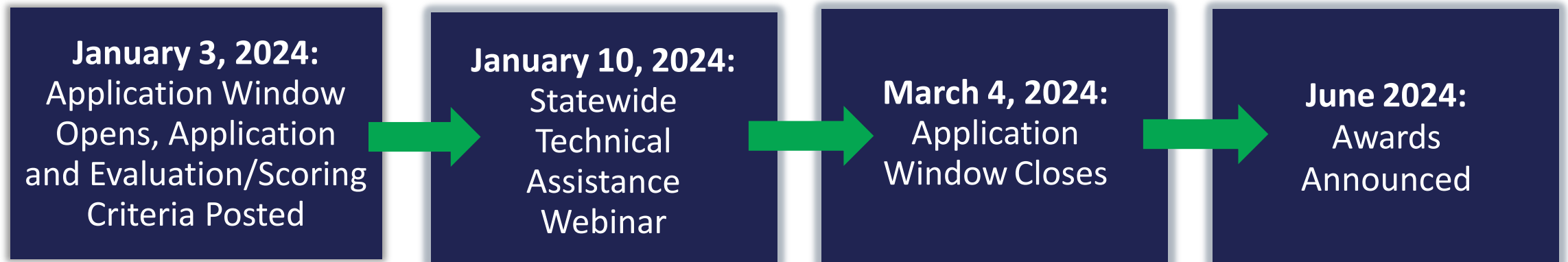
Seeking community support is a vital element in the Digital Connectivity Technology Program and applications must show evidence of community engagement by including:

- Documentation of meeting with the county's Local Technology Planning Team (LTPT);
- Degree to which teams conducted community-level activities including engaging with LTPTs and research to determine the community's need for digital connectivity devices and equipment;
- Any Memorandums of Agreement or Understanding between the applicant and its project partner(s);
- Evidence of community outreach efforts and feedback, such as surveys, community focused analyses, and project support; and
- Other community feedback that shows compelling need for the project.



# The Timeline

The current timeline for the Digital Connectivity Technology Program:



# Requests for Payment During the Grant Period

- All grant agreements executed under the Digital Connectivity Technology Program will be based on a cost reimbursable basis.
- All requests for payment must be related to eligible costs during the period of performance in the agreement.
- Awardees may also want to consider and develop a plan to mitigate against the following:
  - Timing on purchases of necessary project materials due to present supply shortage challenges;
  - Cash flow challenges; and
  - Contingency planning.





# Question & Answers



# Contact Us

## Thank You!

If you have questions or comments about this presentation, please contact us.

[www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband)



Email: [Broadband@Commerce.fl.gov](mailto:Broadband@Commerce.fl.gov)

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