Connectivity Innovation – Mobile Service Request for Applications

Questions & Answers

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Note: *Questions have been edited slightly from the original submission language in order to promote clarity for all prospective Applicants.*

1. **Can you define the profile of a company that would be considered a candidate for this opportunity?**
   As defined in the Request for Applications page 5, section 3b., the following entity types are eligible applicants:
   - Municipalities, counties, regional planning boards and/or regional economic development organizations
   - Tribal governments
   - Municipal utilities
   - Internet service providers
   - Mobile network operators, system integrators and/or equipment manufacturers
   - Businesses with an innovative use case for connectivity
   - Partnerships of Eligible Applicants listed above with a designated Lead Applicant

2. **Is $5 Million the total budget to be distributed to awardees?**
   ConnectALL anticipates awarding a total of up to $5 million dollars through three grant awards of up to $1-2 million each.

3. **Will there be a path to obtain Starlink for a Law Enforcement Agency on OGS?**
   No.

4. **How often will the Q&A be updated? How will I know when it is updated?**
   The Q&A may be updated periodically by ConnectALL, as new questions are submitted. If you registered for the Information Session, submitted a question to wireless@esd.ny.gov, or have started an application for the Connectivity Innovation – Mobile Service Program in the Consolidated Funding Application portal, you will receive an email notification when ConnectALL updates the Q&A document. If you do not belong to any of these groups but you would like to receive updates when ConnectALL updates the Q&A document, please email wireless@esd.ny.gov and request to be added to the mailing list.

5. **Are matching funds required and are in-kind contributions permissible?**
   See the Request for Applications, page 7, section 4.d. Requirements include "A match of project costs not less than 10% towards the total project cost in the form of equity contributed after the Grantee's written acceptance of ESD's Incentive Proposal. Equity is generally defined as cash injected into the project by the Recipient and should be auditable through a Grantee's financial statements or accounts, if so requested by ESD. Equity cannot be borrowed money secured by the assets in the project. ConnectALL may, in its discretion, award additional points for applications that satisfy or exceed the general cash-match equity contribution percentage requirement." CAO will consider written requests to have in-kind contributions potentially categorized as equity, on a case-by-case basis.

6. **Can an entity submit multiple applications?**
   Yes.

7. **Does ConnectALL have a coverage map to share?**
   The FCC Mobile Broadband Map is available at the following link: FCC National Broadband Map. Additional resources are available on the ConnectALL Wireless Planning Resources page: https://broadband.ny.gov/wireless-planning-resources. Note that applicants should identify the general conditions of the coverage or capacity challenge addressed by the proposed solution, which may or may not be reflected on the FCC Mobile Broadband Map.

8. **Can a nonprofit organization based outside New York serve as a subrecipient under a NY-based lead applicant, provided all work and expenditures occur in NY?**
   Yes.

9. **Will ConnectALL release additional RFAs under the Connectivity Innovation Program?**
   ConnectALL plans to provide up to $25 million in grants, matching funds, and other investments through the Connectivity Innovation program.

10. **Will ConnectALL publish applicants' audited/certified financial statements?**
    ConnectALL will maintain the confidentiality of applicants' audited/certified financial statements to the full extent allowable by law, provided that the materials are determined to be exempt from public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Law (which recognizes disclosure exemptions for trade secrets, among other things), and not otherwise required by law to be disclosed.

11. **In regard to the sample lease or other real estate agreements, should applicants submit an example of an agreement for the leasing of ground space to build a wireless facility or for the leasing of space on the facility for a colocator to install its equipment?**
    The Applicant should submit template samples of any lease or other types of attachment or land use agreements associated with the project. If those are not available, the Applicant should upload a document with an explanation of planned or anticipated agreements in response to Q_17057.

12. **Can you provide examples of acceptable documentation to respond to the question regarding the Project's Maturity (i.e. are you looking for the current status of the project)?**

    The Applicant should provide any documentation available to indicate the current status of the project. As written in CFA Q_17054, "Examples of acceptable documentation include but are not limited to engineering plans, evidence of secured land rights and/or evidence of permitting initiated (redacted documents are acceptable)."

13. **Would ConnectALL accept a compiled financial statement that has not been CPA certified?**

    ConnectALL will accept compiled financial statements that have not been CPA certified if they are accompanied by annual tax returns that corroborate the compiled documents.

14. **Would an in-kind contribution of equipment, access to existing cellular towers, or services that can be assigned an estimated monetary value be eligible as part of the project match?**

    In-kind donations of property, goods or services which benefit a project may count towards the project match requirement so long as the value can be reasonably determined and they are otherwise eligible as costs under this RFA.