



Regional and Local Assistance Program Request for Applications Questions & Answers

Published: June 27, 2024 (Questions 1-10)

Revised: July 5, 2024 (To clarify questions and responses around eligible uses of funds)

Note: Questions have been edited slightly from the original submission language to promote clarity for all prospective applicants.

1. Can this funding be used to hire consultants to assist with project management or implementation of a ConnectALL-funded broadband deployment project?

The Regional and Local Assistance Program cannot be used to fund project management or implementation support for another ConnectALL-funded project.

2. Can this funding be used for consultant services?

Yes, as long as the funded implementation assistance activity/activities: 1) are not being used to support another ConnectALL-funded project, 2) develop capacity for long-term support of the project, 3) are not duplicative of activities budgeted in the project, and 4) are covered under the “Eligible Uses of Funds” Section of the Regional and Local Assistance Program Request for Applications.

3. Can award funds pay for the improvement of operations related to the management of broadband facilities?

Yes. Funds can be used to analyze and improve operations related to the management of broadband facilities and the efficiency of the Applicant.

4. Can multiple counties or regions collaborate on an application?

Yes. The primary Applicant should submit the Consolidated Funding Application and describe the collaboration within their application. Subawards to other Eligible Applicants are allowed. However, ESD can only make grant payments to the primary Applicant on the application.

5. Are there matching requirements?

Matching funding may be factored in as criteria for evaluation purposes, but will not be a strict requirement for award. See page 5 of the Request for Applications.

6. What is considered match?

Any cash or in-kind match contributed to the project must be detailed in the Funding Request Template. Cash match is the direct project expense the grantee or a partner provides as contribution to the project, such as project-related staff salaries, consultant fees, or travel costs. In-kind match can include materials, services or software, and technical assistance provided by the grantee specifically for this project.

7. If an Applicant's project activities include both consultant fees and internal staff salaries/wages, do they need to apply for separate Planning and Capacity grants for the respective aspects of the project?

No. When an Applicant is prompted in the CFA to identify whether they are applying for a Planning or Capacity grant, they should select the option they believe is the best fit for the project as a whole.

8. Can an Applicant submit multiple applications for the Regional and Local Assistance Program to address different projects/capacity needs?

Applicants can submit more than one application, but no entity will receive more than one grant.

9. The Request for Applications states a requirement that the Applicant is not receiving funding from other federal or State sources for the same activities proposed for Regional and Local Assistance Program funding. Could earning this grant prevent an entity from receiving future grants?

Applicants cannot receive funding for the same project through the same grant program. An Applicant who receives funding through the Regional and Local Assistance Program is not prohibited from receiving future ConnectALL grants.

10. Can a Regional and Local Assistance project reimburse costs for planning work that has already been expended?

No.

11. Are there page maximums/minimums or any formatting requirements in the Consolidated Funding Application portal?

Any page number or other formatting requirements are provided in the Consolidated Funding Application portal.