



Enhancing Broadband Infrastructure



State and Local Governments Have a \$10 Billion Opportunity to Enhance Broadband Infrastructure With Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the need for institutions to be able to deliver digital learning, remote work/instruction, telehealth, and e-commerce is critical to continue operations and to complement in-person activities. Access to reliable and resilient high-speed broadband has joined electricity and water as an essential service. However, gaps relating to broadband infrastructure access, devices, affordability, and literacy continue to lead to digital inequities. The American Rescue Plan Act's \$10 billion Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CPF) aims to address these gaps by funding programs that support local workforce hiring and training, enhanced educational opportunities, and address disparities in healthcare. **This allocation represents a tremendous opportunity for state and local governments to significantly advance their digital inclusion goals - we can help.**

Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund Guidance Summary

Eligible states, territories, freely associated states, and Tribal governments may now submit applications for their Capital Projects Fund allocation using the Treasury Submission Portal.

The U.S. Treasury Department has issued guidance on how CPF works. Recipients may pursue funding on three types of projects to distribute funding: (1) Broadband Infrastructure, (2) Digital Connectivity Technology Projects (such as hardware to enable public wi-fi), and (3) Multipurpose Community Facility Projects. In order for projects to be considered eligible, applicants must demonstrate:

1. The Project invests in capital assets designed to directly enable work, education, and health monitoring.
2. The Project will be designed to address a critical need that results from or was made apparent or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency.
3. The Project is designed to address a critical need in the community to be served by it.

Applications are currently being accepted until December 27, 2021. A Grant Plan and at least one Program Plan detailing the use of funds must be submitted by September 24, 2022.

We recommend that state and local entities start planning immediately, and develop a checklist and approach to help navigate this opportunity.



Checklist for States to Access Coronavirus Capital Projects Funds

Application—Determines eligibility of applicant

DUE 12/27/21

Eligible governments should prepare applications outlining the desired grant amounts and administrative details.

- Requested Grant Amount—not to exceed allocated amount
- Requested Amount for Program Administrative Costs—may not exceed 5% of total requested grant amount, or \$25,000, whichever is greater
- Designation Letter—identifies and delegates authority to authorized representative
- Points of Contact—can be one or more points of contact besides authority representative
- Eligibility and Payment Information—IRS Employer Identification Number (EIN), Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number, and bank account information

Once Treasury has validated application completeness and applicant eligibility, a grant agreement may be executed and access to funds for the program administrative costs made available.

Grant Plan—Determines eligibility of overall funding plan and projects

DUE 9/24/22

After grant applications have been made, state governments will have until September 2022 to develop details on their broadband programs, paying particular attention to proposed cost allocation and demonstration that programs are targeted to address communities negatively impacted by COVID-19.

- Executive Summary—details intended uses
- Allocation Table—shows broad categories of spending (e.g., Broadband Infrastructure Projects, Digital Connectivity Technology Projects, Multi-Purpose Community Facility Projects)
- One or more Program Plans—Plans detailing deployments of specific projects in communities and demonstrate how they:
 - Invest in capital assets designed to directly enable work, education, and health monitoring.
 - Address a critical need that results from or was made apparent or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency.
 - Address a critical need in the community to be served by it.

After initial Grant Plan submission, updates to the Grant Plan or additional Program Plans may be submitted until the 9/24/22 deadline. Program Plans and their respective funds will be evaluated and approved separately. Capital Project Funds must be expended by 12/31/26.

Our Understanding of What This Means for State & Local Governments:



Broadband is a crucial component of resident and regional well-being and there are now substantial federal funds available.



State and local governments will need to navigate often complex federal funding processes to take advantage of funds and meet their needs.



Understanding the current state of broadband needs and assets for a particular community is essential to application development.



State and local governments can be strategic in how they allocate funds to enable their broader goals.



After applying, these governments will need to develop sound implementation plans and processes to manage, monitor, and report.

Guidehouse can support all levels of government in applying for and administering Coronavirus Capital Project Funds

Our Approach and Capabilities to Developing Grant and Program Plans

APPROACH PHASE

ONE
Determine Strategic Goals



CAPABILITIES

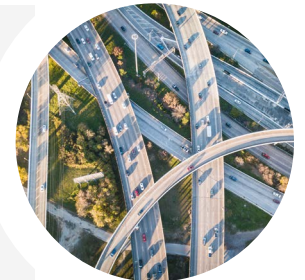
- Review prior strategic documents and align initiatives into cohesive goals
- Facilitate executive visioning sessions and workshops



TWO
Identify Current State Gaps & Opportunities



- Gather data and create geospatial maps of broadband needs and assets
- Survey and engage stakeholders, residents, and businesses



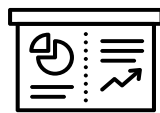
THREE
Develop Potential Projects Universe



- Conduct research to gather relevant broadband and digital inclusion leading practices
- Identify and design projects with cost, risks, owners, and other implementation details



FOUR
Align Projects to Potential Funding, Evaluate & Prioritize



- Develop comprehensive funding typology that aligns projects to funding sources
- Facilitate data-driven evaluation and prioritization of projects through scorecards, weights, and other means



FIVE
Apply, Manage, Monitor and Report



- Provide end-to-end grant administration assistance from initial application through grant management, monitoring and compliance, and reporting.





Guidehouse is a Leader in Helping Cities and States

Guidehouse is a leading national provider of consulting services to the public markets, with broad capabilities in management, civic technology, and risk consulting. We help clients address their toughest challenges with a focus on markets and clients facing transformational change, technology-driven innovation, and significant regulatory pressure. Headquartered in Virginia, Guidehouse has more than 12,000 professionals in more than 50 locations.

We Have Helped Dozens of State and Local Clients Navigate Federal Grant Funding

Guidehouse is a leader in helping cities and states execute change. Our firm has differentiated itself as a leader in COVID-19 financial advisory and grant management by quickly establishing a response team and activating our resources across multiple cities, counties, and states. In fact, Guidehouse has performed COVID-19 support services for 30-plus state and local governments. Our State and Local Government practice focuses on bringing top-tier talent and the integrity of our brand to state and local governments to solve their most pressing problems. From developing broadband road-maps to helping cities and regions prioritize digital inclusion needs and maximize grant dollars, we intentionally seek out opportunities to help clients and communities embrace the rapid transformation of broadband initiatives on the federal, state, and local levels.

Expert Opinion and Research

We also have a dedicated team of researchers at our disposal. Guidehouse Insights is our premier market intelligence group, focused on helping clients and communities embrace the rapid transformation of broadband initiatives on the federal, state, and local levels. Recent Guidehouse reports on broadband include the titles listed below. We can tap into the expertise from our research arm to bring added value to this project.

- As Cities Face COVID-19, the Digital Divide Becomes More Acute
- Three Ways Cities Can Close the Digital Divide Through Stimulus Spending
- Delivering Telehealth to Home and Community-Based Services: Strategies to Drive Service Effectiveness While Responding to COVID-19

Featured Projects



Assessing a state's grant maximization pathways

As a leading advisor to state governments across the country on Coronavirus Relief Consulting and Program Administration, we have helped our state clients with the administration of over \$4B in Coronavirus Relief Funds and, most recently, American Rescue Plan Act. For our state clients, we have identified both immediate and long-term priorities for the use of CARES Act Funds, including the use of funds in accordance with US Treasury Department guidelines to address the secondary impacts of the pandemic on a state's economy. States' relief efforts have depended on Guidehouse helping assess ways to leverage the capacity of governmental and leading nonprofit organizations to distribute funding locally while ensuring compliance with all transparency and record-keeping requirements



Creating tools for COVID grant funding and policy tracking

Our firm's track record of successful service to our state clients across the country, when they've needed it most during this pandemic, also includes meeting client needs for an overall Grant Management Strategy and standing up a Salesforce.com platform to enable end-to-end grant management processes, as well as performing third-party administration services on behalf of states. Other services we've provided to state clients in need of mechanisms to confidently respond to the unprecedented pandemic include holding virtual meetings with emergency management agency staff to coordinate grant applicant support strategy and assistance, in addition to creating a COVID-19 webpage for a state to provide full transparency of all state COVID-19-related expenditures and their associated funding sources.



Making broadband and digital inclusion a priority

For a client located in Silicon Valley, Guidehouse developed a broadband strategy that involved technical planning for infrastructure build-out to improve internet access for students, seniors, and low-income citizens—today that plan represents the foundation for layering smart city technologies and IoT platforms to enhance civic services. As part of the development of the plan, our team led a current-state assessment of broadband infrastructure and concluded that there was low availability of high-quality fiber, which in turn led to the identification of opportunities to finance, govern, and expand broadband access in households. For our clients we have also delivered training and guidance to local stakeholders to confirm the viability of identified areas for broadband investment, and facilitated weekly status reporting meetings with local districts and service providers to head off challenges to program execution.

About Guidehouse

Guidehouse is a leading global provider of consulting services to the public sector and commercial markets, with broad capabilities in management, technology, and risk consulting. By combining our public and private sector expertise, we help clients address their most complex challenges and navigate significant regulatory pressures focusing on transformational change, business resiliency, and technology-driven innovation. Across a range of advisory, consulting, outsourcing, and digital services, we create scalable, innovative solutions that help our clients outwit complexity and position them for future growth and success. The company has more than 12,000 professionals in over 50 locations globally. Guidehouse is a Veritas Capital portfolio company, led by seasoned professionals with proven and diverse expertise in traditional and emerging technologies, markets, and agenda-setting issues driving national and global economies. For more information, please visit www.guidehouse.com.