



Illinois State Board of Education

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Darren Reisberg
Chairman

Dr. Carmen I. Ayala
State Superintendent of Education

June 10, 2021

TO: Eligible Applicants

FROM: Dr. Carmen I. Ayala 
State Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: **NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)/REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP):**
Fiscal Year 2022 E-rate State Matching Grant Program (For [E-Rate Funding Year 2021](#))

CSFA Number: 586-00-1527
CSFA Title: District Broadband Expansion

Program Overview

Eligibility and Application Information

Eligible Applicants: Public school districts that have filed Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Forms 470 and 471 for a fiber construction project for [Federal E-rate funding year 2021](#) and have indicated a state match on their FCC Form 471 filing are eligible to apply.

NOTE: The State of Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) requires applicants to complete Pre-qualification requirements before applying for any grant. This includes completion of the Grantee Registration and Pre-qualification process through the Illinois GATA Web Portal at <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/Pages/default.aspx>. Grant applications must be submitted by the application deadline indicated in this NOFO/RFP. Applicants are advised to complete the pre-qualification requirements well in advance of the NOFO/RFP deadline

Successful grant applicants will be required to complete an FY 2022 Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment in the form of an Internal Controls Questionnaire (ICQ) available through the GATA Web Portal, a FY 2022 Organizational Risk Assessment through the ISBE Web Application Security System (IWAS), and the FY 2022 Programmatic Risk Assessment that is found within the electronic Grant Management System (eGMS) budget. Grant awards will not be executed until the FY 2022 ICQ, Organizational Risk Assessment and Programmatic Risk Assessment are completed.

Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number and System for Award Management (SAM): Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or federal or state awarding agency that is exempt from those requirements under 2 CFR § 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the federal or state awarding agency under 2 CFR § 25.110(d)) is required to:

- (i) Be registered in SAM before submitting its application. If you are not registered in SAM, you may do so at www.sam.gov;
- (ii) Provide a valid DUNS number (<https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>) in its application; and
- (iii) Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active federal, federal pass-through, or state award or an application or plan under consideration by a federal or state awarding agency. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) may not consider an application for a federal pass-through or state award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements.

Code of Federal Regulations / Title 2 - Grants and Agreements / Vol. 1 / 2014-01-01192: Guidance is found at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2013-title2-vol1/pdf/CFR-2013-title2-vol1.pdf>.

This grant is subject to the provisions of:

- [Grant Accountability and Transparency Act \(GATA\), 30 ILCS 708/1 et seq.](#)
- [Administrative Rules for GATA, 44 Ill. Admin. Code Part 7000](#)

Merit-Based Review and Selection Process for Competitive Grants: The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is required to design and execute a merit-based review and selection process for applications. This process is incorporated by reference in all applicable funding opportunities. Applicants are advised to refer to the [ISBE merit-based review policy](#).

Grant Award/Cost Sharing or Matching: The E-rate State Matching Grant Fund may have up to a total appropriation of \$12,675,708 in FY 2021 to help districts cover the non-discount project costs for E-rate special construction projects. As part of the state match, awardees can request a percentage of their non-discounted E-rate Category 1 (C1) special construction project costs. (Specifics on percentage breakdown are found under Funding Information on page X.) The state will issue grants until the funds are expended. Additional information regarding funding can be found under Funding Information on page 7.

Grant Period: The grant period will begin no sooner than July 1, 2021, and will extend from the execution date of the grant until June 30, 2022. Successful applicants may reapply via continuing application for up to one additional year. Funding in the subsequent years will be contingent upon compliance with federal and state law, state grant-making rules, passage of sufficient appropriations for the program, and satisfactory performance in the preceding grant period. No promise or undertaking made in this NOFO/RFP is an assurance that a grant agreement will be renewed, nor does this NOFO/RFP create any right to or expectation of renewal.

Submission Dates and Times/Other Submission Requirements: Proposals can be submitted electronically through the ISBE Attachment Manager no later than 4 p.m. on Monday, July 26, 2021. Directions for each submission method are found below.

Electronic Submission: Completed proposals submitted electronically should be scanned into PDF with all supporting documents and required signatures. The ISBE Attachment Manager is found at <https://sec1.isbe.net/attachmgr/default.aspx>. Choose Erich Grauke from the drop-down menu in Receiver Information. Submit the application using the button at the bottom of the page.

Mailed Proposals: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, please submit applications using the electronic submission procedure listed above.

Late proposals will not be accepted.

Grant Award Notice: It is anticipated that successful applicants will receive a Notice of Award from the State Superintendent via email approximately 90 days after the application deadline. The award letter is **NOT** an authorization to begin performance or expenditures. After the merit-based appeal timeframe has ended, awardees will receive additional information from the program area that includes the next steps for finalizing the grant. Monies spent prior to programmatic approval are done so at the applicant's own risk.

Technical Assistance Session: A technical assistance session will be held on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 10:00 AM. Registration information is found at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4757665291992871695>. Attendance is not required.

Changes to NOFO/RFP: ISBE will post any changes made to the NOFO/RFP prior to July 19, 2021, at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Request-for-Proposals.aspx>. Applicants are advised to check the site before submitting a proposal.

Agency Contact/Contact to Request Application Package: For more information on this NOFO/RFP, contact Erich Grauke at egrauke@isbe.net. *All questions asked concerning this NOFO/RFP will be responded to in a [Frequently Asked Questions document](#) so all respondents can see all questions and the responses to the questions. Changes to the FAQ will not be made after July 16, 2021. Applicants are advised to check the site before submitting a proposal.*

General Information

Program Background and Description

Program Purpose:

The purpose of the E-rate State Matching Program is to reimburse eligible districts for fiber special construction costs they incur. These dollars match federal funding and will enable such districts to expand educational opportunities and increase student achievement.

Program Description:

[Public Act 100-0586, Article 162, Section 145](#), states “The amount of \$16,300,000, or so much of that amount as may be necessary, is appropriated from the School Infrastructure Fund to the State Board of Education for school district broadband expansion with the goal that all school districts achieve broadband capability by the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. The funds shall be distributed to school districts that have been approved for broadband expansion funding under the federal Universal Service Program for Schools and Libraries, with school districts without high-speed Internet access receiving priority with respect to the distribution of those funds”.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

This grant will support Goal 1 for student learning in the ISBE Strategic Plan: “*Every child will make significant academic gains each year, increasing their knowledge, skills, and opportunities so they graduate equipped to pursue a successful future, with the state paying special attention to addressing historic inequities.*” Support for Goal 1 is specifically addressed through Strategy 1.1: “*Support best practices and continuous quality improvement, including an emphasis on equity and diversity in order to support student learning while also addressing remote and blended learning*” by providing a funding opportunity for school districts to ensure their broadband connections have enough capacity to support student learning, while also addressing remote and blended learning.

Program Background/History:

The FCC adopted rules for E-rate C1 special construction charges in its December 2014 Second Report and Order on Reconsideration. The rules allow the FCC to match state funding (up to 10 percent) for special construction charges to connect schools and libraries to high-speed broadband services that meet the FCC’s long-term capacity broadband goals.

The order indicated that the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) adopted the State Education Technology Directors Association’s (SETDA) goal of at least 1 Gbps per 1,000 students/staff for internet access. Districts making decisions about fiber purchases should note that in November 2019, SETDA updated its [internet speed recommendations](#) to the following:

- Recommendations for the 2021 school year and beyond
 - Small districts (1,000 or fewer students) at least 2.8 Mbps with minimum 300 Mbps per district
 - Medium districts (3,000 students) at least 2 Mbps per user
 - Large districts (10,000 or more students) at least 1.4 Mbps per user

This NOFO/RFP will use the following terminology: educational technology, leased lit fiber, dark fiber, self-provisioned fiber, special construction. Definitions for each appear below.

The Association for Educational Communications and Technology’s 2008 definition will be used to define “educational technology.”

- Educational technology - Educational technology is the study and ethical practice of facilitating learning and improving performance by creating, using, and managing appropriate technological processes and resources.

The definitions for fiber and special construction were taken from the [USAC website](#), [the FCC Second Report and Order on Reconsideration \(released December 19, 2014\)](#), and the [FCC Sixth Report and Order \(released September 28, 2010\)](#).

- Leased lit fiber - This is a fiber-based broadband service where the service provider owns and manages the network, and the E-rate applicant pays a recurring fee to have data transported over the network.
- Dark fiber - Dark fiber leases and other dark fiber service agreements (e.g., indefeasible rights of use) are commercial arrangements in which a customer purchases use of a portion of a provider-owned and -maintained fiber network separately from the service of lighting (i.e., transmitting information over) that fiber.
- Self-provisioned fiber - Self-provisioning is complete applicant ownership of a high-speed broadband network. An applicant that self-provisions will construct, own, operate, and maintain the network or a portion of the network.
- Special construction - Special construction projects deploy new fiber or upgraded facilities to E-rate Program eligible locations. Special construction charges are the upfront, non-recurring costs of such installations or upgrades. Special construction consists of three components: (1) construction of network facilities, (2) design and engineering, and (3) project management. More information on special construction can be found in the [FCC Second Report and Order on Reconsideration](#) and the [FCC Sixth Report and Order](#).

Program Objectives:

Applications for funding will pertain to the overall goals and objectives of the educational program that created the need for future technology planning and, ultimately, the determinations made with FCC Form 470. FCC Form 470, along with additional components discussed further in this section, will be the project portion of your proposal and will need to be submitted and judged as part of the overall proposal. FCC Form 470 will NOT need to be rewritten into this proposal unless your form is missing portions requested in Part viii of Attachment 4 (Objectives and Activities) on page 11.

Proposals for special construction for leased lit fiber should include a copy of the district's FCC Form 470 and the rubric that was used to make determinations. District proposals requesting special construction for either a dark fiber or a self-provisioned project should include [both FCC Form 470 and the separate Federal E-rate RFP](#) for the services requested (dark fiber, self-provisioned fiber, or both) as well as the rubric used to make determinations. All proposals should include a synopsis of each proposal received for the project and an explanation as to why the vendor(s) were chosen. FCC Form 470, additional RFPs, the proposal responses, and scoring rubrics are considered to be part of the district's overall plan and will be reviewed as part of this proposal response in the areas of capacity and cost effectiveness in the scoring rubric.

Districts must provide a description of need for the project in the targeted schools as part of the application response:

- Current district and school bandwidth (Attachment 2 [Current Technology Status]);
- Current educational technology program, including, but not limited to, staffing, professional development, and students' ability to use technology in current program (Attachment 3 [Program Narrative]);
- Planning used to determine the need for the project and the project design (Attachment 3);
- Identification of stakeholders and communication with them during the planning of the project (Attachment 3);
- Funding limitations that the district is currently facing (Attachment 3);
- The need for the proposed special construction project in order to meet the district's future plan (Attachment 3); and
- The schools chosen to participate in the project and their need (Attachment 3).

Districts will use Attachment 4 to describe the proposed project/program. The description should include:

- Indicate future plans for the educational technology program (provide minimum of five years into the future) for schools targeted in the project, including, but not limited to, curriculum and professional development, as well as the bandwidth and devices that will be needed to meet those needs.

- List project goals and how they will advance the technology program.
- Describe student learning using innovative practices based upon research or previously collected data, best practices, and/or additional information.
- Provide an estimate of technology refreshes that will be needed over the life of the plan.
- Specify the steps for project completion, including a list of activities and internal resources (both human and fiscal), that will be used to meet the activities. Applicants will need to clearly express the relationship between the proposed project, activity, and/or resources and the district's educational goals, learning approaches, and/or school improvement plans.
- Describe well-developed strategies for drawing upon community resources to improve student learning. Provide a description of the district's prior stakeholder engagement efforts to support successful development of application and implementation of the educational plan. Describe how the school district will use technology effectively to promote community involvement and increase communication with resources within the community as the plan progresses.
- If not already listed within the FCC Form 470 documentation, provide details of the special construction project, including a listing of activities that are a part of the project and the resources (include staff or contractors that will be needed). The proposal must show how outside contractors who will work with this project were chosen in a manner congruent with the district's educational goals and school improvement goals.
- Describe a previous project or program similar in nature to the current project. Also describe that project's outcome, including descriptions of any problems encountered during the life of the project and their resolutions. Detail the district and/or school resources, both human and fiscal, that will be available to support implementation of the project. Staff and outside contractors who will implement the project should be listed as well as the role they will fill and the responsibility of that role, their qualifications and experience, and the funding source for the position (grant or internal resources).
- Indicate the expected program outcomes for the life of the project. The timeline should go beyond the funding for the matching grant and show project sustainability. Include information regarding dissemination, management, and anticipated project expansion.

Complete a timeline in Attachment 5 (Proposed Project/Timeline) of the activities to meet each of the goals indicated in Attachment 4 in a time-specific format with start and completion dates and person or persons responsible. If the timeline of activities for the special construction project are not listed in the FCC Form 470 documentation, include them in the attachment.

Describe in Attachment 6 (Proposal Evaluation Design) how the plan will be monitored and evaluated as well as how results will be reported. Indicate how the impact on increasing student success and/or other stated goals and objectives will be shared within your district and beyond (parents, community, etc.).

Policy Requirements:

There is no policy requirement for this RFP.

Performance Measures:

Awardees will meet or exceed the FCC goal of at least 1 Gbps per 1,000 students/staff for internet access.

Targets:

Awardees will acquire requested items on their FCC Form 471 in order to meet or exceed the FCC goal of at least 1 Gbps per 1,000 students/staff for internet access.

Performance Standards:

It is expected that awardees will complete the whole of the special construction project within the timelines put forth by the federal E-rate program.

Deliverables and Milestones:

Awardees will provide a summary report of work completed during the quarter and provide any updates or changes to the overall work plan 30 days after the end of each quarter of the special construction project.

Midyear report due to ISBE on January 30, 2022, via email to Erich Grauke at egrauke@isbe.net

1. Provide a summary of progress towards meeting the goals in narrative format.
2. Provide a timeline of activities completed or an estimated timeline of when project activities will be completed.

End-of-year report due to ISBE on August 31, 2022, via email to Erich Grauke egrauke@isbe.net

1. Provide a timeline of all activities related to the grant program. Include description of event, date, listing of those involved if applicable.
2. Provide a summary of grant activities and how activities met program goals. Cite specific evidence, examples, and data.
3. Provide a narrative on the impact of these new internet connections on your educational program.

Funding Information

Introduction:

The E-rate State Matching Grant Fund may have up to a total appropriation of \$12,675,708 in FY 2021 to help districts cover the non-discount project costs for E-rate special construction projects. Projects that extend beyond state FY 2021 are subject to re-appropriation of funding by the General Assembly. Awardees can request a percentage of E-rate C1 special construction project costs as part of the state match. The state will issue grants until the funds are expended.

The FCC adopted rules for E-rate C1 special construction charges in the December 2014 Second Report and Order on Reconsideration. The rules allow the FCC to match state funding (up to 10 percent) for special construction charges to connect schools and libraries to high-speed broadband services that meet the FCC’s long-term capacity broadband goals.

Cost Sharing or Matching:

Awardees can request a percentage of their E-rate C1 special construction project costs as part of the state match. The amount a district can request depends upon their E-rate C1 discount.

For example, District A has a 50 percent C1 discount rate. After applying the C1 discount rate, the district has 50 percent of the costs remaining. Using the chart below, the district may apply for up to 40 percent of the costs. The remaining 10 percent should be requested from USAC by clicking on the state match button on FCC Form 471.

This state match funding opportunity will allow USAC to provide an additional match, up to an additional 10 percent, to match the state funding on a one-to-one dollar basis. Total E-rate support with matching funds may not exceed 100 percent. See <https://www.usac.org/e-rate/applicant-process/before-you-begin/fiber-summary-overview/additional-discount-to-match-state-tribal-funding-for-special-construction/> for more information on the additional E-rate match.

FY 2022 State Match Percentages

E-rate Program Category One Discount Rate	Illinois State Match Percentage for Non-Discounted Charges	Additional USAC E-rate Match for Fiber Special Construction Projects
90%	5%	Up to an additional 5%
80%	10%	Up to an additional 10%
70%	20%	Up to an additional 10%

60%	30%	Up to an additional 10%
50%	40%	Up to an additional 10%
40%	50%	Up to an additional 10%
30%	60%	Up to an additional 10%
20%	70%	Up to an additional 10%

Indirect Cost Rate:

The federal Uniform Guidance at 2 CFR 200 requires that grantees be provided the opportunity to seek indirect cost reimbursements based on negotiated indirect cost reimbursement rates. Rates are determined and applied as follows.

Local Education Agencies

- Local Education Agency (LEA) indirect cost rates are developed in accordance with a delegation of authority agreement between ISBE and the U.S. Department of Education (ED). The plan includes both a restricted and unrestricted rate for each individual LEA. Both the restricted and unrestricted LEA rates are published annually on the ISBE website. The FY 2019 rates are available at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Indirect-Cost-Rate-Plan.aspx>. In the past, only the restricted rate was allowed when budgeting indirect cost reimbursements.

LEAs have the ability to seek indirect cost reimbursement at the published unrestricted rate for any program other than those identified as restricted by ED.

- Newly organized LEAs, Regional Offices of Education, Intermediate Service Centers, area vocational centers, charter schools, university laboratory schools, and governmental entities formed by a joint agreement among LEAs utilize either the statewide average of LEA unrestricted or restricted indirect rates as appropriate, depending on program.
- LEAs that jointly administer federal program(s) utilize either the approved unrestricted or restricted indirect cost rates for the administrative district of the joint program as appropriate, depending on program.

Non-LEAs

- Programs eligible for an unrestricted indirect cost rate; not-for-profit entities; community/faith-based organizations; and other non-LEA, non-university subgrantees utilize rates negotiated through the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget centralized process in which they will have the option to:
 - o Select the 10 percent diminimus rate.
 - o Submit documentation supporting a rate determined through negotiation with their federal cognizant agency.
 - o Negotiate a rate.

Non-LEA, non-university grantees may initiate the unrestricted indirect cost rate negotiation process through the [GATA grantee portal](#).

- Federal programs requiring the use of a restricted indirect cost rate, not-for-profit entities, community/faith-based organizations, and other non-LEA subgrantees shall utilize the 8 percent default rate described at [34 CFR 76.564](#).
- Colleges and universities will be limited to a maximum indirect cost rate of 8 percent or other indirect cost rate calculated by their cognizant federal agency, whichever is less, for grants administered by ISBE.

Costs associated with Fiscal Support Services (2520), Internal Support Services (2570), Staff Support Services (2640), Data Processing Services (2660), and Direction of Business Support Services (2510) charged to the Educational Fund are properly budgeted as indirect costs.

Funding Restrictions:

According to 34 CFR 75.564(c), indirect cost reimbursement is not allowable for this construction-based grant.

Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative:

Applicants are advised that for E-rate Special Construction Projects whose costs are estimated to be \$500,000 or more (the total cost of the project) may be subject to the provisions of the Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative, which is part of the [Illinois Works Job Program Act](#) (30 ILCS 559/Art. 20).

The goal of the [Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative](#) (“10 percent apprenticeship goal”) is that for projects estimated to cost \$500,000 or more, apprentices will perform either 10 percent of the total labor hours actually worked in each prevailing wage classification or 10 percent of the estimated labor hours in each prevailing wage classification, whichever is less. The 10 percent apprenticeship goal applies to projects being paid for in whole or in part by appropriated capital funds to construct a public work either through a contract or grant issued by a state agency.

Reporting Requirements

Periodic financial reporting should be completed at a minimum of quarterly via the IWAS system. Programmatic reporting should be completed semi-annually via the IWAS system. Additional reporting requirements are listed below.

Awardees will provide a summary report of work completed during the quarter and provide any updates or changes to the overall work plan 30 days after the end of each quarter of the special construction project to ISBE.

Deliverables and Milestones:

Awardees will provide a summary report of work completed during the quarter and provide any updates or changes to the overall work plan 30 days after the end of each quarter of the special construction project.

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1. Provide a summary of progress towards meeting the goals in narrative format.
2. Provide a timeline of activities completed or an estimated timeline of when project activities will be completed.

End-of-year report due to ISBE on August 31, 2022, via email to Erich Grauke egrauke@isbe.net

1. Provide a timeline of all activities related to the grant program. Include description of event, date, listing of those involved if applicable.
2. Provide a summary of grant activities and how activities met program goals. Cite specific evidence, examples, and data.
3. Provide a narrative on the impact of these new internet connections on your educational program.

Content and Form of Application Submission

Instructions: Each application must be submitted in the format outlined below to be considered complete. A complete application will include all required components (the numbered items below) and signatures when mentioned. Please use the checkboxes in front of the numbers as a checklist when assembling your completed application. It is advised to attach a copy of the completed checklist with the application.

- 1. Uniform Application for State Grant Assistance (Attachment 1):** Include the name, address, telephone and fax numbers of the entity; email, name, and telephone number of the contact person; Federal Employer Identification number; DUNS number; SAM CAGE Code; and all other listed information. The Application page must be signed by the official authorized to submit proposals.
- 2. Current Technology Status (Attachment 2):** Complete the requested information.
- 3. Program Narrative (Attachment 3)** Use the attached form to respond to each of the following in the order in which they are presented below. Maximum five pages:
 - i. Describe the district's current educational technology program, including, but not limited to, staffing, professional development, and students' ability to use technology in current program.
 - ii. Describe how the need for the project and the project design were determined.
 - iii. Identify stakeholders and how you will communicate with them and community resources while planning the project.
 - iv. Describe the funding limitations that the district is currently facing.
 - i. Describe why the proposed special construction project is needed in order to meet the district's future plans.
 - ii. Identify the school(s) chosen to participate and describe their need.
- 4. Objectives and Activities (Attachment 4) – Maximum five pages:**
 - i. Describe the future plans for the educational technology program (provide minimum of five years into the future) for school(s) targeted in the project, including, but not limited to, curriculum and professional development, as well as the bandwidth and devices that will be needed to meet the needs of all staff and students within the school(s).
 - ii. Describe the project goals and how they will advance the technology program.
 - iii. Indicate the expected program outcomes for the life of the project. The timeline should go beyond the funding for the matching grant.
 - iv. Describe student learning using innovative practices based upon research, previously collected district data, best practices, and/or additional information.
 - v. Provide an estimate of technology refreshes that will be needed over the life of the plan.
 - vi. Describe a previous project or program similar in nature that the district has undertaken and discuss its outcome. Give a brief description of any problems encountered during the project and the successful and creative resources used to reach a solution.
 - vii. List the district and/or school resources, both human and fiscal, that will be available to support implementation of the project. Provide the qualifications of each person and/or vendor listed, including descriptions of projects similar in nature on which they worked and the outcome of the project.
 - viii. If not already listed within the FCC Form 470 documentation, provide details of the special construction project, including a listing of activities that are a part of the project and the resources (include staff or contractors that will be needed). The proposal must show how outside contractors that will work with this project were chosen in a manner congruent with the district's educational goals and school improvement goals.
 - ix. Describe the well-developed strategies for drawing upon community resources to improve student learning. Include a description of the district's prior stakeholder engagement efforts to support successful development of application and implementation of the educational plan. Also

describe how the school district will use technology effectively to promote community involvement and increase communication with resources within the community as the plan progresses.

- x. Indicate how the overall project will continue after the end of the matching grant period. Describe how other district and/or school technology-related projects can be used to support and sustain the project. Include information regarding dissemination, management, and anticipated project expansion.

- 5. **FCC Form 470:** Follow the instructions below for appropriate FCC Form 470 documentation to submit:
 - A. **Leased lit fiber** - Include a copy of the district's FCC Form 470, any separate RFP used for the requested service, and the rubric that was used to make scoring determinations.
 - B. **Dark fiber** - Include both the FCC Form 470 and the separate RFP(s) for the services requested (leased lit fiber, dark fiber, self-provisioned fiber, etc.) as well as the rubric used to make scoring determinations.
 - C. **Self-provisioned fiber** - Include both the FCC Form 470 and the separate RFP(s) for the services requested (leased lit fiber, dark fiber, self-provisioned fiber, etc.) as well as the rubric used to make scoring determinations.
 - D. **All proposals** should include a synopsis of each response your FCC Form 470 and/or RFP(s) received that includes the vendor name; services that will be rendered; cost; personnel included in the project, along with their expertise and their prior experience with projects of this nature and their success rates for projects of this nature; subcontractors that the vendor would use, along with their success rate and prior experience in projects of this nature; and an explanation as to which vendor was chosen and why.

- 6. **Proposed Project/Timeline (Attachment 5)** – Maximum five pages:
Using the attached form, provide a timeline of the activities to meet each of the goals indicated in Attachment 4 in a time-specific format with start and completion dates and person or persons responsible. If not listed in the FCC Form 470 documentation, include the timeline of activities for the special construction project.

- 7. **Proposal Evaluation Design (Attachment 6)** – Maximum five pages:
Using the attached form, describe the overall evaluation plan, including the data that will be collected, how the data will be monitored and evaluated, and how the plan will be adjusted as needed to ensure successful completion of the overall plan. Describe how results will be reported. Indicate how the impact on increasing student success and/or other stated goals and objectives will be shared within your district and beyond (parents, community, etc.).

- 8. **State Budget Summary and Payment Schedule (Attachment 7):** The Budget Summary Breakdown MUST include descriptions of the anticipated expenditures, correlated to the line items set forth on the State Budget Summary and Payment Breakdown. The Budget Summary Breakdown should also include subcontract information, if applicable. The budget MUST be submitted on this form. No other budget form will be accepted. District budgets MUST be signed by the district superintendent. The payment schedule should be based on the projected date of expenditures. Salaries and fringe benefits should be requested in equal intervals on the schedule. Supplies, equipment, contracted services, and professional development should be requested in the month for which the expenditure is anticipated.

- 9. **Budget Summary Breakdown (Attachment 7A):** The Budget Summary Breakdown MUST include descriptions of the anticipated expenditures, correlated to the line items set forth on the Budget Summary. The Budget Summary Breakdown should also include subcontract information, if applicable.

- 10. **Certifications and Assurances (Attachments 8 and 9):** Each applicant is required to submit the forms below. These must be signed by the official legally authorized to submit the proposal and to bind the applicant to its contents.
- A.** Program-Specific Terms of the Grant (Attachment 8)
 - B.** Grant Application Certifications and Assurances (Attachment 9)

Review Criteria

Application Review and Selection Process:

The selection of the grantees will be based upon the overall quality of the application. The scoring is based upon the following criteria:

- Need is defined as the identification of stakeholders, facts, and evidence that demonstrate the proposal supports the grant program purpose.
- Capacity is defined as the ability of an entity to execute the grant project according to the project requirements.
- Quality is defined as the totality of features and characteristics of a service, project, or product that indicate its ability to satisfy the requirements of the grant program.
- Cost effectiveness is defined in the terms of tangible benefits produced by the monies spent.
- Sustainability is defined as the ability to ensure that the project will continue on without further state monies.

Tiebreaker:

In the event of a tie, the applicant with the final percent of adequacy furthest from 100 percent according to FY 2021 Evidence-Based Funding data will be given priority.

Evaluation Criteria:

These overall criteria are built into the criteria below. The attachment number in the parenthesis following the criteria lists the portion of the proposal that will be used to determine if the criteria has been met. The points for each criterion section as well as the individual criteria will also be included in parenthesis.

Following the notification of grant awards, an applicant may request copies of reviewer comments and scores by contacting Erich Grauke at broadband@isbe.net.

Selection criteria and point values are as follows:

Not Provided	Very Limited	Somewhat Limited	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong
0	1	2	3	4	5
Proposal requirements are absent.	Proposal provides very few details to meet the project outcomes.	Proposal is unclear and lacks enough evidence to meet project outcomes.	Proposal provides moderate detail and conveys potential to meet project outcomes.	Proposal provides good detail and strong evidence to meet project outcomes.	Proposal exceeds expectations and provides a substantial plan to meet project outcomes.

Section 1: The school district has demonstrated a need for the proposed project, activity, and/or resources.	Possible Points 30
The proposal describes the status of the applicant’s educational technology programs and demonstrates that students’ access to educational opportunities in this curricular area is limited to an undesirable degree. (Attachments 2 and 3)	5
The proposal provides a clear description of the needs found between the anticipated technology required within the district for at least the next five years and the current technology status and shows how this project will address that need. (Attachment 2 and 3)	5
The proposal describes how the unique strengths and resources of the district will contribute to the development of new learning approaches and strategies. (Attachment 4)	5
The proposal includes past and/or current examples of successful and creative uses of resources for educational purposes. (Attachment 4)	5
The proposal demonstrates that other sources of funding are limited to such an extent that the applicant is unable to conduct or expand the educational technology program as proposed without funding from this grant. (Attachment 3)	5
The proposal demonstrates that the district has previous experience with successful implementation of similar deployments and/or steps are in place to ensure success. (Attachment 4)	5
Section 2: There is a clearly expressed relationship between the proposed project, activity, and/or resources and the district’s educational goals, school improvement plan, or local technology plans.	Possible Points 30
The proposal states time-specific objectives and activities for each goal that are realistic and include all major activities needed to implement the project. (Attachments 4 and 5)	5
The proposal description includes a design for overall evaluations that will allow the project to develop successfully. (Attachment 6)	5
The proposal presents evidence that the project will enhance the district’s plan for the use of technology and its integration into curriculum. (Attachment 4)	5
The proposal includes a description of student learning using innovative practices based upon research, previously collected district data, best practices, and/or additional information. (Attachment 4)	5
The plan describes the steps the school district will take to ensure that all students AND teachers have increased access to technology. (Attachment 4)	5
The proposal describes an evaluation design using data to further refine and improve the overall project. (Attachment 6)	5

Section 3: Receipt of funding under this program will contribute to the accomplishment of the district’s long-term plans for the use of technology.	Possible Points 20
Budget allocations indicate a cost-effective use of funds related to and consistent with the overall goals, objectives, and activities of the proposed program. (Attachments 4 and 7, FCC Form 470)	5
The proposal describes strategies to train staff to effectively use advanced technologies to improve teaching and learning. (Attachment 4)	5
The plan fully describes how the school district will coordinate activities funded through the matching program with technology-related projects supported from other sources. (Attachment 4)	5
The proposal describes how the project will continue after the end of the grant period and includes information regarding dissemination, management, and anticipated project expansion. (Attachment 4)	5
Section 4: Staff and/or outside entities that will be involved with the project were chosen in a manner congruent with the district’s educational goals, school improvement plan, or local technology plans.	Possible Points 10
A description of all staff and outside contractors involved in the project was provided. (Attachment 4 and FCC Form 470 and associated documents filed with FCC Form 470)	5
Evidence of the staff and/or outside contractor’s prior delivery of quality outcomes on similar projects or a detailed description of technical expertise that will lead to the successful outcomes of project was provided. (Attachment 4 and FCC Form 470 and associated documents filed with FCC Form 470)	5
Section 5: The district has well-developed strategies for drawing upon community resources to improve student learning.	Possible Points 10
The plan describes how the school district will use technology effectively to promote community involvement as well as increase communication with resources within the community. (Attachment 4)	5
The plan describes the district’s prior stakeholder engagement efforts to support successful development of application and implementation of the plan. (Attachments 3 and 4)	5