



ConnectALL

A Division of Empire State Development

Affordable Housing Connectivity Program (AHCP)

AHCP Request for Applications Information Session

January 5, 2024

Agenda

- 1** Welcome
- 2** Overview of the Affordable Housing Connectivity Program (AHCP)
- 3** Overview of the Request for Applications (RFA)
- 4** How Potential Grantees Can Apply
- 5** Next Steps

WELCOME: ISP FORUM SERIES

ConnectALL seeks to engage with Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to gather input on its programs, share information, provide technical assistance, and create successful partnership and collaboration on ConnectALL programs statewide.

Past topics: Working with New York State, Federal Funding Opportunities for ISPs, Climate Resiliency and Cybersecurity

Today's topic: Affordable Housing Connectivity Program



A blue-tinted photograph of two women wearing large headphones, sitting at a desk with a laptop. They appear to be in a call center or office environment. The woman on the left is looking down at something on the desk, while the woman on the right is looking at the laptop screen. A stuffed animal is visible on the desk in the foreground.

02

Affordable Housing Connectivity Program Overview

AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM (AHCP)

How AHCP Works

AHCP is the nation's largest program to upgrade broadband infrastructure in affordable housing properties and connect low-income residents with in-unit internet access.

- \$100M in Capital Project Funds. Treasury funded projects must be substantially completed by 2026.
- ConnectALL, in consultation with NYS Homes and Community Renewal (HCR), is granting funds to eligible ISPs and broadband deployment entities to meet this timeline and allow for economies of scale to maximize properties served.
- ConnectALL will pair pre-approved grantees with owners of affordable housing properties who have expressed interest in no-cost broadband via an online survey at broadband.ny.gov.

APPLICATION OVERVIEW

ISPs and other broadband deployment entities with previous broadband deployments of similar scale and service level are eligible to apply as individuals or as teams.

Eligible Applicants

- Owners of broadband infrastructure
- Builders of broadband infrastructure
- Internet Service Providers (ISPs)
- Managed Service Providers (MSPs)

Eligible Use of Funds

- Fiber or other broadband connections to Property premises
- In-building equipment and wiring retrofits

AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM (AHCP)

Program Timeline

Program Rollout	2023	2024	2025	2026
1. Program Design and Property Pipeline Preparation				
2. Grantee and Property Matching				
3. Awarding Grants				
4. New Infrastructure Deployed				
5. Digital Inclusion Resources Offered				



03

Overview of the Request for Applications (RFA)

APPLICATION OVERVIEW

Application Contents

The AHCP Request for Applications (RFA), including appendices and addenda, can be downloaded at broadband.ny.gov.

Table of Contents

OVERVIEW	3
Objective	3
BACKGROUND	3
Program Background and Overview	3
Funding Sources.....	5
Project Requirements.....	5
Minimum Performance Requirements	6
Network Design Requirements	7
ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS	8
ELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS	9
APPLICATION REVIEW	10
Grantee Selections and Timeline	13
APPLICATION CONTENT AND SCOPE OF SERVICES	15
Section One	16
Section Two.....	21
Q&A PROCESS	25
DEADLINE AND PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS	25
APPENDICES	26
APPENDIX A: MWBE COMMITMENT AND COMPLIANCE PLAN	27
APPENDIX B: LABOR REQUIREMENTS	29
APPENDIX C: TESTING METHODOLOGY	33

KEY RFA COMPONENTS

Application Content and Scope of Services

This detailed outline describes the information an applicant should include to submit successful applications to Sections One and Two.

Application questions and requirements in the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) portal match this outline.

Application Content and Scope of Services

Applicants shall deliver a unique Application for Application Section One and Application Section Two (if eligible based on the Applicant's Section One submission) containing all the required information detailed in the sections below as well as abiding by the requirements of this RFA. If an Applicant is submitting or is represented with multiple Applications, the Applicant should indicate the other Applications it has submitted or in which it is represented. Applicants eligible to submit an Application to Section Two may submit multiple applications to Section Two as additional Property Portfolios are published. An Application Section Two must be completed for each Property Portfolio an Applicant seeks to serve.

Section One

Applications to **Section One** shall include the following sections:

1. **Executive Summary and Applicant Profile.** Include an overview of the proposed project approach, scope of services, geographic area(s) to be served, and an Applicant Profile. The Applicant Profile should include: history of Applicant organization or team, ownership and legal structure, description of existing services and scope of operations, and experience in broadband deployment in New York. Applicants that represent joint ventures or partnerships must clearly identify all partners and their roles on the project and indicate the lead entity and primary contact for their application.
 1. **Service Area(s).** Applicants will select a list of the following 15 Service Areas, based on established metropolitan areas in New York:

APPLICATION OVERVIEW

Program Requirements

Proposals must address the following requirements. Projects must:

1. Reliably deliver service that is or is scalable to a minimum of 100/100 Mbps
2. Participate in the federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)
3. Provide plans without data caps, surcharges, or usage-based throttling
4. Not duplicate federal or state funds
5. Equitably serve the properties in proposed Portfolio(s)
6. Facilitate a robust broadband marketplace
7. Recruit, train, and retain a diverse and skilled workforce to fill good jobs
8. Commit to five years of service

Project construction must be substantially completed by the end of 2026 and meet all reporting, transparency, and compliance requirements.

APPLICATION OVERVIEW

Minimum Network Performance Requirements

Service must be provided inside each residential unit.

If impracticable for a project to reliably meet 100/100 Mbps, the proposal must provide a detailed explanation of why it cannot and must reliably meet or exceed 100/20 Mbps.

ConnectALL will prioritize projects capable of delivering 1/1 Gbps.

Table 1: Minimum Performance Requirements

Performance Category	Requirement	Measurement Method
Minimum speed available to subscriber at all times	100/100 Mbps	Measure using traffic generation software or other industry standard testing software or hardware, as described in Appendix C (Testing Methodology)
Latency (round trip ping time from user premises to core site router)	< 20 ms	Measure using ping test generated via command line or industry standard testing software or hardware, as described in Appendix C (Testing Methodology)
Average outage time per subscriber	Less than 48 hours over any 365-day period	Measure using dashboard real-time network monitoring software, as described in Appendix C (Testing Methodology)
Network availability	99.5% of the time over a one-month period	Measure using dashboard real-time network monitoring software, as described in Appendix C (Testing Methodology)
Other criteria	No data caps or usage-based throttling	Measure using traffic generation software or other industry standard testing software or hardware, as described in Appendix C (Testing Methodology)

APPLICATION OVERVIEW

Two Step Application Process

SECTION 1 Experience and Qualifications

Applicants will describe:

- Organizational capacity
- Broadband service quality
- Geographic areas of interest
- Minimum and maximum number of units the organization can serve

Approved Section 1 applicants will be informed of available Portfolios

SECTION 2 Project Proposals

Applicants will provide property-specific deployment proposals and business plans for each Portfolio they are interested in serving.

Portfolio awards will be based on a combination of scores for Sections 1 and 2.

APPLICATION OVERVIEW

Section One: Service Area and Capacity

Applicants will select from 15 established metropolitan areas to identify the markets they are looking to serve.

They will also specify the minimum number of units they would need to serve and maximum number of units they have capacity to complete by end of 2026.



APPLICATION OVERVIEW

Section Two: Portfolios of Properties

ConnectALL will assemble and award Portfolios of Properties within 15 metropolitan areas across New York State.*

Property owners are expressing interest and submitting their properties to participate in AHCP.

Applicants can encourage owners to participate by visiting broadband.ny.gov/affordable-housing-connectivity-program

** Properties within the 15 metro areas will be prioritized, but eligible properties outside of those areas may be included in Portfolios.*

Property Data within Portfolios

The number of units in a portfolio will vary based upon the volume of units that have opted into the program and the capacity of Section One applicants.

Portfolios will offer available building conditions data such as:

- Number of buildings that make up the property
- Number of rental units
- Construction year and materials
- Building heights
- Common area square footage
- Space available in basements, on ground floors, and/or on rooftops for telecom equipment
- Population demographics as prescribed by affordability covenants (if applicable)

APPLICATION OVERVIEW

Section Two

Who Can Apply

- Applicants whose Section 1 submissions are approved may submit Section 2 Applications
- The Section 2 Application requires an Applicant's unique Section 1 Application Number

When to Apply

- Approved Section 1 Applicants will be contacted whenever Portfolios are published in the geographic areas they selected in Section 1.
- The first Portfolios are expected to be announced by March 2024.

How to Apply

- Applicants will submit separate Section 2 Applications for each Portfolio they are interested in serving.
- Section 2 submissions can be cloned for ease of repeat submissions. (Note, most but not all of a prior application is maintained by cloning.)

KEY RFA COMPONENTS

Application Evaluation Criteria

Application Criteria Categories	Weighting Section One	Weighting Section Two	Weighting Combined
Respondent Experience and Readiness	12%	3%	15%
Broadband Service Quality and Price	20%	--	20%
Network Quality and Technical Proposal	8%	12%	20%
Digital Equity Impact, Workforce Development and Diversity Practices	5%	10%	15%
Cost Reasonableness and Business Plan	--	15%	15%
Market Conditions and Impact in Portfolio	--	15%	15%

KEY RFA COMPONENTS

Grantee Selection and Timeline

Though the Section One application window is rolling, **ConnectALL** encourages applicants to submit by February 16, 2024.

Upon Section 1 approval, these applicants will be able to apply for ALL portfolios in their preferred geographic areas.

Item Description	Date*
RFA Issued	December 6, 2023
Questions deadline prior to RFA Information Session	December 28, 2023
Section One Application opens	January 2, 2024
RFA Information Session	January 5, 2024
Question Responses Issued	February 2024
Review of Section One Applications begins <i>(Note: submissions by this date are assured the opportunity to review all eligible Property Portfolios)</i>	February 16, 2024
Anticipated Section Two Application opens based on program participation	March 2024
Anticipated announcement of initial Grantee selections	July 2024
Anticipated start date for initial awards	September 2024
Target: Projects 50% completed	December 31, 2025
Application closes	January 30, 2026
Target: Projects 100% completed	December 31, 2026
*All RFA schedule descriptions and dates are tentative and subject to change.	

A blue-tinted photograph of two women in a call center. They are both wearing large headphones and looking at a laptop screen. The woman on the left is smiling. In the foreground, there is a desk with a white mug, some papers, and a stuffed animal.

04

How Potential Grantees Can Apply

HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted through the New York State Consolidated Funding Application (CFA)

Create an account by registering at <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/login.cfm>

Note: Once your account is created, you will receive an email with a token required to access the CFA going forward. Save the token in an easy to access location.

NEW YORK STATE

Services News Government

CONSOLIDATED FUNDING APPLICATION

HELP PRINT PAGE REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS CFA PROJECT INFO

WELCOME

As part of New York's efforts to improve the business climate and expand economic growth, the NYS Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) was created to support the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) Initiative. The CFA has streamlined and expedited the grant application process marking a fundamental shift in the way state resources are allocated, ensuring less bureaucracy and greater efficiency to fulfill local needs. The CFA allows applicants to access multiple state funding sources through one application, making the process quicker, easier, and more productive.

As statewide programs and local needs have evolved, so has the CFA which is now host to a multitude of programs and initiatives. These programs change throughout the year so be sure to check back periodically to see what programs are available.

Additional information on the Regional Economic Development Council Programs can be found by going to [CFA Available Resources | Consolidated Funding Application \(ny.gov\)](#) and selecting Regional Economic Development Council Programs.

Additional information on Other New York State programs in the CFA can be found by going to [CFA Available Resources | Consolidated Funding Application \(ny.gov\)](#) and selecting Other New York State Programs.

To proceed with your CFA, please use the **Log In** or **Register** buttons.

New - Cloning an Application

To save time you can now clone an application from the previous year.
[Click here to learn how.](#)

Log In

Register

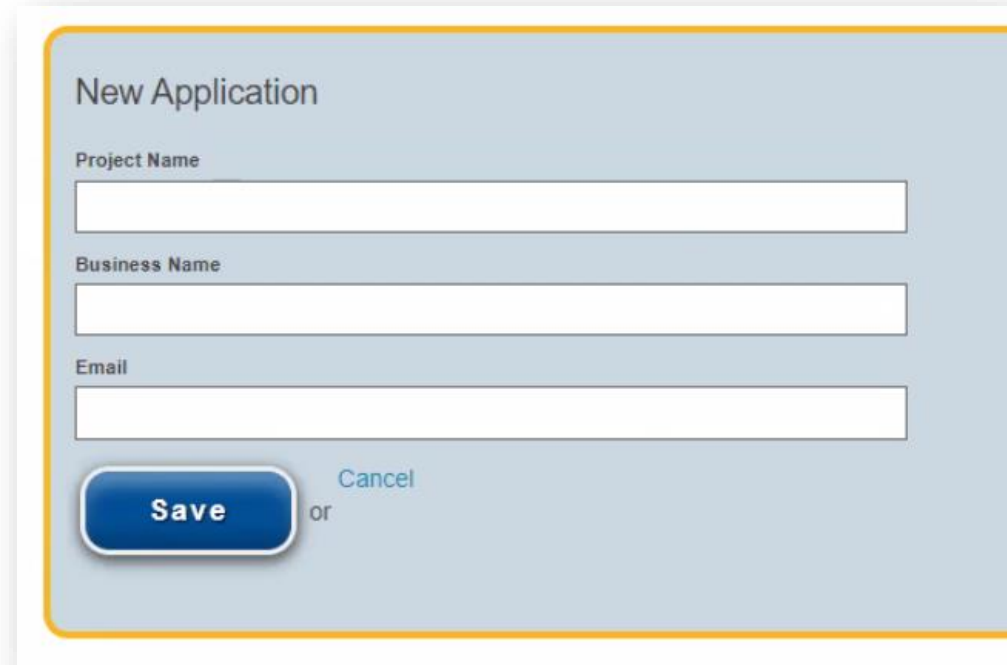
HOW TO APPLY

Navigating the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA)

Once logged in, create a "New Application" and fill in the fields shown here.

"Project Name" is for your reference only. The following naming conventions are recommended:

- "OrgName AHCPsec1"
- "OrgName AHCPsec2 PortfolioName"



The screenshot shows a web form titled "New Application" with a light blue background and a yellow border. It contains three input fields: "Project Name", "Business Name", and "Email". At the bottom, there is a blue "Save" button, the word "or" in a smaller font, and a blue "Cancel" link.

HOW TO APPLY

Navigating the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA)

To begin your application, you must select the appropriate "Program."

The AHCP program application is listed in the CFA under "Economic Development Programs" as "Affordable Housing Connectivity Program – Section One Application."

The screenshot shows the 'CONSOLIDATED FUNDING APPLICATION' website. At the top is a dark blue navigation bar with the title and menu items: APPLICATION, HELP, PRINT, LOG OUT, REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS, and CFA PROJECT INFO. The main content area is white and features four program categories in a 2x2 grid:

- Economic Development Programs:** Funding opportunities are available from multiple programs from a variety of state agencies to support economic development and community development projects through a combination of grant funds and tax credits for eligible projects. These include programs specific to the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) Initiative. For more information on the REDC Initiative, please visit: <https://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/>.
- Workforce Programs:** Funding is available to support wide-reaching investments in workforce development programs across multiple state agencies through multi-year funding to support employer-driven, high skilled workforce training programs.
- Other NYS Programs:** Other NYS Programs which include funding and other opportunities from various state agencies.
- Program Wizard:** The Program Wizard allows you to select multiple project categories and project types to assist you in determining which program(s) you may be eligible for.

At the bottom right of the grid is a blue button labeled 'Proceed with Application'. Below the grid, the 'Economic Development Programs' section is expanded, showing a list with a checked box for 'Affordable Housing Connectivity Program – Section One Application' and a link to 'Show program description'.

HOW TO APPLY

Navigating the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA)

The application begins with threshold questions. Once answered, applicants who meet the threshold requirements will see this page.

Select "Proceed to Next Page" to continue.

The screenshot displays the 'Application Number' section with a progress bar containing steps: PROGRAMS (checked), LOCATION, DOCUMENTS, QUESTIONNAIRE, FUNDING (checked), and REVIEW. A red badge on the right indicates 'Application is NOT FINALIZED'. Below the progress bar, the 'PROGRAMS' section features a blue alert box with an exclamation mark icon and the text: 'Based on your answers to the threshold questions, the programs associated with your application may have changed. There are 1 program that you may potentially qualify for. Please review your programs below.' Below this, a message states: 'You will be applying for the program listed below. Please click the "Proceed to Next Page" button at the bottom of the page to proceed.' The section is titled 'Your Application's Programs' and lists 'You potentially qualify for the following programs:'. A single program is shown in a light blue box: 'Affordable Housing Connectivity Program – Section One Application' with a 'Show program description' link and an 'Open Enrollment' button. At the bottom left, there is a link 'Add more programs below' with a downward arrow, and at the bottom right, a large blue button labeled 'Proceed to Next Page'.

HOW TO APPLY

Navigating the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA)

The "Not-For-Profit Information" application page is not relevant for AHCP.

Select "Proceed to Next Page" to continue.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with the New York State logo and links for Services, News, and Government. Below this is a dark blue header for the "CONSOLIDATED FUNDING APPLICATION" with sub-links for APPLICATION, HELP, PRINT, LOG OUT, REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS, and CFA PROJECT INFO. The main content area features an "Application Number" field and a progress bar with buttons for PROGRAMS, LOCATION, DOCUMENTS, QUESTIONNAIRE, FUNDING, and REVIEW. The FUNDING button has a green checkmark. To the right of the progress bar is a red box stating "Application is NOT FINALIZED". Below the progress bar is a section titled "NOT-FOR-PROFIT INFORMATION" with a collapsed message: "Not-For-Profit information is not necessary due to your associated programs. Please Proceed to Next Page." A large blue button labeled "Proceed to Next Page" is located at the bottom right of the interface.

HOW TO APPLY

Navigating the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA)

On the "Project Location" page AHCP applicants should select the region where their business is based or their primary NY office is located if headquartered out of state.


If the applicant does not have a base of operations in NYS, select any region and proceed with the application.

Application Number


PROGRAMS LOCATION DOCUMENTS QUESTIONNAIRE FUNDING REVIEW Application is NOT FINALIZED

PROJECT LOCATION

Select the region within which your project is located



- Capital District
- Central New York
- Finger Lakes
- Long Island
- Mid-Hudson
- Mohawk Valley
- New York City
- North Country
- Southern Tier
- Western New York

 There are no questions for this section.

Save & Proceed with Application

HOW TO APPLY

Navigating the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA)

The "Documents" and "Questionnaire" tabs contain the remainder of the Section One application questions and requirements.

All questions that require an attachment to be uploaded will be located in the "Documents" tab.

Note: The "Funding" tab will only be applicable in the Section 2 application.

The screenshot displays the user interface for the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA). At the top left is the New York State logo. To its right are navigation links for "Services", "News", and "Government". Below this is a dark blue header with the text "CONSOLIDATED FUNDING APPLICATION" in orange. Underneath the header is a navigation bar with links for "APPLICATION", "HELP", "PRINT", "LOG OUT", "REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS", and "CFA PROJECT INFO". The main content area features a form with the label "Application Number" and a search input field. Below the search field is a horizontal progress bar with six tabs: "PROGRAMS", "LOCATION", "DOCUMENTS", "QUESTIONNAIRE", "FUNDING", and "REVIEW". The "PROGRAMS" and "FUNDING" tabs are dark blue with a green checkmark, while the others are light blue. To the right of the progress bar is a red button that says "Application is NOT FINALIZED".

HOW TO APPLY

Application Review

Applicants will receive an update on the status of their application via email.

Applications may be approved, rejected, or subject to further review pending curing.

Applying to Section Two

- Applicants with approved Section One Applications will be notified via email whenever Portfolios are published in geographic areas identified in their approved Section One Application.
- Each Portfolio will have an associated Section Two Application deadline.
- An individual Section Two Application must be submitted for each Portfolio.
- Applicants must reference the Application Number assigned to their Section One Application each time they submit a Section Two Application. *(Every Application created or cloned in the CFA portal is assigned a unique Application Number, a.k.a. CFA Number.)*

HOW TO APPLY

Cloning an Application in the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA)

For those who submit multiple Section Two Applications for more than one Portfolio of Properties, prior Section Two Applications can be "cloned" in the CFA portal.

Detailed instructions are available via the CFA site.

Note: most, but not all, of your prior application will be copied into any cloned application.

Cloning an Application

If you registered for an application within the last two years, and you would like to apply to one or more of same programs again this year, you can "clone" an application into a new application for this year. This can be a time saver by copying *most* (but not all) of your answers from a prior application to this year's cloned application. You will have the ability to add new programs to your application after the cloning is complete.

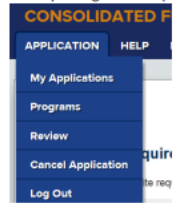
To clone an application:

- Log into the CFA portal with the email address and token you used to complete last year's application.

<https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/login.cfm>

Click the "Forgot Token" link on the login page to obtain last year's token.

- After you log into the portal, click "Applications", then "My Applications" from the blue Ribbon



- Locate the application you wish to clone from your list of applications and select "Cl

Application # 76015

Project Name
Creative Coalitions

- Enter a new Project Name and (optionally) a new Business name for the cloned application. Click "Save". By default, last year's Project and Business names will be displayed

New Application, Clone of Application # 76015

Project Name
Creative Coalitions 2018

Business Name
My Business Name

[Save](#) or [Cancel](#)

New - Cloning an Application

To save time you can now clone an application from the previous year. [Click here to learn how.](#)

Applicant Log In

Email:

Token: [Forgot Token?](#)

[Log in](#)

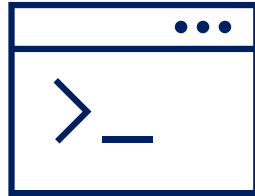
HOW TO APPLY

The RFA contains information on how to determine eligibility for the program and how interested parties can apply.



Review the RFA and appendices at:

<https://broadband.ny.gov/affordable-housing-connectivity-program>



Create an account for New York State's Consolidated Funding Application portal to access the application.

<https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/login.cfm>



Consult the Application Instructions and Checklist to gather everything required for a complete application.



Email ConnectALL with questions at AHCP@esd.ny.gov using the subject line "AHCP Request for Applications."

A photograph of two young women sitting at a desk, both wearing large headphones and looking at a laptop screen. The woman on the left is pointing at the screen. The scene is dimly lit, with a blue tint. A stuffed animal is visible on the desk to the left.

05

Next Steps

COMING UP

January

- The AHCP Application opens in the NYS Consolidated Funding Application
- Slides from today's session and Q&A will be forthcoming and posted online

February

- A recording of today's session will be shared and posted online
- ConnectALL will begin review of Section 1 Applications after February 16, 2024

March

- Initial Property Portfolios announced
- Section 2 Application opens

Q2 & Q3 2024

- Grantee-Property Matching
- Anticipated announcement of inaugural Grantee selection

Visit broadband.ny.gov for information on upcoming events and engaging with ConnectALL



ConnectALL

A Division of Empire State Development

Thank you!

Contact ConnectALL:
AHCP@esd.ny.gov